

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



APRIL 1984

Municipal Infraction Ordinance Takes Effect

By Jim Anderson and Michael Frankel

After months of study and debate, the Town Council passed into law at its March meeting Glen Echo's first Municipal Infraction ordinance.

The ordinance will cover animal control and vehicles, and follows the model used by other communities such as Garrett Park.

It sets up a regular procedure by which the town will deal with any infraction through a series of increasingly severe sanctions: first, a warning letter, then a citation with a \$100 fine, and, if the violation continues, sending the case to District Court where the existing justice system would deal with it.

At all stages, an infraction would be considered a civil offense, with no criminal liability or record involved.

The passage of the ordinance came after several attempts to defer or defeat it.

--continued on page 3

APARTMENT OWNERS RECEIVE WARNING NOTICES

By Carlotta Anderson

Fourteen town apartment owners received "warning notice of violation" letters from a County zoning investigator last month advising them that the notice "was generated in response to a letter from Frederic J. Kuster, Mayor of Glen Echo."

Mayor Kuster said he is "irate" about the letters, which

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The Echo

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Editor: Carlotta Anderson
(229-3748)

Assistant Editor: Julie Barrows

The Keyhole: Tillie McNoldy

Reporters: Jim Anderson
Michael Frankel

Typists: Bob Toubman
Sheila Laufer
Susan Shultz
Edie Springuel

Mail Subscriptions: Tillie McNoldy

Distribution: Brockie Stevenson
Alberta Bartkus
Jan Shaut
Barbara Odell
Susan Pettey

Collating: Cathie Polak

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE—April 27

Letters to the Editor are welcomed, as well as articles for publication. Volunteer reporters and typists are always needed. Call the Editor, 229-3748.

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TOWN OFFICIALS

MAYOR:

Fred Kuster 229-2070

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Debbie Beers 229-7308

Nancy Long 229-0196

Harry Odell 229-4494

Bill Shultz 229-1269

CLERK-TREASURER:

Lois Carroll 229-3780

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:

Frank Corder 229-6747

Julie Milstien 229-4529

Barbara Odell 229-4494

CORRECTION

In a letter to the Editor printed in the February issue the telephone number for the Community Referral Service was incorrect.

The number for this referral service for home repairs is 897-5680.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6009 Princeton Avenue.....\$115,000

48 Wellesley Circle.....\$255,000

Information on property sales is provided by Kirk Lee of Merrill Lynch Realty.

INFRACTIONS ORDINANCE (from page 1)

Council members Nancy Long and Harry Odell voted to defer any action on the issue for nine months, but members Debbie Beers and Bill Shultz opposed the motion. Mayor Fred Kuster broke the tie by casting his vote against any further delay of the issue.

On the vote to adopt the ordinance immediately, Nancy Long voted against, with the other three members voting in favor.

The ordinances were recommended by a committee of town citizens, chaired by Frank Corder as an important step in regularizing the way the town deals with people who ignore its laws.

In arguing for a deferral of the issue, Councilman Odell argued that there are no immediate pressing cases to deal with. Councilman Shultz responded that this was a perfect argument for setting up the system now, when it is clear that the town is not acting out of personal spite against any individual.

The town will now adopt a standard warning letter and citation form which will be automatically issued by town officers to deal with violators. The procedure will be worked out at the next Council meeting.

In the meantime, every town resident will be given a copy of town ordinances concerning animals and vehicles as well as the new municipal infractions ordinance.



RESIDENTS SUBMIT PETITION TO COUNCIL

By Michael Frankel

Fifty-one town residents petitioned the Town Council at its March meeting to allow the County to administer the new accessory apartment law instead of having the town enforce it.

The petition was presented by John Lynch of 13 Vassar Circle.

The petitioners feel that the County can administer the law with greater objectivity and consistency than the town.

Mayor Kuster expressed his feelings and the sense of the Council in stating that the town was not interested in hiring inspectors and devoting the Council's time to the administration of accessory apartments. "We pay County taxes for this type of service," he said.

He told THE ECHO that the law in the County is automatically the law in Glen Echo "unless we decide to change it."

If the town wishes to license apartments itself, it will have to adopt the Landlord-Tenant law, he said.

Several residents pointed out that their homes had been constructed with accessory apartments in the 1940s with Glen Echo building permits at a time when Glen Echo administered its own zoning ordinances.

Tom Craven, the town's attorney, recommended that anyone with such a permit include it with the accessory apartment applications to the Board of Appeals. He said it may reinforce their request for a special exception, especially if they apply by April 25, the deadline for accessory apartments existing as of December 2, 1983.

Collect your discards
from spring cleaning for the

Town Flea Market

Saturday, May 5
10 - 4

Town Park, University
& Princeton Aves.

Hot Dogs, Refreshments for Sale

Anyone wishing to help please
contact Mayor Kuster, 229-2070

MAYOR IRATE (from page 1)

make it appear that he filed a complaint against the individuals. He said he never sent a letter of complaint to the zoning enforcement office either as mayor or as a private citizen.

What he did was respond to a request from the County Council at the end of October for a list of illegal accessory apartments in town, he said, and he did this in November after authorization from the Town Council.

The letter from zoning investigator James C. Martin, dated February 27, informs the apartment owners: "It is important that you file a request for an accessory apartment special exception immediately!" It mentions that any "latitude" will expire on April 26, that the owners must remove the facilities or appeal the the Board of Appeals and that otherwise civil citations will be forthcoming.

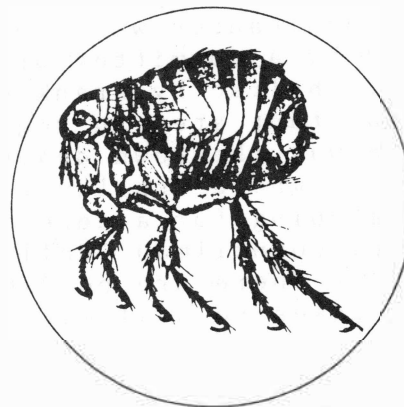
Mayor Kuster stressed that it is important that every town resident understand that the zoning law is a Montgomery County law which anyone with an accessory apartment must abide by and that it has nothing to do with town ordinances.

SMALLEST RESIDENT FLEAS TOWN, MAKES IT BIG IN PICTURES

Cocker spaniel Clyde Barrows, of 21 Wellesley Circle, happily donated a living flea to the Smithsonian Institution last fall.

"Fred", the flea, was duly processed and now can be seen as a scanning electron micrograph in Exploring Microspace, a new exhibit at the Natural History Museum.

Fred, a feast for the eyes, was unveiled on March 15 and will be on exhibition until July.



Fred

SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK BEGINS APRIL 28

The Town Council has designated the week of April 28 to May 5 as a time for town beautification.

The town will be planting some trees and scheduling special pick-ups for the benefit of residents who would like to get rid of junk.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 9, 8:00p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents encouraged to attend

Contact the Clerk-Treasurer if you wish to add an item to the agenda.

NOTEWORTHY GLEN ECHO BUILDINGS: 21 and 19 Vassar Circle

By J. Manuel Espinosa

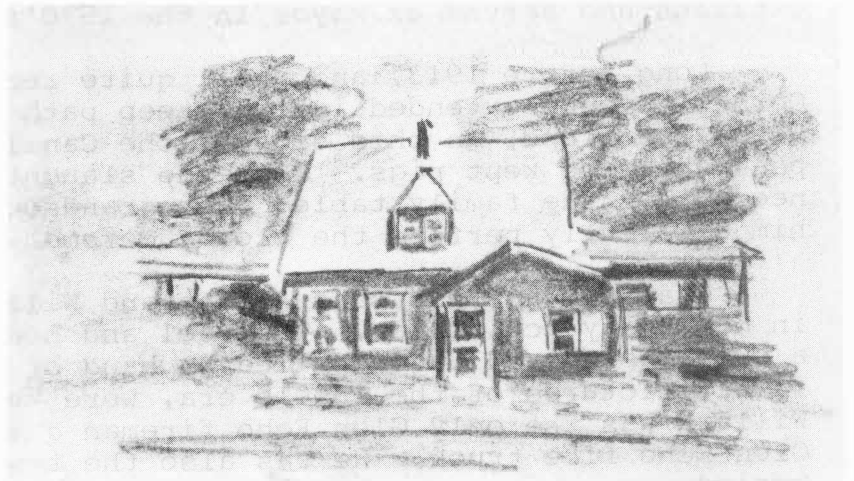
In 1913, Charles Alban and his family, from Charles Town, West Virginia, moved to 21 Vassar Circle, a two-story frame house that had been built only a few years earlier. The structure of the house itself was exactly as it is today, except for one superficial difference: at that time it was painted gray, not red, with white trim, as it appears today. Adjoining the Alban residence was a small summer kitchen (now 19 Vassar Circle), and next to it a garage. Behind this was a barn, which was gone by 1928. Charles Alban lived in the house until his death in 1933.

As Charles Alban gazed from his front yard in 1913, he had a direct view of the other five houses and the Community Hall that surrounded the outer side of the circular street. The land inside the Circle was an open field. The high-ceilinged one-story Community Hall at the corner of Cornell and Vassar Circle, which had served once as a barn, was in Charles Alban's day the locale of a Catholic mission where Sunday services were held, the town hall, a school, and the site of a variety of community activities. Of the other residences, Nos. 1, 9, and 11 looked almost exactly as they do today, although No. 9 was only one story high (the second story added in 1919); Nos. 5 and 13 were almost exactly alike, as No. 5 appears in photo on the next page).

All the houses were frame, some shingled, others of clapboard. They had been rebuilt and remodeled during the first decade of this century on the sites of former cottages built in 1892 and 1893. Between 1893 and the early 1900's, malaria plagued the area and prospective residents were scared away, but much of this problem was solved by about 1912. By 1904-05, the village was chartered as a town, with its own government. The town remained very much a small country community prior to World War II, somewhat isolated in a beautiful wooded area overlooking the Canal and the Potomac.

The first permanent residents of the town were conservative, God-fearing Christians, somewhat puritanical in outlook. Many of them were drawn to the area by the Protestant Chautauqua movement, which had inspired the founding of the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo in 1891.

When Charles Alban arrived in Glen Echo the streets were of cinder and Vassar Circle was a wo-way



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21 and 19 Vassar Circle today

VASSAR CIRCLE AS IT ONCE WAS (continued from preceding page)

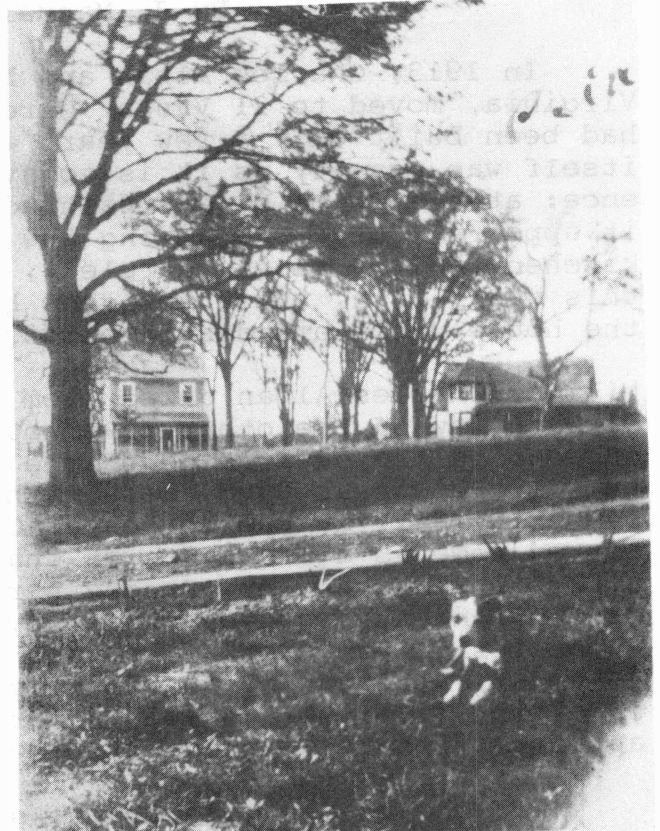
street. The town prided itself on having its own water supply, inside plumbing and electricity. Charles Alban plowed a section of the open field in the center of Vassar Circle, where he planted potatoes, corn, and other vegetables. In one section of the field, he fenced off an area where he kept goats and raised chickens. The crowing of roosters in the early morning was heard daily in all parts of the town (in fact, it was not uncommon when we moved here in 1950).

The Alban household included Charles and his wife, Mary Virginia, the latter's father, and six small children. The oldest son, Julian, was thirteen when his family arrived. He went to grade school in the Community Hall across the Circle from his home.

Julian was a good carpenter and, in 1919, enclosed and refurbished the summer kitchen into added living quarters. After his marriage, he and his wife moved into this house (now 19 Vassar Circle), where his son, Paul H. Alban, was born. Paul later moved to Bryn Mawr Avenue, where he and his mother now reside. Paul became one of Glen Echo's leading citizens and served as mayor in the 1970's.

Long before 1913, and until quite recently, the lower end of Cornell Avenue extended into a steep path down the slope to the Canal. Below the slope, on this side of the Canal, Charles Alban built pens where he kept pigs. There he slaughtered the animals when needed for the family table. His grandson, Paul, remembers watching him skillfully perform the bloody ceremony.

Charles, and his sons Julian and Willard, were active volunteers in community activities. The reel and hose for the town fire wagon, a two-wheeled red wagon pulled by hand of the type frequently seen in old pictures of the 1890's era, were kept in the Alban's garage. Willard was the only Glen Echo fireman qualified to drive the first Glen Echo fire truck. He was also the town constable during that period.



Looking across the Circle from NO. 21, with No. 5 and 9 (r. to l.) in the background. Photo taken c. 1920.

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THE ALBANS AND THEIR VASSAR CIRCLE HOMES (from preceding page)

By the 1930's, and shortly thereafter, Vassar Circle, like the rest of the town, underwent a number of major changes in appearance as new houses and a few other structures were built. In 1932, a brick firehouse was built on part of the land in the middle of the Circle. It was about the size of a two-car garage at first, facing University Avenue, with space for the first fire truck, known as "Leapin' Lena." The firehouse, later expanded in size, served as the regular meeting place for the town government, and became the center for a variety of community activities until it became the Glen Echo Baptist Church in 1954.

In 1935, the Deebos built the stone house at 3 Vassar Circle next to their residence at 1 Vassar Circle. That same year, Vassar was made a one-way street. In the mid-1940's, the old Community Hall became the Little Flower Catholic Church; in the 1950's, the structure was demolished and the land added to the 5 Vassar Circle property. The scene had changed, and new residents were unaware that there once had been an open field, with its garden in spring and summer, and a fenced-in area with goats and chickens in the center of their Circle.

Note: For the above information, I am especially indebted to Paul H. Alban and his mother; also, to Eddie Deebo, Ronnie Vine and Herbert Carow (no longer a resident of Glen Echo, whose family lived at 1 Vassar Circle when he was a boy, in 1914). The photo was provided through the courtesy of Paul H. Alban.

Clara Barton Center Raffle

Round-trip airfare and hotel accommodations for two to Freeport, the Bahamas, will be awarded to a lucky raffle winner at the annual scholarship fundraising event of the Clara Barton Center for Children on Saturday, April 28.

Over 25 other prizes will be available, including a ticket on New York Air, a side of smoked salmon and various gift certificates.

Raffle tickets at \$1 each are being sold at the Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., as well as from booths at various shopping malls. The drawing will take place at the Center at 11 a.m. Raffle entrants need not be present to win.

For information or tickets, call 320-4565.

The Center is a licensed, non-profit preschool, kindergarten and daycare program.

RESIDENT PUBLISHES BOOK ON FREELANCE WRITING

Michael Zamba, a resident of 6103 Bryn Mawr Avenue, has just completed a book, "Freelance Washington," which is a directory of publications which accept writing, poetry, and art work from freelancers.

Michael is publishing the book himself and has started a publishing company for this purpose called Kilcom Press. The book will be for sale in shops later this month.

Michael is an Associate Editor at Capital Publications in Rosslyn, a firm which puts out 47 newsletters. He works on "U.S. Oil Week," dealing with oil marketing on the West Coast.



Classified Ads

SITUATION WANTED--Clean, quiet individual or family of 2/3 seeks: Room or room/board in exchange for services; or room or room/board in exchange for percent rent and percent service. Call 926-5983 6-11p.m. or 6-7a.m.

* * * * *

FOR SALE-- Camping equipment. Boy Scout back pack (aluminum frame, red nylon)-\$20. Canvas 2-man pup tent-\$10. Call 229-0737.

* * * * *

GIVEAWAY--Orange day-lilies, purple Hosta, yellow evening primrose. You dig up. Call Anderson, 229-3748.

* * * * *

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and may be left in THE ECHO box at the Post Office or given to Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue. Please do not phone them to the editor.

Fee to non-residents: \$.50 per line of 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads, \$2 per column inch. Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo" and mail them to Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

AD DEADLINE: 24th of each month

At the CLARA BARTON SITE

Easter Crafts for Children
Saturday, April 14, 2-3p.m.
and 4-5p.m.

Mrs. Hildegard Boener will teach children ages 10 to 14 how to decorate Easter eggs using traditional tole painting techniques.

The program is free of charge. Reservations are required. Call 492-6245.

Town Council Highlights

March 15

The town is exploring options regarding the O. Roy Chalk right-of-way alongside MacArthur Blvd. where the trolley used to run. Acquisition of this property may be accomplished through Maryland's Project Open Space, which grants up to 75% of the funds needed to acquire open space or undertake scenic development.....

Work on the playground was expected to start by the end of March, weather permitting. The construction will take about two weeks.....

The Glen Echo Baptist Church had said there will be no problem with moving the town's basketball hoop to the parking lot at the church on Vassar Circle.

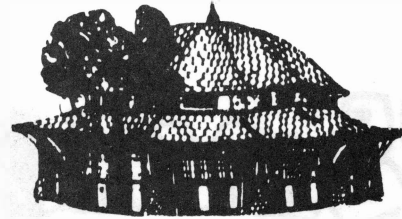
However, Rev. Cole has set two conditions: there will be no playing of basketball during church services, and church activities requiring the parking lot will have priority over basketball playing.

The town has long had a basketball court on Tulane Ave. near Trav's Inn.....

Mayor Kuster said the town is negotiating with Garrett Park to go together on some construction and repair projects in order to get a better price.....

The town is looking into the possibility of two methods of street cleaning, one involving a vacuum cleaning truck and the other a water-flushing system.....





At GLEN ECHO PARK

Sunday Concerts Continue

Folk concerts sponsored by the Bethesda Co-op and Glen Echo Park continue every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. until mid-May:

April 8 - Laura Burns & Roger Rosen, traditional & contemporary songs, \$3.

April 15 - Winterwood, bluegrass, \$3

April 29 - Ceoltori East, Celtic melodies, \$3.50

May 6 - The Dogs Among the Bushes, Celtic music, \$3.50

May 13 - Peter and Steve Jones, acoustical topical songs, \$3

Spring Classes Begin

For a brochure listing classes for adults and children in the fine arts and crafts call 492-6282.

Square Dances Resume

The first Friday night square dance will be April 13 at 8:30 p.m. with live music. Admission is \$3.

There will be a second weekly square dance on Wednesday evenings.

The dances will continue regularly until October in the Spanish Ballroom.

Adventure Theatre

Beauty and the Beast
March 31 - April 29

Androcles and the Lion
May 12 - June 24

Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30 & 3:30
\$3 - Reservations: 320-5331

Carousel Opens

The 1921 Dentzel carousel will be open again beginning May 2 and be running Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m.

At the GALLERY

The Glen Echo Gallery will reopen April 13 after renovation with a show honoring outstanding students in all media. The show will continue through the month of April.

"Art for the New Age" opens at the Gallery May 4

Future Events

May 19 - POET'S JAM

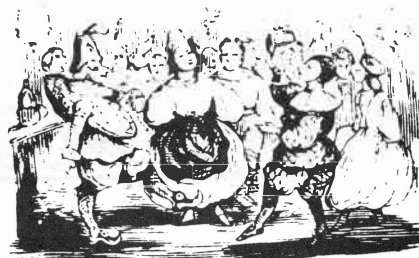
Stephen Dunning and Robert Sargent will read from their work with musical interplay woven into the program. \$2

May 19 - WASHINGTON STORYTELLING FESTIVAL - 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Workshops, swapping grounds, storytelling concert.
Oleo - 8 p.m. - \$4

May 20 - CHILDRENS' DAY

Visits from Smokey the Bear and Woodsey the Owl, stilt walkers, clowns, mimes, music dance and drama.

May 27 - IRISH FOLK FESTIVAL



Mostly by

THE KEYHOLE

Tillie McJolly

Congratulations to Marie and Chris Hewitt of 48 Wellesley Circle upon the birth of a little girl at Columbia Hospital for Women in D.C. on March 17th. The baby, named Caitlin Victoria, picked an appropriate day in which to make her debut as her mother is Irish--daddy English. Caitlin weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and according to her parents very blonde and resembles their other daughter Sara who is three years of age. Sara went to see her new sister and the following day she came down with chicken pox. Good timing on her part too. Better now than when Caitlin comes home.

Of interest to her former neighbors and friends is the news that Tess Englehart, formerly of 6004 Princeton Avenue, will soon graduate as a Registered Nurse from a large hospital in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Besides being a member of the class, she also is their president.

Congratulations Tess!



BUS SERVICE FROM CABIN JOHN SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY

A "Ride On" bus from Cabin John to the Bethesda Metro Station at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road will begin rush-hour service in January, 1985.

The route will follow Wilson Lane, and include stops at Wilson and MacArthur Boulevard, River Road and Pyle Jr. High School, but no stops between Whittier Blvd. and the Metro station, according to David Bone, Planner, Division of Transit Services, County Department of Transportation. The fare will be 60¢ to the station, or \$2.05 to downtown Washington using the bus and Metrorail.

Also beginning in January will be a Ride-On bus from Glen Echo to the Bethesda station, which is scheduled to open August 25. It will run half-hourly from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, with no weekend service.

The N4 bus will be discontinued, but the N5 will continue to run directly from Glen Echo to downtown in rush hours only, with an increased fare of \$1.90. A new bus service, the N8 will run from Glen Echo to Friendship Heights Metro station, with a fare of 80¢. Its last trip to Glen Echo on weekdays will be scheduled for 11:15 p.m. weekdays, and 9:15 p.m. weekends.

Meanwhile, a Ride-On bus provides rush hour service between Glen Echo and Friendship Heights, departing Glen Echo hourly from 7:15 to 10:15 and leaving Friendship Heights hourly from 3:15 to 6:15.

A final decision on the proposed fares listed above will be made this month.

Proposed for next year's capital improvements program is the construction of a terminal on MacArthur Blvd. in front of the shopping center. Under discussion currently at work sessions is whether the terminal should be alongside the parking lot or the grassy area next to Oxford Road across the street, Mr. Bone said.

