

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



July 2003

COUNTY RE-THINKING BIKE PATH PREFERENCE

By Carlotta Anderson

A surge of comments from local citizens organizations and individual residents who favor Alternative #2 for the MacArthur Blvd. bike path upgrade has caused county officials to question its previous support for Alternative #3.

"We're revisiting our previous recommendation. Maybe it isn't the best way to go," said Holger Serrano, Deputy Division Chief of the Division of Engineering Services of the Montgomery County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation.

He confirmed that "before Glen Echo got involved" the County had heard mainly from those who preferred Alternative #3, which called for five-foot bike lanes on both sides of the road, an eight-foot shared use path on the south side, and a five-foot open space between it and the road. Those who called for this construction, which would substantially widen MacArthur Blvd., were to a large extent bicyclists and bicycle groups who attended two meetings that most local citizens organization were unaware of.

At the request of Glen Echo and other citizens' groups, the County agreed to hold an additional meeting at the Glen Echo Town Hall on June 3. At this well-attended meeting, all but one participant indicated preference for Alternative #2, which calls only for a slight widening of the existing area to one eight-foot shared use path on the south side separated from the roadway by a five-foot open space and some barriers.

Subsequently, the County was provided with addresses of officials of 13 nearby citizens' group and has delayed a decision until the end of July in order to hear their

GLEN ECHO TOWN PICNIC

Sunday, July 13
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Town Hall lawn (inside in case of rain)

The town will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, sodas, plates and dining utensils.

Residents are requested to bring a pasta dish, salad or dessert.

Please call Cathie at 301-320-4041 or email townhall@glenecho.org to volunteer to help

THE ECHO

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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

Thursday, July 3, 7:00-10:00 p.m.—American Indian Intertribal Council

Sunday, July 13, 5:00 p.m.—TOWN PICNIC

Monday, July 14, 8:00 p.m. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 17, 8:00 p.m.—Centennial Committee Meeting

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

BIKE PATH (FROM PAGE 1)

recommendations.

The town has notified the County that it supports Alternative #2 and feels that Alternative #3 is "too invasive" and would result in the substantial destruction of MacArthur Blvd.'s designation as a scenic route. Comment sheets were passed out to each Glen Echo household and Mr. Serrano indicated that the County had received quite a few back.

County Executive Douglas Duncan wrote those who had sent him an email regarding the bikeway improvement project that he has requested "a full briefing of the plan prior to my final approval"

At last month's town council meeting Councilwoman Nancy Long suggested that the extra 10 feet width in Alternative #3 could prompt the county to add an extra lane to MacArthur Blvd. Councilman Tom Lorenzen said the County doesn't seem to have given much thought as to how that option would work, adding that maintenance would be very expensive. The County has said it has no extra funds for maintenance.

Mr. Serrano said that after the team agrees on a recommendation at the end of July local communities will be notified before the project goes into the design stage.

--Jerry Bodlander also contributed to this report.

CHILDRENS' BAKE SALE RAISES \$260 FOR FOOD AID

In a project designed to support anti-hunger programs, the children of Glen Echo baked goodies and breads to sell at the Town Hall and door-to-door on Saturday morning, June 21. They raised an impressive \$260 to help the hungry.

The children and their parents produced cookies, cakes, bread, rolls and brownies.

The event was organized by resident Laura Lorenzen as part of the nationwide "Great American Bake-Off," which is designed to raise awareness and money to help fight hunger among children in America. She said that 75 percent of the money collected will go to local food pantries.

She said she specially wants to thank Angie Zeidenberg, who helped with organizing the bake sale, as well as Julia Wilson and her daughter Allegra.

Allegra Wilson and Aleya Khalifa loaded a little red wagon with goodies and sold them door-to-door throughout town.

Contributors also included Ian Costello and his mother Dia, Isabel Gibney and her mother, Betsy Carpenter, Michelle Brafman and Tom and Gabriella Helf, Zack Khalifa, Liselotte and Roseline Kuper, India Wells and Tom and Sonia Lorenzen.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

NOTICE

Residents are urged to return the survey about a town web site as soon as possible. Please either leave them in the slot by the front door of the Town Hall or mail them to Glen Echo Town Hall 6106 Harvard Ave.

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CLARA BARTON PARKWAY TO CLOSE WEEKENDS

The Clara Barton Parkway will be closed weekends through Aug. 12 so two sections of the roadway can be repaved.

The closure will run from 8 p.m. on Fridays until Monday morning rush hour, according to Glen Echo Park Site Manager Karen Pittleman.

The first section to be done runs from Chain Bridge to the Glen Echo turnaround.

When that is finished the workers will move outside the Beltway near the David Taylor Naval Basin.

The Clara Barton Parkway also will be closed Saturday morning, Sept. 20 so the Washington Area Bicyclists Association can hold their annual bike ride from Georgetown to Ericsson Road in Cabin John. The roadway will reopen at noon

--Jerry Bodlander

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TOWN RESIDENTS ORGANIZE DANCEFEST

Betsy and Jamie Platt, longtime dancers at Glen Echo Park and major organizers for events sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, organized a two-day Dancefest at Glen Echo Park on May 31 and June 1.

The Yale Ave. residents stepped in to fill a gap left by the cancellation this year of the Washington Folk Festival due to on-going construction at the Park.

The first annual Glen Echo Dancefest was held at the Bumper Car Pavillion. Approximately 1500 persons attended the free performances and teaching workshops with live music. Two of the biggest crowd pleasers were the Sean Culkin Irish Dancers and Artemarina Flamenco.

Dancefest also presented performances by the Ivan Dimitrov (formerly of Glen Echo) Bulgarian Dance Ensemble, and the ever-popular Foggy Bottom Morris Men. There were workshops in Greek, Cajun, Israeli, Swing, Scandinavian, Waltz and English Country Dance.

The Oklahoma Twisters played for a swing dance on Saturday evening that was featured in the June 4 Montgomery Weekly section of *The Washington Post*, and in a future issue of its Sunday Source.

Dancers and staff all donated their time. Joe Burns, Supervisory Park Ranger at Glen Echo Park, said he felt the event was a success for having brought many newcomers to the Park, and presenting a more diverse dance program than is ordinarily presented there. Volunteers posted at entrances to the Town appear to have forestalled any overflow parking problems.

The Dancefest was organized through the nonprofit World Music and Dance Institute. It was co-sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and the Washington Swing Dance Committee, in cooperation with the National Park Service, Montgomery County, and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture.



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TAXES STAY THE SAME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004

By James Gibney

The Town Council on June 2 unanimously approved a budget for the next fiscal year that keeps real property and personal property taxes at the same rates as last year.

Those amounts are \$.14 per \$100 of assessed valuation of town residences and \$.80 per \$100 of assessed valuation of businesses operating in Glen Echo. The latter are called personal property taxes.

Next year's budget calls for spending slightly less than the town will take in, so there will be no change in the town's current surplus of \$422,068.

In a review of last year's budget, town council members noted several unanticipated expenses, including more than \$5,000 over the budgeted amount for snow removal. (The town is hoping to be reimbursed for this money by Montgomery County and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.)

Moreover, a sharp drop in interest rates cut the amount of money that the town has earned through May 30 on its surplus to approximately \$5,000, well below the budgeted amount for the year of \$12,000. Together with the planned cost of extensive street repairs completed last year, these and other financial nicks and cuts have reduced the town surplus over the last year by approximately \$82,000.

The coming year's budget reflects the continuing impact of state budget cutbacks as well as of several projects planned for the coming year. State highway funding for Glen Echo will be reduced by approximately \$5,000, from approximately \$17,000 to \$12,000.

Mayor Debbie Beers also speculated that because reductions in federal taxes would affect state taxes, the town's share of state income taxes would likewise decline, although she said that the exact impact was still unclear.

Several special initiatives and capital improvements are included in next year's budget. First, town council members decided unanimously to allocate \$20,000 for the potential purchase of the

former trolley right-of-way in front of the former Inn at Glen Echo. Another \$3,000 was set aside for surveys of the right-of-way near that location and at the Town Hall as well as land owned by the Town abutting Tulane and Oberlin Aves.

Approximately \$5,000 was budgeted to fund activities and projects related to the town's upcoming centennial, including landscaping the entrances to town.

The town council also added \$2,000 to last year's budget for improving the Town Hall to cover the cost of new tables and chairs, as well as a light refinishing of the floors.

And the town recreation budget was increased over last year by \$300 to ensure that last year's St. Patrick's Day party could be repeated.

Next year's budget also includes funds for projects that were budgeted for last year. One of those carried over was \$15,000 for sidewalks, which suffered during this year's severe winter. As Mayor Beers noted, "If we say we're going to do these things, we should actually do them to improve the town."

Commenting that this year is "a break" from major street repair, she said that the town would budget funds for such purposes following the completion of the renovation of storm drains by Montgomery County—a project that she observed could have cost the town anywhere from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Not a single resident of Glen Echo attended the budget hearing.

--James Gibney

MISSING ECHO?

If you don't get an *Echo* on time, please call Jane Stevenson, 301-229-3578, who is in charge of delivery. You can also pick up an extra copy at the postoffice by asking a clerk for one.

BIRD POPULATION SWELLS IN SPRING AND SUMMER

By Frank Powers

Spring is winding down, and the days growing shorter. But the work for the birds of Glen Echo is at full throttle.

It often goes unnoticed, but the lively birdsong of April, May and early June has tapered off considerably. The parenting birds have been on nest, brooding their young, or quietly feeding the fledglings in their nests. They aren't seeking attention.

Among the resident nesters we've seen this year are Song Sparrows (two on our end of University), Northern Mockingbirds, numerous Mourning Doves, Carolina Wrens, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouses, Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches, House Finches, Common Grackles, Red-bellied, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, as well as the ubiquitous House Sparrows and European Starlings.

Their eggs have long since hatched. Their offspring have left their nests and are learning to fly and visit Glen Echo's many feeders (this is a particularly vulnerable time for the chicks, who haven't yet learned how to avoid lurking predators).

It hasn't taken the large Pileated Woodpeckers (crow-size) long to demolish our suet feeders. They stuff their beaks with the feed, then fly back to wherever their nest is to feed their nestlings.

Early arrivals from someplace else (mainly the Caribbean, South and Central America) have included Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Northern Flickers and Pine Warblers (February through early April). Late arriving (late April to late May), and also probably nesting nearby, are the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos and the constantly chirping Chimney Swifts, seen overhead in the late afternoon.

Twice, we've been graced by the sight of the brightly colored orange and black male Baltimore Oriole zipping through our yard. You can probably find them nesting down

along the Canal.

Now, the juveniles are learning the ropes for themselves at bird feeders, often very awkwardly. In early summer you can see them still demand that bird-moms and -dads continue their feeding chores. These youngsters flutter their wings, chirp loudly, hoping to be rewarded with mouth-to-mouth feeding. Chickadees, Cardinals, Titmouses, and Grackles are particularly notorious for this behavior.

Just passing through on the way to their more northern nesting grounds have been wood warblers like the Blackpoll Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The ethereal song of the Wood Thrush could be heard in early May down in the woods by the parkway.

Since the end of summer, 2000, we've seen or heard 78 species from our yard (oops, make that 79, a Green Heron just flew over our house). I say, "heard," because the Barred Owls who visited us are generally heard, not seen (Cindy did see one last year, calling me excitedly at work). You may have heard one recently, probably a juvenile learning its "Who-cooks-for-you, who-cooks-for-you-alllll" call.

In about a month, reverse migration will begin, with many of our spring & summer birds heading back south, while our wintering birds will rejoin us by late October or November.

(Frank Powers lives at 7306 University Ave.)

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 14—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



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WANTED: House to rent or buy in Cabin John or Glen Echo for family with 5 year old boy. We've been living in London for the past 7 years, and are moving back Aug. 1. Ideally we would like to be situated before school starts, and would visit beforehand if necessary. Please e-mail us at rvjustiny@aol.com or rvjhn@aol.com, call collect: 011-44-207-624-0515, or write Justine and John Reeves, 62 Canfield Gardens, London NW6 3EB, UK. We have been pre-approved for a loan.

WANTED: Caring, environmentally conscious woman to share home with a senior woman in Glen Echo. Offer a light, spacious studio room (treetop view) with private bath and entrance. Willing to negotiate lower rent in exchange for some services (cooking, etc.) No smoking. No pets. References required. 301-229-6905.

BABYSITTING SERVICES AVAILABLE from July 16 through August 15, daytime or evenings. This fall I will be a second-year student at the University of Virginia. Right now, I am working as a counselor at an overnight camp for girls. I love kids! My family lives in Glen Echo. Call Brooke at: 301-229-6147.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

May, 2003

Peyton's Tree Service (2001 & 2002 leaf collection, street cleaning, right-of-way cleaning)	\$15,277.50
S.O.M.E. (in memory Josh Greenberg)	\$100.00
Spenser Steele (delivery town bulletins)	\$50.00

(A full accounting of all bills paid and payments received is available as part of the town council minutes.)

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Holly Shimizu's
6101 Bryn Mawr Ave.
Thursday, July 24, 8:00 p.m.*

Please RSVP 301-229-3011

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U.S. BIRTH RATE FALLS, BUT NOT IN GLEN ECHO

Glen Echo's recent population explosion shows it's doing its bit to counter the decline in the rest of the country, where the birth rate has fallen to the lowest since the turn of the 20th century. Six babies were born to the approximately 300 town residents in the last 12 months, compared to four per 300 U.S. residents.

The Echo is happy to announce the arrival of two new babies since our last issue.

Tea (pronounced Taya) **Elizabeth Costello** was born on May 27 at Georgetown Hospital, a month early. She weighed four pounds, seven ounces, which was a little less than her brother Ian, 6, who came into the world at four pounds eleven ounces and was two-and-a-half weeks early. Tea is home with her parents, **Dia** and **Matthew Costello** and brother **Ian**, who is very proud of his new baby, at 6102 Bryn Mawr Ave.

Emelin Gaynor Bohi was born on May 23 at Sibley Hospital to **Kelly** and **Jim Bohi**. She weighed seven pounds, fifteen ounces and measured 21-1/2 inches long. Emelin is now home at 6108 Bryn Mawr Ave.

Welcome, little new residents!

MACY, HUDSON-TAYLOR SPEAK AGAINST MORE AIRPORT NOISE

Glen Echo Councilman Dan Macy and resident Diana Hudson-Taylor attended the June 19 public meeting of National Airport's Part 150 Airport Noise Compatibility Study. Ms. Hudson-Taylor is a member of the 150 Advisory Committee.

The meeting explained current noise policy and got input from the approximate 100 people present.

Councilman Macy was one of a number of representatives of local civic associations present at the meeting. He decried the lack of a no fly curfew for Reagan National (currently as long as planes are under the noise limit established in the early 80's, they can fly anytime).

He also commented to the applause of those present "I find it incredibly ironic that we're talking about noise abatement at the same time our legislature is attempting to increase noise [the number of flights] out of the airport."

Several other public meetings will follow as the study progresses over the next 18 months.

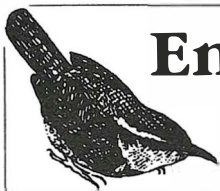
--Diana Hudson-Taylor

AROUND TOWN

Construction of an **improved storm drain system** between MacArthur Blvd. and the Clara Barton Parkway has begun. The work is currently being done in the rear of houses in the lower blocks of Harvard and Bryn Mawr Aves. Some residents have been surprised by the extent of the areas of their yards that are involved...

The Cabin John Citizens Association is organizing an Aug. 28 meeting for discussion of **the war in Iraq**, according to *The Village News*. Cong. Chris Van Hollen has agreed to participate and probably another presenter with expertise in the Middle East. The event is to take place at either the Community Center or the Glen Echo Town Hall...

Local citizens swept the **MacArthur Blvd. bike path** along Cabin John and Glen Echo on June 21 in a project organized by Kathryn Roberts of Cabin John, a recent Walt Whitman High School graduate. She chose the project as her last requirement to attain the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve. The county says it has no funds to clean the bike path...



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SPANISH BALLROOM RE-OPENS JULY 19

On Saturday, July 19, the National Park Service will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of renovation work on the 92-year-old Spanish Ballroom.

The renovation of the ballroom is part of a \$19 million program to renew Glen Echo Park.

Designed by the architect Edward Schoeppe of Philadelphia, it was built in 1933 using the same sprung maple wood floor of an open-air dance pavilion called the Crystal Ballroom. During its heyday in the 1930s and 40s, it attracted huge crowds to jitterbug, swing-dance and two-step on its 8,000 square foot dance floor, considered by many dancers one of the best in the country.

Among the famous dance bands that appeared here were the Dorsey Brothers, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman, and Bill Haley and the Comets.

On the west end of the ballroom, near the playgrounds, a new food concession has been constructed. There will also be a lounge and small indoor dining area for the café.

On the other end a large area has been added for park activities; it currently serves as a temporary home for the Puppet Theatre.

Also nearing completion is the old Administration Building, now called the North Arcade. It also was designed by Edward Schoeppe and is being restored by the architectural and engineering firm, VITETTA. It is a classic example of "streamline moderne" or Art Deco styling.

Constructed in 1940, the original building was so decrepit that it had to be replaced. The new North Arcade, however, is based on Schoeppe's original design. It employs the same undulating stucco and glass block facade, the historic colors and replicas of its original neon signs.

The building will house the only specially built puppet theater in the nation, will house classrooms, provide a new home for Photoworks and be used as a center for public activities.

CAROUSEL JOB OPEN

Glen Echo Park Partnership is looking for local residents to work at the park's Dentzel Carousel this summer. Attendants will receive minimum wage to help riders get on and off the carousel animals, collect tickets and operate the carousel machine. The park needs help on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through August.

For more information, call Katey Boerner at 301-320-7737.

ROCK THROWN THROUGH CAROUSEL WINDOW

By Jerry Bodlander

Someone threw a rock through one of the windows of the carousel at Glen Echo Park. Only one pane of glass was broken, and there was no damage inside, Site Manager Karen Pittleman told the Glen Echo town Council last month.

There was no indication why the alarm didn't go off, though the rock apparently didn't hit any sensors. Ms. Pittleman says police don't believe it is connected to some other, more serious incidents at the park. Still, she says it is "most troubling."

Council members reiterated the need for greater police presence as a deterrent. They warned that the park is a magnet for teens looking to cause trouble. Council member Nancy Long said that no longer having police cruisers in front makes a difference. Council member Dan Macy said police need to realize that the carousel is irreplaceable.

Ms. Pittleman says police have been asked to check the park more often, but they are overworked and understaffed, especially because of homeland security concerns. She also said there will be space for the police at the park when a new maintenance shed is built.

The council plans to write the park service to reiterate its concerns and the need for adequate security at the park.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

June 9

The town council declined to write letter to whoMeyer owns the land abutting MacArthur Blvd. where a fence recently was constructed. Mayor Beers said that the fence "clearly" is not on town property. Council members speculated the land might be owned by WMATA, assuming the county doesn't own it. Another possibility is the Army Corps of Engineers

Town resident Diana Hudson-Taylor appeared on behalf of her husband Norman, who wanted the town to write a letter expressing the ongoing concern about the situation. She also said it might be helpful to actually mark the right-of-way, so everybody knows where it is. Mayor Beers said it would probably cost several thousand dollars to have a company come in and do the marking.

The Centennial Committee is moving ahead with plans for a T-shirt to mark the town's 2004 **Centennial celebration**. Councilwoman Eve Arber said she hopes they'll be ready for the town picnic on July 13...

The town will hold its annual **Pancake Breakfast** on Dec. 13...

—Jerry Bodlander