

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



MAY 1986

Glen Echo Park May Be Leased To Pay For Upkeep

By Julia Anderson

The National Park Service is facing the possibility that Glen Echo Park will have to be commercially leased or otherwise privately funded in the future. The move would result from cuts required by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act as well as the Park's decaying condition and financial straits.

The idea, according to the Park's acting site manager, Claudia Galagan, is to have "private sector money put into the rehabilitation and preservation of the buildings" and still emphasize activities that cater to the public. Ideally, the Park Service would like to accept one proposal for the entire park instead of separate proposals for different buildings or sections, she said. The plan now is to run an advertisement requesting proposals for the management and reconstruction of the Park in the Commerce Business Daily for sixty days.

Interest has already been expressed by the Oliver T. Carr Company and other developers in Washington, and some of the artists involved with the Park have reportedly approached developers privately.

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Town May Allow New Restaurant To Block Off Street For Parking

By Carlotta Anderson

Mayor Kuster has discussed with the new owners of the former Trav's tavern letting them close off a nearby street for valet parking in the evening. Their request to lease a plot of town land in the vicinity for restaurant parking was turned down by the Town Council in March.

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PARK MAY BE LEASED (from page 1)

There is also the possibility that Town Councilwoman Nancy Long, Mayor Fred Kuster, and town property owner Frank Corder will form a non-profit foundation to raise the needed money. The plans for this project are still in the formative stage, with Town Attorney Tom Craven working on the documents. Councilwoman Long said that the funds would come mainly from other non-profit foundations and the private sector and in part from membership dues.

Some \$5 to \$10 million will be required to rehabilitate the Park, according to John Byrne, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which includes jurisdiction over Glen Echo Park land.

If President Reagan's budget proposal for the next fiscal year is approved, and the Park gets at least \$2.5 million, which is what Byrne calls the "bare bones" necessary to keep it useable, the Park Service may try to continue management. Even so, the Park Service has already written a "management facilities program" that specifies that the yurt village and the "Hall of Mirrors," in which the studios for the Glen Echo Dance Theater are located, would be removed because they are "intrusions architecturally in the historic district," according to Ms. Galagan.

If the President's budget is not approved, the Park will have to be leased commercially, Mr. Byrne surmises. If no acceptable proposal results from the advertising, the Park Service has the alternative of a "holding action," such as putting props under buildings and patching roofs until another solution can be reached.

Mr. Byrne said that every effort would be made to retain the historical integrity of the Park. He would prefer a plan that insures that the carousel and the Chataqua tower remain where and

Minister Explains Why Church Offers Refuge To Needy

The pastor of the Glen Echo Baptist Church expressed regret, in a letter to the Mayor and Council, if the offering of shelter to needy people in the church annex at Harvard and University Avenue has "caused apprehension." Apparently several people have objected to the practice.

Rev. David L. Cole said the church was seeking "to meet needs that the County and the Federal Government were not meeting."

He said the church seeks to be a very temporary help" to the destitute and homeless and that he is "not aware that they have inflicted any harm to anyone during the years we have been seeking to serve our area." There is no desire, he said, to publicize the help or "be obnoxious to our friends and neighbors."

He said the Church, which has been in the area for almost 50 years, is attempting to follow the teachings of Jesus "to love your neighbor as your self."

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as they are now. If the Park is eligible under the Federal government's Historic Leasing Act, there would be economic incentive in the form of special tax benefits to continue management of the property with regard for its historical context.

Mr. Byrne hopes the Park Service will be well along with the advertising within a year, and is "anxious to see what reactions it will get from the public."

When asked if he plans to attend a Town Council meeting to discuss the plans, he answered that he hadn't yet been invited to one, but that the Town is "fully informed." "The Town is a very important part in what we plan to do," Supt. Byrne said.

The Mayors of Glen Echo, Maryland 1904-1986

By J. Manuel Espinosa

Presented below is a complete list of the mayors of the Town of Glen Echo, beginning with the first mayor, elected on May 2, 1904. The dates of each term of office, and the names of the incumbents are recorded in the official minutes of the Town Council of Glen Echo. A complete file of the minutes, from 1904 to the present, has been faithfully preserved in the archives of the Town of Glen Echo, in the Town Hall. These archives are now in the process of being inventoried and organized by me, at the request of the Mayor and Town Council. Shortly after my recent appointment as Town Historian I uncovered among some old ledgers the minutes of the Town Council for the years 1904-1926, which apparently had been last seen by the Town Clerk who filed them away in the 1960s. The information in these minutes enabled me to confirm the names and dates of office of the mayors who served during the Town's first twenty-two years of existence.

As will be noted in the list of mayors, their terms of office have been varied in length due to varied and unpredicted circumstances: reelection, resignation, the death of an incumbent, and selection by the Town Council to complete a term of office left vacant by an incumbent before completion of his term. Under the Town's first charter of 1904, the term of office of the Mayor was for two years; and for the four member Town Council, two were elected for a term of two years and two for one year. More recently the charter was revised establishing a four year term of office for both the Mayor and the members of the Town Council.

Although biographic information on the mayors of Glen Echo has not been systematically collected, a fair amount may be gleaned from issues of The Echo, the town newspaper, for the period since the 1940s.* For the earlier period, such information is sparse. Older residents of Glen Echo, former residents, or relatives who may have additional information on this and other aspects of the Town's background would be performing a great service to the Town's efforts to preserve its history if they would send such information to: J. Manuel Espinosa, 13 Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, Maryland 20812, for inclusion in the Town Archives.

I would like to suggest to the Mayor and Town Council of Glen Echo that it would be most appropriate to hang a plaque in a prominent place in the Town Hall listing the names of the mayors who have served and their terms of office.

*Publication of The Echo began in 1948. It was discontinued in the fall of 1950, resumed publication from the fall of 1959 to mid-1960, and was again discontinued from that time until the spring of 1974. It has been published continuously since then on a monthly basis.

Classified Ads

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.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 12 -- 8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents encouraged to attend

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

COUNCIL ADOPTS OPEN SPACE LAW; REJECTS RESIDENT'S MODIFICATIONS

By Michael Frankel

Resident Don Dworsky presented his suggested changes to the proposed "Open Space" Ordinance at the April 14 Town Council meeting, but the Council decided to keep the original wording.

In a letter circulated among Council members, Mr. Dworsky suggested amending Section 5.5, "Duties and Responsibilities," to include "identifying amenity resources of Glen Echo," including an inventory of trees, open spaces, recreational areas, traffic patterns, as well as historic buildings, scenic views, and vistas.

The amending language was discussed and rejected in favor of the original draft. The Council unanimously adopted the ordinance, which provides an Open Space Committee to produce a plan for the upkeep of town trees. It also contains provisions requiring weed control on private property as well as the necessity to give the Council 60 days notice before removing or topping any large trees which might be considered an aesthetic asset to the town.

Elsie M. Alban

Elsie M. Alban, retired dental assistant and homemaker, died Saturday, April 12 at University Nursing Home.

Born and educated in Buffalo, New York, Mrs. Alban came to Glen Echo in 1917. She was married to Julian N. Alban, whose family came to Glen Echo in 1913. He died in 1959.

Mrs. Alban devoted many years to civic duties. She served as a girl scout leader, member of the PTA at the former Glen Echo-Cabin John School, was a member of the Homemakers' Club, active in the American Legion Auxilliary, a member of the Pilgrim Luthern Church auxilliary, and, during World War II, an ambulance driver for the Glen Echo Fire Department.

Mrs. Alban is survived by a daughter, June Winkels, of Seattle, Washington, and a son, Paul H., of 6104 Bryn Mawr Avenue, with whom she lived.

Mrs. Alban was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on April 16.

Welcome Neighbor

APPEALS BOARD PUTS OFF DECISION ON TWO FAMILY HOUSE IN TOWN

Francis and Carolyn Grant-Suttie had long had their eye on a place in Glen Echo and so were delighted when 41 Wellesley Circle came on the market. They moved in in March from their previous residence in the Glen Mar community off Massachusetts Avenue, along with their Golden Retriever, Jackson. This brought to five the number of Golden in a nine-house section of Wellesley Circle.

Francis, who manages corporate relations for the American Enterprise Institute, spent his early childhood in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and went to boarding school in England after his parents moved to the U.S. He later attended Landon School and studied International Affairs and History at Duke University.

Carolyn, who works for Sovran Bank in Northern Virginia, attended National Cathedral School in Washington and majored in English at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

They both like to play tennis and run and are very interested in participating in town affairs. They began their involvement by agreeing to serve as the new assistant editors of The Echo, replacing Julie Barrows, who is moving from town.

The Montgomery County Board of Appeals heard a special exception request to have a two-family house at 6006 Bryn Mawr Avenue on April 17, but could not make a decision because only three members of the Board were present. Under R-60 zoning, a special exception is required for a house to have two separate dwelling units.

The case was taken under advisement, with a decision expected in May, according to Mayor Kuster. He testified in opposition to the request, along with Councilwoman Nancy Long and resident Nancy Helmig. The town attorney was also present, and made a closing argument.

Co-owner of the property, Tina G. Manatos, admitted there were already five persons living in the house, with six cars. She claimed she was being persecuted by the Town, the Mayor reported.

The Town's position was that parking on the narrow block was already a problem, with the cars spilling onto University Avenue, where Nancy Helmig resides. "If they had a double house (two dwelling units with the owner not resident), they could have up to 10 living there," the Mayor said. He said the house across the street also has four or five people with cars living in it.

