

# The Echo

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



July, 1988

## TOWN TO CRACK DOWN ON ABANDONED OR UNMOVED VEHICLES

By **Mary Masulla**

At least five residents who have vehicles parked on town streets which have not been moved recently will be getting letters informing them that they are in violation of town ordinances. The crackdown is in response to a letter about this problem sent to the Town Council by resident Jim Anderson.

There are two provisions in the ordinances that address this issue. One prohibits parking a vehicle for more than five consecutive days in the same spot without moving it. In cases where the resident is out of town for more than five days, application must be made to the Town Council for use of public space to park the vehicle.

The second provision gives the town the authority to impound and remove vehicles parked on public property for "an unreasonable length of time so as to impede traffic flow, constitute a safety or health hazard, or impair the aesthetic values of the community."

Councilman Springuel, who is responsible for checking on "unattended or abandoned vehicles," asked the Council if he should start issuing citations for violation of the five day rule. Other councilmembers felt that only vehicles parked for much longer were of concern.

"The idea is that the streets aren't to provide permanent storage for vehicles [residents] don't wish to operate," Councilman Shultz said.

The Council decided that letters should be sent to owners of vehicles which had not been moved for an unreasonable period of time. A period of 30 days would be given to remove the vehicle before a citation would be issued.

Councilman Springuel identified vehicles currently in violation

## MAYOR TO STEP DOWN WHEN TERM EXPIRES NEXT MAY

After two terms as mayor, Fred Kuster is planning to step down as a town official when his term expires next May, he said last month.

"Ten years is a long time," he said. Before his election as mayor, he served two years as a town council member.

"I think other people deserve a chance," he said. "There area lot of other good people here."

Mayor Kuster said that his new job as owner of a construction company, H.K. Builders, will require more traveling. He is working with an English builder, he said, and will have to go to London several times a year.

—continued on page 3

## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

Town Office 320-4041

6106 Harvard Avenue

Office Hours: Monday: 9am - 1 pm Saturday: 8 - 11:30 am

### MAYOR

Fred Kuster 229-2070

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nancy Long 334-2865 or 229-1369

Harry Odell 229-4494

Bill Shultz 229-1269

Renny Springuel 320-2699

### CLERK-TREASURER

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Barbara McCoy 320-4322

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Jane Eldredge 229-4110

Mary Masulla 229-6521

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters are printed exactly as received except that the editor reserves the right to shorten them. Articles for publication are also solicited. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the editor at 229-3748.

## RESIDENTS URGED TO CLIP OVERHANGING FOLIAGE BEFORE TOWN DOES IT

By Mary Masulla

After sending out a community bulletin giving residents until the end of June to cut back all plantings that overhang town property, the town declared at last month's council meeting that it is hiring a contractor to take care of any work left undone.

As stated in the bulletin, all work done by the contractor will be charged to the individual homeowner.

The town ordinances require property owners to prune branches or shrubs so that they do not obstruct the view of "any street intersection, sign, traffic control device, or the passage of pedestrians."

Councilman Shultz recommended that townspeople look at their yards in light of the ordinance to determine if they might be in violation.

Mayor Kuster said later that "a lot of people did what they were supposed to do." He said he and some council members would walk through town to determine who is still in violation and send the property owners written notice. The town would only take action 30 days from the date of the notice, he said.

Resident Gloria Levin wrote a letter to the council requesting that her overhanging hedge be spared. She said that its slight overhang was due to the way it was planted by previous owners and that she feared that pruning would kill it.

"I'd hate to see anyone lose a shrub," Councilman Springuel said. It was decided that the Open Space Committee would look at the hedge and make a recommendation to the council.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Ed. The following letter has been substantially cut for space reasons.)

Editor, *The Echo*

There are several points in your June article on elder housing in the Park which I think need clarification.

The first is the side issue of why we conducted the poll. It was a great surprise to me that [Congresswoman Morella] said that she "had not suggested the poll and in fact saw no hope of such housing at the Park." She never told me that she would not submit an appropriation request to the Interior Department. The secondhand message I received was that she had not tried to add an item to the Interior budget because she thought that such a request would fail as she could not say that it had wide community support. I said that it did have wide community support and was politely challenged to prove it. I said that I had been planning to poll the town, anyway, ever since a Glen Echo Town Council member said at the September meeting that there was a consensus in the Town in opposition to housing on the Park. I had found that a lot of people like the idea of a non-profit organization taking over the Park, renovating it and providing housing for our neighbors who can no longer manage their homes.

We have not, it is true, talked with the National Park Service since last fall. I am not aware that "the Park Service has firmly rejected the idea of retirement housing." Representative Byron's office told us that there are precedents for this sort of thing.

And, certainly, the Glen Echo Park Foundation has not taken a stand on our proposal. I think that all the members of the Committee are also members of the Foundation. Not one of us has been asked our opinion on this matter and it was not discussed at the annual meeting. I do not understand how people can say that the Foundation does not approve when the question has not come before the membership.

Sincerely yours,

Grace De Palma

Committee for a Retirement Home in Glen Echo Park  
Bethesda, Md.

### **FOUNDATION BOARD REFUSES TO SUPPORT PARK HOUSING**

The Board of Directors of the Glen Echo Park Foundation declined at its June 20 meeting to "lend its official endorsement to any other groups" seeking to stabilize or renovate the park.

The statement was in response to efforts by a citizens group to construct elder housing there as a means of "preserving and stabilizing" the park.

The Board went on to say that it "will not allow any Foundation resources or funds to be used to support any proposal for housing in Glen Echo Park."

### **ABANDONED VEHICLES (from page 1)**

of the ordinances as a couple on Vassar, one on Columbia and two on University.

He said he would determine which vehicles were not in compliance by checking if there was dirt under the cars after a rain and if neighbors had not seen the cars moved for a long period of time.

### **ELDER HOUSING ADVOCATE WILL BE INVITED BY COUNCIL**

**By Mary Masulla**

Grace De Palma will be invited to the next Town Council meeting to discuss her proposal for elder housing at Glen Echo Park, the council decided last month.

Others to be invited to the meeting include representatives from the Park Service, the Glen Echo Park Foundation and the offices of Congresswomen Connie Morella and Beverly Byron.

Councilman Shultz expressed concern about the poll conducted by Mrs. De Palma which showed most town residents in favor of her proposal. He questioned its reliability, said that she was "circulating stories," and felt that it would be best to have her explain her proposal to the council and "get the thing out in the open."



## DEFINING "LOT" IN GLEN ECHO GIVES PLANNING BOARD PROBLEMS IN DECIDING WHAT'S BUILDABLE

By Carlotta Anderson

Because of their historical origins, Glen Echo and Brookmont are the only communities in the county commonly having lots as small as 2500 square feet recorded in the land records, and this poses problems for the Planning Board.

Ordinarily, in an R-60 zone in Montgomery County you need at least 6,000 square feet of land to build a house. However, the ordinances say lots may be re-subdivided into a buildable lot of only 5,000 square feet "if the majority of the recorded lots in the same block have areas of less than 6,000 square feet."

This means that in Glen Echo and Brookmont, where houses are commonly built on two, three, four or more of the tiny lots laid out nearly 100 years ago, some as tent sites for the National Chautauqua of Glen Echo, the law allows resubdivisions under the county minimum size even though the majority of houses in a block are actually sitting on larger pieces of property.

In the past 10 years, two houses have been built in town on lots under the county's minimum area, one at 36 Wellesley Circle and the other currently under construction at 7313 University Ave.

"Strictly looking at it from the planning laws' perspective, you more or less have to interpret it that way," said Charles Loehr, Subdivision Coordinator of the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission.

However, in a recent case the Brookmont community challenged that interpretation and won. Community opposition to a building lot resubdivision of under 6,000 square feet was so strong that the Board finally turned the application down, he said.

"Maybe in the future we will start looking at it in a different way," he said.

He said that he felt if there were to be a different interpretation in the future, it would be best to first change the wording of the zoning ordinances by means of a text amendment. The Planning Board could make such a suggestion to the County Council, he said.

If the town of Glen Echo is interested in such a change, he said, "a good way to get it started is for the town to suggest it to the Planning Board."

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### CLERK TREASURER RESIGNS

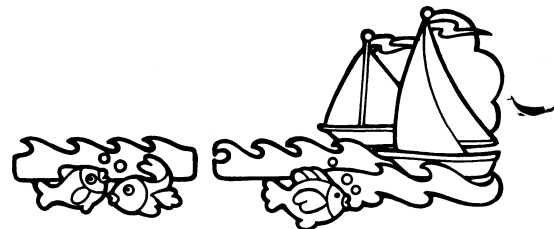
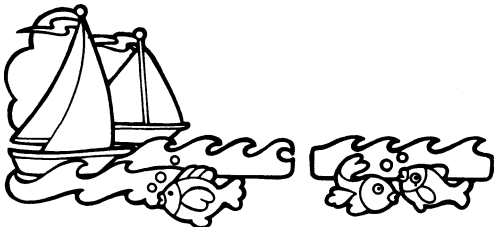
Peter Godfrey, who has been the town's clerk/treasurer for the past eleven months, resigned effective June 30.

The reason for his resignation was "time concerns," he said.

### PART TIME POSITION AS CLERK/TREASURER FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

\$4500/year; hours flexible

If interested, contact Mayor Kuster or a Town Councilmember



## DETERMINED TOWN PICNICKERS PUT TOGETHER A PARTY

By Carlotta Anderson

It could have been a fiasco. Townspeople who assembled at the Town Park on a beautiful evening last month for the 12th annual town picnic found only a grassy spot. Nothing had been set up, planned or organized.

They stood around for a time in bafflement. Then a hardy pioneer spirit took hold. There was a barn to be raised (so to speak) and everyone present was eager to pitch in to raise it.

Jane Stevenson (the only member of the now-defunct social committee present) and Councilwoman Nancy Long got a table from the Town Hall. Maryse Rhein brought eating utensils for the group from her home. Tom Wolff went to buy beer and hot dogs and set up a barbecue for everyone. Jim Anderson got a gallon of wine.

What with Brockie and Jane Stevenson's traditional picnic sheet cake and the assorted salads and desserts brought by the assemblage, the gathering turned into a feast, made all the sweeter by the taste of self-sufficiency.

Former social committee chairwoman Kate Horwitz termed it a "mix-up." At last year's picnic, the town provided hot dogs and hamburgers, which Mayor Kuster cooked, as well as soft drinks. The mayor set up the event, with the social committee responsible only for clean-up. This year the mayor was not present.

*The Echo* reported that at the budget meeting the council seemed to approve free hamburgers and hot dogs for the town picnic, leading picnickers to expect them. But, according to Kate Horwitz, the discussion apparently referred to next year's event, since Mayor Kuster told her there was no money left in the town budget for this year's picnic.

She said that since the social committee had no duties last year and no one asked the members to arrange anything this year, they assumed their only responsibility was to make the flyer attached to last month's *Echo*, which she did.

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### NEW POSTMAN DELIVERS TOWN MAIL

The town now has a permanent mail carrier, Clark Green, who has been delivering town mail for the past few weeks.

"I intend to deliver the mail by 1:00 p.m. to all the houses in town," he said.

Mr. Green has worked for the Post Office for six months and is based out of the West Bethesda office.

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### TOWN NOW A TOUR ATTRACTION

By Carlotta Anderson

Time was—not so long ago—when Glen Echo was considered a "poverty pocket" of Montgomery County that many people scorned living in and certainly did not consider touring. But the town's fortunes have so changed so dramatically in the past decade or so that the Smithsonian Associates is now scheduling tours of Glen Echo and has 88 people on a waiting list for the next one.

The first Smithsonian tour took place June 19 with Councilwoman Nancy Long as leader. Apart from temperatures that "virtually melted" its participants, it went very well, she said.

The three-hour tour began at the Clara Barton House, where park ranger Joan Pryor escorted the group. At Glen Echo Park, Carol Barton presented a slide show. Nancy Long then gave a "truncated" tour of the town, which omitted several interesting sites because of the heat.

Included was the Eldredge's house at the bottom of Princeton as an example of an old Glen Echo house which had been substantially remodeled, Bea Smith's modified Sears Roebuck house on University and the Stevenson's house and garden on Yale. The tour ended at the Town Hall, where Barbara Odell, Kathy Godfrey and Daryl and Fred Kuster served refreshments.

Nancy Long used some of the \$70 she received as tour guide to buy the refreshments. She will donate the remainder to the town, she said.

## **RESIDENT PUBLISHES BOOK ON INDIAN REVOLT**

Using the letters of Franciscan missionaries as source material, Glen Echo town historian J. Manuel Espinosa has described an Indian revolt against the Spanish which took place in New Mexico nearly three hundred years ago in a forthcoming book.

Entitled *The Pueblo Indian Revolt of 1696 and the Franciscan Missions in New Mexico*, the historical work will be published in September by the University of Oklahoma Press. Mr. Espinosa previously edited a work by his father, Aurelio M. Espinosa, on the folklore of Spain in the American Southwest, for the same publishers.

A long-time resident of Glen Echo, Mr. Espinosa lives on Vassar Circle with his wife, Betty and is the town historian. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley and was a professor of history and employee of the U.S. State Department before his retirement.

His new book presents the Pueblo revolt from the Spaniards' point of view. Mr. Espinosa translated and edited the letters of the Franciscan missionaries and Spanish military authorities, and wrote an introduction placing the event in historical perspective.

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## **DOE SIGHTED IN GLEN ECHO**

Rusty Shultz was strolling in his rear yard on Wellesley Circle last month when he saw a doe only a few feet ahead of him at the edge of the woods.

Anne Lewis' cat came running into the house in alarm on another day. When Anne, who lives a few doors from Rusty, went out to her side yard to see what was the matter, she encountered a white-tailed doe on her lawn.

Only a few months ago, a dead buck was found lying in the ravine below Wellesley Circle.

Long-time residents do not remember seeing deer on this side of the Parkway in past years. What has brought them here now?

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## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WARNING**

The following information was compiled by the Montgomery County Police.

### **Local Incidents in May:**

May 5 6700 Tulip Hill Auto Theft

May 14 6300 Owen Pl. Burglary, entered unlocked house and stole stereo equipment

May 31 5200 River Rd. Radio stolen from auto

### **Home Security Tips:**

1. Arrange for someone to watch your house while you are away and pick up mail, newspapers and other deliveries.

2. Arrange to have your grass cut if you are gone for a long period of time. Leave a car in your driveway. Put your valuables in a safe deposit box.

3. Use deadbolt locks on your doors.

4. Close garage doors. Bicycles especially are often stolen from open garages.

5. Engrave your television, vcrs, stereos, cameras and other easily removed items with your Maryland State driver's license number. Be sure to prefix the number with MD for Maryland. Make a list of all serial numbers and keep in a safe place. Take photos of your valuables in case you need to prove theft or fire losses.

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## **EXCERPTS FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT May 1988**

Mutual Insurance (Public Official Bond FY89)	\$338.00
M. Regan (Accounting Service)	\$ 65.00
Abar Plastics (Trashbags)	\$462.00

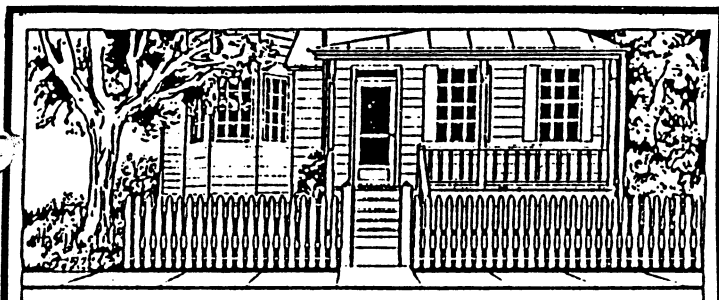
**Residents can report parking violations or other offenses to the Montgomery County police by calling 279-8000.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER NATIONAL'S JET NOISE**

A public hearing on a proposal to eliminate National Airport's nighttime commercial jet noise will be held in mid-July.

CAAN, the citizen group seeking to reduce aircraft noise along the Potomac corridor, is asking for a curfew on flights from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. It has received recent support from the Council Of Governments, which also is calling for the use of quieter planes from 8-10 p.m.

Interested residents can send written comments to Sen. Paul Sarbanes or other official during the public comment period prior to the hearing. If you have a complaint about a specific aircraft, you can call the Noise Complaint Center at 685-8020.



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at Shannon & Luchs. (O) 986-9292 (H) 229-3578**

## **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. Deadline: 24th of each month.

## **TOWN PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET**

7313 University Ave.	\$.439,500
6004 Princeton Ave.	\$441,000
5900 Oxford Rd.	\$295,000
6113 Tulane Ave	\$249,900

## **THE KEYHOLE**

By Tillie McNoldy

● Congratulations to Richard Carroll of Yale Ave. upon his graduation from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

This was a repeat performance, since he had also graduated from Georgetown University in 1983. He now is a Master of Business Administration and is currently being interviewed for a job in his field.

● Congratulations also to John Rhein of Princeton Ave. He recently completed four years as a Navy airman and was stationed at South Weymouth near Boston, Mass. As a change from airplanes, John and a friend are touring the U.S. and Canada on motorcycles.

● It was grandchild number six for Thelma and David Fessenden of Bryn Mawr Ave. when Ross Todd Fessenden made his appearance on Friday, May 13.

Ross is the son of Amy and David (Copy) Fessenden and joins his sister, Linda, and brothers Scott and David.

Congratulations to the happy family!

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## **GARDEN REFUSE BAGS AVAILABLE**

Plastic bags for grass and leaf refuse from town yards are available free to town residents.

They may be picked up at the mayor's house at 7306 University Ave.

The bags are not to be used for regular trash.

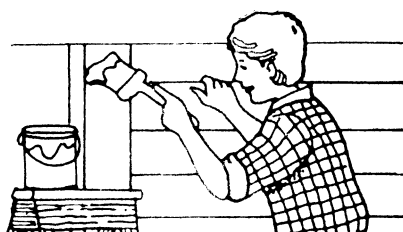
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## **NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, July 11 — 8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor if you wish to add an item to the agenda



# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## *DANCES UNDERWAY AT GLEN ECHO PARK*

### **FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES:**

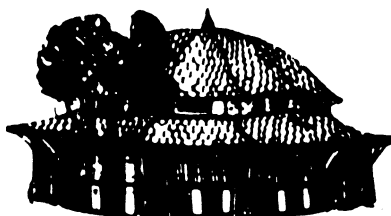
Squares, contras and country dances. Admission \$4.  
8:30 p.m., Spanish Ballroom.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT DANCES:**

Ballroom dancing. 9:00 p.m. The Richard Bray  
Orchestra. Admission \$7.

### **SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES:**

Squares and contras. Admission \$5. 8:00 p.m.



## *ADVENTURE THEATRE*

### **A Toby Show of Cinderella**

June 18-July 24

### **The Wizard of Oz**

Opens August 6

Weekends at 1:30 & 3:30

\$4. Call 320-5331

## *THE PUPPET COMPANY*

In July:

### **Jack and the Beanstalk**

In August:

### **Peter and the Wolf**

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, & Sunday

11 a.m. and 1 p.m. - \$3

Information: 234-6666

## *AT THE GALLERY*

July 1-31

### **A Class Act**



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