

# The Echo

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



February, 1988<sup>9</sup>

### THE BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE MASTER PLAN: HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT LOCAL RESIDENTS

By Gloria Levin and Carlotta Anderson

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#### *OFFICES SUGGESTED FOR "THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN"*

Following the council's decision not to support any changes in C-1 zoning for four commercial properties (see accompanying article), Councilman Springuel urged his fellow councilmembers not to ignore the "bigger issues" raised by the proposed Master Plan—how it relates to land use in what is commonly referred to as "the other side of town."

Although the plan recommends retaining the current use of the Inn at Glen Echo, it suggests two options for the properties surrounding the restaurant.

One would be to keep the current R-60 (residential) zoning; the second would allow the three existing houses to be used as professional offices. The rationale for the second option is that the site "is not conducive to residential use because of proximity to the restaurant." In this case, town attorney Tom Craven told the town council, the R-60 zoning would be retained, but the Master Plan would indicate that the existing structures were appropriate for use as professional offices, although a special exception would still be required.

Both Mayor Kuster and Councilman Springuel spoke in favor of increasing the commercial presence in that location. Referring

—continued on page 2

#### TOWN OPPOSES REZONING OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

The Glen Echo Town Council at its Jan. 9 meeting voted to oppose any changes to the current zoning status of four commercial properties in Glen Echo and along MacArthur Blvd. after owners told the council of their shock in learning that the new Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan has suggested changing their businesses to a modified commercial or a residential designation. They had asked the town to support their efforts to protect their current C-1 (commercial) zoning.

Peter and Judy Garfield, owners of the former La Haute Cuisine on Bryn Mawr Ave., said they were alarmed at the threat to their plans to remodel the property for use as a photography studio. Mr. Garfield called down-zoning "without a very good reason...tantamount to a seizure of property." Commercial photography does not fall within the plan's suggested new C-1 designation, which would approve only those businesses serving the needs of the "local community."

George Petrides, owner of the Wild Bird Center in Cabin John, said the draft of the new master plan, which will establish development guidelines in this area until the year 2010, came as "a thunderbolt" when he learned, by accident, that his property

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## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office 320-4041

6106 Harvard Avenue

Office Hours: Call to arrange an appointment.

### 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

Don Dworsky 320-4041

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Barbara McCoy 320-4322

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## "OTHER SIDE" (from page 1)

to the increase in commercial taxes that would result, the mayor said: "If done correctly, we [residents] shouldn't have to be paying property taxes for the next 15 years."

Councilman Shultz reminded the council that "there is a fourth owner [in the area]—us," meaning the large parcel of land owned by the town of Glen Echo, part of which is used as a basketball court. The Master Plan suggests that the town construct a tennis court or other adult recreation activity there.

Councilwoman Long recommended that affected property owners should be consulted. Nonresident owner Frank Corder is already on record opposing the proposal for commercial use of those houses. Mr. Craven remarked that "the property owners should wake up and do something" about the zoning threat, and Councilman Springuel encouraged all town residents to express their views because "everyone has a stake in this." However, the council took no action on the proposed revisions to the Master Plan regarding new commercial uses in town.

—Gloria Levin

## ***RABIES STILL SERIOUS PROBLEM***

Concerned about the possibility that townspeople and their pets might encounter rabid wild animals, town Animal Control Officer Barbara McCoy asked the county animal control offices for its current recommendations.

Rabies is still of epidemic proportions in the county, Brian Stone, Montgomery County Animal Control Field Supervisor, told her. He said Maryland has one of the worst rabies problems in the nation.

"Please caution your residents to stay on top of rabies vaccinations for their pets," he advised. He said all pets should be vaccinated by four months of age.

He also made the following points:

- Rabies can be found in squirrels, groundhogs, foxes and other wild animals as well as raccoons.
- Although raccoons are generally nocturnal creatures, they sometimes come out during the day if they know food is available.
- Just because you see a raccoon during the day doesn't mean it is rabid.
- If a previously vaccinated pet comes in contact with a rabid animal, it should be revaccinated and put on a leash and watched for 90 days.
- If an unvaccinated pet comes in contact with a rabid animal, it either has to be put to sleep or given a booster shot immediately and then caged and kept in isolation for six months.
- Don't handle anything an animal suspected of having rabies has come in contact with for at least two hours.
- Don't handle the carcass of an animal suspected of having rabies.

Unless an animal suspected of having rabies has come into contact with pets or humans, the county does not perform a rabies test, which involves dissecting the brain.

If you are having any problems with raccoons, please contact Barbara McCoy at 320-4322. Don't feed them, no matter how cute they seem.

### **ELECTION SLATED FOR MAY: TIME TO CONSIDER CANDIDACY**

Glen Echo will elect a mayor and two councilmembers at its May election. This is the time for public-spirited townspeople to consider running for office or suggesting it to other residents whom they feel are well-qualified.

Among the significant issues which the town government will be grappling with in the coming months are: the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan as it affects the local area; the location of a bus stop at the Glen Echo Shopping Center; possible historic district status for Glen Echo, the future use of the former trolley right-of-way; and the future use of Glen Echo Park.

The term of office in Glen Echo is four years.

## **RACCOONS AGAIN IN TOWN; SICK ONE FRIGHTENS RESIDENTS**

**By Carlotta Anderson**

Traps are being set for one raccoon, and a sick raccoon has been killed and another captured, as the animals appear to have launched a new invasion of Glen Echo.

The trapped raccoon had been foraging in trash cans at the bottom of Princeton Ave. Another has been reported in an attic at the bottom of Bryn Mawr Ave. Town Animal Control Officer Barbara McCoy is using a Tomahawk trap, which does not harm the animals. She is being assisted by Daryl Kuster, a member of the Animal Control Board.

The captured raccoon was taken to Animal Control in Rockville, where it was pronounced sick. Ms. McCoy has requested that it be examined for rabies.

Raccoons were a serious nuisance in town before Ms. Kuster trapped them several years ago when she was Animal Control Officer.

The killed raccoon was sighted by Robin and David Sproul of 1 Wellesley Circle on the morning of Jan. 22, when they heard their dog barking and saw the animal, "drool glistening around its mouth," staring at their dog. "It was patting the ground with its paws, having convulsions, going around in circles and looked like it was about to die," Robin said. She said it "zoomed up and down the walnut tree" while going into convulsions.

When Robin described this behavior over the telephone to a county animal control officer, she was told that their dog had probably frightened the animal and that she would have to observe the raccoon for 60-90 minutes before they would act on the matter. "I got very upset. She said, 'If the animal had rabies, you would know it.' I said, 'How much stranger can it act?' 'They act crazy,' the woman said. She wouldn't budge."

At this point, a friend of a neighbor came and killed the animal. Robin called the county back and asked if they wanted to test it for rabies. "The same woman said it didn't matter once the animal was dead. She said if we wanted to bring it up there they might test it, but they couldn't guarantee that they would give us the results even if they did test it."

The Sprouls' veterinarian then told them how to dispose of the body and gave their dog a rabies booster shot. However, he said that the raccoon might have had canine distemper rather than rabies.

After Ms. McCoy heard of the episode, she spoke to county Animal Control Field Supervisor Brian Stone, who expressed shock at the advice the Sprouls had been given and vowed to look into the matter. He said he couldn't believe she had been told to watch the animal for an hour or more. "You don't mess around with that kind of animal," he told Ms. McCoy. "They should have come immediately."

## TOWN OPPOSES LOCAL BUSINESS REZONING (from page 1)

was one of four "under the gun" for down-zoning.

He argued that the staff of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which drafted the master plan, has not adequately considered the practical implications of the three proposed options on the community or on the property owners. The options were to:

- (1) retain a C-1 designation, allowing present businesses to remain, but requiring any change in use from the current one to be for a "neighborhood oriented" business only;
- (2) down-zone properties to residential if the current commercial use ceases;
- (3) down-zone properties to professional office use only, if the current use ceases.

In addition, the property would be down-zoned if the building were destroyed or more than 50 percent damaged. The owners told the council this would restrict their ability to obtain bank financing or to sell their properties.

Mr. Petrides said his property has been used for commercial purposes continuously since 1915—his current seed-room is the site of the first Cabin John Post Office—but feared that lenders would call in their loans if any of these options were enacted by the county. He said that the new owners of the Alpine Veterinary Clinic in Cabin John are "heartbroken" because they purchased the property after being zoned out of their Silver Spring clinic. Scarcely 60 days after their purchase, he said, they learned that the zoning of their new property might be changed.

The fourth of the commercial properties suggested for down-zoning was Bonfield's Garage at MacArthur and Sangamore, although it is being considered for historic site designation "as a monument to a bygone era." It is not clear why the commission focused on these small proprietors while ignoring all the other commercial properties along MacArthur Blvd. to the D.C. line. One reason given was that these isolated commercial sites are not needed because the community is sufficiently served by the Glen Echo Shopping Center, MacArthur Plaza in Cabin John, and the Little Falls Mall.

Motivated by a belief that this is "an impossible situation for small entrepreneurs," Councilman Shultz visited Denise Boswell of the commission staff and learned that the commission was basing its actions regarding Mr. Garfield's property partly on two telephone complaints from an unnamed person claiming to be a Glen Echo resident. He called this an overreaction, and said "the problems we're experiencing today are more due to the density of the population than the few commercial properties in the area."

Noting that "time is of the essence" because of a Jan. 16 meeting of the Potomac Valley League and a Jan. 30 county hearing on the master plan, Councilman Shultz urged the council to take a stand so that its voice could be heard. By a vote of 3-0 (Councilwoman Long abstaining), the town council voted to support the existing C-1 zoning designations and oppose any additional restrictions. They agreed to send a letter to that effect to Norman L. Christeller, chairman of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Councilwoman Long told this reporter after the meeting that her vote to abstain reflected her belief that the council should have gauged the sentiment of town residents before taking a position. She expressed concern that the council had responded to the plight of the commercial property owners (all non-residents of Glen Echo) without equal regard for the wishes of its constituents. However, she did not voice these concerns during the council's deliberations.

—Gloria Levin

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## CABIN JOHN AGREES WITH US ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

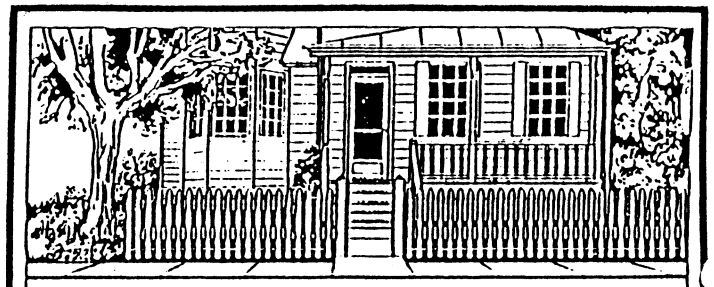
The Cabin John Citizens Association voted Jan. 24 to go along with Glen Echo in its opposition to having the C-1 zoning of its two local businesses changed, as proposed in the new Master Plan. The Alpine Veterinary Clinic and the Wild Bird Center are in Cabin John.

The association also opposed the development of "cluster" housing—which could include townhouses—on three acre lots, which also was suggested in the draft plan.

However, it favored the "downzoning" from R-60 to R-90, which requires larger lots for new buildings.

Association president Bob Greenberg was scheduled to testify at the January 30 Master Plan hearing.

—Carlotta Anderson



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## OTHER MASTER PLAN SUGGESTIONS

The major objective of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan in the Palisades area is "to protect the environment, character and cultural resources of the area." Recommendations in the plan, which will be in operation for the next 20 years, include:

- "Down-zoning" most of the area from R-60 to R-90, so that 9,000 sq. ft. rather than the present 6,000 sq. ft. will be required for new home construction. This **decreases** the number of new units on undeveloped land. The town of Glen Echo, however, would remain R-60. No high-density development such as townhouses would be permitted in those zones.
- Designating MacArthur Blvd. as a Maryland Scenic Route to encourage people to travel roads through areas of "unique cultural and historic value and natural scenic beauty." No additional curb cuts would be permitted along the route. The bike path would be repaired and better maintained.
- Maintaining federal property in the area as open space, including the former Glen Echo trolley right-of-way, and supporting the use of Glen Echo Park as a cultural, educational and recreational resource. \* Changing the zoning of three sites at MacArthur Blvd. and Goldsboro Rd. from R-60 to R-90 Cluster, which would permit 48 townhouses or clusters of detached houses on the 14 acres of the three sites. The rationale is that clustering buildings would preserve steeply-sloped areas and protect the existing trees.
- Reconsidering the widening of Goldsboro Rd. to four lanes from MacArthur Blvd. to River Rd. (recommended in the 1970 Master Plan).
- Retaining the use of the Captain's Market (formerly Good 'n Quick) on MacArthur and Tomlinson as a C-1 convenience store, but recommending voluntary upgrading of the exterior and parking lot.
- Suggesting benches, tables and planters at the Glen Echo shopping center.

—Carlotta Anderson

## CHECKING UPKEEP OF BUILDINGS WILL BE LEFT TO COUNTY

The county's new "livability code," which ensures that property owners maintain the exterior of their homes, will be left to the county to enforce, the town council decided last month.

In accepting county jurisdiction for enforcing Article 26 of the county code pertaining to the upkeep of buildings, the town opted out of the burden of creating its own statute to parallel the highly detailed county ordinance. Had the council voted to retain jurisdiction for enforcing the revised code, which took effect Jan. 1, the town would have been responsible for inspecting buildings. Town attorney Tom Craven discouraged the idea of having neighbors inspecting and citing each other on subjective judgments such as aesthetics and proper maintenance.

—Gloria Levin

## POTOMAC LEAGUE OPPOSES SOME MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

The Potomac Valley League, representing the communities along the Palisades from Brookmont to Potomac, has opposed several proposals in the preliminary draft of the new Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan.

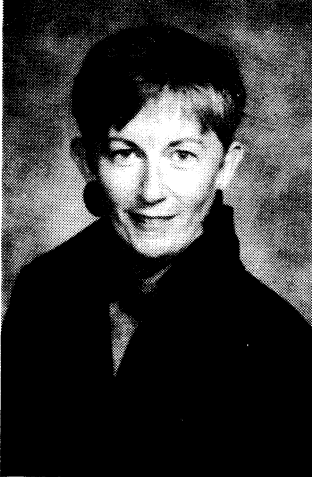
At its Jan. 16 meeting at the Glen Echo Town Hall, PVL delegates strongly protested the idea of cluster townhouse development, as the plan has suggested for three sites at MacArthur Blvd. and Goldsboro Rd. as well as elsewhere in the Palisades area.

They also voted to oppose any widening of Goldsboro Rd. to four lanes. There was general agreement that enlarging the road would not solve any traffic problems but merely attract more drivers to the area, creating a major thoroughfare for people coming off the George Washington Parkway.

Glen Echo Town Councilman Bill Shultz encouraged the delegates to oppose the proposed changes in the current commercial zoning for the former La Haute Cuisine, the Alpine Veterinary Center, the Wild Bird Center and Bonfield's Garage and read the town's letter to that effect to the county planning board. The delegates voted to oppose any change in the existing zoning for those businesses.

Delegates called the proposed down-zoning from R-60- to R-90, which would require 9,000 sq. ft. instead of 6,000 sq. ft. for construction of any new house, a positive factor in the draft Master Plan.

—Carlotta Anderson



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## HARVARD RESIDENT OBJECTS TO "NEGATIVE" REMARKS

By Gloria Levin

Harvard Ave. resident John Henry told the town council at its January 9 meeting that he was surprised at the perceived negative tone of some councilmembers' remarks as quoted in an article which appeared in the January *Echo*, "Council Wrestles With Harvard Traffic."

He interpreted the remarks as a rebuke against Harvard Ave. residents for coming to complain about traffic problems around the Glen Echo Post Office, stating that he thinks "the Council is an appropriate forum to discuss this problem."

He said that the residents had never demanded a quick solution nor mentioned the increase of business at the post office in connection with Christmas mailings.

Councilman Springuel pointed out that the discussion had been one-sided because none of the Harvard residents were at the December meeting when the issue was discussed and the most vocal participant in the December meeting—Councilman Shultz—left the January meeting before Mr. Henry spoke.

Town clerk-treasurer Don Dworsky attributed the miscommunication to "an agenda problem," because the Harvard residents had not been informed that the issue was to be included on the December agenda.

The mayor said that the problem will be on the February agenda and that "the issue is still on the table until we get a feel for it." He characterized the traffic problem as having no easy solution.

## BALLROOM BOND BILL SAID TO BE POPULAR

There has been an outpouring of support for a proposal to provide \$500,000 in state funds toward the cost of renovating the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park, Councilwoman Long and Mayor Kuster told the town council at its Jan. 9 meeting.

If the bond bill passes during the next session of the Maryland legislature, the Glen Echo Park Foundation will have up to two years to raise its share of \$500,000 for the reconstruction project before the state grants the same amount in matching funds.

Mayor Kuster said that each county may highlight three proposals for the governor's special attention. He said he thought the Spanish Ballroom proposal had "an excellent chance of getting one of the three slots from Montgomery County" and cited Del. Nancy Kopp and state Sen. Lawrence Levitan as having provided the major impetus for this effort.

A not-insignificant contingency, which makes the proposal "not a sure thing," he said, is the ability of the Foundation to raise matching funds.

Councilman Springuel voiced strong opposition to the state issuing a bond—for which taxpayers must bear the burden—rather than using federal money to maintain property at a federal facility. Councilwoman Long cited a bridge construction project proposed for Great Falls Park as the precedent for this unusual funding arrangement.

Councilman Springuel questioned Mayor Kuster on whether he had represented the town as favoring the bond bill at a hearing for the area's delegation of state legislators in November. (The town council has not yet taken a position on the bill.)

The mayor responded that he was at the meeting representing the town but had not spoken. He added that the council had, on three prior occasions, supported similar projects and Councilwoman Long reminded members that the council had supported state funding for the construction of the playground at Glen Echo Park.

Councilman Springuel said he saw no similarity between the earlier projects and the current proposal, which would involve a sizable debt for taxpayers, and again asked what position the mayor had taken at the hearing. Mayor Kuster then said he was there "supporting" the bond issue, but that there were no votes taken. At that point, the mayor walked out of the meeting. He told *The Echo* later that he had been feeling ill and had a fever, and had considered the discussion over.

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### TOWN PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

6105 Yale Ave.	\$235,000
7314 University Ave.	\$429,000

## THE KEYHOLE

By **Tillie McNoldy**

Extra! Extra! Glen Echo is represented at the Inaugural Gala! For those who missed it, or did not recognize her, **Meaghan Wolff**, daughter of Paula and Tom Wolff of Yale Ave. was a participant. She, together with several other children, welcomed President Bush and conveyed their best wishes. Congratulations Meaghan, you did a good job.

Princeton Ave. was the scene of another holiday gathering when **Maryse** and **Rex Rhein** played hosts to friends and neighbors at a champagne brunch. Not only did Chef Rex make quite a picture in his apron, but he turned out tasty sausages and scrambled eggs.

Besides nearby friends and neighbors, they also welcomed their son, **John**, who was home for the holidays from Massachusetts, where he is attending school, and another friend, **Cedric Jacot Guillarmod**, who came from Switzerland.

Not to be outdone by Princeton Ave., Columbia Ave. got into the act when **Barbara** and **Harry Odell** entertained at a party in their home, where they welcomed Harry's brother, **Donald**, and his wife, who were down from New York for the inauguration. Drinks, good food and interesting conversation were not lacking, so everyone enjoyed the post-election party.

While some mayors go to the Virgin Islands for relaxation, our mayor and family went to Massanutten, Va., for a skiing holiday, which they all enjoyed—falls included. Me—I'll take the Virgin Islands anytime. I prefer falling on sandy beaches.

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## WELCOME NEWCOMERS

A hearty welcome to a family of four—including two Walt Whitman High School students—who moved to 6008 Bryn Mawr Ave. at the end of last year.

**Nancy Welch**, who learned to love the area during the years she lived in Cabin John, is the vice-president of a small business in Bethesda which manufactures a line of instruments used for medical research. A skilled seamstress, she also enjoys tap dancing.

**Norman Bernhardt** is in real estate sales for the Takoma Park-based Maury Sales, Inc. He previously owned an organic garden supply business in Takoma Park. His hobbies are sailing, biking and listening to music.

**David**, 17, who is especially interested in Asian studies, is a junior at Walt Whitman, where he is taking Japanese. In his spare time, he is rebuilding a 1961 Austin Healey sports car.

**Danny**, 15, a sophomore, is on the Whitman Varsity football team. Both boys have radio amateur licenses.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**KIDS IN CHARGE—Baby sitting** for kids 6 and under. 50 cents for half an hour. You decide one or two sitters at 10 years of age. No baby sitting after 7:00 p.m. There are 4 girls in the group. Specialty is helping mother or father during the very busy evening hours before dinner. We live in town. Call Rebekah Lusk, 229-7045 or Michele Pierce 229-8056. Signed: Michele Pierce, Rebekah Lusk, Dana Wine, Tiffany Manion.

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Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line. Display ads, \$3 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Ave., Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

## BRIEFLY NOTED

- Princeton Ave. resident **Willem Polak** was featured in an article in the *Washington Post* about his Alexandria-based Potomac Riverboat Co. and its plans to buy a new tour boat. The 36-foot, 80-passenger boat will offer 45-minute tours of the Alexandria waterfront beginning in May and also be available for private charters, the Jan. 30 article reported. Mr. Polak's firm also offers a 110-foot paddle wheeler for charter.
- A \$1.1 million renovation project funded by Montgomery County has begun at the Clara Barton School in Cabin John, according to *The Village News*. The renovation is scheduled for completion in fall, at which time the building will be occupied by the Clara Barton Center for Children and the Cabin John 3-and-4-Year-Old School, as well as the Bethesda Youth Services. The county is also considering establishing an infant and toddler day care facility there, the paper reported.
- *The Village News* also reports that the county has approved the development of the Lentini tract adjacent to Bannockburn School with the requirement that there be no street access to the new houses via Dalroy Lane, on which the school is located.

## NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 13—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT PRESENTED

The town's new clerk-treasurer, Don Dworsky, presented an abbreviated treasurer's report to the council at its January meeting. This was the first treasurer's report the council had received in seven months.

The report listed only six revenue items and eight expenditures, which Mr. Dworsky had selected because he thought they might be interesting to the council. The report omitted total monthly revenues and expenditures.

Councilman Shultz asked for a complete listing each month in the future, and resident Gloria Levin volunteered to type the monthly list at no cost to the town.

The town's end of fiscal year balance was \$125,968, most of which is invested in certificates of deposit.

—Gloria Levin

### EXCERPTS FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1989

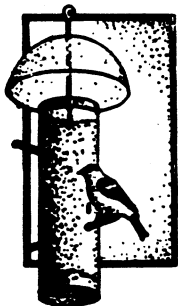
Buff Town Hall floor	\$100.00
Print <i>Echo</i>	\$85.00
Monthly Clerk's salary	\$350.00
Garbage pickup	\$1703.00

### SAVING PARKING SPOTS

Residents are reminded that town streets are public thoroughfares. Parking on them is for residents and non-residents alike on a first come, first served basis.

Residents are not within their rights when they put cones or other barriers in the street in order to save parking places.

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## CRIME IN AND AROUND TOWN

A 1979 red Porsche Sebring sports coupe, which had been temporarily left on the shoulder of the Parkway below Wellesley Circle on Dec. 31, was broken into by smashing the right passenger window with a Coke bottle.

Nothing was taken from the car except a small amount of pocket change, according to Officer V. Bellamy of the Park Police, who interviewed the owner when he came to retrieve the car on Jan. 2. The car's stereo system and other objects were left in place.

The Bethesda police have not been able to locate the suspect in the Nov. 26 burglary of Councilman Springuel's house on Vassar Circle. Detective John McCloskey said the suspect moved to an unknown area and he has dropped the case. None of the stolen items were recovered.

### NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

**Here are some tips from the Montgomery County Police:**

Keep fireplace ashes in metal containers far from the house and pour water on them to make sure they are out. There have been several house fires caused by hot fireplace ashes left inside garages and porches in plastic containers.

There has been an increase in thefts of four wheel drive vehicles, especially Jeeps. A secondary locking device or an alarm is recommended.

Be alert for pickpockets and purse thieves. Some are crawling under seats in movie theaters to steal purses. Wallets and purses are being taken out of shopping carts at grocery stores. Watch out for someone dropping change, keys or other objects near you so you will be distracted while they pick your pocket.

There was only one homicide in the Bethesda District in 1988.

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