

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



NOVEMBER, 1982

Beautification Crusade Begins with Numerous Plantings

By Frank Corder

Through the zealous and enthusiastic efforts of a group of town residents, the town has made what Mayor Kuster termed "an auspicious beginning" to a growing commitment to enhance Glen Echo's environment. He expressed a hope "to move beyond localized improvements by encouraging development of a master plan for landscape beautification town-wide".

At its October 11 meeting, the Mayor and Town Council reviewed with approval the accomplishments of Arbor Day Committee members in the past weeks. Specifically cited were the following:

(continued on page 3)

PLAYGROUND FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN SOON

By Frank Corder

The town of Glen Echo will soon have authority to begin its campaign for tax-deductible contributions for the proposed playground at Glen Echo Park.

Councilwoman Nancy Long told the Town Council at its October 11 meeting that as soon as the National Park Foundation received an impending letter from Jack Fish, Director, National Capital Region, NPS, asking the Foundation to act as recipient of playground donations, solicitation could begin.

(Continued on Page 4)

**DON'T MISS
THE
TOWN
HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Sunday, December 19
7:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall**

THE ECHO

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Florian J. Lechner, Sr.

Long-time Glen Echo resident, Florian Lechner, died on Monday, October 18. He was born in Rohrbach, Germany, in 1904, and moved to Glen Echo in the mid 1930s. Since then, he lived in a stone house he built at 20 Wellesley Circle, which was featured in last month's ECHO.

Mr. Lechner married his wife, Lillian, who survives him, in 1936. He is also survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Florian J. Lechner, Jr.; a grandson, Jack; and a sister Betty, of Germany.

Mr. Lechner served as pastry chef at Congressional Country Club and in a similar capacity for Heidi Bakery until his retirement in 1972.

BEAUTIFICATION (from p. 1)

---- The planting of a double-flowered, pink, spreading ornamental cherry tree (*Prunus serrulata* 'kwanzan') in the town park. The tree, which grows 12 to 18 feet high, was planted by resident Osamu Shimizu.

---- The planting of a *Zelkova* 'Village Green' tree in front of Town Hall. This fast-growing, extremely hardy tree was planted by many town residents.

---- A blue spruce planted by Mr. Shimizu in front of the Town Hall, which was donated by the Sadarangani family (see accompanying article).

---- A shrub replacement project near the post office sign alongside MacArthur Blvd. Mr. Shimizu dug out two tall yews and pulled out a juniper with a tractor which were blocking the view of incoming and outgoing traffic. A holly, two Mugo pines and an inkberry were planted as replacements by Osamu and Holly Shimizu and Brockie Stevenson.

---- Several spruce, juniper and holly plants were placed around the Town Hall sign by Holly Shimizu and Brockie Stevenson.

Other landscape enhancement projects included:

---- The clearing of vines, other undergrowth and exposed rail ties from the old streetcar bed between Harvard and Bryn Mawr Avenues by resident John Howe and J. R. Robbins. When cleared, the surface will be hydroseeded, according to Mayor Kuster.

---- Removal of the dense undergrowth for approximately 30 feet beyond Cornell Avenue toward Radcliffe Lane and grading of the land immediately adjacent to the corner of Cornell and Wellesley Avenues to carry off rainfall into a nearby drainage ditch. The area will then be hydroseeded.

---- The heavy growth of plant material at the Town Park near the Moreland property will be removed and replaced with more attractive and manageable shrubbery.

Mr. Shimizu, a landscape designer and new resident, was asked to comment on future beautification targets for Glen Echo. He suggested that "landscaping of the gateways to town would make Glen Echo

THE BLUE BLUE SPRUCE

The blue spruce plant in front of the Town Hall (donated by Rollina and Hiro Sadarangani in memory of her father) was especially selected because it is the most superior of the Colorado spruces. The *Picea Pungens*, known as "Hoopsii," is well recognized in the horticultural world as the bluest and best-growing form of these spruces. It has a dense, pyramidal form with spreading branches and extremely glaucous leaves.

Eventually reaching a stately 50 feet in height, it tends to be irregular in growth until it is about 15 years old (10 feet).

Our particular tree was selected from the Behnke Nursery for its superb form and color. The rich, blue needles will astound you, especially during the winter months.

--- Holly Shimizu

more distinctive by setting it off from surrounding residential communities" and thought the town would get maximum benefit for its beautification dollar at those sites.

Glen Echo residents have contributed \$200 to the Arbor Day fund. Although the town has matched this amount with municipal money, the combined funds will soon be exhausted by anticipated purchases of additional plant materials.

Mayor Kuster suggested that residents who have not yet done so may wish to make tax deductible contributions to the town's environmental enhancement program. Checks should be made payable to The Town of Glen Echo, and earmarked for the Arbor Day Committee.

The Mayor hopes to recover the cost of maintenance-type work the town undertakes on private property, such as the former D.C. transit land now owned by O. Roy Chalk, when there has been persistent non-compliance with clean-up requests.

--- Holly Shimizu contributed to this article.

TRASH CONTRACT MUST BE RE-BID

The town's trash contract with Montgomery Refuse, which expires on November 1, is not legally renewable and will have to be re-bid, Mayor Kuster said after consultation with town attorney Tom Craven.

"The date is changed and the amount is changed and under the Charter we can't just renew it," he said. "That was done illegally in the past," he added, noting that there were years when there was no legally binding trash contract at all.

Cost of collecting trash will be higher in the next 12 months because of an increase in the dumping fees from \$18 to \$32 per ton. The only monies that can be paid out by the town government without going through a bidding process are for sums under \$1000, the Mayor said.

PLAYGROUND (from p. 1)

The town hopes to raise \$5,000 for playground equipment on the site of the former playground at the Park. This sum, according to Councilwoman Debbie Beers, is "not enough to buy much equipment." She told the Council that Landscape Architect Paul Stoehr would be preparing a design, including equipment recommendations, for the playground.

Mayor Kuster plans to meet in the future with area Parent-Teacher Associations and civic associations to seek financial support for the playground construction. He also hopes to obtain the Adventure Theatre membership list, which could be canvassed for donations. Councilwoman Beers indicated she would request contributions from the merchants at the Glen Echo Shopping Center.

Members of the committee on selection of playground equipment are: Glen Echo Site Manager Audrey Calhoun, Mr. Stoehr and Councilwoman Beers. They will make their recommendations to the Town Council and to John Byrne, Superintendent, GWM-Parkway, who will jointly decide on the equipment to be purchased.

The Sad Story of the Old Park Playground

As Glen Echo prepares to raise money to establish a new children's playground at Glen Echo Park, the question has been raised: What happened to the one formerly located at the same spot?

When the old swimming pool at the Park was demolished this summer, the contract called for the dismantling of equipment at the adjacent playground with plans for later re-installation, according to Site Manager Audrey Calhoun. This was necessary because there was a two-foot drop between the playground and the pool level which was to be graded into a gentle slope after the pool was filled in.

The demolition contractor found, however, that most of the equipment supports had rotted at the base and would break at ground level if dismantled. The National Park Service thereupon decided not to dismantle the equipment but possibly to grade out from it. Somehow, NPS "didn't communicate that to the contractor," according to Ms. Calhoun.

The contractor went ahead with the dismantling, also damaged some pieces, she said, and was held financially responsible. However, since there were cost over-runs, this only decreased the amount the Park Service owed.

The equipment was designed and constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps around 1975 and was worth \$10-15,000 although the cost of the materials was only \$1500-2000, according to Ms. Calhoun. The YCC painted the wood with preservative, but that apparently did not provide sufficient penetration to keep out insects and water.

Although there are a few pieces left that might be usable, it would be difficult to join them with bought pieces, Ms. Calhoun said, and it would cost money to fix them up, money the Park doesn't have. In fact, they're just hoping some money will be allocated to enable them to seed the pool area in spring.

- Carlotta Anderson

CABIN JOHN SEEKS INPUT FOR RECREATION CENTER SITE

By Carlotta Anderson

Should the burned-out recreation building in Cabin John be restored or replaced by a picnic shelter? That question is being explored by the Cabin John Citizen's Association and they are asking for the recommendations of surrounding areas.

The building, located below the tennis courts just the other side of the Cabin John(Union Arch) Bridge, was heavily damaged in June by a fire that has been designated arson. Charles Marquardt, Chairman of the Cabin John Recreation Committee, thinks part of the problem may be that local young people are "recreationally starved" and is wondering if a "modest" gym or youth center, possibly with a basketball court, might be a good replacement. He says he thinks if the surrounding communities give a lot of support to the idea and "make a good case to Park and Planning," a gym could be had.

"The communities that ask for things actually get them," he said.

On the other hand, he said, the Recreation Department is pulling for a picnic shelter with a roof and restrooms, located adjacent to the baseball field.

He said there are no nearby gym facilities available since the Pyle Jr. High gym became unavailable for community use. There is a picnic shelter in Carderock, although he admitted that it is very busy.

He said the Recreation Department is getting a large sum from insurance with which it could reconstruct the building.

The arson is still under active investigation, according to Sgt. Jim Graves of the Fire Prevention Division, and some information has been received through the Crime Solvers program, in which the caller does not have to give a name and is assigned a number. A reward of \$1000 is being offered for tips leading to the indictment of the arsonist(s). If anyone has information and does not want to call the police, they can call Sgt. Graves at 251-2440, he said.

Classified Ads

WINTER IS COMING. Are your gutters clean? Call Grant at 229-6064 or Robby at 229-4555. Experienced gutter cleaning. Low rates.

* * * * *

FREE TOP SOIL for any town citizen. Help yourself. Located on old trolley right-of-way between Harvard and Bryn Mawr Avenues. Eight truckloads full that were contributed to the town.

* * * * *

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and may be left in THE ECHO box at the Post Office or given to Ann Simpich, 23 Wellesley Circle. Please do not phone them to the Editor
 Fee to non-residents: 50¢ per line of 36 spaces or fewer. Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo" and mail them to Ann Simpich, 23 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

AD DEADLINE: 24TH OF EACH MONTH

BANNOCKBURN CLUBHOUSE AVAILABLE

The Bannockburn Clubhouse, which is maintained by Bannockburn Community residents as a small scale community center, has recently undergone major renovations. The Clubhouse, located at 6314 Bannockburn Drive, is now back in full operation and can be rented for such activities as exercise classes, discussion groups, parties, and even weddings.

The building is not elaborate, and the fees are low. For further information, please call Carol Kimbrough, evenings, 229-8287.

LATE CLASSIFIED:

HELP WANTED: Child care for 10 & 14-year-olds and light housekeeping. Afternoons, M-F, 3-6:30 p.m. Should have own transportation. References required. To begin immediately. Call Charles Eldredge, (days) 357-1959; evenings after 6:30, 229-4110.

THE KEYHOLE

With the December issue, THE KEYHOLE will have a new columnist, Ann Simpich of 23 Wellesley Circle.

To spare Ann from looking through your keyhole, let her know of the activities, awards, travels and other accomplishments of your family.

Either leave a note in her mailbox or in the ECHO box at the post office, or phone her at 229-2462. Ann also handles the classified ads.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Rusty Shultz-----October 31
 Carol Reptsik-----November 12
 Edward Moreland-----November 24

WINTER TERM BEGINS AT PARK

Classes beginning in January at Glen Echo Park include harmonica, clowning workshop, fur/knit garment workshop and many other offerings in the visual arts, crafts, theater arts and dance.

Call 492-6282 for a brochure.

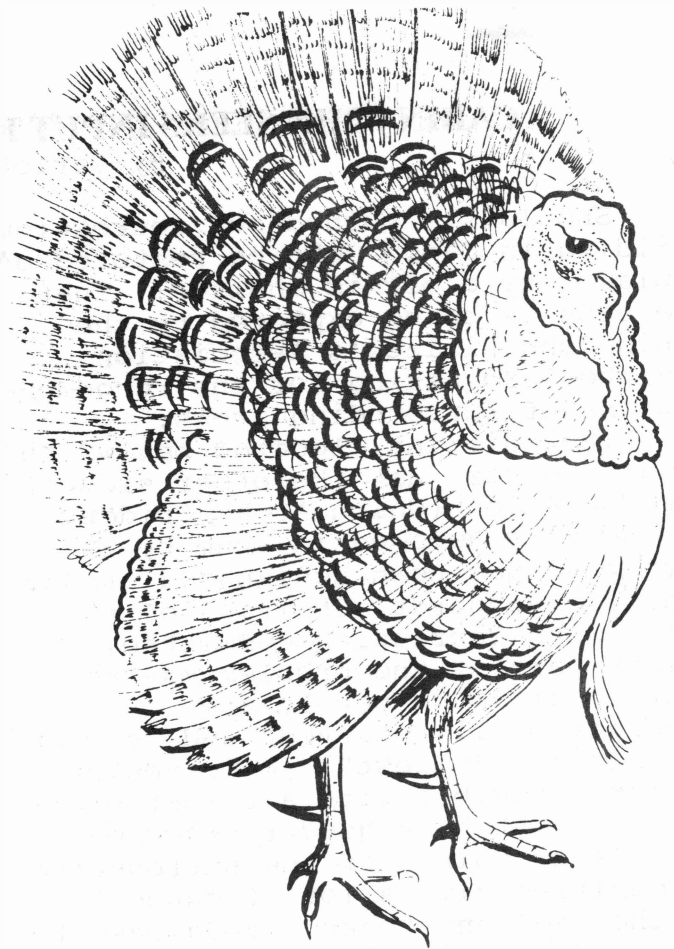
BANNOCKBURN BOOK FAIR

November 9, 10, 11, 12

Bannockburn Elementary School

Hours: November 9, 7-9 p.m.;
 other days, 9-3:30 p.m.

Good selection of paperback books and hard cover titles for all ages, plus records, tapes, advent calendars, UNICEF cards and more.



CANDIDATES COME TO TOWN

Candidates for the State Senate and the House of Delegates participated in a forum at the Town Hall on Sunday, October 24. Some 30 people attended, a small proportion of whom were Glen Echo residents.

The candidates made statements and accepted questions from the audience. Refreshments were served.

Candidates present were Howard Denis, incumbent State Senator and his challenger, Brian Frosh; and Delegate candidates Marilyn Goldwater, Connie Morella, Gil Genn, John Perrin and Gary England. Nancy Kopp was the only candidate for Delegate from the 16th Legislative District who was unable to attend, due to illness.

The forum was sponsored by the town of Glen Echo in cooperation with the town of Somerset, which held a forum for County Executive and County Council candidates on October 28 at the Somerset Elementary School. All the candidates accepted an invitation to be present, according to Councilwoman Rex Borsari, who arranged the event in Glen Echo. Glyers were distributed to homes in the local area.

GLEN ECHO-WASHINGTON BUS SERVICE TO END

The N-4/N-5 bus service from Glen Echo to D.C. is scheduled to end when the Shady Grove Metrorail Corridor opens in late 1984.

A new route, 38, will be established at that time to provide bus service between Glen Echo and the Friendship Heights metrorail station at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, according to information provided by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation at a public forum on September 22, which Councilwoman Nancy Long attended.

Glen Echo commuters would then ride metrorail from Friendship Heights to the city center. However, those bound for Foggy Bottom would have to go first to Metro Center and transfer.

A decision has not been reached on whether the proposed Route 38, if approved, would be serviced by Metrobus or the County's Ride-On equipment, Councilwoman Long told the Town Council.

Any residents caring to comment on the proposed change in N-4/N-5 service may write to the County Executive, County Office Building, Rockville, MD 20850.

--- Frank Corder



THE BIKE PATH AT GLEN ECHO: A POTENTIAL TRAGEDY

On Thursday, September 29 at 5:15 p.m. it was broad daylight and the weather was clear and sunny. A Glen Echo resident driving on MacArthur Blvd. toward Cabin John in a bright red car prepared to turn into Cornell Avenue but had to wait for oncoming traffic.

When the roadway was clear, she completed her turn and as the car crossed the bike path she was hit broadside on the driver's side. "I thought I'd been hit by a truck," she said, describing the moment of impact.

She had actually been hit by a bicyclist, a young woman biking very fast with her head down and no helmet on. After the front wheel hit the car, the bike bounced backwards, the bicyclist lost her balance and fell onto one knee.

The bicyclist had a cut ear, and was transported to Suburban Hospital by ambulance, where she had eight stitches and was X-rayed for possible head injuries. Luckily, there were none, and the young woman was able to go to work the next day.

The police officer at the scene told the Glen Echo resident that it was clear the bicyclist had run into the car, that there was no negligence on the part of the driver and no citation would be issued. The car was badly dented, with several hundred dollars in repairs necessary.

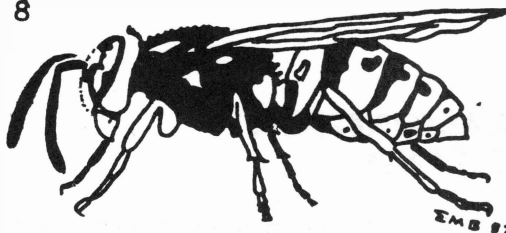
Nevertheless, the intersection of the bike path with Glen Echo streets holds the potential for a much more serious accident, especially when cars are leaving town, have restricted views of the path and cross it before coming to a stop at the signs.

The Montgomery County Police caution that any vehicle moving straight has the right-of-way over any turning vehicle and the bike paths functions as part of MacArthur Blvd. Thus, every bicyclist has the right-of-way over every car entering or leaving town.

--- Carlotta Anderson

BUG NEWS

8



By Edd Barrows

Although there are hundreds of kinds of wasps in Glen Echo, you are most likely to see the large and conspicuous ones like the paper wasps. They made three nests on my house last summer, but there was no need to exterminate these handsome insects. Apparently, they habituated to persons in the yard, since none stung anyone.

Two species of paper wasps occur in town: one brown and the other brown-and-yellow. The latter is the only one I find nesting on our house. These wasps are ravenous caterpillar eaters. I have watched them capture and chew up caterpillars that were damaging my broccoli.

They often make their paper nests under the eaves of houses. Their paper is created from wood, rags, human-made paper and other materials they collect and masticate. Paper wasps and their kin made paper over 100 million years before the first human paper makers, the Egyptians!

Last summer one small nest was made under our electric meter, but unfortunately its inhabitants did not deter the meter reader and our PEPCO bills. The other two nests were above our front door in our tiny open porch. The biggest of these had about 80 wasps and was on the door side of the hanging lamp, less than two feet from the heads of tall persons coming into the house. I didn't know the nest was there myself until September, so quiet and docile were its occupants.

I guess if I wish to use insects to repel solicitors from our front door, I'll have to import more ferocious insects. How about fire ants?

At the CLARA BARTON SITE

Victorian Domestic Arts and Crafts
Sunday, November 14, 2-4 p.m.

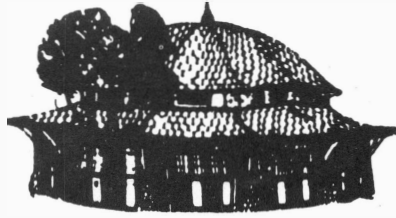
Come talk with a butler and a maid; see what their life was like. The program also features demonstrations of household crafts and proper table etiquette.

Adventure Theatre presents
The Invisible People
October 23 - November 21
1:30 and 3:30
Reservations: 320-5331



Queen paper wasp bringing a chewed-up caterpillar to her young in Spring. The workers will take over next chores later in the season when the queen will become the principal egg-layer and nest "director."

At GLEN ECHO PARK



REFURBISHING OF CAROUSEL

A contract has been awarded to Rosa Ragan of Raleigh, N. C., for exploratory work on refurbishing Glen Echo's Dentzel carousel.

One carousel horse and one panel from the drum-shaped central core enclosing the rotating machinery will be removed and shipped to Ms. Ragan's studio. The contract calls for careful removal of the many coats of paint in an effort to expose the original finish.

Once this exploratory work has been done, Councilwoman Nancy Long told the Town Council, a decision will be made whether the condition of the original paint will permit its preservation or whether the carousel should be painted to reproduce its appearance when new.

She will accompany NIS representatives when they go to Raleigh to evaluate facilities and work progress at the Rosa Ragan studio.

YELLOW BARN TO BE STRENGTHENED

Yellow Barn preservation will be assured for the immediate future when woodworker Henry Barrow and potter Jeff Kirk sign an agreement with NPS that provides for their upgrading of the structure.

The Park was set to condemn the building this summer after receiving an estimate of at least \$135,000 for rehabilitation work.

Site Manager Audrey Calhoun said that Messrs. Barrow and Kirk and the NPS are in the final stages of working out an acceptable agreement. The craftsmen are now completing detailed plans and specifications for the required structural improvements.

One hurdle is a resolution of the sycamore tree problem, a reference to a large and beautiful tree that has grown

CLASSES TO BE HELD IN FORMER WRITER'S CENTER SPACE

The Park's nonresident programs will move into the space formerly occupied by the Writer's Center after the Center completes its move to Brookmont School by November 15.

When the fine crafts rooms were condemned as unsafe late last summer, the 30-40 non-resident teachers and their classes who had been using them were shifted to the yurts or other areas not designed for cold-weather occupancy.

BALLROOM REPAIRS PROGRESSING

Replacement of the roof over the Ballroom's main entrance is complete and the stage area has been structurally stabilized.

The front facade and rear wall—the one facing the maintenance area—are being repaired. When this is done, the exterior walls will be restuccoed and repainted.

At the GALLERY

Raya Bodnarchuk - November 5 - December 1

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HOLIDAY SHOW - Opens December 4. Creations by Glen Echo artists available for purchase.

into the foundation of the Yellow Barn and is responsible for its structural defects. However, before any tree can be felled in a National Park, according to Ms. Calhoun, the proposal to do so must be reviewed by a tree committee and approved by the superintendent of GWM Parkway.



New since July at 12 Wellesley Circle are Mike Franke and his wife Merna Hurd. Mike has owned the house since 1977 and lived here for a period before he started renting out the house. He is an electrical engineer, whose firm, Centaur, does economic and environmental work for government agencies. Merna is a sanitary engineer for Clement, which specializes in problems of hazardous wastes and product liability.

The couple does a lot of sailing and Mike is currently trying to design a boat. He is also an avid skier. Merna enjoys modern dance, cooking and entertaining, as well as working in the garden.

* * * * *

Glen Echo was the "fantasy" residence for Gloria Levine, who moved here in September from Lakeside Terrace Condominium near Montgomery Mall, where she was president of the condominium. When the realtor asked her to describe her fantasy of the ideal house, she said it would be a contemporary in Glen Echo. After much looking elsewhere, they saw the ad for her house at 7327 University Avenue and the dream was realized.

* * * * *

MORELLA RECEPTION AT TOWN HALL

Some 25 people attended a wine and cheese reception for Connie Morella, incumbent candidate for delegate from the 16th legislative district to the Maryland House of Delegates, which took place on October 19.

The reception was co-hosted by Fred Kuster, Nancy Long and Vic Trilling.

What she was seeking, she says, was a sense of community, a community that was going to grow and a convenient location.

Gloria, who received her doctorate in community psychology from the University of Michigan and later taught there, is executive officer for technical assistance at the National Institute of Mental Health in Rockville. Several years ago, she set up the National Rape Center there.

She is also a former Peace Corps volunteer in Peru and has been a community organizer around health and consumer issues and a consultant for the War on Poverty programs.

Since visiting China, Gloria has become a consultant for China Educational Tours of Boston and will be leading a tour for former Peace Corps volunteers next October at the invitation of the government of China, as well as organizing one for a group of silk artists.

She is also a member of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association and national coordinator of an exchange with the China Women's Federation, which will be hosting four Chinese women officials to live and work in the U.S. for four months.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 8 -- 8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

All Residents Encouraged to Attend

Those wishing to add items to the agenda of the meeting should contact
Clerk-Treasurer Paula Wolff, 229-2378