

# The Echo

## The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



July 2004

### REAL ESTATE TAX RATE, TOWN SURPLUS TO FALL

By Rex Rhein

At its June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Town Council reduced Glen Echo's real estate tax rate from \$.14 per \$100 to \$.13 per \$100, as proposed by Mayor Debbie Beers in her May 18<sup>th</sup> Notice of Budget Hearing. Given that the town's assessable base has increased to \$37.2 million, a lower tax rate is expected to produce approximately the same revenue stream in the 2004-2005 fiscal year (\$48,450) as was collected this year from real estate taxes (\$48,353).

Beers had also recommended that the existing personal property tax (for businesses) be retained at \$.80 per \$100, producing an anticipated \$9,700 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The council approved her recommendation.

Total expected revenue next year is \$181,039, an increase of \$7,679 over this year. Besides real estate taxes, the majority of the town's income comes from state income tax revenue sharing -- \$55,000 next year, compared to \$50,000 this year -- and rental of the town hall space to the Glen Echo Post Office, which brings in \$28,800 each year. The town's share of highway revenue, based on cars registered to Glen Echo owners, is anticipated to exceed \$14,000. County revenue sharing is expected to bring in \$12,500.

The council approved total expenditures next year of \$239,190, an increase of \$44,160 over the current fiscal year. Because expenditures exceed revenues, the town's surplus of around \$300,000 will be reduced by over \$58,000.

—continued on page 3

### CELEBRATE GLEN ECHO'S FIRST 100 YEARS

### SUNDAY, JULY 18

3:00 p.m.—Children DECORATE bicycles, scooters, strollers or anything with wheels for the Centennial Parade. The town will provide a variety of décor.

3:00 p.m.—ICE CREAM SOCIAL in front of the Town Hall. Entertainment by "The Glen Echos" barbership quartet and "The Sunshine Skiffle Band"

4:00 p.m.—Montgomery County Councilman Howard Denis will read a PROCLAMATION

4:30 p.m.—PARADE BEGINS, led by antique car enthusiast Reed Martin of Cabin John in a 1900 Knox (if the weather is good) or a 1931 Model A Ford Roadster (if it is not)

5:00 p.m.—Glen Echo's ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC. Please bring a dish to share. The town will provide beverages and ice cream and cake.

## THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* on file at Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

**EDITOR** Carlotta Anderson 301-229-3748  
 email: Carlotta.ra@verizon.net  
**ASST. EDITOR** Diana Hudson-Taylor  
**REPORTERS** Rex Rhein, Jerry Bodlander  
**DISTRIBUTION** Brockie and Jane Stevenson  
 Charlie Wells  
 Maire Hewitt  
 Isabelle Umpleby  
 Jan and Chelsea Shaut  
**CIRCULATION** Susan Grigsby

**Next Deadline July 23**  
**Printed by Allied Printing**

Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at: 301-229-3748.

♻️ *Printed on recycled paper*

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

**Town Office: 301-320-4041**

**Town Office Fax: 301-320-3639**

**E-Mail: townhall@glenecho.org**

**6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 598, Glen Echo, MD  
 20812**

**Winter Office Hours:** Tuesday, noon-3:00 p.m. and  
 Friday, 9:00 a.m.- noon or by appointment

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016  
 Tim Maloy 301-229-4745  
 Dan Macy 301-229-2122  
 Nancy Long 301-332-3823

### CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

*Paid Advertisement*

## FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2004

Charles Cooley Stonework (sidewalk repair)	\$16,000.00
Premier Lifts (elevator maintenance)	\$960.00
Knopf & Brown (legal)	\$5,998.08
Mondre Energy (electricity procurement)	\$347.50

## LIKE TO HAVE THE AGENDA BEFORE THE COUNCIL MEETING?

Anyone who would like to have the agenda for the town council meeting emailed to them in advance need only make the request by emailing the clerk/treasurer at townhall@glenecho.org with their email address.



## Glen Echo Baptist Church

*Serving Glen Echo families since 1939*

*Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor*

## Bringing God's Truth to Life

**Sunday School . . . . . 9:30 am**

**Sunday Services . . . . . 11:00 am**

**Wednesday Activities . . . . . 7:00 pm**

**Mid-Week Bible Study . . . Vassar Circle**

## REAL ESTATE TAX RATE FALLS (FROM PAGE 1)

The largest single expenditure item in the fiscal 2004-2005 budget is refuse/recycling. It is expected to grow from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Beers noted that the refuse collection company changed ownership and "we haven't really updated our contract of 1991". Also, the town will have to pay additional dumping fees, she said.

The next largest item is street paving. The Council approved \$30,000, compared with \$10,000 in the current year's budget (of which only \$1,800 was spent as of May 17<sup>th</sup>). The published budget proposal called for \$10,000 again for next year, but Council member Tim Maloy recommended adding another \$20,000. He said street paving will eventually cost the town \$150,000. "The first estimate the engineers came up with was a million dollars," he said. "We scaled back. We really wanted to look at things that were subsiding and cracking and a danger to drivers and so forth."

Town resident James Gibney asked about repairs to the top of Oxford Road, which is deteriorating badly. Mayor Beers suggested that any portion of the road above the trolley right-of-way actually belongs to the county, which ought to pay for repairs. Gibney also was concerned that speed bumps planned for Oxford Road could encourage traffic to divert to Princeton Avenue, where there are houses with small children. "It's a valid point," said Maloy, who suggested putting speed bumps on Princeton Avenue itself.

Council member Dan Macy said there was "no question" that Oberlin and Tulane avenues are also in need of repair. But Maloy said he was "very reticent about doing repairs over there" until work on Glen Echo Park is completely finished. "We spent \$30,000 on Bowdoin, and a lot of it washed away," he said.

The council also approved \$15,000 for surveys of public space, which was increased from the \$3,000 budgeted for the current year (none of it spent), and \$15,000 for the construction of a stone entryway at the Harvard Avenue entrance.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 12—8:00 p.m. Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

Other increases from the current year's budget include: \$7,000 (up \$2,000) for administrative expenses, including hiring additional help for Town Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak; \$12,000 (up \$1,000) for legal expenses; \$8,000 (up \$1,000) for insurance and bonds; \$4,200 (up \$1,200) for auditing and accounting; \$8,700 (up \$1,750) for utilities (electricity, heat, telephone, water); \$2,000 (up \$200) for recreation, including the Halloween Party; \$2,700 (up \$200) for printing The Echo; \$10,000 (up \$4,000) for streetlights; and \$10,000 (up \$5,000) to celebrate Glen Echo's Centennial with a "big blow-out" planned for July.

Unchanged expenditures from the current fiscal year budget include: \$20,000 for landscaping; \$8,000 for town hall maintenance; \$2,500 for street sweeping; \$3,000 for other maintenance of public space; \$7,000 for town hall improvements; \$5,000 for contingencies.

Decreased expenditures budgeted for next year include: \$2,000 (down \$2,000) for snow removal; \$10,000 (down \$5,000) for sidewalk repairs; \$2,000 (down \$1,000) for community contributions.

## Enjoy wildlife at your window

- Feeders
- Birdbaths
- Seed
- Nest Boxes
- Gifts
- Free Birdwalks



### Wild Bird Center

Bonfield's Garage Historic Site  
6124 MacArthur Blvd. • Bethesda  
(301) 229-2600

## Digital Handyman, Inc.

Personal Computer Solutions

240.447.6535

Andy Malmgren  
Glen Echo, MD

Microsoft  
CERTIFIED  
Professional

CompTIA  
A+ Certified

On-site  
computer  
installation and  
repair

Virus removal  
Maintenance  
Upgrades  
Networks  
Training  
Security



## AROUND TOWN

Glen Echo residents who graduated from Walt Whitman High school in June include **Michael Beers**, **Rob Shaut** and **Cindy Powers**. In the fall, Mike will be attending Dartmouth College, Rob is going to Clemson University and Cindy will be at Elon University.

**Michael Beers** was one of the commencement speakers at the Whitman graduation ceremonies. In an article by Ellyn Park in *The Gazette*, he said his speech would aim to encourage his peers not to rush out of high school without reflecting how much they've changed in the past couple of years. "I really wanted to be able to be one of the people who gave words that helped and that I could have something meaningful to say and that everyone could relate to," he said.

**Carolyn Reeder's** "Captain Kate" was the first week's selection of the *Washington Post's* KidsPost Summer Book Club. The book follows the adventures of a 12-year-old and her stepbrother as they pilot a canal boat down the entire length of the C&O Canal during the Civil War.

Montgomery College and the Maryland Humanities Council are sponsoring a series of presentations under "the Chautauqua tent" by actors representing three famous historical figures in an evocation of the **Chautauqua experience** of the late 1800s. Wednesday, July 7 will feature "An Evening with Rachel Carson". "An Evening with Henry David Thoreau" follows on Thursday, July 8, and "An Evening with Theodore Roosevelt" concludes the series on Friday, July 9. All performances begin at 7:00 and are free. You are invited to bring a picnic basket and your family.

## TROLLEY HISTORIAN SHOWS EARLY STREETCAR SLIDES

The audience at Lee Rogers's talk on early Glen Echo and Washington streetcars was treated to a host of excellent slides dating back to the horsecar days and following streetcar history up to the last Glen Echo trolley run in 1960.

Mr. Rogers spoke at the Centennial event on Sunday, June 20, at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

He described the two trolley lines that ran to Glen Echo in 1896 and turned directly into the park. That was before the trolleys ran across trestle No. 10 to the turn-around just before the Cabin John Bridge. Trestle No. 10 still exists in an extremely dilapidated condition.

Although the ride to Glen Echo was beautiful, it was not quick. The top speed was 12 miles per hour, and although in later years the streetcars could travel at up to 52 miles per hour, they were always slowed because of the curvature of Conduit Rd. (now MacArthur Blvd.)

Of the old streetcars that were phased out around 1960, 75 ended up in Sarajevo, 125 in Barcelona and 12 in Ft. Worth, Texas. The remainder are in museums, he said.


## TOWN PLEASED WITH LEASING FOR IRISH INN PARKING

Council members said at the June town council meeting that they're generally happy with the way the lease of town land on Tulane Ave. to the Irish Inn at Glen Echo is working.

The Inn is leasing previously unused land for parking and is paying the town \$250 a month.

Council member Tim Maloy said the lot looks good, and neighbors have complimented the way the things are working.

It was noted that the Inn gave up the space during the recent Folk Festival.



**Cheese, imported and domestic ▼**  
**▼ Organically-grown produce**  
**Nuts, dried fruit, grains & beans sold in bulk ▼**  
**▼ Health & bodycare, cruelty-free**

Serving the community since 1975.

# Bethesda Co-op

301-320-2530 6500 Seven Locks Rd., at MacArthur Blvd. Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:** Cottage on a large farm. Half an hour north of the I-495 Capital Beltway. New kitchen and bath. Air conditioning. A quiet retreat. No kids. \$1200 per month. 240-383-0171.

**DELIGHTFUL WATERFRONT HOUSE** in South Bethany, 5 minutes walk from the beach. Air-conditioned, fully screened deck, 3 bedrooms, large living room and downstairs den. Sleeps 8. Available for rent July 3-10, July 10-17 and August 28-September 4. Call 1-800-543-5550 Connor-Jackson and ask for the Hewitt house.

**THE PILATES CLASSES AT THE TOWN HALL** will continue with a summer workshop running from July 1 to August 12. The classes are held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm. Instructor is Dianne Pettie, adjunct professor at George Washington University. Focus is on mobility, flexibility, increased range of movement, rhythmic breathing, and the fundamentals of conditioning. Cost: \$140 for 7 sessions. Makeup classes offered for missed sessions. For information, call Debbie Lange at 301-320-8129.

**CABIN JOHN DOG WALKS & PET SITTING** Pet sitting for all your pets and midday walks for your dogs. To keep your pets safe, happy, and healthy, please call 301-257-1076.

*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: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

**Mobil®**



**KENWOOD MOBIL CENTER**

5201 RIVER ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816  
PH: (301) 652-9527 FAX: (301) 652-1138

**Michael Carrick**  
OWNER

**Dick Spicer**  
SERVICE MANAGER

**AUTO REPAIR - FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE**

## NO PARKING PROBLEMS DURING FOLK FESTIVAL

By Jerry Bodlander

Town Council members said they were very happy with the parking situation in town during the recent Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park. Mayor Debbie Beers made a point of thanking park site manager Karen Pittleman during the June 14 council meeting.

Council member Tim Maloy even commented that the town seemed "emptier" than usual.

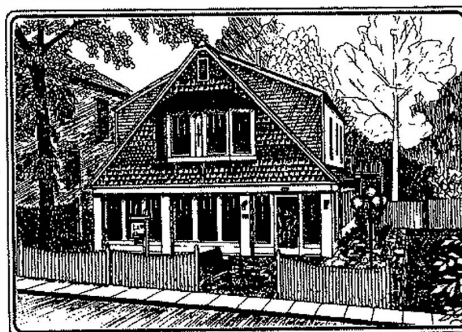
But it was a different story on Goldsboro Road, which was lined with cars that were parked there after the park's lots were full.

Ms. Pittleman said there's no report yet on how many people used the shuttle busses after parking their cars at the satellite parking, which was located at Geico's headquarters in Bethesda. She estimated that 2,000 people attended the festival on Saturday and 5,000 on Sunday despite the fact that festival organizers didn't do much publicity. She called it a good test of the system.

No major events are scheduled for the park until the Labor Day art show.

Mayor Beers asked about reports that this festival and others might have to start charging admission in the future. Ms. Pittleman said that has been discussed, and while no specific festivals have been mentioned, the folk festival may have to start charging for admission

**LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
(301) 229-8500



*Heather Cottage*

*Financial Planning*

## WANT TO BE A LOCKKEEPER? VOLUNTEER FOR LOCKHOUSE 8

Lockhouse 8 on the C&O Canal upriver from Glen Echo is now open weekends as a Learning Center staffed by volunteers under the sponsorship of the Potomac Conservancy and the National Park Service.

The 1830 structure has been under renovation for more than a year by volunteer builders, but still has much work to be done on it. Nevertheless, it is now usually open for at least a few hours on weekends so that visitors can see the interior and learn about canal history, local birds and wildflowers and the ecology of the Potomac River area.

The current "lockkeepers," or docents, are volunteers who enjoy being a modern part of the canal history and transmitting their enthusiasm to other users of the canal. They invite passersby into the lockhouse, where brochures, articles and books are displayed. Eventually there will be rotating exhibits and wildflower and bird walks.

If you are interested in occasionally volunteering as a "lockkeeper" or as a volunteer builder you can visit [www.potomac.org](http://www.potomac.org) for more information or call Jim or Carlotta Anderson at 301-229-3748.

## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night*

*at Kathleen Wolf's  
6000 Bryn Mawr Ave.*

*Wednesday, July 21, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP 301-229-7041*

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6101 Harvard Ave.

\$665,000



**1st Choice**

**Professional Painting &  
Home Improvements**

**301-229-9100**  
[www.go1stchoice.com](http://www.go1stchoice.com)

**MHIC 39468**      **Insured**



*Eleanor*

"Let's talk about what's  
happening up and down  
MacArthur Blvd."

301-907-7600  
301-229-7990

[www.EleanorBalaban.com](http://www.EleanorBalaban.com)



## WALKING TOUR BOOKLETS AVAILABLE AT TOWN HALL

The newly-published "A Walking Tour of Glen Echo" was distributed to residents at a book party in April. All those who have not yet received their copies may get their copies at the town hall during regular office hours.

Each Glen Echo household is entitled to one free copy of the 61-page booklet, which includes information about every house in town and much historical information. It also contains an up-to-date map showing the location of all 103 buildings in town.

Additional copies are available for residents for \$5 each. Please make your check payable to: "The Town of Glen Echo." The booklet is also available to the public for \$10 per copy.

### BURNED-OUT STREET LIGHT?

If you see a burned-out street light, you can report it to Pepco by calling 1-877-77-2662 and giving the street address and whether it is a wooden or metal pole. Because some people have reported burned-out street lights several times before they were replaced, it is a good idea to note the date you called. If you call over several weeks without any action, you could report that to the clerk/treasurer at 301-320-4041.

*Landscape Design • Installation • Decks  
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters*



P.O. Box 498  
Cabin John, Maryland 20818

John Hughes  
301-589-6040

## EULOGY TO FLUFF

By Diana Hudson-Taylor

She was a long haired cat that my neighbor Norman Bernhardt brought home one day in 1998. She soon became a neighborhood cat - meowing at any passerby to be petted, crawling into any lap to purr and knead you. Since we lived next door, people would ask if she were ours.

If you tried to garden, she would walk over and stand right where you were working until you petted her and moved her aside. Given a chance, she would try to slip into any home's open door for a visit. When we drove up to our house, she would be the welcoming committee waiting to greet us coming home. She was no hunter, but she was a lover.

On June 8 my husband was leaving for work and I saw Fluff lying on the sidewalk not moving. I knew something was seriously wrong because if she were around she would never let him off to work without coming over, meowing to be petted. She was dead, from old age or car, but with no outward signs of violence.

I wrapped her in a towel and called Norman. She had survived the fire in his house, cold winters, the hierarchy of neighboring felines, even the humiliating lion/poodle haircuts every spring to keep her cool. All will miss this cat's insatiable love of the human race.

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTIES FOR SALE

5 Vassar Circle	\$757,000
21 Wellesley Circle	\$725,000

## POSTAL INQUIRIES?

It is no longer possible to get postal information by calling one's local post office.

For information by phone call toll-free number 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) for all postal inquiries.

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS AT THE PARK

### DANCES HELD WEEKLY IN THE RENOVATED SPANISH BALLROOM:

**Thursday Night Dances**—swing and lindy. \$5. 9:00-11:00

**Friday Night Dances**—contras, square and country mixers. Beginners welcome. \$7. 8:30-11:30

**Saturday Night Dances**—swing, cajun/zydeco, salsa. \$12. 9:00-midnight

**Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances**—waltzes, swing, cajun/zydeco. \$7 or \$10. 3:30-6:00

**Sunday Night Dances**—contra, square, folk. Forexperienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon**  
To July 11

**The Adventures of Paddington Bear**  
July 24-August 29

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

## THE PUPPET THEATRE

**The Wizard of Oz**  
Through July 18

**Dreamosaurua**  
July 21-Sept. 5

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$6.00 Call 301-320-6668

## PARK NEWS

There's now a place to grab a bite to eat at Glen Echo Park. "The Café" opened June 3 with a menu that includes sandwiches.

The Café's hours right now are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Don't be surprised if you see a lot of children at the park during the week. Glen Echo Park site manager Karen Pitelman said about 250 children were attending nine camps as the summer got underway



## AT THE CLARA BARTON SITE

**"Looking for Bumps?"**  
Saturday, July 17, 1:00-2:00

Prenology, a 19th century study of the skull, was believed to determine a person's character and mental capacity. It was used to determine Clara Barton's early career path.

Enjoy an interesting talk on the pseudo-science of phrenology and a photographic exhibit.

## DIDN'T GET YOUR ECHO ON TIME?

The scheduled delivery date for *The Echo* is the Sunday before the first Monday of each month. If you don't get your copy by that date, please notify circulation manager Jane Stevenson at 301-229-3578. It is only by hearing from you that we know there is a circulation delay.