

THE ECHO

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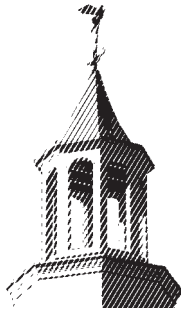
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Council Meeting: July 5, 2024, 7:30 PM

Odds and Ends

The details of the Summer Picnic (now scheduled for August 25) were discussed, as were the details of the Fourth of July Parade, which was started by Aaron and Angela Hirsch and has been run by them for the past seven years. They will be away this year, so hosting duties have fallen to the Livable Town Committee.

The two elevator bids before the Council are still being considered, but the Mayor hopes to make a decision at the July meeting. In short, there is a low bid that doesn't include necessary construction work, and there is a much higher bid that includes

everything—a turnkey package. Both firms say the work can be done in about six weeks, and the Town Hall can remain open.

The Mayor will be hiring a seasoned Town Manager from Chevy Chase to act as a short-term consultant (10 hours) to brief her and Ms. Zeidenberg on the ins and outs of town management. Town Hall will also be home to a new type of employee: a summer intern! A local college student may be giving the Town website an overhaul in the next few months.

There will be no Council meeting in August, and the July meeting has been moved to Monday, July 15.



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Dog Days

Resident Gloria Levin raised a concern about people in Town not leashing their dogs. This is an ongoing issue that the Mayor has thus far dealt with on a case-by-case basis by talking to residents one-on-one. Besides the escalating off-leash issue, there have been increased complaints about dogs barking excessively and the perennial issue of dog

poop left on sidewalks and yards or in forgotten plastic bags along MacArthur. The Mayor quipped that dogs are the new parking in Town. Everyone at the meeting agreed that neighbors should be considerate—lest the Town brings back the position of Animal Control Officer to start issuing tickets!

Town Expenses

In May, the Town paid \$3,653 to Key Sanitation, \$2,688 to Edgar Mendez/Patty Sieber (for replacing doors and painting in the Post Office), and \$1,127 to Oyster, Imus, Petzold & Assoc (Town engineers).

—EMILY PARSONS

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HOLLY IN THE IVY

Since 1970, 2.9 billion birds have been lost, according to Cornell University. This staggering decline is primarily due to pesticides, loss of habitats, development, and shrinking insect populations. It is up to each of us to help support birds by planting native plants in our gardens. These plants will provide birds with food, shelter, and habitat. Some of the pleasant benefits for us will be hearing birdsongs and watching feathered friends as they swoop in for snacks.

A combination of trees, shrubs, perennials, biennials, and annuals is ideal because bloom times, seed maturation, and growth will vary. Planting in clusters will give birds the cover they seek for nest protection. A variety of tall, medium, and smaller plants in groupings will create layers and thereby invite more bird diversity.

I am sharing a few of my favorite plant choices for you to consider, but I strongly recommend going to the Audubon website for extensive lists of plants and the specific birds they will attract (www.audubon.org/native-plants).



Black Cherry

TREES

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) Will grow in full sun or partial shade, grows to roughly 60 feet tall and 40 feet wide, and tolerates dry soil. White flowers are fragrant, and berries feed as many as 33 species of birds as well as making great jam.

Black Willow (*Salix nigra*) Grows well in full sun or partial shade, prefers moist soil, has a beautiful habit,



Black Willow

grows quickly, and is medium in height—30–60 feet. It is called a “bird food factory” since it is host to an extensive assortment of yummy bird foods such as caterpillars, beetles, aphids, and leafhoppers, which are all a significant source of protein for songbirds and their growing chicks.

SHRUBS

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) Incredibly easy to grow, this hardy



Elderberry

shrub is often seen along the roadsides. It prefers wet sites and grows up to 10 feet tall. For songbirds, the fruit, which appears in late summer, is an important source of calories in preparation for winters or for migration to a warmer climate. Clusters of elderberry plants are favorite places for nesting and cover.

Highbush Blueberry

(*Vaccinium corymbosum*) A gorgeous shrub beloved by birds and humans. It

prefers an acidic, rich, well-drained soil and grows well in sun or partial sun. This native shrub is one of the best for birds and pollinators. Plants can be placed in mixed hedgerows or grown as a specimen providing year-round beauty and bountiful fruit.



Highbush Blueberry



New England Aster

PERENNIALS

New England Aster

(*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) A medium-sized perennial, growing well in moist to average soil with lovely purple flowers in late summer and autumn. Make sure to leave the old flowers so they can make seeds since they are a favorite food for many birds.

Narrow-Leaved Sunflower

(*Helianthus angustifolius*) With a long blooming period of abundant yellow flowers in late summer, this gorgeous sunflower grows 3 to 6 feet tall and spreads gently. Leave the old flowers so the plants produce abundant seeds for birds in winter.

Since it attracts caterpillars and butterflies, it provides an additional food source for many species of birds.

.....

Migrations and feeding habits of birds depend on an area's native plants for their fruit, flowers, and insects. Birds follow the food. As a result, this provides opportunities to



Narrow-Leaved Sunflower

create bird havens based on the plants we choose to grow! In a future piece, I will write about biennials and annuals, as well as plants with nectar rich flowers that will attract birds. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

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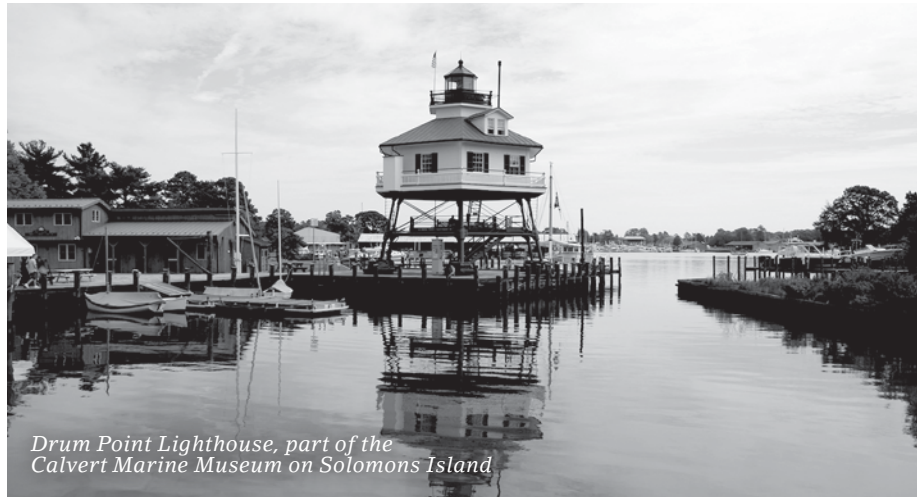
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OUT AND ABOUT

Happy Summer, Glen Echoans! When the novelty of the pool wears off and kids (and grownups) are getting antsy, it's the perfect time to embark on a daytrip adventure. This month I'd like to provide a little free PR for Southern Maryland, where I hail from. Just 90 minutes south of



Drum Point Lighthouse, part of the Calvert Marine Museum on Solomons Island

Bethesda, you'll find several cute towns nestled around the Patuxent River and the mouth of the Bay. Here are some of my favorite things to do there:

→ **Leonardtwn** received a major facelift over the last few years that has turned it into a sweet downtown area perfect for moseying around. We love to get coffee from Social on Fenwick (which also serves cocktails and shared plates at night). Just down the hill is the Leonardtown Wharf Park, which has a great boardwalk, a state-

of-the-art playground, paddleboarding, and kayaking. My kids also enjoy the Drill Hall playground and soccer fields.

→ Just over the Thomas Johnson bridge is **Solomons Island**. My kids love the Calvert Marine Museum (which also hosts an impressive roster of musical acts throughout the year). The CD Cafe and the Lighthouse Restaurant offer extensive, delicious menus for lunch and dinner. Finally, you can't visit Solomons without stopping at the Tiki Bar. The Mai Tais—and the people-

watching—can't be beat. There are also several places to charter a boat for cruising or fishing in the river.

→ On the Southern end of St. Mary's County you can find beautiful, historic **St. Mary's City**—Maryland's first state capital. The St. Mary's College campus is beautiful, and during the summer there is a free River Concert series on Friday evenings. I'm reading great

reviews about Pier450 boutique lodging, ten minutes further south.

→ For history buffs, it's worth checking out **Historic Sotterley**, a plantation in Hollywood. Through preservation

and archeology, Sotterley focuses on educating visitors about our country's history, especially regarding racism and slavery.



Historic Sotterley

While I am biased, I think Southern Maryland has many attractions that make it a worthwhile getaway and adventure. —EMILY ELLIS

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It's outdoor movie time again. Grab your blanket and your surreptitious thermos of wine (I promise I won't tell anyone) and get ready to catch some summer fun out under the stars. Below is a rundown of some of the more interesting films to see and some of the more interesting places to see them.

The Avalon: Before I get to the outdoor showings, I highly recommend you check out *Once* on July 7.

It's a tender and soulful film about the binding power of music, and the soundtrack alone will break your heart. It's part of the Avalon's Science on Screen series, so stick around after for a cool Q&A with a neuroscientist to talk about the intriguing ways music and our brains interact.

The Reach: As you'd expect, one of the best quality line-ups can be found at the Kennedy Center's newish addition, which includes an outdoor exhibition space. On July 5, you can catch the film version of Lin-Manuel Miranda's first musical *In The Heights*. It never got the acclaim and attention that *Hamilton* did, but it's an uplifting story about community and love, and the musical numbers will get your toes tapping. It was the first movie I saw back in the theaters after the pandemic, and the joy of that flick was a perfect tonic to the lock-down blues. On

THE CINEMANIAC



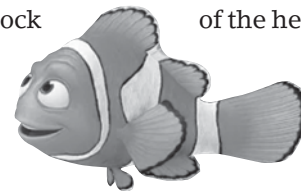
July 19, the series continues with *A River Runs Through It*. If nothing else, the film makes fly fishing look like the most beautiful pastime on God's green earth. *School of Rock* on July 26 is fun and funny. I love it when a band comes together, and all of those kids actually play their own instruments (bad ass!) Classic Hitchcock, *Rear Window*, shows August 9, and powerful documentary *Free Solo* shows August 16. On August 23, you can catch another Oscar-winning, bravura performance by Daniel Day Lewis in the title role of Steven Spielberg's *Lincoln*.

The District Wharf: July through August, they show a different movie every week at DC's hottest hot spot. If you haven't been in a long time, it's hard to imagine the impressive changes that have taken place there in recent years. Despite the cool environs, I can't give a truly enthusiastic thumbs up to

any of the flicks there, but your mileage may vary. At minimum, you can get your summer blockbuster fix with *Top Gun: Maverick* on August 1.

National Harbor: It's a bit of a trek, but there are some fun films on tap for this series. *A League of Their Own*, which will pair nicely with some fireworks, plays July 4. *Love and Basketball* anticipated the current rise in popularity of the women's game way back in 2000 and is a great jock love story that plays August 22. August 25 sees the kids classic *Finding Nemo*.

The Drive-Ins: As always, I continue to pound the table for the throw-back experience of an actual drive-in. The closest ones to us are the Family Drive-In in Virginia (currently showing the highly praised *Inside Out 2* and *A Quiet Place: Day One*); along with Bengies north of Baltimore



(which will be showing *Despicable Me 4*, *Twisters*, and *Deadpool & Wolverine* over the coming months).

Glen Echo History on Film: And one last tip for you about a movie that will likely not be presented outside but is well worth your time. You may recall that a few years back, we showed some clips at the Town Hall from a documentary that was still unfinished about the civil rights protests to integrate Glen Echo Park. The filmmaker Ilana Trachtman, who was on hand at the time to answer some thought-provoking questions from current Glen Echo citizens, has now completed *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*, and it's currently on the festival circuit. I was lucky enough to see it last winter at a private screening at the Avalon attended by Rep. Jamie Raskin, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton, and some of the heroes of the film.

It's a wonderful depiction of how important local action is for a global movement and an important historical context to our beloved park. And although the official schedule for the DC Black Film Festival (www.dcbff.org) has not been released, I'm told the next showing of the film that you can catch will be as part of that festival running between August 15 and 17. —DAN SPEALMAN

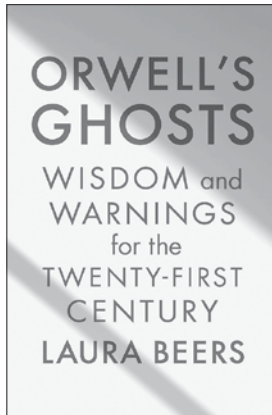


This year's **Fourth of July parade**, brought to you by the Livable Town Committee, will begin at 10 AM at University and Princeton Avenues. The procession will head along University, around Vassar Circle, and back to Princeton, where it will culminate in popsicles and a water balloon fight. See you there!

David Fessenden, Jr., who was raised at 6005 Bryn Mawr Avenue (now home to the **Macys**), passed away on June 10. His parents **David, Sr.** and **Thelma** lived there for over 50 years and his father was Mayor from 1961–1964. David spent his adult life in Rockville but retired to New Hampshire, where he continued to subscribe to *The Echo*.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Laura Beers, daughter of Wellesley Circle residents **Don** and **Debbie Beers** and professor of British History at American University, has a new book out. *Orwell's Ghosts:*



Wisdom and Warnings for the Twenty-First Century was published in June and got a positive write up in *The New Yorker*. You can hear

Laura discuss her book at Politics & Prose on August 16 at 7 PM, so that you can be sure you are using "Orwellian" correctly.

Yoga instructor and University Avenue resident **Joci Khalifa** is offering free postpartum yoga as well as mother and baby yoga classes as part

of her training. Email at jocikhalifa@gmail.com or text at 240-515-1481 if you or someone you know is interested.

In the heat of summer, you may be wishing for winter. For many of us, a winter tradition is seeing **The Nutcracker** at the Puppet Co. Ensure the preservation of the puppets and their



treasured performances by supporting the Puppet Co. Summer Fundraiser with a goal to raise \$50,000 in celebration of the theater's 50th Anniversary. And, if you're simply looking to cool off while watching a show, use promo code **TPCSUMMER24** for a \$2 plus no fees discount on your next ticket purchase. —**MONA KISHORE**

NOW PLAYING

I think *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* playing at Adventure Theatre this summer is amazing. Though I've never seen it before and I haven't read the book, I found it very fun. It's about a little girl's stuffed bunny getting lost and then found at the laundromat. My favorite parts were when the father was fighting giant clothes in the washing machine and when the room filled with bubbles. I'd give it 4 3/4 stars, because it was a little confusing sometimes with multiple Knuffle Bunnies. I recommend it for all ages. —**ALICE AMDUR, 4th grader**

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In June, **Glen Echo Pharmacy** sold a lottery scratch-off ticket worth \$250,000! The pharmacy also received a \$1,000 bonus.

Throughout August, the Park is offering a **dance/aerobics class** on Saturdays from 11:15–12:30 in the Ballroom Back Room. Hosted by Raediant Movement, the We Love Di Vibes classes (\$15) feature sounds and rhythms of the East Indies and Africa. The series culminates with a dance class (1–2:30 PM) and DJ

dance party (2:30–6 PM) on August 24 celebrating Black dance and music. Keep your energy up with treats from the Jamaican food truck.

Real Estate
It's been a while since anything was on the market in Glen Echo, but in June, 12 Wellesley Circle was listed for \$975,000.



They Say it's Your BIRTHDAY!

July 1, **Lucas Masullo**, 13
 July 21, **Shaan Patel**, 4
 July 23 **Emilia Garcia Arean**, 12
 July 25, **Julian Guevara-Rossel**, 2
 July 27, **Eli DiBona**, 6
 July 29, **Lucia Guevara-Rossel**, 5
 Aug. 26, **Stella Gillberg**, 10
 Aug. 29, **Jett Belinkie**, 7

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GOINGS ON

(Summer Break: there is no August issue of The Echo)

Town Hall Events

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14, 21, 28
 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents



August 25 5–7:30 PM,

TOWN SUMMER PICNIC

(Postponed from June due to hot weather)

July 4 Fourth of July parade



July 4, 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 11 AM, Aquarium kids story time

July 5 and August 2 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park, open studios and galleries

July 27 7:30–10:30 PM, VI Kings concert in the Bumper Car Pavilion, 60s/early 70s Soundtrack of Your Life, \$20

Summer Concert Series
 free performances in the Bumper Car Pavilion, Thursdays at 7:30 PM



July 11 Pablo Regis

July 18 Nowhere Men, Beatles-esque

July 25 James Bazen Big Band

August 1 Vox Pop, a cappella group

August 8 U.S. Marine Band Latin Jazz Ensemble

August 15 Ruthie and the Wranglers

August 22 Zedicus, world music

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

The Wizard of Oz July 6–August 4

Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10 AM

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Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical through August 18

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