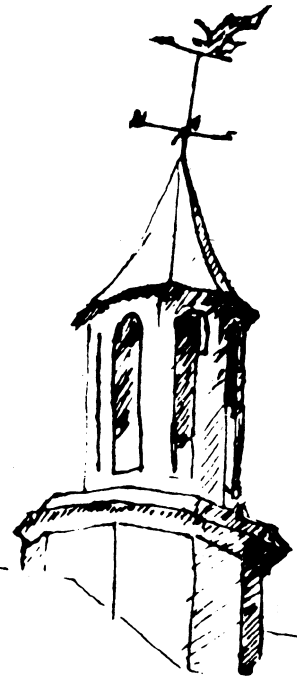


# The Echo

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



January, 1989

## COUNCIL WRESTLES WITH HARVARD TRAFFIC

By Victor Gilinsky

The town council at its December 12 meeting wrestled with the "nettlesome" traffic problems around the Glen Echo post office, with no definite outcome in sight. One thing was clear: there were strong feelings on all sides, although surprisingly none of the Harvard Ave. residents showed up. The issue had been raised by those residents at the previous meeting.

Councilman Shultz, who had been charged with investigating the matter, said it was difficult to make a judgment during the holiday period, which was not typical. He suggested the issue be delayed until he had a chance to talk to Postmaster Ellen Nash, and said he wanted to avoid hurting the post office.

One of the town's options would be a Harvard Ave. parking ban, he said. Councilman Shultz pointed out that parking is legally permitted along MacArthur Blvd. between Bryn Mawr and Harvard, a short walk from the post office, and could accommodate eight to nine cars of post office customers. He suggested that a weekday 9am to 5pm ban would allow residents to park at night. Such a ban would require about six signs. These enforcements should be carried out by the county, Councilman Shultz said. He said he was "dead set" against having a town constable, which would raise potentially expensive liability problems. "Besides," he said, "we're paying county taxes."

He said the possibility of resident parking stickers would "raise more problems than you're solving."

Another of Councilman Shultz's suggestions was to encourage residents at that location to construct off-street parking. He thought the town might offer some financial assistance because "we all gain." When Councilman Springuel commented that residents don't want to lose their front yards, Councilman Shultz said that the safety of their children should be more important than greenery and that there was a limit to what the Harvard Ave. residents could expect: "They all bought their houses knowing the post office was there."

--continued on page 4

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## VCR, CAMERA, BUILDING SUPPLIES STOLEN IN VASSAR BURGLARY

By Carlotta Anderson

The police have a suspect in the November 26 burglary of Councilman Renny Springuel's Vassar Circle house, according to Detective John McCloskey of the county police. He said police suspect someone in the construction industry, "possibly someone who was working [on the current construction] at that house."

He pointed out that painting supplies, a table saw and hand tools belonging to the contractor as well as the Springuel family's VCR and camera were stolen. "This is not the work of a professional burglar," he said. "The people of Glen Echo can rest easily. This is not the tip of a major crime wave."

The burglary took place some time during the Saturday night after Thanksgiving. The Springuels had not been living at

--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: 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 229-9615

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Barbara McCoy 320-4322

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Mary Masulla 229-6521  
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Susan Shultz 229-1269

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.

## LETTER TO EDITOR

I am writing to tell you how much I have been enjoying *The Echo* all of these months since leaving Glen Echo. It frequently reports information important to Glen Echo Heights and other nearby areas as well. Keep up the good work!

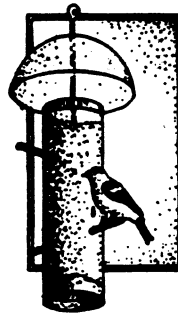
In the December 1988 issue, I especially enjoyed Mr. Espinosa's history of Cabin John Island. It isn't named on any of the general maps that I have. Clyde and I have hiked this island many times. It has wonderful wildflowers and entomofauna, periodically fertilized with muck from river floods. We had many nice times there...

Edd Barrows  
Second Vice President Glen Echo Heights Citizens Assn.

**Ed:** Mr. Barrows formerly lived on Wellesley Circle.

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## **REPORTED "GLEN ECHO" MURDER UPSETS AND CONFUSES TOWN**

**By Gloria Levin**

Glen Echo residents were understandably alarmed when television stations announced the evening of December 4 that an elderly Glen Echo woman had been murdered. A number of them called Mayor Kuster for more information.

The following morning the Washington Post headlined the story "Neighborhood 'Grandmother' Is Found Slain in Glen Echo," and described Glen Echo correctly as a "quiet, tree-lined neighborhood."

As it turned out, the victim, 85-year-old Martha Blackistone Wahl, was killed in her home on Namakagan Road, near Massachusetts Ave., in a subdivision called Glen Echo Heights, which is not part of the town of Glen Echo.

When I called the *Post's* Metro section to correct the error, I spoke to a reporter who coincidentally lives in Bannockburn and already had informed her editors of the mistake. At a television station, staff persons indicated that the information had been provided by Montgomery County Police. However, the police media office stated that its press release correctly sited the location of the killing as Bethesda, but surmised that the media preferred the term Glen Echo because it was more descriptive than the more diffuse Bethesda.

This misnomer has continued in the media whenever the crime is referred to.

One source of the confusion is that the fire station on Massachusetts Ave.—once located in the town of Glen Echo—is still called the Glen Echo Fire Station. The *Echo's* editor pointed out that the original deeds of some of the homes in that area read "National Chautauqua of Glen Echo," which adds to the confusion.

The two areas can easily be differentiated by their street names, however. All the streets in Glen Echo Heights have Indian names; all those in the town of Glen Echo are named after colleges and universities.

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## **BURGLARY (from page 1)**

the house during the construction and when Renny returning the following morning he noticed that furniture had been moved to reach the VCR. The burglar had entered the house through a hole left for an air conditioning wall unit. In order to gain access, he moved a ladder under the hole and left it there.

Det. McCloskey would not reveal the name of the suspect but said that police know where he lives, that it is in a rural area and not in Montgomery County. He does not have a listed telephone and the police have not attempted to contact him yet. They are also waiting for the contractor, who was the second victim of the burglary, to return their calls, Det. McCloskey said.

## **PHOTOGRAPHER NOW READY TO BUILD BRYN MAWR STUDIO**

**By Victor Gilinsky**

Peter Garfield, the owner of the former La Haute Cuisine commercial property on Bryn Mawr Ave., is seeking town approval for his plans to enlarge the building for his photographic studio.

The addition will be 16 feet high, or 11 feet above grade, he told the town council last month. He said his plans have been scaled down a little from the original drawings.

He told the council that the property was no longer on the market (the real estate sign notwithstanding, apparently). The two year delay in renovating the building for a photo studio was "a long and frustrating time," according to Mr. Garfield, during which he went through four architects. He said he is now satisfied with the last architect's plans.

A well-known photographer, whose studio is currently in Georgetown, Mr. Garfield said that he did not plan to have regular employees and expected his five parking spots would easily handle the traffic, since his work is by appointment only.

After he receives a county building permit, he will make another presentation to the council in order to obtain a town permit, he said, and then begin the renovations.

### **To Glen Echo Residents:**

I want to thank all my friends and former neighbors for your generosity and kind remembrance of Buddy. How good it made me feel to hear all these wonderful people contributed to the American Lung Assn. in his memory.

Thank you very much.

Claire (Ulrich)

## **SANTA VISITS GLEN ECHO AND THRILLS CHILDREN**

A very rotund Santa Claus with a massive white beard arrived at the Glen Echo Town Hall the evening of December 18 just in time for the town holiday party. Most of the 35 children present crowded around him gleefully as he dispensed gifts, assisted by his elf, who later made balloon sculptures.

The party and pot-luck supper was attended by about 70 townspeople. They admired the decorated trees, which were provided by Osamu Shimizu and decorated by party organizers Debbie Henry and Holly Shimizu, and Jane Stevenson. John Henry made special music tapes for the occasion, including both classical and danceable selections.

Mayor Kuster served as bartender. The town provided the beverages and the cost of the decorations.

## TOWN WANTS TO DETERMINE WHERE ITS BOUNDARIES ARE

By Victor Gilinsky and Carlotta Anderson

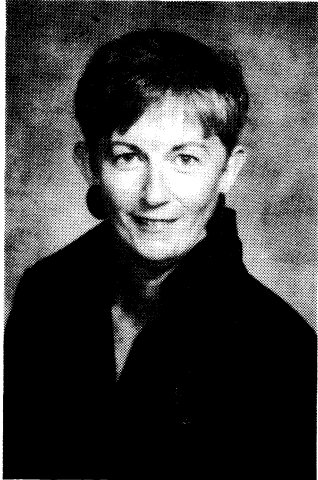
Where do the upper town boundaries lie and where do those of the U.S. government, the county or O. Roy Chalk's property begin? That's what the town is expecting to determine by spending \$200 for an abstract of the demarcation of Glen Echo's northeastern boundaries which lie along MacArthur Blvd.

The importance of this information was brought home last month when a woman complained about the absence of lights in the upper parking lot of Glen Echo Park by its MacArthur Blvd. entrance. She said a man had been loitering near the stables there.

The old light poles which exist there haven't been used for 30 years and are falling apart, Mayor Kuster said. Pepco was willing to install lighting but wanted to know who would pay for it.

It's not our property, said the Park Service, and contacted Mayor Kuster, assuming it belonged to the town. Mayor Kuster thinks it may be part of Montgomery County or it may be under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was pretty sure it wasn't part of the O. Roy Chalk right-of-way where the trolley used to run.





Eleanor

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## MAYOR SAYS TOWN FAVORS BALLROOM BOND BILL, BUT COUNCIL NOT SURE

By Victor Gilinsky and Carlotta Anderson

Mayor Fred Kuster last month spoke in support of a proposed \$500,000 renovation of the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park at a hearing of Maryland legislators. The hearing fell on the same evening as the Town Council meeting, which was chaired by Nancy Long in the mayor's absence. Council members wondered whether the mayor intended to speak for the town or as an interested person only, since the council had not taken a position on the bill.

The mayor told *The Echo* later that he told state legislators at the hearing that the town had previously worked with the state and federal governments in order to provide funding for the playground at the park and that the town was in favor of the state granting the bond issue for the ballroom.

The bond bill was proposed by Del. Nancy Kopp and supported by 14 out of the 16 county delegates, the mayor said. It would provide the money to the Glen Echo Park Foundation as matching funds, giving the Foundation two years to raise its share.

Clerk-Treasurer Don Dworsky expressed strong opposition at the Town Council meeting to this manner of funding renovations at a federal park. He said he felt that national parks were the responsibility of the federal government and that it was a dangerous precedent for local communities to pay for their upkeep.

"I think it's scandalous that the Park Service is playing these games with the maintenance budget," he said. "What if people who lived around Yosemite would have to support it?"

He said he thought the Park Service "must love it" when the local people raise money for repairs at the park and save it from fulfilling its obligations. Mr. Dworsky is a former budget examiner at the federal Office of Management and Budget.

--Dave Robinson also contributed to this report.

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### HARVARD (from page 1)

He added that it was unrealistic for the residents to come in November and expect a quick solution. "Christmas couldn't have been a surprise, or the location of the post office," he said.

Councilman Odell reported that Postmaster Nash had checked her records and found that the number of Glen Echo post office transactions had not increased in the last three years. He added that he and his wife go to the post office daily and had not observed any increase in business.

The council decided to seek further ideas and suggestions from the community.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

Here are some tips from the Montgomery County police:

- Most vehicle accidents are minor in nature and can be handled by the drivers involved without calling the police. The state motor vehicle administration (MVA) only wants a report filled out if someone is injured, regardless of the amount of property damage. If you have someone injured, call the police and they will write a report for the MVA...
- Maryland law requires both the driver and right front passenger to wear seat belts. Each can be fined \$25 for failure to comply. Children under three must be in child safety seats that have been approved by federal standards. Children three to five must be in a safety seat or a seat belt...
- To enable snow plows to operate, use your driveway if snow is predicted in order to get cars off the road. If you do not have a driveway, park as close to the curb as possible...
- One of the main things the homeless and needy of Bethesda require is a place to live that is affordable. Many of the needy have jobs but cannot afford the high rents in this area. If you are willing to rent a room to one of these people call Rev. John Burns, Associate Minister of the First Baptist Church, and he will screen the needy for one who might be right for you. His telephone is 654-4159.

### Recent Nearby Crimes:

Nov. 10, 7000 MacArthur Blvd., WM. 18, exposed self to jogger from white Civic as she ran

Nov. 10, 7900 MacArthur Blvd., Purse stolen from unlocked car

Nov. 25, 6700 Brigadoon Dr., Purse stolen from unlocked car

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## THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

George Borsari of Princeton Ave. played host to a group of neighbors recently when he gave a party to welcome **Randa** and **Chris Papadopolus** and son, **Mazen**, to our town. Not only was it an opportunity to meet the Papadopolus family, but it gave several of us the chance to meet other neighbors whom we had heard or read about but never met prior to this party.

The home was attractively decorated, the food and drinks were plentiful, the camaraderie merry. The introduction to the new neighbors at 5900 Oxford Rd. was a great idea. The group not only included the current mayor, **Fred Kuster**, but also former mayor **Paul Alban** and, of course, former mayor George Borsari.

### GLEN ECHO GALLERY

Glen Echo Park Photographs, 1900-1950

Memories of the coaster dips, Crystal Pool, carousel, Midway, airplane ride and the rollicking trolley to Glen Echo Park are evoked by this collection of rare photographs and memorabilia.

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### TOWN PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

6105 Yale Ave. \$225,000

## BRIEFLY NOTED

There was no **treasurer's report** last month, the sixth month in a row without one. New Clerk-Treasurer Don Dworsky said he is still getting on top of the town's finances. The recent audit by an outside firm provides a good starting point, he said...

The **town streets will be plowed** as soon as there are two inches of snow on them, Mayor Kuster said. Clearing the sidewalks of snow is still the responsibility of the residents, he said...

Leland Phillips has submitted to the county a request for **re-subdivision** of an area of Tulip Hill that is visible from MacArthur Blvd., Councilwoman Long told the council last month. It involves an existing house and surrounding land that may accommodate three or four lots...

**Voter turnout** at Bannockburn Elementary School for the November elections represented more than 85% of area registered voters, the *Bannockburn Newsletter* reported. This was among the highest turnouts in the county.

Michael Dukakis received 70.3% of the vote and Sen. Paul Sarbanes, also a Democrat, got 77.4%, but Republican Rep. Connie Morella carried the precinct with 53.6%. The vote was 88.1% to support the gun law, according to the paper...

—Dave Robinson and Victor Gilinsky

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 12—8:30 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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



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