

# The Echo

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

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March 2008

### CONTROVERSY TABLES DRAFT OF CHARTER AMENDMENT

By Sophie Keefer

Objections to some of the provisions of the draft amendment to the town charter regarding elections, and a complex debate on how to regulate voting eligibility, caused it to be tabled until the March town council meeting.

The proposed revisions are the result of questions raised about the eligibility of some voters during the May, 2007 election. Mayor Debbie Beers asked Town Attorney Norman G. Knopf to recommend changes "related to voting by non-citizens and the requirements for registering to vote" and to "bring the town more in line with other municipalities and Maryland law." The changes would also "clarify the roles of the Clerk-Treasurer and of the board of supervisors of elections."

Specifically, with regard to qualification of non-U.S. citizens to vote in Town elections, Town Attorney Knopf recommended redrafting Section 501(b) of the Charter as follows:

Any person who is not a United States citizen, and (1) is a resident of the Town of Glen Echo, (2) is a lawful permanent resident of the United States, (3) has a Permanent Resident Card, and (4) except for the United States citizenship requirement, meets the voter qualifications provided in Section 501 (a) may register to vote in Town elections, as set forth in Charter Section 506.

Although Mayor Beers said at the February meeting that she wanted prospective voters to produce a Permanent Resident Card, also known as a "green card," she proposed that the word "permanent" be deleted from number (2) and that

—continued on page 3

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### You are invited to a ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY Saturday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

Please bring vegetables or dessert suitable for an Irish dinner. Original limericks requested from all attendees. Children welcomed.

PLEASE RSVP so organizers can know how much corned beef to prepare

Irish fiddle music by Anthony Hyatt

Volunteers Needed

To RSVP or volunteer please call the town hall at 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*

## FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

**Tuesday, March 4, 10:00-2:00—GARDENERS OF JUNIOR LEAGUE**

**Saturday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.—“ONCE,” GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, March 9, 3:00 p.m.—FAMILY DANCE, Folklore Society of Greater Washington**

**Monday, March 10, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.—ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

**Monday, March 3, 6:00-9:00—MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed.**

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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

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

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

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

20812

**Office Hours: Monday, 11-1:30 and Thursday, 12:30—3:30 or by appointment**

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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>



## Holy Week & Easter at REDEEMER

### ■ PALM SUNDAY - March 16

Blessing of Palms & Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Blessing of Palms & Choral Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

### ■ MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 20

Simple Supper 6:30 p.m.

Choral Eucharist with Washing of Feet 7:30 p.m.

### ■ GOOD FRIDAY - March 21

Stations of the Cross 12:00 noon

The Good Friday Liturgy 7:30 p.m.

### ■ EASTER EVE - March 22

The Great Vigil of Easter 8:30 p.m.

### ■ EASTER SUNDAY - March 23

The Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Festal Eucharist 10:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt on the Lawn 12:00 noon

### THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

(301) 229-3770 • [office.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:office.redeemer@verizon.net)

[www.redeemerbethesda.org](http://www.redeemerbethesda.org)

## CHARTER AMENDMENT TABLED (FROM PAGE 1)

number (3) be deleted in its entirety. According to this change, a non-citizen voter would not be required to produce a green card in order to vote in town elections but would be required to be a "lawful resident of the United States."

Council member Matney suggested striking the requirement that a person be "a lawful resident of the United States" to vote in Glen Echo elections. Mayor Beers stated that to be a lawful resident of Glen Echo a person must be a lawful resident of the U.S. Mayor Beers noted that this would prevent people who are in the U.S. on a tourist visa from voting in a town election, but would not prevent people such as World Bank employees or students from voting.

Council member Matney asked what "legally resident" meant and Mayor Beers responded that it meant U.S. citizens and persons legally authorized to reside in the U.S. and not illegal aliens. She noted that this is consistent with the Town of Somerset Charter.

Council member Matney also asked how the town would make the determination that someone is "legally resident" in the Town. Mayor Beers responded that the person would be asked to sign a statement under penalty of perjury and it would be up to the board of supervisors of elections to request further proof if necessary.

Town resident Carlotta Anderson has written two letters to the Council on this subject, expressing the view that "it is in no way in the interests of the town to determine what kind of 'legal' status any resident here has nor whether they have a 'present intention to move away,' as Norman Knopf suggested. Many people move here and stay only a year or two. She said, "Let's keep the law simple; let's keep the charter we have; and let's make sure we follow its provisions."

She noted that amending the Charter will incur costs and is unnecessary. Mayor Beers responded that it is necessary to change the Charter because it currently allows people to register to vote on the day of an election. Mrs. Anderson asked why the Town would care if someone was an illegal alien. Mayor Beers responded that the right to vote is a fundamental right of citizenship. If there were no requirements for eligibility, people could move around and vote as often as they wanted.

Council member Matney noted that in Glen Echo people are only voting for who will lead a small local community. Glen Echo doesn't have a police force and has only one half time employee. We should not confuse our policies with those in operation at the federal or state level, he said.

Mrs. Anderson suggested that the Town ask people to sign the statement that they are "legally resident" in the U.S. but do nothing else.

Mayor Beers proposed that there be a closing date for voter registration, especially if the qualification for being a resident is loose, and suggested the fourth Monday prior to an election. Council member Matney suggested that the closing date be the second Monday before an election because this

would be consistent with Section 501(a) of the Charter, which requires voters to have resided in the town for thirty days preceding any town election.

Mayor Beers pointed out that the person who caused the controversy during the last election had walked in and registered on the spot, which is permitted in the current charter.

The issue was tabled until the next meeting. Mayor Beers said she would find out how other jurisdictions enforce their registration statements signed under penalty of perjury.

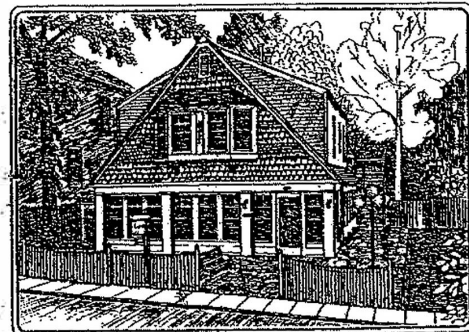
### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 10—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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

*LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.*  
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*Heather Cottage*

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## READY FOR SPRING CLEANING? SELL USED ITEMS AT YARD SALE

Saturday, April 5 is the day of the annual town yard sale! Hours are 9:00-1:00, rain or shine. Spring clean your closets, attics and garages.

What can be sold? Anything so long as it is clean and not broken! Tools, toys, furniture, linens, electronics, bicycles, cars, houses, even. How to price? According to how much you want to keep the article or 20% of new value.

In case of rain, wares can be sold from inside the town hall; otherwise each participant will sell from his/her own yard, or can set up in the town park on Princeton Ave.

Cost is \$5 to defray the cost of advertising, signs, and the balloons that will mark each participating house. This needs to be paid by Mar 30 to Diana Hudson-Taylor, 301-229-2163 or email, [dhudson\\_taylor@yahoo.com](mailto:dhudson_taylor@yahoo.com). Maps identifying your house will be made up for distribution.

Volunteer now to help setting up signs and getting balloons, and praying for sun. Just contact Diana.

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## SHORTAGE OF PARK POLICE

There is a serious shortage of park police, Glen Echo Park site manager Kym Elder told the Glen Echo town council on Feb. 11. There are only 12 officers assigned to the entire George Washington Memorial Parkway, from Mount Vernon to Great Falls, she said. Not all officers are on duty at one time.

This situation is not likely to improve, she said. Many officers are resigning to join Homeland Security and new officers are not being hired to replace them.

--Sophie Keefer



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## LANDSCAPING PROPOSED FOR FRONT OF TOWN HALL

By Sophie Keefer

Chapel Valley has made a proposal for landscaping in front of the town hall intended to address the problem of the grass and other landscaping there repeatedly dying.

The proposal is to place the gutter downspouts underground, to test and regenerate the soil, and to plant evergreens and deciduous plants in front of the town hall. Also part of the proposal is to create a perennial garden around the town sign, and to plant shade plants and perennials under the tree. Bushes that have been obstructing the sign will be removed.

The proposal for this work was for \$6700.00. Mayor Beers stated that there was enough money in the town hall improvements budget to cover the work. A motion to accept the bid was made and passed.

There are also some improvements planned for the recently created town park at Princeton Ave. and University Ave. Some masonry work will be done and the town will buy a bench to place there, possibly a curved teak bench.



## 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

## AROUND TOWN

A **Summer Music Camp** for children and youth ages 7-15 will be held at the Church of the Redeemer from Aug 4-8 this year. It will be staffed by Redeemer's Director of Music, Thomas Smith, and two professional musical educators. The camp will include portions of the Orff and Dalcroze methodologies, study of rhythm and vocal production including solfege, and introduction to musical notation, as well as arts and crafts and other recreational activities. For more information, call Thomas Smith, 301) 229-3770, or send an e-mail to: [music.redeemer@verizon.net](mailto:mu-sic.redeemer@verizon.net). Deadline for applications: May 1.

Word has been received of the death on Feb. 13 of **Edward ("Eddie") Fagan, Jr.**, who formerly lived at 6004 Harvard Ave. (now occupied by the Shaut family). He began working as a volunteer fireman for the Glen Echo Fire Department and became the first paid fireman in the early 1950s. He moved from Glen Echo to Falls Church, Va., and retired after 31 years as a Captain in the Arlington County Fire Department. His age was not given in the obituary, but he was in his late 80s or early 90s.


Philip Macy, 6, was pictured in the *Gazette* on Feb. 20 handing over a can full of small **scrap metal** items to Cabin John resident Tom Rojas, who has initiated a metal recycling contest between Cabin John and Carderock. The county's solid waste department has placed a dumpster in each community where residents can leave metal objects. The dumpsters will be weighed in April and the winner will be announced at a ceremony. Philip is the son of Glen Echo residents Constance and Dan Macy, who are avid recyclers.

The Audubon Society on Jan. 19 conducted a **bird survey** along the C&O Canal in order to provide a true picture of winter birdlife along its 184.5 miles. More than 110 species of birds have been reported over the past nine years, including 19 species of ducks and seven different woodpeckers, including the Pileated Woodpecker, according to the *Potomac Almanac*.

A threat by County Executive Ike Leggett in January to eliminate ambulance service from the **Glen Echo Fire Dept.** was averted when the Montgomery County Council restored \$4.5 million in reductions to county government operations which he had proposed, including the ambulance service.

The **Clara Barton Community Center** has been allocated \$25,000 for improvements in the current fiscal year by the county Dept. of Recreation. It will be spent on new exterior lighting, additional tables for the Social Hall, new chairs for the Senior Room and a storage shed, which will also provide wheelchair access to the building. The Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center have also received notice from the county's Dept. of Public Works and Transportation that a replacement of the roof of the older portion of the building is scheduled for fall, 2008.

Although Barack Obama received more votes than Hillary Clinton in the **Potomac Primary** last month, the percent of his win in Montgomery County was less than in the state as a whole. He received 54.9 percent of the votes in the county compared to Clinton's 43 percent, but 60.5 percent to 36 percent in the entire state.



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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

February 11

Resident Constance Macy, who has provided townspeople with detailed information about what is suitable for recycling, appeared to convey the importance of following the **current recycling rules**. For example, plastic grocery bags, lids, and plastic tubs **should not be included**. Hardback books are now accepted. Mrs. Macy plans to redistribute to the town residents a flyer outlining these requirements. If you have questions, call her at 301-229-2122...

Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak noted that there are about 40 extra **recycling bins** behind the town hall. Residents should take one if they need one.

Mayor Debbie Beers reported on an email from Councilmember Robin Kogelnik (who was unable to attend the meeting) which stated that she had met with a representative of A. Morton Thomas. A Morton Thomas plans to do site visits and walk-throughs of the town streets and take core samples for the purpose of determining what will be needed for the **street repairs**. A report should be ready for the next town council meeting. It should be possible to make the repairs this year.

Mayor Beers reported that she has been advised that the county expects to have a **storm drain** report ready soon.

The town plans to have a **town shredding event** behind the town hall on Sunday, April 20.

--Sophie Keefer

## 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*

## TWO FREE CONCERTS AT LOCAL CHURCH

A cellist with the National Symphony Orchestra, Yvonne Caruthers, will perform at the Church of the Redeemer on Sunday, Mar. 9, at 5:00 p.m. Her program will include works by J.S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen, and Peter Mathews. Admission is free. A reception follows.

The internationally-acclaimed Crypt Choir of the King's School, Canterbury, will perform a benefit concert at the church on Wednesday, Mar. 26, at 8:00 p.m. This performance will be part of their 2008 tour of the eastern U.S. The choir is the senior choir of the King's School, whose primary function is to provide music for weekly services in Canterbury Cathedral. Proceeds from the free-will offering will benefit the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys in Anacostia, Washington, D.C. A reception will follow.

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## 18 PIECES EQUIPMENT FOR USE AT "NEVER CROWDED" WEIGHT ROOM

The Cabin John Community Center offers a wonderful opportunity for local residents to exercise on more than 18 pieces of heavy-duty work-out equipment, including a new step machine, in a room that is almost like one's own private weight room. In addition to the new large equipment, there are balance balls, free weights, elastic bands and a mat, plus TV, radio, and air-conditioning.

The weight room is open five days a week. Newcomers can try it out free the first time; thereafter it is \$135/yr., \$80 for six months, or \$55 for three months.

For hours or further information, call 301-229-0010. The Center is located at 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John.

### TREASURER'S REPORT January 2008

Hilb, Rogal, & Hamilton (annual clerk bond)	\$100.00
Griffith Energy Services	\$632.42
Holiday breakfast & gifts	\$439.39

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6106 Bryn Mawr Ave.

\$860,000

## SUNOCO



### KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER (formerly Kenwood Mobil)

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

James Spicer  
OWNER

Dick Spicer  
SERVICE MANAGER

AUTO REPAIR • FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

First time parents seeking experienced, loving nanny starting late summer. We know it's early, but if you hear of anyone becoming available, we would love to know. Also, if you know of any family day care programs in the neighborhood, please let us know that too! Julie McCaffrey at 202-248-8449.

New babysitter in town! HS senior; 18 years old; experienced, with references in the Bethesda area. \$8-10/hr. Mollie Fox, 301-229-2403, 7326 University Ave.

*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.*

## TWO EMAIL LISTS FOR KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you want to know what's going on in town between *Echo* issues, you can sign up to be on two email lists for town residents. One, the official town one, will give you up-to-the-minute changes in dates of events, announcements, reminders of movies, Ladies' Nights, and other information,

This one is issued from the town hall and may be signed up for by sending an email to the town office at town-hall@glenecho.org.

The other is operated as a yahoo group, glenecho@yahoo.com and may be signed up for by contacting Dan Macy at dmacy@mbspro.com. On this list you can post information you think would be of interest to your neighbors, such as a lost cat, or a housekeeper with a free day, or an item to give away or sell.

It's a good idea to sign up for both of them.

### Cabin John Organizing

Melanie Patt-Corner  
301-263-9482

www.cabinjohnorganizing.com

*"Have nothing in your house that you  
do not know to be useful,  
or believe to be beautiful." William Morris*

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS AT THE PARK

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

**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. For experienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fair(ly) (Stoopid) Tales**

March 8-April 20

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$12.00 Call 301-634-2270

In thanks for the town's contribution to Adventure Theatre, its director, Michael Bobbitt, is offering each household in town two free tickets for one show this season. To take advantage of this offer when making reservations, just call 301-634-2270 and identify yourself as a resident of Glen Echo.

## THE PUPPET THEATRE

**The Jungle Book**  
Through April 13

Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30

Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$8.00 Call 301-320-6668

## YELLOW BARN STUDIO & GALLERY

Individual and group art exhibits can be viewed every Saturday and Sunday from noon-5:00 p.m.

Exhibits change weekly.

## PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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