

# The Echo

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



**FEBRUARY 1986**

## **TRAV'S INN SOLD; WILL BECOME RESTAURANT New Owners to Discuss Plans at Town Council Meeting**

By Carlotta Anderson

A group of three buyers purchased Trav's Inn on Tulane Avenue on January 24 for an amount reportedly more than \$300,000. They have obtained a beer and wine license and intend to convert it into a "family restaurant" as soon as remodeling is complete, according to former owner Lee Corcoran.

Mr. Corcoran said they outlined their preliminary plans at a Liquor Board hearing on January 8. The restaurant would use all three floors of the building, including a basement measuring approximately 25' x 40' and the upper floor, which has been used as living quarters, he said.

The new owners are Rick Maggin, who lives at 7314 University Avenue in Glen Echo, and two owners of Harvey Construction Co. in Rockville, according to Mr. Corcoran. Calls by this reporter to Joel Fernebok, owner of Harvey Construction Co., were not returned. Mr. Maggin was out of town, according to Mayor Kuster.

Mr. Corcoran said the new owners were looking into the possibilities of buying other properties around Trav's and

### **NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, February 10 -- 8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents encouraged to attend

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

---continued on page 3

FOR UPDATE ON NEW RESTAURANT SEE PAGE 12.

# The Echo

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## TOWN OFFICIALS

(Town Office: 320-4041)

### 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:

Edd Barrows 229-3193

Nancy Helmig 229-0893

Julie Milstien 229-9274

Jane Eldredge (alternate) 229-4110

## EXCERPTS FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT—December 1985

Rolling Acres (cleaning up leaves in streets)	\$500.00
Craig Paving Co. (repairing streets)	\$15,000.00
Economy Printing Service (printing <u>Echo</u> )	\$81.60

(Ed. - If there is sufficient interest expressed by town residents, the Editor will consider printing the Treasurer's Report in full in forthcoming issues.)

## TRAV'S TAVERN SOLD (from page 1)

turning the area into their corporate headquarters. He said they would be hiring someone currently in the restaurant business to run the restaurant.

Mayor Kuster has been in contact with the owners and said they had asked to be put on the agenda of the February 10 Town Council meeting in order to discuss their plans for the property. He said their company was one of the largest of its type in the area and is currently constructing an office building with restaurant behind People's Drug Store at the intersection of Arlington and Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda. It was Mayor Kuster's understanding that the restaurant projected for Glen Echo would be French country style, to be managed by the manager of La Miche restaurant in Bethesda.

One of the landmarks of Glen Echo, Trav's has been in business as a tavern since 1933, Mr. Corcoran said. The original owner was named Daly. Around the mid-1940s, it was taken over by Otto Komfort, renamed Otto's and run by him until 1964. It was called Trav's from that date until 1982, during the period it was owned by Benjamin Travis Butler. Mr. Corcoran and his partner, Bob Butler, have run it since.

Mr. Corcoran said he has enjoyed knowing the people of Glen Echo and Cabin John, "but I guess all good things must come to an end." He said he sold the tavern for more than he paid for it, but it "wasn't any pot of gold."

## TOWN HALL USERS ABUSING PRIVILEGE

By Gloria Levin

The Council discussed problems arising from the utilization of the Town Hall for private functions at its January meeting. Many users are ignoring rules requiring them to return the Town Hall to its prior condition of cleanliness and order.

Clerk-Treasurer Lois Carroll indicated that Town residents are frequently the worst offenders, especially when hosting children's parties. After a recent party by a resident, the Town needed to spend \$50 for the cleaning of the site. (Ed.--Town residents may use the Town Hall for private parties without fee, but are expected to clean up afterwards.)

The Clerk-Treasurer also complained that Town residents frequently do not return the Town Hall keys without constant calls from her. The Council also was informed that a mirror was broken in the men's bathroom after a recent party there.

The Council considered raising the rental fee, which could include a standard charge for cleaning performed by Town employees, charging Town residents security and key deposits, and assessing penalties or refusing future use to past abusers.

Nancy Long will consider these concerns and make recommendations to the Council at its next meeting.

## CONDEMNATION REQUIRED FOR NEW BUS STOP

By Harry Odell

Plans for a new Glen Echo bus stop, as outlined in the March 1985 Echo have been postponed indefinitely.

According to officials of the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, the D. C. Transit Company (popularly known as "O. Roy Chalk") has refused to grant a right of way over its property along MacArthur Boulevard, just south of the entrance to Oxford Road. These officials said the County was preparing to institute legal condemnation proceedings against D. C. Transit, but they declined to guess how long this might take.

[At the January Town Council meeting, the Mayor noted that the Town (as well as the Park) also has condemnation rights. The Clerk-Treasurer informed the Council that O. Roy Chalk is delinquent in paying this year's taxes to the Town.]

## MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES TO START WORK SOON

Two applicants for the town maintenance position were interviewed recently. Originally from North Carolina, they ran the Christmas tree lot at the Cabin John Bridge recently and donated a live tree for the Town's Holiday party.

They are employed part-time and propose to rotate the 30 hours of weekly Town maintenance work between them. They appear to have many skills which would be put to good use in the Town, the Mayor told the Council.

The Council approved the Mayor's plan to employ them on a trial basis.

## RESIDENT SAVING THE WHALES

By Carlotta Anderson

"Would you be willing to 'put your name on the line' to save the whales?" the fund-raising letter asked. It was signed by Michael L. Frankel and when I checked it was indeed the Glen Echoan who lives at 10 Wellesley Circle and sometimes reports for The Echo.

Michael, it turns out, is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center for Environmental Education (CEE) as well as working as an engineer for Centaur Associates. He calls the former his pro bono activity and said that through sailing he became interested in the ocean and preserving the great whales. CEE is a marine mammal conservation organization.

He is currently raising money to pay for an advertisement that will appear as a full-page ad in The Washington Times on February 28. In the form of an open letter to the President and Congress, it will ask them to stop the Justice Department's attempts to allow whale killing by the Japanese to continue and to direct the Secretary of Commerce to enforce U. S. law by denying Japan access to our waters to take our fish.

The International Whaling Commission voted to stop all whaling by the end of 1985 and Congress supported this stand by legislation. But, according to Michael, the current Administration "has made a deal to allow Japan to continue killing whales until 1988 and agreed not to impose punitive sanctions" although these are required by U. S. law.

In his letter, he asks supporters of environmental and conservation causes to join him in signing the letter, and, if possible, to send a contribution to CEE. Its phone number is 737-3600.

## QUESTIONNAIRES FOR RESIDENTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED NEXT MONTH

By Jim Anderson

The Town Governance Committee held its third working meeting on January 14 and completed a rough draft of a questionnaire which will be distributed to town residents so they can express their views directly about what they like about the town and what they would like to see changed.

The seven-person committee has had an astounding record of attendance and cooperative participation. Every member has attended every session since November and the expected and feared fireworks have not developed. The committee includes people who believe the Town government should disappear and people who believe that the government is the only thing that stands between us and the high-rises.

The members, under the chairmanship of Jim Horwitz, put together a 21-question draft which will deal with basic issues such as "Should there be a Town government?" to less fundamental ones of what the residents think of the animal control laws and their enforcement.

Once completed, probably at the next meeting, the questionnaires will be taken around town by members of the committee and explained to residents.

The results will be analyzed and presented to the Town Council, which, alone, has the power to act on the feelings expressed.

Mayor Fred Kuster attended the January meeting, but did not take part, except to answer questions. In addition to Horwitz, the committee includes: Julie Milstien, Jim Anderson, Anne Lewis, Bea Smith, Rene Springuel and Jane Eldredge.

## RESIDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT LANDSCAPING BUSINESS

Town residents brought to the Council's attention at its January meeting increasing problems caused by the use of two properties by the Shimizu landscaping business. These lots are in constant use as storage sites, involving daily movement of trees and other materials in and out of town.

Specific complaints included employees dumping large quantities of dirt in the street and on the sidewalk and an incident in which an employee parked a truck diagonally across University Avenue in order to unload a truckload of dirt, totally blocking through traffic.

The Council voiced concern over the operation of an unauthorized business and its (negative) impact on town life. Mayor Kuster will discuss these problems with Mr. Shimizu.

---Gloria Levin



## Town Gives Park Money for Playground

The Town turned over to the Park Service in December \$2,000 which it had collected for landscaping work on the playground at Glen Echo Park. The amount was raised through donations and a Town flea market.

The Town will be reimbursed by the State for 75 per cent of this amount under the Open Space Program, according to Mayor Kuster.



A formal welcome to Steve and Margaret Schultz, who have been part-time residents of Glen Echo for a year, but actually moved into their new home at 6100 Harvard Avenue in December.

Steve was a familiar sight to residents as he constructed the shingle-style Victorian-type house, which he also designed. A carpenter by profession, Steve was involved in almost every aspect of the building, from framing and masonry to laying antique fir floors made of 100-year-old pieces.

It took twice as long as expected and cost considerably more. "I went to great extremes to make everything handcrafted and individually designed," he explains, but forgot that in the era he was imitating labor was very cheap. He "wouldn't recommend it to anyone," he says, in talking of the "agony" and "strenuous work." He has worked almost exclusively on the house since last March.

He did enjoy, however, the opportunity to meet "an enormous amount of people" who stopped to chat with him during his labors.

Steve's other interests are music (classical mandolin, old-time banjo, lute guitar), vegetable gardening, and, in the future, blacksmithing.

Margaret, who holds an M.A. degree in art, is a painter in acrylics. She also does work in children's day care.

Mary Tweedie, who moved to 6004 Bryn Mawr Avenue in September, felt when she first saw Glen Echo that she had "gone back in time." She says she described it to her mother as "the land that was." She finds the residents very friendly and says everyone seems happy in the town.

Mary is an independent landscape designer and contractor. She prefers to work on individual residences.

She grew up in D. C., likes to spend weekends at a cabin in West Virginia which she built and calls "my getaway." She lives with a Golden Retriever named Greta.

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### Classified Ads

WRITER seeks small house or 2 bedroom apt. to rent beginning May or June. Responsible, refs., non-smoker, good tenant. Call 540-0373.

\* \* \* \* \*

TYPING SERVICES, Business. Legal. Academic. Personal. Reasonable rates. Call Jennifer 229-9121.

\* \* \* \* \*

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and may be left in The Echo box at the Post Office, or given to Carolyn Repstik. PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THEM TO THE EDITOR. Fee to non-residents: \$.50 per line to 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads are \$2 per column inch. Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo" and mail them to Carolyn Repstik, 7309 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. AD DEADLINE: 24th OF EACH MONTH.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who is minding the store in Glen Echo?

Who has a handle on how our tax dollars are spent?

Accountability and frugal spending of our tax dollars is a responsibility of our elected officials. Questioning expenditures after the fact is ludicrous and irresponsible. Better safeguards are needed before the fact.

Expenditures incurred for social functions at the town hall should be the responsibility of participants:

Alcoholic beverages, set-ups and food-stuff should be provided from a cash bar.

Purchases of children's toys should be a responsibility of participating parents.

Tax dollars are now being spent to clean the town hall following use by residents. A remedy for this should be a requirement of an adequate deposit at time reservation is made.

An \$1800 bill for 12 paint brushes and paint only came to light at the January Council meeting when the Acting Post Mistress asked the Council to complete the interior painting of the Post Office that was started in 1985. Labor cost for three different crews of painters is not known, nor the cost of a Post Office stepladder that "walked" away.

Hear! Hear! There will now be further cries to hire a Town Manager. In this area, it is doubtful that one would be available for under \$50,000. Since the bulk of income used to run the Town government is derived from owners' property taxes, there would have to be a quantum jump in these taxes to support a Town Manager.

We strongly support immediate action be taken by our elected officials to stop abuses occurring with our tax dollars, and we highly recommend that an itemized statement of all expenditures be delivered along with the agenda each month.

January 18, 1986

Bertha Smith  
Irene Talbott  
Dorothy B. Saunders  
Lottie Varrella  
Rebecca F. Dennis  
Geo. F. Dennis  
Caroline Reptsik

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

This letter is in response to the one submitted by Bertha Smith and her friends.

First, the Mayor and Town Council are responsible for the spending of tax dollars as outlined in the Town Charter where the entire process is explained in writing. If Ms. Smith and company do not have a copy, I will be glad to provide them with one.

Second, it should be pointed out that the elected officials referred to in their letter serve this town without any compensation and do so at considerable cost of their time with their jobs and families. These volunteer efforts apparently go unnoticed by Ms. Smith and company.

Third, it appears by the tone of their letter that these residents are in favor of doing away with Town recreational activities, such as the Hallowe'en and Holiday parties, both of which supply much happiness and cheer to the children of our Town.

Fourth, the comments about the \$1800 bill for the Post Office was explained at the Town Council meeting, a fact Ms. Smith and friends decided not to put in their letter.

Fifth, the question of whether this Town needs a town manager will be discussed and decided in the proper place and time in a public meeting at the Town Hall. It will not be decided by a letter to the editor from Ms. Smith and friends.

Finally, in reviewing the list of people who signed the letter to the editor, I note that most do not attend Town Council meetings. It is at this open forum that these matters should be addressed and not by this attempted harassment of public officials in the newspaper.

Frederick J. Kuster  
Mayor

(Ed.--The \$1800 expenditure apparently includes labor and supplies for painting the interior of the Post Office.)

## Town Council Highlights

January 13

The town has received no official word of the proposal to use Glen Echo Park's Oxford Road parking lot for employees of the Defense Mapping Agency...

Councilwoman Long pointed out that the survey being undertaken by the Park of its boundaries is likely to address the long-disputed issue of who owns and is responsible for Oxford Road...

Julie Milstien submitted her resignation as Chairman of the Animal Control Board in person. She will be moving from Glen Echo. She reported that Nancy Helmig would assume the Board chairmanship and (current alternate) Jane Eldredge will become a member. This leaves a vacancy for an alternate. The Mayor and Council gave a hearty thank you to Julie for her faithful service on the Board and to the Town...

The status of the appeal for an accessory apartment at 36 Wellesley Circle was questioned in view of the continued posting of the County sign. The town attorney later indicated that no appeal of the judge's reversal of permission for such an apartment had been filed...

Council members were encouraged to attend the annual dinner and meeting with State Delegates of the Maryland Municipal League on January 28. In reply to an inquiry from the Echo reporter, it was learned that Council members attending this function pay the \$25 out of their own pockets, in addition to travel costs. After discussion and prompting by this reporter, the Council voted

2-1-1 to reimburse Council members and the Mayor the \$25 ticket price. The two members unable to attend this year's dinner (Shultz and Beers) voted in favor; Nancy Long, who does expect to attend, voted against; Harry Odell abstained.

---Gloria Levin

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## Problems at the Post Office

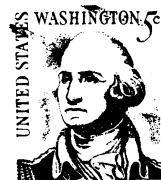
Officials of the Post Office visited the Council chambers before the January meeting began, complaining of uncompleted painting work.

Later, the Council discussed problems related to this tenancy and possible solutions--including negotiating a new leasing arrangement with the current tenant or considering other uses for the post office area of the Town Hall in 1987 when the current lease expires.

The new Postmaster will not be a Town resident, although procedures call for a Postmaster to be or become a resident of that ZIP code area. According to the Post Office officials, no residents of Glen Echo applied for the position.

Council members noted that the Post Office could have announced in The Echo the availability of this position.

---Gloria Levin



## Street Work Update

Councilman Shultz walked through town with the engineering consultants last month to assess areas requiring repair.

He noted erosion in the sidewalk area from Cornell to University; this may need the application of hot asphalt in places. There was need for more crack sealing than had been anticipated before the walk around town. The landing off MacArthur Blvd. at Bryn Mawr is starting to come up in chunks.

The engineer was asked by Councilman Shultz to present for the Council's consideration at its February meeting a variety of strategies for balancing needs between future street maintenance and capital expenses, phased over a five year period.

---Gloria Levin

## Short Takes

The Town was scheduled to be represented at a February 6 hearing before the County Board of Appeals at which the owners of 6006 Bryn Mawr Avenue will claim that there is no separate apartment in the dwelling. The County's Division of Code Enforcement has ruled that they must dismantle an accessory apartment there.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Town will have to abide by the County's new noise ordinance, according to Mayor Kuster. The new law changes the hours when construction may take place and lets a police officer issue a ticket without having to measure the noise level scientifically.



## Town Seeks Projects For Open Space Funds

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission is soliciting a plan and proposal from the Town for open space initiatives. A long list of possible activities would qualify for funding.

The Council discussed the relative merits of clearing the overgrowth of trees and setting up picnic tables and benches in the area between MacArthur Blvd. and the town, as well as acquiring from O. Roy Chalk the right-of-way.

The Council decided to delegate to the not-yet-formed Open Space Committee responsibility for identifying project ideas for the Council's consideration.

Appointment of the Committee awaits adoption of the new Open Space Ordinance by the Town, which will probably take place at the February meeting.

---Gloria Levin

## Animal Control News

Letters were sent last month to three residents whose pets are still not licensed, despite the requirement that this be done by July 1.

Two residents had not responded by Echo press time; the third, resident at 6006 Bryn Mawr Avenue, sent an anonymous letter to the Animal Control Board, according to its chairman, Nancy Helmig. The letter stated that the resident would not pay the fee at this time because the town was trying to revoke the lease "and consequently my domicile in Glen Echo." (See "Short Takes," this page.)

# THE KEYHOLE

## At GLEN ECHO PARK

### Fiber Workshops

"Painting on Silk" - Mar. 16,  
10-4

"Natural Appalachian Key Basket,  
Mar. 22, 9:30-5:30

For more information, please call  
the park at 492-6282.

### Puppet Classes

Saturdays, 10-12, Mar. 1-22, for  
ages 6-12. \$11 per class. For  
information call 492-6282.

## At the GALLERY

"Mothers and Daughters"--a  
photograph exhibit by Karen  
Keating, Feb. 21-Mar. 16.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Montgomery Potters" -- a show  
of local works in clay, Mar.  
21-May 4.

## Adventure Theatre

Dick Whittington and His Cat,  
Jan. 18-Feb. 23, Sat. & Sun.,  
1:30 and 3:30.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Road to the Emerald City of  
Oz, Mar. 8-Apr. 13, Sat. & Sun.,  
1:30 and 3:30.

Tickets \$4. Call 320-5331.

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## At the CLARA BARTON SITE

"Victorian Piano Music"  
Sunday, Feb. 23, 1-5 p.m.

Songs popular during the  
turn-of-the century will be  
played for visitors as they  
tour the house.

After the usual round of  
holiday parties, the entertain-  
ing of relatives and friends and  
the taking down of all the dec-  
orations, life in Glen Echo is  
returning to normalcy.

To start off the New Year,  
Debbie and Ron Beers of 29  
Wellesley Circle presented the  
Town with its first new resident  
for 1986. Michael Beers made  
his debut at Georgetown Hospital  
on Friday, January 17th at 9:21  
A.M. and "weighed in" at 9 lbs.  
9 oz. Thrilled at having a baby  
brother were his two sisters  
Laura and Emily who anxiously  
awaited an introduction to their  
future playmate.


Congratulations to the  
happy family!

\* \* \* \* \*

On a less joyful note we  
must report that Elsie Alban of  
6104 Bryn Mawr Avenue is a  
patient at Sibley Memorial Hospi-  
tal where she was taken after  
suffering a stroke in December.

Our sincere wishes for a  
healthy recovery, Elsie. You  
are not only missed at home by  
son Paul and sister-in-law Irma  
who came from Buffalo, New York,  
to "lend a hand," but by the  
entire UNO gang who look forward  
to your return.

\* \* \* \* \*



7687 MacArthur Boulevard  
Cabin John, MD 20818  
301-229-3141

George Petrides, Owner

Feeders and seed for America's fastest growing hobby.

LATE NEWS: UPDATE ON PLANS FOR RESTAURANT TO REPLACE TRAV'S

The old tavern is gone forever, but its famous chili lives on!

The recipe for Trav's chili was part of the contract for sale of the property, according to Alex Stylos, who will manage the new restaurant at the site. Other than that, the former "beer hall stigma" will be erased, he said, in favor of an American deli one. The bar has been torn out, and only some old booths will remain, though "polished up."

"We intend to make it a really nice, affordable place," Stylos said. The former tavern area will offer deli food, pasta salads, and desserts to eat there or take out, along with beer and wine. It will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. so that "people can get coffee and Danish on their way to work."

There will be a dining room in the former storage area next to the tavern, with a reservation waiting area between the two, according to Stylos. The basement will also be turned into a dining area. Dinner entrees will be \$5-10; lunch entrees \$4-7. There will be a small private banquet area upstairs.

Stylos estimates it will take six to seven weeks "to get it right," with opening anticipated for April. There will be a new ceiling, new floor, new kitchen equipment, with a "totally different look." The parking will be upgraded as much as possible, Stylos said.

Stylos, who has been hired by Harvey Construction Co. to manage the restaurant, which might be called "Glen Echo Station, is a graduate of the University of Virginia, who majored in history and business. He was a high school history teacher in Spottsylvania, Va., and has been in the restaurant business previously, he said.

REMEMBER TO SHOVEL SIDEWALKS

Glen Echo had a snowfall of some significance on January 29 and 17 people shoveled the sidewalks in front of their property, as required by town ordinances. That left a lot who didn't.

Most of the good citizens were old-timers in town, but two on Wellesley Circle have only lived in town a short time.

