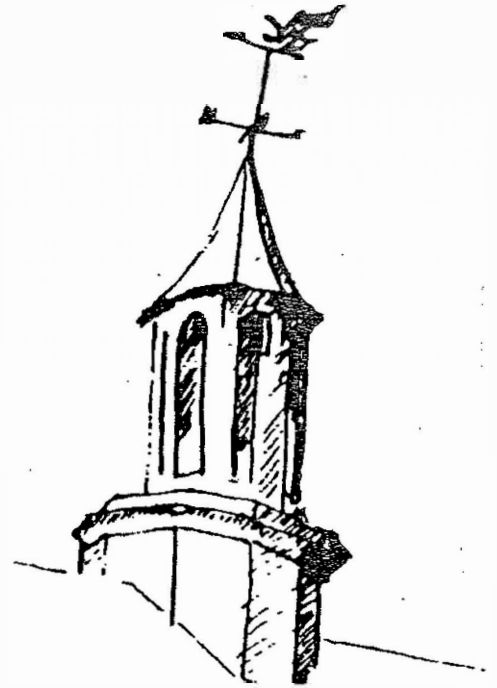


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



July 2007

MAYOR INVESTIGATING PROBLEMS IN VOTING PROCESS

By Carlotta Anderson

The question of whether a prospective voter was properly refused a ballot in the May 7 town election but was allowed to vote in the May 21 run-off election is being investigated by Mayor Debbie Beers.

The woman in question, who works as an au pair for the family at 21 Wellesley Circle, was incorrectly told by town election officials that she was ineligible to vote May 7 because she had not been a resident in town for a year, according to her employer, Nick Lambert. He protested because he knew that the requirement to be an eligible voter in Glen Echo was residency of at least 30 days, not one year.

At the May 21 run-off election, however, election officials did allow her to vote. In the meantime, the question arose of whether she actually was a resident at all, although she has lived in town for several months.

The eligibility of this voter was particularly significant in this election because it appears that if she had voted in the first election there would not have been a tie between candidates Dan Macy and Robin Kogelnik and a run-off election would have been unnecessary.

Mayor Beers said she does not believe au pairs can be considered residents here, since they are legal residents of another country or locale, and "you cannot be a resident of two places at once; you can only have one domicile." Mr. Lambert, however, says his au pair is a legal resident of Maryland and that they have a letter indicating that she is entitled to attend a Maryland school at the in-state tuition rate.

Town attorney Norman Knopf, in a letter clarifying residency in another case in town, wrote that, according to the Maryland Court of Appeals, "A person may have several places of abode or dwelling, but he can have only one domicile at a time" Merely living away from one's residence temporarily does not cause the residency to end, when one has the intention to return.

The confusion in the last election also revealed other problems in the town election process. The town charter provides that anyone at least 18 years of age, whether a citizen of

—continued on page 3

GLEN ECHO TOWN PICNIC

Saturday, July 21, 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall lawn

Please bring your own drinks, a salad, side dish or dessert for 8.

The town will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, buns and fixings, plates and plastic ware.

Volunteers are graciously accepted; please call
301-320-4041

THE ECHO

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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

COUNCIL CONSIDERS HAVING BULLETIN BOARD IN PARK

By Kathleen Kotcher

Councilmember Steve Matney described to the town council last month the community bulletin board in Brookmont, which is in a central location and where residents can post anything they wish. He suggested perhaps such a bulletin board could be installed in one of the town parks. Mayor Beers expressed concern that it would be prone to creating litter, but Councilman Matney stated he never noticed a problem with litter at the Brookmont community board and didn't think it would be a problem here.

The council also took up a complaint by Echo editor Carlotta Anderson that too much information about Glen Echo Park was being posted by someone on the town bulletin board at the entrance to the post office and that it was crowding out information about the town. The board has been used primarily to post articles from *The Echo* for people to read as they use the post office. The council decided to restrict the board to town-specific events and announcements as well as the posting of *Echo* articles.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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E-Mail: townhall@glenecho.org

Office: 6106 Harvard Avenue; mailing address: Box 598, Glen Echo, MD

20812

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-3:30
or by appointment**

MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

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Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Robin Kogelnik 301-320-5269

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>



Summertime Worship at REDEEMER

■ SUNDAY

The Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:30 am

Summer Church School 10:30 am

■ WEDNESDAY

Morning Prayer & Breakfast 8:30 am

The Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm

DEDICATORY ORGAN CONCERTS

by renowned American concert organist John Walker

Friday, 21 September 2007, at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, 23 September 2007, at 5:00 p.m.

Admission is free. Reception to follow both concerts.

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(301) 229-3770 ▪ office.redeemer@verizon.net

www.redeemerbethesda.org

COUNCIL APPROVES \$200,000 FOR STREET REPAIRS THIS YEAR

By Rex Rhein

At its May 29th meeting, the Town Council voted to spend \$200,000 for street paving during the fiscal year that begins July 1st, compared to \$75,000 that was budgeted (but unspent) for this purpose in fiscal 2006-2007. However, councilman Steve Matney said not all town streets would be repaved in the new fiscal year, since a complete repair job, including "milling" them down to original curb levels, would cost at least \$1,000,000, according to an earlier estimate.

As described in the June issue of The Echo, the town has received a bid of \$4,000 by A. Morton Thomas for a basic engineering survey for the project and of \$13,000 by EBY Engineering for a larger survey that includes a geo-technical survey.

By a unanimous vote, including that of newly sworn-in councilmember Robin Kogelnik, the council adopted the mayor's proposal to retain the existing real property tax rate at \$0.12 per \$100, although a rate of \$0.113 would be expected to produce the same revenue as last year. Mayor Beers noted that the tax rate was lowered two years ago from \$0.14 per \$100 to the current rate. "If we're really going to do the streets, I do not think we ought to decrease it again," she said.

The total budget for fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$467,820, compared to \$356,920 budgeted for last year, although total expenditures from July 1, 2006 to April 26, 2007 amounted to less than half of that (\$167,881). The low expenditure rate was principally due to the town's spending less than a third of the \$150,000 that had been budgeted for capital improvements. The only capital improvement bills paid by April 26 were for the town hall (\$42,056), largely for heating and air conditioning.

The largest percentage increases from last year's budget were for street paving (+127%), streetlights (+50%), landscaping (+50%), snowplowing (+30%), refuse/recycling (+25%), and administration (+20%). The largest dollar increases were for street paving (+\$125,000), refuse/recycling (+\$10,000), landscape (+\$10,000), administration (+\$2,000), payroll (+\$1,600), and snowplowing (+\$1,500).

Offsetting the increases were decreases in budgeted expenditures for town hall improvements (down from \$30,000 to \$7,000), sidewalk improvements (\$20,000 to \$5,000), town hall maintenance (\$10,000 to \$8,000), recreation (\$5,000 to \$3,000), professional services (\$37,500 to \$36,000), and electrical (\$7,000 to \$6,000).

Once again, the town ended the fiscal year with a large capital surplus, \$632,318, as of April 26th. Unlike in previous years, however, the surplus declined in fiscal 2006-2007 -- by nearly \$31,000, largely because of the town hall expenditures. Mayor Beers said she expects the surplus to drop even further if the street paving actually gets underway.

As in previous years, the biggest money producer was the town's share of Maryland State income tax, which amounted to more than \$78,000 last year and is expected to remain at that level in fiscal 2007-2008. Also, the town's share of highway revenue, based on cars registered to Glen Echo owners, is anticipated to exceed \$21,000.

—continued on page 4

VOTING PROBLEMS (FROM PAGE 1)

the United States or not, who has lived in Glen Echo for 30 days prior to an election and is registered in Glen Echo is a qualified voter. He/she need not be registered to vote in Montgomery County or the State of Maryland.

The town is given a list by the State of Maryland of all those registered to vote in Glen Echo. This list, however, is not up-to-date, according to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor of Elections in Glen Echo. "It has people on it who haven't lived in Glen Echo for years." The town charter requires that the clerk-treasurer keep a separate voter roll for the town, since some residents are not registered Maryland voters. However, since registration of voters is permitted "up to and including the day of election," in practice the voter roll has not been kept up to date. Prospective voters were given a ballot, according to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor Elections, because she or another member of the election board personally recognized them. No identification or proof of residency was required.

Absentee ballots presented another problem. Ms. Grigsby emailed ballots to absentee voters, and most had time to mail them back. But the only other method was to fax them back, if a fax machine was available, and in that case the ballot was not secret. "We have to decide if we will allow emailed ballots," she said.

Ms. Grigsby said she will offer suggestions to the town for clarification of these procedures for future elections, and Mayor Beers said she plans to ask Mr. Knopf for his advice.

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BUDGET (FROM PAGE 3)

Real property taxes from Glen Echo residents are expected to produce \$63,000, compared to last year's estimate of \$53,000. In addition, the council voted to retain the existing personal property tax rate of \$0.80 per \$100, which brought in over \$9,000 as of April 26th.

Another major source of revenue, as in previous years, is an estimated \$18,000 interest on the town's \$632,318 capital surplus, or 2.85%. However, this estimate may be low, since money market yields are currently about 5%.

There was no debate over any of the budget items by councilmembers. With the mayor's concurrence, they voted to increase funding for three of the items included in her May 15th budget proposal, which had been distributed to all town residents. Money for street paving, originally set by the mayor at \$150,000, was increased to \$200,000. For electricity expenditures, the council approved \$6,000 instead of \$2,000. And the mayor's original proposal for snow plowing was increased to \$5,000 from \$3,500.

Only one budget item -- \$20,000 to construct an entrance to the town, which is the same amount budgeted (but unspent) last year -- elicited a reaction from a town resident not on the council. According to Mayor Beers, Diana Hudson Taylor had commented that she did not think the entrance should be included in the budget before the streets are resurfaced. "We can always put off doing it until the streets are done," the mayor told the council, which approved the expenditure.

Except for a reporter for *The Echo*, no town residents attended either the budget hearing or the special council meeting that followed.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

June 11

The town has made a request to the office of County Councilmember Roger Berliner that a **speed camera** to be placed at the Princeton Ave. crosswalk across MacArthur Blvd. to capture images of motorists not stopping for pedestrians who are attempting to use the crosswalk. It was pointed out that while some cars will stop for pedestrians, other more impatient drivers will pass the stopped cars by driving in the shoulder. The council debated the feasibility of a barrier placed in the shoulder to prevent this from happening...

Councilmember Eve Arber, at the behest of several town residents, brought up the issue of residents blocking town streets in order to hold **block parties**. The council agreed to review the ordinances in order to see what provisions are already in place for such events and then decide on a procedure...

Councilmember Steve Matney reported that EBA Engineering is able to install **speed bumps** in the town. He is still waiting for another call back before the town moves forward on street repair. Mayor Beers requested that the existing potholes be repaired before the season for asphalt passes...

Town Councilmember Long has appointments with two landscape architects to discuss plans for the **town's two parks**. Councilmember Eve Arber brought to the town's attention that the Maryland Municipal League offers grants for the building of parks. She noted that in 2007 the League donated \$5 million for the construction of 64 parks. She and Councilmember Long were going to further investigate if they could get plans from the landscape architects before the grant deadline date.

The council decided on the design for the new **town sign**. It is going to be solid white plastic, approximately one-half inch thick, with a semi-gloss finish and raised lettering. The sign will require no painting and only cleaning as maintenance. There is to be a grooved border on the sign. Councilmember Arber was unsure when the sign would be completed and delivered.

--Kathleen Kotcher

PROPERTIES AVAILABLE

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NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 9—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

AROUND TOWN

Kelly and Jim Bohi are happy to announce the birth of their daughter **Adeline Florence** on April 19 at Sibley Hospital. Adeline weighed seven pounds, eleven ounces and was 20-1/2" long. She joins her sisters **Emilia**, 4, and **Audrey**, 2, at 6108 Bryn Mawr Ave...

Harvard Ave.'s **Doug Pyle** contributed an item to the "Life is Short: Autobiography as Haiku" column of *The Washington Post* last month. He recounts how he made his son a Superman costume with available clothing items and clever use of masking tape..

Former Glen Echo resident **Kate Horwitz**, who still organizes St. Patrick's Day parties for the town, has been elected president of the Bannockburn Civic Association. Her husband, **Jim**, is second vice-president...

Laura Beers, daughter of Debbie and Don Beers, received her PhD in European History from Harvard University last month. She has been awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from Cambridge University in England for next year, where she will work on turning her thesis into a book. The title of the thesis is: *Is the media the message?: Labour, democracy and the mass media, 1918-1945.*

Two of **Eleanor Balaban's** photos were chosen to be displayed at a "Friends of the National Zoo" exhibit at the Washington School of Photography on Rugby Ave in Bethesda. The Gallery is open sporadically when they have classes in session, so the exhibit is difficult to see but the exhibit will be there through July.


The town is hiring **off-duty police officers** this sum-

mer to control traffic on Oxford Rd., especially those vehicles that do not stop at the stop sign. So far they have ticketed "a tremendous number of people," according to Mayor Debbie Beers. The town is also taking action against residents who have moved into Maryland more than 60 days ago and have not changed the registration of their vehicles. This deprives the town of its share of the vehicle tax...

Carol Barton was featured in an article in the *Washington City Paper* of May 25. It mentioned her book "Five Luminous Towers: A Book to Be Read in the Dark," in which the lookout, the bell tower, the lighthouse, and even the text actually light up. Her first mass-produced work was "The Pocket Paper Engineer: How to Make Pop-Ups, Step-by-Step," which is available at www.popularkinetics.com. Her pop-up views of Glen Echo are on display in the entrance hall of the town hall.

The **American flag** will be flying along MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John again this year, thanks to the efforts of long-time local resident Danny Harris. Mr. Harris, 83, a World War II veteran, started a tradition of hanging the flags in 1972 and has continued ever since. He is helped in the endeavor by his wife, Margaret, and others, and the Cabin John Citizens Association raises the money to buy new flags when the old ones are worn out or vandalized. For information on how to contribute money to buy flags contact Burr Gray, Cabin John Citizens' Association president, at burrgray@aol.com.

"Our Good Neighbor—Glen Echo," a two-part series, has been running in the Cabin John *Village News*. Based primarily on the book "Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town" by Carlotta Anderson, it emphasizes the common experiences of the two communities...



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CLASSIFIED ADS

Wonderful and loving caregiver available full-time effective July 2, 2007. Hours flexible – morning, afternoon, evening, nights, even on weekends. Can care for children or older persons. Also available for light housecleaning. Yati has been part of our family for 9 years. She has been terrific, and our children have adored her. She is professional, kind, loving, committed, and dedicated. For more information, contact Amy Niles at 301-320-0314 or amyniles@aol.com.

Babysitter / Petsitter. Glen Echo teen (senior at Whitman) is available for babysitting and petsitting this summer. Call India at 301-229-4503.

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.

TOWN MAKES DONATION TO HONOR GILBERT GUDE

The town council at its June 11 meeting voted to donate \$500 to the C&O Canal Association to honor former Congressman Gilbert Gude, who died on June 7 at the age of 84. Mr. Gude, a liberal Republican, introduced the legislation making the C&O Canal a National Park. He was also instrumental in making Glen Echo Park a National Park as well as in the struggle to keep the carousel in the park, Councilmember Nancy Long said.

He represented Montgomery County in the House of Representatives from 1967-77. Gude's family had publicly requested that in lieu of flowers, donations should be made to the C&O Canal Association.

--Kathleen Kotcheer

PEPCO SETS UP NEW OUTAGE REPORTING SYSTEM

Residents can now report street light outages on-line with a new system inaugurated by Pepco. "To report lights out go to www.pepco.com. Once on the Pepco home page, click on "Report street light outage."

In subsequent phases of the new system there will be a tracking mechanism that will provide status and completion dates for the specific inquiry.

OBERLIN ARCHITECT TELLS TOWN HIS RENOVATION PLANS

By Kathleen Kotcher

Richard Leggin, owner of 6110 Oberlin Avenue, presented his plans to renovate and rezone the property to commercial transitional. His plans for his architecture office with upstairs apartment have been presented to the town council twice before. He has now gone before the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Department. This appearance before the council was part of the application process.

Of particular concern to Parks and Planning, he said, is the inclusion of off-street parking, tree preservation, landscaping and ensuring compatibility with the purpose of the zone and the neighborhood.

Mr. Leggin is going to have six off-street parking spaces. He pointed out that while Parks and Planning only requires him to have five percent of the lot as green space he actually has closer to 30 percent. He has bound himself to retain the existing house and to preserve the large sycamore tree on the property.

He also addressed concerns the town council has previously mentioned, including the fear he would sell the property and the new owner would tear down the building or radically change the nature of the business. He assured the town that any new owner would have to go through the rezoning process for any changes.



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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at Jan Shaut's
6004 Harvard Ave.*

Wednesday, July 18, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-4379

PETITION FOR CROSSING LIGHT BEING CIRCULATED IN TOWN

Town residents are being asked to sign their names to a petition to the Montgomery County Department of Public Works requesting that a blinking traffic light be installed at the crosswalk at Princeton Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. Also requested will be the repainting of the present crosswalk.

All pedestrians who have tried to cross from town to the shopping center or to school bus stops know that it is a rare car that stops for them despite yellow and black signs with pictures of pedestrians that have been placed at either side of the crossing. Glen Echo is the only community on the river side of MacArthur Blvd. that has no safe way to cross it: Cabin John has a three-way stop at Seven Locks Road, and Brookmont has a street light at the intersection with Sangamore Rd.

Mayor Beers has written to the county three times since 2000 requesting a flashing traffic light and the repainting of the crosswalk to no avail, despite the increase in traffic on MacArthur.

The petition will be circulated to townspeople via visits to individual homes as well as at town events. If you would be willing to circulate it to a few houses, please contact Carlotta Anderson, 301-229-3749 or carlotta.ra@verizon.net

CLARA BARTON SITE HOSTS RANGER CAMPS

Free two-day Junior Ranger Camps will be offered at the Clara Barton National Historic Site in July and August. These camps will make history come alive with learning activities related to Clara Barton's life and times and the unique history of Glen Echo Park. Participants will take in-depth tours of both parks, complete hands-on learning activities, and participate in an on-going National Park Service conservation project.

They will earn Jr. Ranger Certificates and awards for completing the camps.

The dates available are July 10 & 11; July 17 & 18; July 31 & Aug. 1; and Aug. 7 & 8. The camps last from 9:30-2:00 p.m. The camps are open to students ages 9-12 years old. Space is limited. Reservations required. Call 301-320-1410

ITEMS STOLEN FROM TWO CARS

Two cars on lower Bryn Mawr Ave. were entered and a few items stolen on June 16-17 between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Both cars were unlocked.

At 6004 Bryn Mawr petty cash and a two phone chargers were taken. A new fire extinguisher and small landscaping tools were left in place.

At 6000 Bryn Mawr a few dollars in petty cash was taken. There was nothing else of value in the car. Another car at 6000 Bryn Mawr which was locked was not entered.

There has been a rash of car break-ins in the Bethesda area in the last few weeks.



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Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

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ART BY CLARA BARTON AND OTHERS TO BE EXHIBITED

The staff of Clara Barton National Historic Site invites artists to submit work for a exhibition opening Sept. 15 entitled "The Art of Clara Barton". This unique show will display the work of artists who have created work related to Clara Barton, along with original never-before exhibited work by the famous founder and president of the American Red Cross.

For more information, contact the park staff at 301-320-1410.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

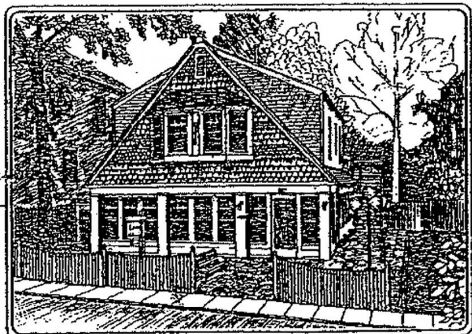
Monday, July 9, 8:00 p.m.--TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday, July 14, 7:30—FILM FESTIVAL: "Pan's Labrynth"

Saturday, July 21, 5:00-7:00—TOWN PICNIC

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.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

PARK NEWS

Glen Echo Park Site Manager Kim Elder asked the Glen Echo Town Council for feedback about the placement of barriers erected by the park before the Folk Festival. The National Park Service had attempted a new placement based on complaints made by town residents stating that the barriers made it too difficult to get in and out of town.

Councilmember Nancy Long stated that the new placement wasn't much of an improvement and she had personally moved the barriers to a more desirable location. She said placing the barriers further back from Mac Arthur Blvd made leaving town more difficult, since drivers didn't have as clear a view of the road. Ms. Elder said they would continue to revisit the barrier placement during upcoming events at the park.

Ms. Elder said attendance was down for the Folk Festival this year. She believes this was partially a result of the rainy Sunday, but said numbers for Saturday attendance were down as well. However, attendance was dramatically increased for Family Day.

The build-out of Adventure Theatre appears to be ahead of schedule and she anticipates they will easily meet the mid-September planned completion date.

The 2008 budget for the park has been approved.

NPS lawyers have still not responded regarding the ownership of Oxford Road, which is maintained by Glen Echo to be a part of the town.

In the Candy Corner, NPS is planning to mount a permanent exhibit about the integration of Glen Echo Park. Also in the planning stages is an art exhibit to be held at the Clara Barton House which will feature work done by Clara Barton as well as work inspired by her.

--Kathleen Kotcher

AFTERNOON CONCERTS AT LOCKHOUSE 8

The River Center at Lockhouse 8 on the C&O Canal is open for the summer on weekends from 10:00-2:00 and welcomes visitors.

"Voice of the River" events include:

Sunday, July 15, 4 pm – "Songs of the Canal" with Folksinger, Guitarist Bob Hitchcock

Sunday, August 5, 4 pm - "Fiddlin' on the Porch" with fiddle, guitar duo Kitchen Gorilla, Lisa Robinson and Joel Edelman.

Sunday, September 9, 3 pm – "Glen Echoes Barbershop Quartet," Richard Cook, Charlie Sheridan, Mike Holmes, Ken Sleeman

The River Center is maintained by the Potomac Conservancy in cooperation with the National Park Service. For more information, check out www.potomac.org.