

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



March 2003

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY AT TOWN HALL MARCH 16

The town will hold a St. Patrick's Day Party for all residents on Sunday, Mar. 16, at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

The town will provide corned beef, green beer, Irish coffee and other libations, according to organizer Kate Horwitz. The "price of admission," she said, is to bring a potluck dish, which should be cabbage, green beans, boiled potatoes, Irish bread (soda or oatmeal), or an Irish dessert. In addition, guests should bring a limerick, which will be read as part of the entertainment.

Irish dessert recipes will be available by contacting Kate Horwitz at 301-320-2171 or at her email address: ming6109@aol.com. They have been provided by Irish resident Maire Hewitt.

The party will begin at 5:30 p.m. Guests are requested to RSVP in advance so it will be possible to have sufficient food and drink, she said.

She also would much appreciate townspeople calling her to volunteer for the set-up and clean-up.

TOWN HALL USE MEETING

There will be a meeting to discuss future town hall use at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Monday, Mar. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

The discussion will be based on the results of the recent survey of townspeople concerning how they thought the town hall should be used.

MAJOR SNOWSTORM PILES 18 INCHES ON GLEN ECHO

By Carlotta Anderson

A staggeringly heavy four-day snowstorm dumped mountains of snow on the area Feb. 15-18. Cars were blanketed and streets impassable Feb. 16. Residents who were looking forward to a nice day off on President's Day spent the long weekend digging out.

It was without question the worst snowstorm in decades. Meteorologists are checking out over records two centuries back to find comparisons, according to reports. Airports were closed, major highways impassable and all the local jurisdictions declared states of emergency.

Although many neighborhood roads remained unplowed for days, such was not the case in Glen Echo. Mayor Debbie Beers described this as one of the first local communities to be plowed, "one of the luckiest." She said she thought Mark Peyton, whose company works for the town on call, "did a great job." Except for an equipment breakdown on Monday, his crew came through periodically during the storm, keeping the streets open.

The only problem, she said, was when people shoveled the snow off their cars into the road, making it impassable for other vehicles.

With no place to go Monday, at least one resident found it was no problem to amass a group of neighbors for an impromptu "blizzard party."

At Glen Echo Post Office, Postmaster Yvonne

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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♻ Printed on recycled paper

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

TO THE EDITOR

We would like to commend the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer for promptly making the roads passable after the blizzard. It's especially noteworthy because many of the other neighborhoods in the area were not plowed for days after the storm. In fact, after every snowstorm we have had this winter, our streets have been plowed promptly, making life much easier for the residents.

In addition, we would like to thank the residents of lower Yale Avenue, who, at some inconvenience to themselves, agreed to let their slope remain unplowed for sledding. The children enjoyed hours of outdoor entertainment, relieving an otherwise lengthy bout of cabin fever.

Julia and Speke Wilson

SNOWSTORM (FROM PAGE 1)

Harrison arrived Tuesday morning before 7:00 a.m. and reported that she had around 75 customers that day. She was the only staffer who could make it, although all employees were present Wednesday. The only problem was that the parking lot was not fully plowed and there was no place on the streets to park.

At Glen Echo Park, classes were cancelled Tuesday but resumed Wednesday. The Puppet Company is between shows, but the snow will delay the start of the new performance. Adventure Theatre will delay the opening of its next show, "Walking in the Winds" a week until Mar. 8 because actors were not able to rehearse sufficiently.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 10—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



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TWO COUNCILMEMBERS TO BE ELECTED MAY 5

A municipal election will be held Monday, May 5, to elect two councilmembers for four-year terms. There is no salary for the offices.

The seats up for election are currently held by Councilmembers Nancy Long and Tim Maloy. Councilman Maloy has said that he will not run. "It's been a very positive experience, but I'm a strong believer in having a rotating group of people on council, so I will let somebody else have a crack at the seat." Councilwoman Long has said she has not yet decided if she will run.

The charter requires that anyone wishing to run for office must file a written declaration of candidacy by no later than 20 days prior to the election. Contact Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak at the town office, 301-320-4041, for further information.

Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The town is working on making information on emergency preparedness available to townspeople, Mayor Debbie Beers said.

It will obtain publications from both the county and Federal government and either distribute them (if short) or make them available at the town hall (if extensive.)

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Maire Hewitt's
56 Wellesley Circle*

Thursday, March 20, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-2962

TOWN SEEKS REDESIGN OF ITS WEB SITE

By Dave Chitwood

The town has received a bid for reconstruction of its web pages. Gabe Shalom, a web designer and graphic designer, presented to the town council at its Feb. 10 meeting a proposal created by him and his cousin, David F. Choy. The estimated cost ranged from \$2,000 - \$8,000, depending on the services desired by the town.

The mayor commented that the current town web site has remained largely unchanged since 1996 and that the current system of volunteer maintenance of the site has not been ideal. The date of the last council meeting on the site is 1996. It may be viewed at <http://www.glenecho.org>.

Mr. Shalom indicated that the primary purpose of his visit was to ask councilmembers about their goals for the site.

He said that the town's site needed major overhauls in three areas: structure, aesthetics and accessibility. Weaknesses in the current structure include the deviation from the original structure in the "What's New" section. The site is not easy to use. The aesthetics of the site are not good; he stated that he and Mr. Choy could take photographs of the town and incorporate them into the site. He added that the town could commission him to do cartoons.

In the proposal, he outlined a seven-phase process, not all of which would need to be done. The lowest-priced alternative, "Basic," would include new navigation, new visuals, new content, but no applications and no user testing. It would take one to two months and cost \$2,000-\$3,000.

"Super" would also include custom back end application and extensive user testing, take three to five months and cost \$5,000-\$8,000.

Mayor Beers said that she would like to see legal items such as the town ordinances and charter on the web, as well as Listserv possibilities. Councilman Tim Maloy added that town hall rental information could be included. Mr. Shalom suggested that a message board could be another possibility. The mayor added that links to town businesses could also be a component. Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak stated that links to the park could help minimize the number of phone calls requesting directions and other such information.

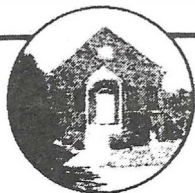
Mr. Shalom pointed out the "back end" component of the proposal. This software would allow the Clerk-Treasurer to immediately upload new information into the web site (e.g., news and photos) and would also allow the town to collect statistical information about site visitors. He stated that he would design a user friendly interface for the Clerk-Treasurer, and that his cousin would do most of the coding. As an alternative to the back end software, Mr. Shalom would be available to update content at an hourly rate. He pointed out the distinction between updating the site with new content versus site design.

Mr. Shalom agreed to provide an example of how he envisions the appearance of the front page of the site. Within two weeks, he will also refine the proposal by including further details. He added that web design is structurally different from print media design, and that he and Mr. Choy would gladly provide the town with guidelines for writing appropriate content.

Mr. Shalom circulated some items from his portfolio; these included "The Ark" (a printed newsletter), an example of a flyer advertising the appearance of a band, and a cartoon. An example of a Shalom/Choy designed web site is at <http://www.progressivemaryland.org>. He and/or his cousin have also designed the sites at <http://www.modularmoods.com/tweaky.htm>, and <http://www.cleanairnetwork.org>.

They have worked together for the past few years on web and graphic design, especially with social justice organizations, Mr. Shalom said. Mr. Shalom said he specialized in print design, whereas Mr. Choy specializes in web design.

Mr. Shalom described himself as an honors student in fine arts at the University of Maryland and his cousin as an engineering student. Because of their student status, Mayor Beers inquired of their summertime availability. Mr. Shalom stated that he would be studying web design in Germany for several months beginning in March, but that he saw no reason why the work could not be coordinated from Germany, as he expected to do this with all of his web clients.



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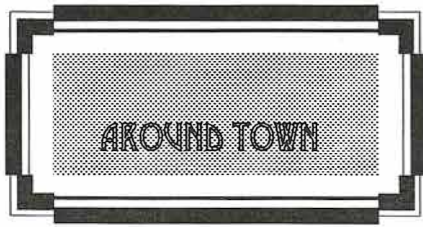
Sunday Services 11:00 am

Wednesday Activities 7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study. . . . Vassar Circle

Children 6-10 years old . . . Annex *

* University and Harvard



The February "blizzard" was followed by torrential rains Feb. 23 and several residents reported **flooding in their basements**. Area households reported flat roofs collapsing under the weight of the snow, but it is not known if that occurred in Glen Echo...

After an earlier snowfall in February, residents for the most part did an excellent job of **clearing the sidewalks** in front of their properties. There were only perhaps a half dozen violators of the ordinance requiring such clearing, but it was enough to force pedestrians into the streets for those sections.

A very good Samaritan actually cleared the entire length of the **bike path** alongside Glen Echo after the earlier snowfall to make a pedestrian walk-through. Gloria Levin saw him briefly and described him as a man in his 70s equipped with nothing more than a snow shovel...She did not recognize him as a Glen Echo resident.

Carolyn Reeder has just published "Before the Creeks Ran Red," a trio of stories set during the first half of 1861 at the beginning of the Civil War which is intended for young people. The stories take place in Charleston Harbor, Baltimore and Alexandria.

Her book about the C&O Canal in 1863, "Captain Kate" has recently been reissued as a quality paperback. She is the author of seven historical novels for young people.

Ms. Reeder and her husband, Jack, have lived at 7314 University Ave. since 1990

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TOWN'S HISTORY?

Did you know that the first resident of what is now Glen Echo had pear, apple and peach orchards, and was known for the fine wines of his vineyards?

That and more fascinating historical facts will be revealed in forthcoming lectures and a book about the origins of Glen Echo under the auspices of the town's Centennial Committee. Lecture topics suggested include the canal, trolley cars, the Baltzley Brothers architecture and decade-by-decade recollections by long-time town residents.

The committee is making big plans for the celebration of the towns 100 years of existence, which takes place in 2004. It meets the third Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the town hall.


To be a part of the committee or make suggestions for lectures, musical events, souvenirs, or any other ideas please contact Eve Arber, 301-263-0016.

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WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

Our new neighbors at 5806 Oxford Rd. moved here just before Christmas from an apartment across from the Colosseum in Rome. Rather than missing the thrills of Italy's capital city, they are delighted that the children can play outside here, and instead of taking a long bus ride to school through busy streets, are ferried quickly up the hill to Bannockburn Elementary.

In Italy, Melinda Henneberger was Rome correspondent for the *New York Times*. Bill Turque says he was a Roman "soccer Dad," who knew everyone in their neighborhood and had a great time reading and seeing the city as well as taking care of the children.

Now Bill is assistant Maryland editor of the Metro section of *The Washington Post* and Melinda will soon start a new job working from home doing political profiles as a contributing editor for *Newsweek*.

Melinda grew up in the small farm town of Mt. Carmel, IL (pop. 8,000). She and Bill, who lived in Glover Park before their time in Italy, became fond of Glen Echo when they began bringing their toddler twins, Della and Connor, now 7, to puppet shows at Glen Echo Park. She thought Glen Echo would be a wonderful place for children to grow up in, but heard it was unlikely one could find a house for sale here.

When they returned from Rome to go house-hunting, the Oxford Rd. house was the first they looked at, on the first day it was shown, and "I knew immediately," she says. They have been delighted at how friendly their neighbors have been and how many have dropped by.

THINK YOUR MAIL'S LATE?

If you're annoyed because your mail is coming so late, be assured it could be worse. One night last month the carrier was still delivering at 1:30 a.m., which is technically the next day, according to Glen Echo's Postmaster Yvonne

It is not uncommon for them to be delivering at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., she said, although it gets dark by 7:00 and there is frequently ice and snow on their paths.

Shortage of personnel is the explanation. Because of budgetary limitations, slots are frequently not filled when an employee resigns.

Why doesn't the government allot more money for the Postal Service? Because it's only a quasi-governmental organization and gets no money from the Federal government. It is totally self-supporting. You can only increase its budget by buying more stamps and sending less email.

Melinda always wanted to be a journalist. After attending graduate school in Belgium, she got an internship for six months for the European Community in Brussels, working in its press office, and made the most of her opportunity. "When reporters had assignments they weren't interested in doing, they let me pick up their 'dregs' for freelance articles. I was selling the pieces to newspapers all over the place, in Canada, in Kenya." Another client was the *Dallas Morning News*.

Meanwhile, Bill, who had been co-editor-in-chief of the student newspaper at the University of Michigan, was working as a reporter in Dallas for the *Dallas Times Herald* and they met. For a number of years they had a "commuting romance" as they moved to different papers, ending up in New York, Bill's home town, where Bill worked on *Newsweek* and Melinda on *Newsday*. They married in 1991.

Bill is the author of "Inventing Al Gore," a biography of Gore published in 2000 by Houghton Mifflin.

Melinda is an art and theatre lover who just bought her first bike since childhood and hopes to find some walking partners in the neighborhood. Bill described his hobby as "loading the dishwasher." Their son Connor's special interest in Ancient Egypt and daughter Della is taking art lessons at Glen Echo Park.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

WONDERFUL NANNY AVAILABLE. Our nanny is currently interested in adding a few more hours to her schedule. She works for our family three days a week, and she would like to find work for the other two days. Please call Robin Kogelnik at (301) 320-5269 for more information.

FOUND AT LADIES NIGHT. Large square red woolen scarf with fringe. Call Carlotta, 301-229-3748.

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.

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Monday, Mar. 3, 7:30 p.m. TOWN HALL USE MEETING

Thursday, Mar. 6, 8:00-10:00 p.m.—American Indian Intertribal Council meeting

Monday, Mar. 10, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 20, Centennial Committee Meeting, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mar. 23, 3:00-6:00 p.m.—FSGW Family Dance

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES FEBRUARY 10

Councilman Tom Lorenzen attended a meeting held by the County Department of Public Works and Transportation on January 22 at Bannockburn Elementary School to obtain community input about the redesign of the **bike path** along MacArthur Boulevard. Funds for construction have not been appropriated, only funds through the "35% Detailed Design Stage". Issues discussed at the January meeting included the width of the trail, possible movement of parts of the trail to sections of the old trolley right of way, separation of the path from vehicular traffic, reconstruction of some of the grass margins that were destroyed during the recent re-paving, and the beginning and end of the trail. He added that serious cyclists prefer bike lanes to multiuse trails, such as the bike path. Parking on the trail is also a concern, such as near the Inn at Glen Echo.

Councilwoman Nancy Long has gathered data from the **town hall use survey** recently distributed to all town residents. There were 29 responses. Mayor Beers suggested that a special council session could be held to go over the results of the survey. The meeting will be held at 7:30 on March 3 and will be open to all town residents.

Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak described many of the **folding metal chairs** in the hall as being in sad shape. She had searched the Internet from home in order to examine possible additions or replacements for the chairs and tables in the town hall. She brought printed materials to the meeting. Typical folding chairs range from \$11-\$15, with stackable chairs costing \$30-\$75 per chair. Because of the existing racks for storing the folding chairs currently owned by the town, Councilman Tim Maloy recommended that folding chairs be purchased.

Councilman Lorenzen indicated that a 7-foot by 7-foot **projection screen** for the town hall is in stock and ready to ship for a cost of \$279 plus shipping. Mounting brackets would also need to be purchased. The clerk-treasurer was instructed to purchase the screen.

Clerk-Treasurer Polak reported that the Humane Society had requested that the town allow them to bring their **mobile pet adoption unit** to Glen Echo. There was little support for this.



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GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

PARK NEWS

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture has asked the Parks and History Association to operate the **carousel** one additional year.

The Partnership is planning a large festive, celebratory, **fundraising gala** for September 20.

Bicycling groups have approached the National Park Service about the possibility of closing Canal Road and the Clara Barton Parkway for a day in September, probably September 13. This has been done before on the George Washington Memorial Parkway; the Maryland event will substitute for the Virginia one this year.

Several **water main breaks** occurred during the Martin Luther King weekend. The first break was discovered near the old miniature golf course. This was promptly repaired, but the next day the discovery of a nearby hairline crack necessitated the replacement of several more feet of pipe. The following evening, water was again discovered bubbling on Bowdoin Avenue.

The park service will again erect sawhorses to block vehicles from entering town streets during **large park events**. Mayor Debbie Beers told Glen Echo Park Site Manager Karen Pittleman of the difficulty in leaving the town because illegally parked cars obscure the vision of drivers as they are entering MacArthur. She asked if it would be possible for the NPS to coordinate activities with the Montgomery County Police Department to ticket cars illegally parked along MacArthur, particularly those near intersections. Ms. Pittleman said that she will ask Katey Boerner, the Executive Director of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, to discuss the possibility with County Executive Doug Duncan when she meets with him later this week. The Mayor added that she would also bring this matter up during the next Partnership meeting.

--Dave Chitwood

AT THE CLARA BARTON HOUSE

A Civil War Book Club highlighting National Parks in the Capital area with connected Civil War themes will be held at the Clara Barton house on Sunday, Mar. 30 at 1:00 p.m.

The public is invited to read the book "Clara Barton: Professional Angel," by Elizabeth Brown Pryor and participate in a roundtable discussion.

FOLK FESTIVAL RETURNS TO PARK THIS YEAR

After a two-year absence caused by park construction, the Folklore Society of Greater Washington will again hold its annual folk festival at Glen Echo Park.

This event will occur on May 31 and June 1, even though the ballroom may not be available. Off-site parking is being worked out, and the Ride-On bus system will provide shuttle service to and from the parking lots.

The festival may begin with a re-opening ceremony at which state, county, and federal officials may attend. An Irish Festival may be held the previous weekend.

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--Dave Chitwood

At the Puppet Company Theatre—"Pinocchio", through April 6, 301-320-6668, \$6

At Adventure Theatre—"Walking in the Woods", from March 8, 301-320-5331, \$6

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