

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND

Chartered, 1904



AUGUST 1984

Mayor, County Officials Deny Accusations of Pressuring To Eliminate Accessory Apartments in Glen Echo

By Carlotta Anderson

Charges by three town residents at the July 9 Town Council meeting that Mayor Kuster and resident Frank Corder have attempted to pressure County officials to eliminate all accessory apartments in town and represented this as the town's official position were denied by officials THE ECHO contacted.

The Mayor stated at the meeting that "I have never talked to those people up there about apartments which were in houses that are owner-occupied" and that he denied "being up there trying to stop apartments." Mr. Corder said that in his involvement in the accessory apartment issue he never represented himself as an official representative of Glen Echo.

Residents Gloria Levin, Bea Smith and Carolyn Reptsik claimed they had many "reliable" sources which had given them information that "two people were trying to do away with all apartments in Glen Echo." The Mayor and Mr. Corder were named as the two individuals, but the residents refused to give the names of the county officials allegedly being pressured, other than naming the Environmental Protection Department.

This reporter spoke with Robert Seeley, Acting Chief of Construction Codes of the Department of Environmental Protection



The Echo

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents; subscriptions for non-residents are \$6 per year.

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

Published mid-monthly
Circulation: 190
Printed by Economy Printing Co., Bowie, Md.
Headlines courtesy of The Writer's Center, Bethesda, Md.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE—August 24

Echos Now at Library

Copies of THE ECHO for the 1982, 1983, and 1984 issues are now on file at the Little Falls public library at Massachusetts Avenue and Westbard Avenue at the request of the reference librarian there.

Classified Ads

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

OFFICIALS DENY PRESSURING
(from page 1)

and asked his impression of the town's official position on the apartments. He said he met both men only once and that basically they just asked questions. He said he doesn't think they talked about the town's official position, that he was unaware of any pressure, that "I don't see what good pressuring would have anyway."

He said his Department is not part of the process of granting special exceptions and won't even be part of the hearing process. He said the Department's function would only be to determine if an apartment which had been granted a special exception met the requirement for an occupancy permit such as if a window were the proper size, and that the Landlord-Tenant office was more involved in the special exception process.

Melvin Tull, Division Chief of the Code Enforcement and Home Improvement section of the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Office, which has been involved with informing County residents about the methods to apply for a special exception for an accessory apartment, said he had talked with Mayor Kuster and Councilwoman Long but "if I was being pressured to eliminate any apartments, I didn't realize it." He said he thought he was putting pressure on them to adopt the Landlord/Tenant provisions of the County code which would give the County the authority to inspect and license apartments in Glen Echo (these provisions were adopted by the Town Council in June).

"I never got the impression they wanted (the apartments) eliminated," he said. "Whatever statements I heard were the other way. Five were long-standing. There was a feeling maybe they should be allowed to continue because they were practically historic."

Mr. Tull said the only people worth pressuring, in any case, would be members of the Board of Appeals who would be

**PUBLIC CONDUCT AT
TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The following letter was written by Councilman Harry Odell in response to a query from a town resident:

Dear -----

I promised you I would find out if there were "rules" for public participation in Town Council Meetings.

There are rules, in Sect. 79-11 of the Municipal Charter, which states in part that all meetings of the Council shall be open to the public, and residents of the Town shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard at any meeting in regard to any municipal question."

Mayor Kuster has told me that he wants to interpret the word "reasonable" broadly, and he encourages resident participation. I think all members of the Council feel the same way.

The meetings are, of course, Council meetings and have to be conducted with some regard for orderly procedure and the general welfare. Residents who want to be heard on a particular matter are expected to address the Chair, and wait for recognition before making their remarks, which should be "reasonably" relevant.

I hope this answers your question.

Sincerely,
Harry I. Odell
Councilman

granting the special exceptions, and "it's difficult to pressure a Board."

SIDEWALK TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON EAST SIDE OF WELLESLEY

By Gloria Levin

An unusually large turnout of more than a dozen residents attended the July 9 Town Council meeting to call for an extension of the existing sidewalk on Wellesley Circle to the intersection with the lower section of Cornell Avenue.

It is the only section of town with no sidewalk on either side of the street, according to a letter from Kris Shultz read to the Council by her father, Councilman Bill Shultz.

Several residents expressed concern for their children's safety on this section, noting that there is little visibility for cars and children must walk in the street to arrive at the school bus stop. At present, 12 children under the age of eight live in the immediate area.

David Williams, representing Nova Associates, provided corrected information to his earlier report presented at the special June 25 Council meeting (see the July, 1984 Echo), which analyzed feasibilities of two alternate placements--one on the east side (continuous with the existing sidewalk) and the other on the west side (necessitating two street crossings) of Wellesley.

It indicated that if constructed on the west side, two large, old trees would have to be removed, a utility pole and fencing relocated and off-street parking for 34 and 36 Wellesley would most likely be eliminated.

Nova's assessment of the east side of Wellesley was hampered by the amount of vegetation in front of the property at 31 Wellesley, however it appeared that some fencing would have to be relocated and a stone retaining wall constructed if the sidewalk were located there.

Councilwoman Nancy Long, owner of the property on the east side, expressed concern that damage could be done to the root system of a 200 year old willow oak on her property.

Town Scenes



Animal Control Officer Daryl Kuster controls Sparky the cat, Clyde the spaniel and the Mayor all in one afternoon!

(Photo by Edd Barrows)

The Council voted 3-0, with Councilwoman Long abstaining, to proceed with the construction of the sidewalk on the east side of Wellesley in the hopes that it could be completed in time for the reopening of schools. It approved the hiring of a tree expert to advise on the maintenance of trees in the affected areas.

Nancy Long, who indicated that she intended to employ an independent tree expert to protect her interests, asked that the record show that her vote to abstain was based on a conflict-of-interest between her role as a Council member and an affected property owner, as well as her concern that "the rumor won't go around" that she influenced any decision in order to enhance her property.

TRAV'S CLEANS UP AREA; WARNS CUSTOMERS OF LAWS

The trash which had accumulated around Trav's tavern has been cleaned up and "they have been very quiet" according to Mayor Kuster, who met with County Police Chief Bernard Crooke in June to complain about "public lawlessness" at the establishment.

Signs posted around the building caution patrons that beer and wine purchased there must either be consumed on the premises, which includes the porch area, or removed unopened for consumption in a private location.

The tavern will continue to be monitored for legal violations, according to letters received by the town from County Executive Charles Gilchrist and Dennis Theoharis, representing the Board of License Commissioners. The letters were in response to letters of complaint sent by Mayor Kuster on May 24 after a patron died during a fight there on May 13.

Trav's was inspected on June 1 by the Board of License Commissioners and no violations were observed at that time, according to Mr. Gilchrist. Mr. Theoharis wrote that the tavern had been under surveillance for the past six months by his agency as well as the County Police Department, with no violations observed or cited, and that several of these investigations took place during what Mayor Kuster had pinpointed as the "trouble hours" of Friday and Saturday evenings.

Mr. Gilchrist indicated that control points along MacArthur Blvd. to determine the sobriety of patrons leaving Trav's, which had been requested by the town, could not legally be implemented without "factual data to support that alcohol related traffic accidents or violations are, in fact, occurring on the roadway."

He also advised that the town's "No Parking" signs on Tulane Avenue in front of Trav's are not legally enforceable because the lettering is not red on a silver or white background. -Carlotta Anderson

Welcome, Neighbor!

August is the expected date of arrival in Glen Echo of a new resident at 48 Wellesley Circle, whose soon-to-be parents, Andy Marks and Susan Esserman, moved here at the end of April.

Both attorneys in private practice, Susan specializes in international trade at Steptoe and Johnson, and Andy is in general litigation at Shea and Gardner. Both attended University of Michigan law school and lived in Alexandria for eight years before moving to Glen Echo.

Andy worked for the State Department during the Carter administration, when he handled press relations for Ambassador Sol Linowitz during the Middle East Peace negotiations.

Susan, who formerly played the French horn and piano, is particularly interested in music and the arts, as well as tennis. Andy's interests include golf, tennis and cooking.

Another professional nurse has moved to Glen Echo (making at least six!) Elizabeth Schar moved to 47 Wellesley Circle in November with husband, John, and soon afterwards they were joined by Ashley Elizabeth, now seven months old.

Elizabeth has temporarily taken time off from her job to care for the baby. John works for the Social Security Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services. He spends his spare time restoring a 1960 Jaguar.



WALKING THE TOWPATH...with RONNIE VINE

To us old-timers who have been here since our childhood, the canal has always been there. We never gave a thought as to where it came from or where it was going, or even how it came to be built. We thought of it much as we think of the river -- it is just there, one of God's creations. If you ever wonder how this elongated recreational park ever came to being, you can thank three men: George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

It was the dream of George Washington to build a waterway to the Ohio River to open what was then, in the early and middle 1700s, the West. He did a lot of surveying and actually joined a company to construct a canal around Great Falls on the Virginia side. You can still see its ruins. But it was its impracticability that caused the forming of a company to build a canal on the Maryland side of the "Potomack" River. Construction was started in 1828.

Except for its first year in operation, about 1858, the canal never made a profit. In fact, it seldom, if ever, broke even. Because of its debts it changed owners several times and finally wound up the property of the B&O Railroad.

During the 1930s, the Railroad borrowed money from the government, putting up as part collateral the C&O Canal. President Roosevelt, for various reasons, called in the collateral, and, with help of Congress, created it as a national park.

The canal began to deteriorate until Justice Douglas came along to lobby the Congress for money to restore it as a viable recreational area for the people. After many years of effort on his part, the canal was restored as a waterway to Seneca, Md., and the towpath restored all the way to its end, in Cumberland, Md. For many miles between Seneca and Cumberland, however, the "ditch" is beyond repair, having been taken back by Nature.

Keep tuned.

Ronnie Vine moved from Glen Echo on July 31 after 65 years in town and 54 years at his Princeton Avenue home. His new residence is at Centreville, Va., in the vicinity of Dulles Airport, where he is living with his son, Freddy.

Ronnie has promised not to forget us, though, and to keep contributing to THE ECHO.

We will miss your debonair figure, Ronnie, but will be happy to keep hearing from you.

A representative of Buyers-Up, Public Citizen's group purchasing fuel project for discount heating oil, will hold a meeting for interested residents at 7:20 p.m., on Monday, August 13, at the Town Hall, before the Town Council meeting.

For further information, call Fred Kauffmann, 328-3800

Animal News

Seven town dogs had not been licensed by the end of July, according to Animal Control Officer Daryl Kuster, and at least 10-15 cats needed to be registered by the town. Twenty cats had been licensed under the provisions of the new animal control ordinance adopted on June 25.

All animals were required to have Glen Echo town licenses by June 30, with a fee of \$4 for a male or spayed female dog or cat and \$8 for an unspayed female animal. When a license is applied for after the June 30 deadline, the fee will be doubled, according to the ordinance, and if the application is made more than two months late, it will be tripled. The Animal Control Officer turned over the matter of delinquent pet owners to the town's Animal Control Board at the end of July for further action, which can include an order to remove the animal from the town if a license is not promptly obtained.

Daryl said she wanted to stress that every dog on public space has to be on a leash, not just "under control" of the owner. "A lot of people don't understand that," she said. She has sent two dogs that were at large in town to the animal shelter in the last month. One, which was an out-of-town dog, was sent for the second time, which probably resulted in a \$100 fine, she said.

Here are some excerpts from the new town animal control ordinance, which was delivered to every Glen Echo home last month:

1. Every dog or cat over four months of age must be licensed by the town of Glen Echo. Licenses issued by other jurisdictions are not valid in Glen Echo.
2. The license must be attached to the dog's collar and worn at all times when the dog is off the premises of the owner. Cats do not need to wear license tags.
3. Any resident may file a complaint about a dog observed at large. The complaint must be made in writing to the Animal Control Officer or to the Chairman of the Animal Control Board.
4. Owners shall not allow their dogs to defecate upon public space unless they immediately remove the resulting waste and dispose of it properly.
5. Any person who knows or has reason to believe that a dog or cat has bitten any person is responsible for reporting this to the Montgomery County police immediately.
6. The Animal Control Board has the authority to carry out an investigation of a written complaint about a town animal and conduct a hearing, after which it has the authority to revoke the animal's license and require its removal from town or take other action.
7. The Animal Control Officer or anyone designated by the Animal Control Board has the authority to enter upon private property for the purposes of carrying out the ordinance.

COUNTY STILL FORMULATING NEW APARTMENT LAW

"A lot of people are reading (the new accessory apartment law) a different way. The County Attorney's office is being asked for opinions. There is still no precedent."

So was the current muddle at the County level regarding implementation of the law summed up by a division chief of the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Office.

Melvin Tull, who heads the Code Enforcement and Home Improvement section, said his office encouraged people to apply regardless of whether they appeared to meet the law's restrictions because "if they want to try they need to apply while the Board still can use the waiver provision." Applications for special exceptions received before April 25 were eligible for possible waivers of lot size and "relationship of apartments to the main dwelling." The Council is considering extending this deadline to December 2.

"I don't see how a house built within the last five years could be eligible, however," he said. "I don't see how you can go to the Board of Appeals and make any excuse."

Mr. Tull said another reason his office encouraged people to apply was because "if they choose to stay hidden it may work for some period of time, but we will eventually catch them." He said he had no doubt some apartments would be eliminated but stressed that the law was adopted "not to eliminate apartments but to increase and improve the housing stock."

THANKS TO

Marie Hewitt, who collated last month's issue..

His office sent 27,000 letters in April to home owners who were selected by a computer bank because they owned property that was under the 7500 square foot requirement and might be eligible for the area waiver.

The Board of Appeals has not assigned dates for all the special exception hearings yet, according to Mr. Tull, who has heard that between 120-150 property owners have applied for one.

At the Glen Echo Town Council meeting of July 14 Councilwoman Nancy Long characterized the proposed extension of application deadline as "another example of slippage of adequate enforcement."

Resident Frank Corder said he thought it would "send a message that this is not really serious and give time for people to smuggle in additional apartments."

A motion by Councilwoman Long that the town oppose the time extension failed 3-1, with her vote the only one in favor.

The Town Council then voted to authorize Mayor Kuster to speak on behalf of the town at the County level in objecting to all apartments in houses with absentee owners. The vote was 3 in favor, with Councilman Odell abstaining.

---Carlotta Anderson



TRASH PICK-UP DEFICIENCIES CONCERN COUNCIL

By Frank Corder and Carlotta Anderson

Mayor Kuster met with two officials of the town's trash removal service last month to discuss missed pickups and un-scheduled collections.

Since then, the company, Montgomery County Refuse Company (MCRC), made a satisfactory end-of-July pick-up, according to the Mayor, and "I didn't see anything they didn't get." The end-of-the-month pick-up, which involves bulky or heavy items not taken on regular removal days, is scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month, but items had been left after the end of June.

A problem in the past, the Mayor said, was that "they didn't send the right kind of truck. You can't put large, non-compactible items on the regular truck.

At the July Town Council meeting the Mayor said the takeover of MCRC by another company, Waste Management, Inc., was a major factor in the service breakdown. Actually, the company has remained the same, but is under new ownership.

The Mayor also maintained that he has requested at least six special collections from MCRC which have not taken place. Special collections are intended for large accumulations of trash occasioned by such activities as remodeling. Under the town's contract, the hauler is obligated to make special collections for a fee of \$200, but the town may give its special pick-up business to any hauler.

---continued on page 10

Town Council Highlights

The Council voted unanimously to advertise for bids to undertake Phase II of the Master Plan for street maintenance, minus the option of applying slurry seal. The Council will continue to study the slurry seal option, including a "field trip" to sites in the area where slurry seal has been applied to extend the life of street surfaces

Councilman Shultz presented a proposal for the placement of speed signs throughout town. A request for a speed bump to be constructed on Oxford Road will also be considered by the Council

July 9

In response to the Council's concern that The Washington Post printed an announcement that the town would hold a July 4 picnic and fireworks, which were not discussed by the Council and did not take place, Mayor Kuster explained that the Post misquoted him on the fireworks and, although "I was going to have a picnic," an informal survey four days earlier convinced him that not enough residents were interested to hold it

Councilman Shultz presented a report on obstructed sidewalks in town involving 15 property owners

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW HOUSE AT
HARVARD AND UNIVERSITY
OUTLINED AT COUNCIL MEETING**

By Frank Corder

Cabin John resident Stephen Schultz, prospective purchaser of part of the Elizabeth Adams property at the intersection of University and Harvard Avenues, revealed his home construction plans at the July Town Council meeting.

Mr. Schultz told the Council that his contract to purchase two lots was contingent on issuance of a County building permit. He explained that the Montgomery County Planning Board has preliminarily approved his request to re-subdivide the two lots into a single 6,000 square foot parcel that would be potentially buildable.

Mr. Schultz, who stated that he and his wife grew up in the area, characterized the design of the house he hopes to build and occupy as in the "craftsman style." It would, he said, have cedar shingles, bays and some stained-glass windows. Other features contemplated, he told THE ECHO, are a small front porch, dormers, board-and-molded batten foyer paneling and a sidewalk of 200-year-old brick. Mr. Schultz pointed out that the architecture would be similar to a number of Glen Echo's older houses.

He indicated that his siting plan proposes a front setback that appears to be less than that prescribed in current development standards for the R-60 zone. Since the proposal may consequently require a variance, he sought to enlist the Council's support should this be a necessary precondition for receiving a County building permit.

--- continued on page 11

TRASH (from page 9)

The Council discussed whether the special-pick-up provision should be deleted from the trash removal contract and made the subject of a special agreement, but deferred a decision at the Council meeting, although the Mayor told THE ECHO that there would be a separate contract for special collections when the current contract expires on September 30.

One problem is that there are no detailed specifications for special collections in the existing contract, including what materials the contractor is obligated to remove or what the truck capacity should be. This makes it difficult to compare a hauler like MCRC, which charges \$200 a truckload, with another hauler, John Howe, who has been called in by the Mayor in the past few months, and makes several runs with a pick-up truck at a varying price.

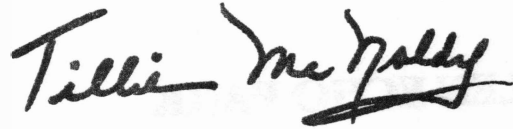
Councilman Shultz called for a "common denominator" in terms of which bids on special pick-ups could be accurately compared.

Councilwoman Debbie Beers will work on special pick-up specifications before the town advertises for bids for the new contract at the end of August.

If you did not get a copy of this month's ECHO or need an extra copy, you may obtain a leftover one at the Glen Echo Pharmacy. Just ask at the front cash register.



By



THE KEYHOLE

Due to an error on the part of my "informer," (I won't mention his name) the name Brenda, which was printed last month, was not the correct name for Betty and Billy Briggs' new granddaughter.

The B was correct, in fact I could have used 3 of them as the new daughter of Barbie and Buddy Briggs will be named Bridgette Brittany Briggs.

Sorry folks, don't ever tell Bridgette she almost had a different name!

* * * * *

It was goodbye to another old timer on August 1 when Ronnie Vine and son Freddy moved from their former home at 6010 Princeton Avenue to their new home in Centreville, Virginia.

Ronnie moved here with his parents in 1919, coming from Southampton, England, to Glen Echo, Maryland. At that time he was 10 years old. With his departure, it leaves Mac and me as the last old timers on Princeton Avenue. Since the 1940s there have been many different families moving in and out. Following us, I believe the young "old timer" would be George Borsari, who moved here in 1968.

Best wishes and much happiness in your new home. We will miss your contributions to the Echo. Who will take us walking the towpath?

* * * * *

BETHESDA SUBWAY SCHEDULED TO OPEN AUGUST 25

Five new subway stations connecting the Van Ness-UDC stop in Northwest Washington with the Capital Beltway are slated to open on August 25.

The five new stations are Tenleytown at Wisconsin Avenue and Albemarle Street N.W.; Friendship Heights at Wisconsin and Western Avenues; Bethesda at Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road; Medical Center at Rockville Pike and South Drive; and Grosvenor at Rockville Pike and Tuckerman Lane.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 13 - 8:00 p.m.

All residents encouraged to attend.

Agenda attached to this issue. Contact the Clerk-Treasurer if you wish to add an item to it.

Fall Term Begins At Writer's Center

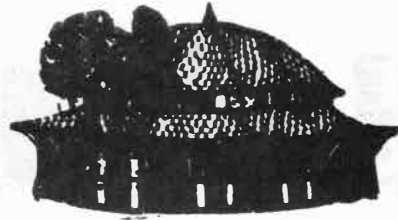
The Writer's Center announces its fall schedule for workshops in writing, word-processing, and type-setting.

For a brochure, call 229-0930.

NEW HOUSE (from page 10)

In an interview with THE ECHO, Mr. Schultz spoke of the importance of a "sociable, neighborly environment" in which he and his wife could bring up their year-old daughter. He said his decision to build a home here was based on the belief that Glen Echo could provide such an environment.

Mr. Schultz told THE ECHO that prior to the next Council meeting he plans to provide the Mayor and members of the Council with a dimensioned site plan showing house location, setbacks and the town's storm-drain easement, the latter requested by the Council. He said he also intended to include drawings of front and side elevations, and a brief narrative of the primary features of the proposed house.



At GLEN ECHO PARK

Upcoming Events

BIG BAND CONCERT

Sunday, August 12, 4-6 p.m.
Tom Cunningham 17-piece orchestra, co-sponsored with Louis Sherry Ice Cream. Free ice cream to the first 2500 people.

EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC DAY

Sunday, August 19, noon-6 p.m.
A series of concerts

CAROUSEL DAY

Sunday, August 26, noon-6 p.m.
Carousel also open 7-9:30 p.m.
Cost of 25¢ per ride goes to a Carousel Conservation Fund.
The Boarding Party, sea shanties, 1-3:30 p.m.; Punch & Judy, 2 p.m.; Appalachian Reign, bluegrass, 4-6 p.m.

14TH ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

September 1, 2, 3, noon-6 p.m.
The Rockville Concert Bank,
Sept. 3, 2-3 p.m.

"COOL AND THE CLONES"

Sunday, September 9, 2 p.m.

SPANISH DANCE CENTER

Sunday, September 16, 1 p.m., \$3

POET'S JAM

Saturday, September 15, 5-7 p.m.,
Garth Tate presents poetry

Adventure Theatre

Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp
August 18 - September 23

Saturdays & Sundays, 1:30 and 3:30
Tickets \$3. Call 320-5331

SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

August 12:
Two or More Company, 1 p.m., \$3
Joy of Motion, 2:30 p.m., free

At the GALLERY

CHATAUQUA SUMMER ARTISTS

August 3-September 4
Paula Daves, Hae Sook Cho, Diane Falcone, Gail Schlaifer and The Puppet Company.

WOODCUTS BY MAGDA FRENCH
September 7-October 2

ARTISTS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN 14TH ANNUAL GLEN ECHO ART SHOW

The show opens with a reception by invitation only Friday, August 31, and is open to the public for display and sale over the Labor Day weekend.

Artists and craftsmen are invited to enter their work. For an application, call 492-6282. There is no entry fee.

FALL CLASSES TO BEGIN SOON

Among the many new classes offered this fall are flamenco dancing, silkscreening, painting on silk and experimental enameling. Call 492-6282 for a brochure.



**AGENDA
COUNCIL MEETING**

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

MONDAY, 13 AUGUST 1984

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Status Report
 - (a) Accessory Apartments
 - (b) Playground

 - (c) Street and Sidewalk Repairs
4. Glen Echo Park Report - Long
5. Town Hall Use - Long
6. Town Hall Maintenance - Beers
7. Town Maintenance - Shultz
8. Maryland Municipal League - Kuster
9. Additions to the Agenda
 - (a)
 - (b)
 - (c)