

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



December 1987

BUS STOP INSPECTION PLANNED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

By Bonnie Whyte

County Executive Sidney Kramer is taking a personal interest in the Glen Echo bus stop. He plans to make a short inspection of the location and area the second week of December in response to a letter from the Bannockburn Civic Association.

County Transportation Director Robert J. McGarry and Ed Daniels of his staff briefed Mr. Kramer on the situation in mid-October. Mr. McGarry had told Bannockburn that he planned to make a decision by late November. But Mr. Kramer decided to check out the situation himself rather than make a decision based on the various staff plans.

The transportation department hopes for an answer from the county executive by late December so something could be done quickly or during the spring if major construction is necessary.

As the weather deteriorates, bus riders are again concerned for their safety when stepping off into unimproved mud. Many think it is an accident waiting to happen. Riders would like a bus shelter, schedule signs, and a basic place on which to stand and wait.

---continued on page 2

PLANNING COMMISSION WONDERS IF TOWN WANTS HISTORIC STATUS

By Michael Frankel

Does Glen Echo want to be designated a historic district? The question was raised at last month's Town Council meeting by Denise Boswell of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Bobbi Hahn, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission.

---continued on page 3

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 \$10 per year. Copies of *The Echo* are on file at the Little Falls and Rockville Libraries.

Editor: Carlotta Anderson
229-3748

Assistant Editor: Bonnie Whyte

Reporters: Micheal Frankel
Michelle Corder
Jim Anderson
Tillie McNoldy

Typist: Jennifer Hoppel

Headlines: Ruth Laughlin

Mail Subscriptions: Tilly McNoldy

Distribution: Brockie Stevenson
Jan Shaut
Barbara Odell
Dorrit Green, Justin & Christoffer Rodemeyer

Deadline for the next issue: December 22

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

Published mid-monthly

Circulation 190

Printed by Sir Speedy Printing, Bethesda.

TOWN OFFICIALS

Town Office: 320-4041

Office Hours: Monday, 9-1; Saturday, 8-11.30

MAYOR

Fred Kuster 229-2070

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Long 334-2865 or 229-0196

Harry Odell 229-4494

Bill Shultz 229-1269

Renny Springuel 320-2699

CLERK TREASURER

Peter Godfrey 229-7075

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Barbara McCoy 320-4322

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Jane Eldredge 229-4110

Mary Masulla 229-6521

BUS STOP PLANS (from page 1)

Exxon is concerned about its potential liability, since pedestrians cut through the station. Donald Dawson, owner of the adjoining property, is not pleased with a bus waiting area on his land and has posted "No Trespassing" signs.

Various proposals have been floated. They range from volunteer "guerilla" action to pour concrete at the present stop, to moving the bus stop to the truck access road and taking over National Park property to widen, reinforce and change the traffic pattern on

MacArthur Boulevard. Somewhere in the middle is a plan to put in sidewalks, with the county buying property via "eminent domain" (proposed several years ago).

According to Ed Daniels, the transportation department is interested in any good ideas, particularly from the town, as to what should be done. The Glen Echo Town Council has opposed the plan to use park land and build up MacArthur Boulevard as an over-engineered and expensive solution. Mayor Fred Kuster intends to talk with Mr. Kramer before his visit to the area.

Next Town Council Meeting

Monday, December 14--8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the Mayor if you want to add an item to the agenda.

HISTORIC STATUS (from page 1)

The query was tied to a review and update of the Master Plan for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area, which was prepared in 1970. For the past nine months, the staff of the planning commission has been meeting with citizens in the area to help shape the Master Plan revisions.

If the town were named a historic district, Ms. Hahn explained, every structure in Glen Echo would be regulated. A Historic Area Work Permit would be required for a new building or exterior alteration, or for any change in the environmental setting.

No permanent signs could be erected within the town and the removal of live trees would have to be approved, according to the commission's guidelines. However, interior work and routine outside maintenance would not require a work permit.

A local advisory committee would be established to review all work permit requests before their submission to the planning commission, she said.

On the plus side, Ms. Hahn said, some funds would be available for restoration work as well as low interest loans for approved restoration projects.

In addition, the county provides a 10 percent property tax credit for the total cost of approved restoration work and the state allows an income tax deduction

TREE DECORATORS SOUGHT

Decorating of the tree outside the Town Hall will take place at 3 pm on December 13 prior to the annual town Holiday Party.

The Social Affairs Committee is asking anyone interested in helping to please come at that time.

We are also asking for donations of outside ornaments for the tree. If you cannot come at 3 pm on the 13th, please feel free to place your ornaments on the tree after that time. All donated ornaments will be greatly appreciated.

Social Affairs Committee



for all approved restoration work, both exterior and interior.

Responding to inquiries from Councilman Bill Shultz, Ms. Hahn said that historic designation does not alter the real estate tax value, and that the historic designation guidelines could be used to limit density and thus help control traffic problems.

The major benefit of historic status, she said, is to give the community more control than is available in the normal zoning process, something similar to an architectural review board.

She recommended that the Council talk to other communities in the area that have opted for the historic district designation.

The mayor said that this topic will be brought up at the December council meeting.



Neighbors Preparing House For Return of Resident

By Jim Anderson and Tillie McNoldy

In the month of June, Alberta Bartkus, 73, of University Avenue was making her monthly rounds as a volunteer "paper-boy" for The Echo, delivering copies of the paper to much of the town, something she had been doing for eight years.

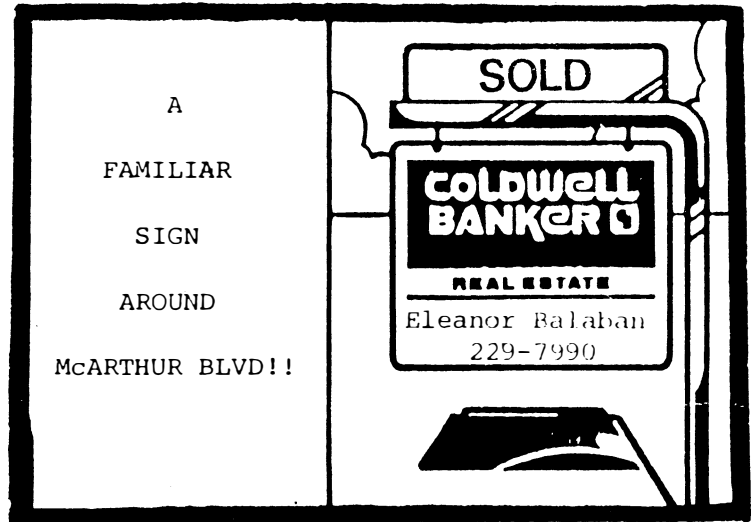
Four months later, she was in Sibley Hospital, where her lower left leg was amputated because of complications arising from an unsuspected diabetic condition.

She is currently a patient at the National Rehabilitation Center, where she is being given physical and occupational therapy, preparing for her return to Glen Echo, hopefully by Christmas.

During her convalescence, some friends and neighbors, including Caroline Reptsik, Maxine Canada, Lois Carroll, Fred and Daryl Kuster and Tillie McNoldy--have been at work in her house at 7311 University Avenue to make it easier for Alberta when she returns home with her new artificial limb.

Alberta was born in Harrisburg, Pa., where she grew up. She married Steve Bartkus in 1940 and moved to the Washington area in 1945, where her husband was a senior non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

In September 1955 they moved to Glen Echo to a home on Princeton Ave., and then, in 1959, to the attractive frame house where she now lives. Alberta worked in the U.S. Army Map Depot cafeteria for 14 years, and then for Giant Foods for 17 years. She has been a widow since January 1979.



NEW PUBLICATION DATE

Because of a second price increase in a year by Economy Printing, which has printed The Echo for the past ten years and given loyal service, we reluctantly felt forced to change printers.

Because our new printer, Sir Speedy, is located nearby and can give us one day service, the time required for printing has been reduced from eight days to one. As a result, we decided, with the Town Council's approval, to issue The Echo one week earlier than formerly.

Instead of being distributed the weekend before the Town Council meeting, The Echo will now come out two weekends in advance. This will give readers an earlier report on the previous month's council meeting and will bring the publication date nearer to the first of the month.

We hope readers will be happy to get the news earlier and will appreciate having more time to prepare any presentations they wish to make at the next council meeting.

Carlotta Anderson, Editor
Bonnie Whyte, Asst. Editor

TOWN HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 13

The annual Glen Echo town holiday party is scheduled for December 13 at 5 pm at the Town Hall.

The party will begin with the decorating of the inside tree; then the children will prepare their songs for Santa.

Dinner will be at 6 pm, with Santa scheduled to arrive around 7 pm.

This year we will not have the use of tables and plates as in the past. The Social Affairs Committee is therefore asking those people in town who have card tables or folding tables available for use at the party to please call Kathy Godfrey at 229-7075.

This year's dinner will again be pot luck. We are asking that a copy of the recipe accompany your special dish (food, not spouse or date). We are hopeful to have some printed in subsequent issues of The Echo.

We are again hopeful that not only will the dishes be dressed their finest, but that all attending will also be in their holiday best. There will also be holiday music to help set the atmosphere for an old fashioned dress-up Glen Echo family Holiday Party.

We hope to see you at the Town Hall on December 13!

The Social Affairs Committee

SHORT TAKES

A new count of calls to National Airport on October 13, the day designated by a citizens' organization as Glen Echo's day of protest against late night aircraft noise, found that 24 residents telephoned, not just the nine mentioned last month.

This was an excellent response, according to Helen Popenoe, vice-president of CAAN (Citizens for the Abatement of Aircraft Noise).

She said the group will know if their campaign was successful if they get on the agenda for the December meeting of the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.

Citizens can still make noise complaint calls regarding specific instances of night flights during the "curfew" hours of 10 pm to 7 am. These flights are now permitted for the newer "Stage 3" jets with quieter engines.

Calls should be made to the Noise Complaint Center of the airport authority at 685-8020.

Residents Invited To Go Caroling

A group of town residents is interested in going caroling around town on December 18. Anyone interested in joining the group is asked to meet outside the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. on that date. Please dress warmly.

You are asked to bring lanterns, jingle bells and anything else that will make the evening enjoyable for all.

For more information, contact Kathleen Flaherty Horwitz at 320-2171 or Edie Springuel at 320-2699.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have read the letter of Nany Helmig concerning the town's decision not to allow Osamu Shimizu to store his trees on his property.

I am 100% in sympathy with Nancy's outrage. To my knowledge neither were other neighbors consulted before the town set into motion the steps leading to the county's decision which is irreversible.

As a former member of the Open Space/Arbor Committee, I am well aware of the tremendous debt the town owes Osamu. The committee depended heavily on Osamu's guidance; he advised us on the suitable placement to trees, allowed us to purchase trees and shrubs, using his wholesale discount, donated trees and greens for the town raffles and parties, and offered help in making long-term plans for the town's beautification. I felt that my effectiveness as a member of the Open Space Committee was diminished because I no longer felt free to ask for Osamu's advice.

It is not every small town that has the support and counsel of an international expert in landscape design. We have lost a valuable gift that we should have treasured.

A. Brockie Stevenson



I also would like to express my disappointment in the manner in which the Town Council handled the questionable commercial issue of Osamu Shimizu. I also agree with everything Nancy Helmig stated in her November letter to the editor. As we are two neighbors on either side of Osamu's property we have enjoyed the gardens in front of his house. These gardens were so outstanding, photographers from national magazines and newspapers had articles on his designs. He also renovated the house by adding a room, gutters, paint and trim resulting in an attractive house. Many visitors and neighbors walking on Bryn Mawr Avenue stopped and enjoyed the gardens.

In addition since Osamu and Holly moved to Glen Echo they helped the town and many residents by sharing their expertise. All of the town has benefited by their advice and suggestions when questions were raised during the Town Beautification project. He helped at my church when we were having a landscaping problem. He advised on type of ground cover, how to plant and the nursery to contact for the wholesale price. This he did at no cost to the church.

I feel the decision that he is operating a commercial business is very questionable. He is not offering for sale any plants from his property. He is only storing (short term) and using the plants and trees as needed in his work. The town in the past condoned an auto repair operation, car repairs on public streets and sidewalks. Why single out a good neighbor for such a questionable matter?

Paul H. Alban

**You've got
us where
you
need us**

MAXIMUM[®]
SAVINGS BANK
A FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

Member FDIC/FHLB

MOST[®]

7945 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John, MD 20818, 301/229-8700
99 S. Washington Street, Rockville, MD 20850, 301/294-3130
7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, 301/986-0101

CABLE TV COMES TO TOWN

By Michelle Corder

Cable television was finally installed in Glen Echo homes last month and viewers discovered that one of the benefits was the absence of aircraft-related interference.

Representatives of Cable Montgomery, a subsidiary of Hauser Communications, came to the November Town Council meeting to explain the system.

The cable now available to town residents is compatible with VCR timing, Ellory Litz, Vice-President for Engineering, said. For those television sets not "cable ready" (having up to 140 channels on TV or VCR), a converter is available at no cost to the subscriber, although there is a \$25 deposit.

Cable-ready TV sets will pick up certain channels at a different setting; for example, channels 4, 7, and 9 would be found on channels 24, 27, and 29. Sets using a converter will not experience this difference in settings.

Councilman Springuel took this occasion to describe the considerable difficulty he had been experiencing in arranging a service call after his initial hook-up. Community relations representative Pam Stanford outlined Cable Montgomery's credit policy, which discounts service 10 percent monthly beginning after the second day of service malfunction.

She said that Mr. Springuel's experience was the exception rather than the rule, and invited town residents to call her at 294-7664 if they have questions or problems involving the service they are receiving.

Subscription information and fee schedules may be obtained from Cable Montgomery's Customer Service Department, 424-4400. Basic service costs \$14.95 per month.

Clearing Snow off Sidewalks Responsibility of Residents

The town will not be clearing snow off sidewalks this winter as it did last year, according to Mayor Fred Kuster.

"I personally thought it was a good idea, but some residents objected to the expense," he said. "They thought it should be the responsibility of the residents."

That means that those on corner lots will have lots to do on snowy days, and those with no sidewalks will be lucky.

Those residents who do not have the resources to clear the snow from in front of their houses should inform the mayor so that he can make other arrangements and pedestrians will not have to walk in the streets.



CLASSIFIED ADS

YOUNG COUPLE is looking to move into Glen Echo from Maine. Anyone interested in discussing selling a house please call 229-4747 and leave a message.

* * * * *

THANKS to the couple who aided us Oct. 24 when bicyclist with guitar fell on towpath; recovering nicely, thanks in no small measure to your kindness.

* * * * *

GIVEAWAY: Green plastic-coated chain link fencing, with posts. Good condition. Call Dorrit and Michael, 229-6066.

* * * * *

WANTED TO BUY: Good used 35 mm Camera, single lens reflex, with changeable lens. Call 229-3748.

* * * * *


FREE TO GOOD HOME: Two healthy gerbils plus exercise wheel, water bottle, clear plastic "liberty ball." Call Dorrit and Michael, 229-6066.

* * * * *

TYPING/WORD PROCESSING: Call Jennifer - 229-9121.


Classified Ads

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo Residents. Fee to Non Residents: \$.50 per line of 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads, \$2 per column inch. Ads may be left with Carolyn Reptsik, or mailed to *The Echo*, P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812 (stamp required). Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo." PLEASE DO NOT TELEPHONE ADS TO THE EDITOR. Ad Deadline: 24th of each month.



**Bird Feeders
& Seed For
America's
Fasting
Growing
Hobby**

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



NEW NEIGHBORS HAVE WHITE TAILS

Rusty Shultz was shooting his sling shot at a can after school on November 16, when he was startled by two figures in the woods below his Wellesley Circle home. As he focused on them, they moved along the stream banks and displayed the white tails of local deer.

Unbeknownst to Rusty, his father, Bill, had seen a handsome, four-point buck in the same location from his bedroom window that morning. "It just thrilled me," he said. Even though he grew up in Cabin John and has lived many years in Glen Echo, he never saw a deer in this area before.

Deer are increasingly being seen near residential neighborhoods along the Potomac, according to Nancy Campanella, a Park Service ranger at Great Falls Tavern. She said there are 15-20 near Glen Echo, roaming on both sides of the Parkway, and 20 in the gold mine tract area near Great Falls. "I see them every morning," she said. "Isn't it exciting?"

Building construction has caused the deer to migrate from their old haunts in an effort to find secluded areas, according to Ms. Campanella. But with the increasing population density, they now are becoming more tolerant of houses. "The smell of man is every place and they have to adapt," she said.

The best times to see deer are at dawn and dusk. "Usually they have a set routine that they follow every day," she said. "They are creatures of habit. If you see them at a specific time you will see them at that time again."

--Carlotta Anderson

Sad footnote: The body of a mature doe was found in the park land below Glen Echo on Nov. 28. No evidence of any injury was apparent.

SHORT TAKES

An application for a special exception to operate a separate apartment within a private residence at 3 Vassar Circle, scheduled to be heard by the Montgomery County Board of Appeals November 24, was taken off the calendar because no sign had been posted at that address, according to Mayor Kuster.

He said that because the owner of the property, John Lynch, no longer lives there, the application is for "non-conforming" use. Previously Mr. Lynch had obtained a permit for an accessory apartment, which requires that the owner reside in the house.

* * * * *

The Glen Echo Fire Department strongly urges homeowners to display house numbers visible from the street. This enables the department to save valuable time in reaching your house in the event of an emergency.

Such displays are now mandatory for commercial, industrial and multi-family structures and such a law for private residences is under consideration by the county.

* * * * *

THROUGH TILLIE'S KEYHOLE

Our hearty best wishes for a speedy recovery to Alberta Bartkus of University Avenue who recently underwent surgery for partial removal of her left leg. Hopefully, she will be home for the holidays!

* * * * *

Hearty best wishes also to Dave Fessenden of Bryn Mawr Avenue, who had his surgery performed at Suburban Hospital. He is now convalescing at home with wife Thelma giving him T.L.C.

--Tilly McNoldy



PARK FOUNDATION OFFICIAL OUTLINES GOALS TO TO COUNCIL

By Michael Frankel

Carol Trawick, the new chairperson of the Glen Echo Park Foundation, visited last month's Town Council meeting as part of her efforts to coordinate and build rapport among the key players involved with the park--the town, the National Park Service, and the foundation.

She outlined four goals that the foundation has established for the park, which are shared by the Park Service. As expressed in a May, 1987, memorandum of understanding between the Park Service and the foundation, they are:

1. to preserve the scenic and environmental values and natural resources of the park;
2. to preserve, restore and enhance the historic structures;
3. to foster the use of the park as a center for cultural, educational and recreational programs; and
4. to develop long-term plans for preserving and improving the park.

The foundation is a not-for-profit corporation which will be raising funds to support the Park Service's management and facilities program at the park.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

November 9

The town's attorney, Tom Craven, reported that the Montgomery County police will enforce parking violations in town if: (1) county parking signs are used, or (2) Town of Glen Echo parking signs state the pertinent ordinance(s) by name and/or number....

The town attorney also reminded residents that a special exception must be obtained to conduct a business in the home...

Councilman Shultz remarked that town residents should take complaints of zoning violations first to the county, rather than the Town Council. His position was that the town should be drawn into such zoning disputes only as a last resort...

Councilwoman Long noted that a Coldwell Banker sales information flyer for 48 Wellesley Circle mentioned a possible apartment in the dwelling, and that while this space was technically not an apartment due to absence of a stove, a 240-volt outlet existed in the empty space where a stove could fit...

Councilman Shultz said that erosion along the slope adjacent to the Town Hall exit driveway has made a buttress project imperative. He has received one proposal for a concrete buttress approximately 50 feet long by five feet high, with up to 60 percent of their height below grade. The cost would be \$7,300. Questions were raised as to the advisability of spending this sum in the present fiscal year or next fiscal year, and the durability of such a buttress in a high-traffic area...

Councilman Odell was absent and Mayor Kuster left the meeting early due to health reasons.

---Michelle Corder

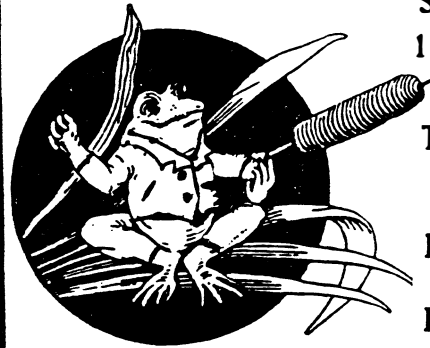
Adventure Theatre

presents

Kenneth Grahame's

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Adapted for the stage by Sharon Holland



Saturdays & Sundays

1:30 & 3:30

Tickets \$4.00

November 14 -

December 20, 1987

NEW PARK SITE MANAGER INTRODUCED TO COUNCIL

Councilwoman Nancy Long introduced James Lee, the new Glen Echo Park site manager to the Council last month. He has come to the park after 13 years at Yosemite National Park in California.

Mr. Lee noted that there were distinct differences between the two parks, especially in the wildlife. So far he hasn't seen any 300 pound bears here.

He said that drawings and budget plans were submitted for stabilizing the Spanish Ballroom roof. The ballroom, carousel and Adventure Theater will be interconnected in a fire dispatch network, he said.

--Michael Frankel

NEARBY NEWS

Although the plan to build 49 townhouses next to the Bannockburn School was turned down by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the developer immediately presented the Bannockburn Civic Association with a new plan for 49 single-family homes, according to the November issue of the Bannockburn Newsletter.

The proposal is particularly troubling to the school PTA, the paper said, because it calls for three entrances to the project--Rannoch Road, Benalder Drive and Dalroy Lane, and might endanger children by increasing traffic alongside the school.

* * * * *

The Cabin John community is seeking the views of its residents in order to influence the coming revisions of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, according to the November issue of The Village News.

The major issues concerning the community, as listed in the newspaper, are:

---traffic and safety problems which have arisen as a result of substantial increase of traffic through Cabin John;

---the impact of additional development of the "existing natural and human environment;"

---public facilities, such as the Clara Barton School and the Union Arch Bridge; and

---historic sites in the community.



REAL ESTATE? Tell a friend to call JANE STEVENSON
at Shannon & Luchs. (O) 986-9292 (H) 229-3578

TOWN UNICEF COLLECTION HELPS 2,000 CHILDREN

The Glen Echo Community Affairs Committee would like to extend a special thank-you to all the children who went trick-or-treating for UNICEF.

A total of \$65.27 was collected. As stated by UNICEF, for each dollar contributed, 30 children would receive Vitamin A to help prevent blindness. This would mean that the Glen Echo UNICEF collection would help nearly 2,000 children!

Again, thank you for your efforts.

--Wendy Young



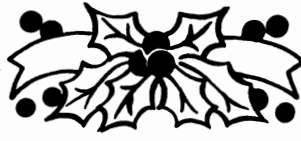
Holiday Show at the Gallery

The Glen Echo Gallery at the Park will be opening its Twelfth Annual Holiday Show of fine arts and crafts on Saturday, December 5.

Handmade work by local artists will be available for purchase in a variety of media: pottery, fabric, woods, jewelry, paintings, Christmas decorations, cards, wreaths and more.

The Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5.





SEASON'S
GREETINGS



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

