

The Echo

The Town of
GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



October, 1989

MAYOR CLAIMS PARKING SPACES BUILT ON TOWN EASEMENT

By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

The Garfield Studio's recently built front parking spaces obstruct the town's sidewalk and extend into Bryn Mawr Ave., Mayor Borsari told Peter Garfield at the September 11 town council meeting. He complained also of a sudden and dangerous rise in elevation at the site.

In rebuttal, Mr. Garfield said that all surveys indicate the spaces are on his land, despite the fact that they are built over an area previously used by the town for a street and sidewalk. He said that although there have been many changes along the way in construction details of the studio, the parking spaces constitute the one feature that hasn't changed a bit since the original plan was approved by the town council and county planners.

He complained that the plan had been shown to town officials many times in a good faith effort to inform them, and that no one had ever voiced an objection to the layout of the spaces.

Mayor Borsari countered that, regardless of who owns the property, the town has enjoyed use of the contested land since 1904 and therefore has an unassailable easement, and that a 1972 survey shows sidewalk easement for a public way. He had asked town attorney Tom Craven to draft a letter giving Mr. Garfield 10 days to remove his asphalt construction and restore the sidewalk and street.

At a second council meeting called the following week, Mr. Garfield said he had gotten legal advice and was informed that his case was equally as sound as the town's or better. He said he could understand some concern about the bump and its potential for causing accidents and would be happy to find a way to smooth it out.

Councilman Shultz said he and Councilman Odell had measured the street since the earlier council meeting and talked with former mayor Paul Alban, a longtime resident who lives across the street from the Garfield Studio. Mr. Alban informed them that until the 1930s Bryn Mawr was not a through street, that the town had widened the street over the years, and that Bryn Mawr was originally laid out as a circular street, curving toward the left as one exited town.

TOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday, October 29—7:30 pm

Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents—all ages—invited

TRICK-OR-TREAT NIGHT will be held on
Halloween, October 31. Please leave your porch light
on if you welcome trick-or-treaters.

—continued on page 2

THE ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office 320-4041

6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD.

20812

Office Hours: Call to arrange an appointment.

MAYOR

George Borsari, Jr. 229-4555

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Beers	229-7308
Nancy Long	334-2865 or 229-1369
Harry Odell	229-4494
Bill Shultz	229-1269

CLERK-TREASURER

Ilona Almasy 320-4108

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

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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.

GARFIELD STUDIO (from page 1)

"I think over time, the town has taken the liberty of expanding over the actual plat," Councilman Shultz said. He said George Balenger, who constructed the building that has been converted into the Garfield Studio, put in the sidewalk himself next to the town right-of-way.

"I don't think we should threaten him with lawyer's letters at this point," Councilman Odell said. "We should try to work something out."

Mayor Borsari said his interest was in protecting the rights of the town, and ensuring the safety of pedestrians and vehicles, but that he would like the matter solved without going to court. He instructed town resident and architect Chris Papadopolus to consult with Councilman Shultz on possible solutions to the problem and bring their recommendations to the October council meeting.

(the real)

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MAYOR WANTS TO ABOLISH OPEN SPACE ORDINANCE

By Carlotta Anderson

Calling the town's Open Space ordinance "totally unworkable" and a "monstrous bureaucracy," Mayor Borsari discussed with the council last month the problems that arose when several town residents objected to the cutting of plants being done by the Peyton Tree Service.

Objections were made by two residents to the cutting of bamboo or foliage growing on their property which were overhanging a street or sidewalk, and by another resident to the cutting down of weeds on the former trolley right-of-way property, which the resident considered desirable as an acoustical barrier.

The mayor said he had not authorized Peyton to cut those areas.

He said the ordinance delegating the responsibility for maintaining open space in Glen Echo to an open space committee took away authority from the mayor, and he was going to propose abolishing that ordinance. He particularly objected to the clause giving residents sixty days to correct any violations of the ordinance.

Mayor Borsari said he intended to propose changes authorizing the mayor to send notices giving residents 10 days to correct violations or the matter would be brought before the council.

Town attorney Tom Craven pointed out that another section of the town ordinances already allows the mayor to give only 10 days notice to anyone whose hedges or foliage project over private property onto a sidewalk or street, and to have the work done at the property owner's expense if not carried out within the deadline.

The mayor said that any problems with such obstructions should be brought to his attention and "I'll go talk to them and see if we can work it out."

Councilman Shultz said that if anyone has a complaint about weeds, rubbish, etc. on private property they can call the Dept. of Environmental Protection at 217-2415.

COUNCIL CONSIDERS LOT SUBDIVISION PLANS OF UNDER 6,000 SQ. FT.

By Carlotta Anderson and Nancy Helmig

Saying he wants to have the option of tearing down his present house and building two houses on his property at 5900 Oxford Rd., but is not sure that he will do so, Chris Papadopolus showed plans for a proposed lot subdivision to the town council last month.

"I just want to see if I can do it," he said. "I'm exploring the possibility."

His plans show two semi-triangular lots which bisect the present house, one having a frontage on Oxford Rd., the other on University Ave. Mr. Papadopolus, who is an architect, said he would be able to build two houses meeting all the set-back requirements, despite the unusual shape of the lots.

The proposed lot sizes would be 5,626 sq. ft. and 5,813 sq. ft. Mayor Borsari stated that only 5,000 sq. ft. was required for a buildable lot in Glen Echo since being "grandfathered" so in 1947; Councilwoman Debbie Beers countered that in 1981 the town opposed a resubdivision of under the 6,000 sq. ft. normally required under R-60 zoning.

Town attorney Tom Craven brought the legal documents involved in that case to a second council meeting last month; he said he had not had time to study them, but the matter hinged on how such terms as "lot" and "block" were defined. In an R-60 zone, he said, it was generally necessary to have a lot nearly the same size as other nearby lots, but since in Glen Echo many houses are built on more than one lot, the legal definition was murky.

Mr. Papadopolus said the Park and Planning Commission had told him the lot was subdividable, although at first he was told that 6,000 sq. ft. was required.

Mr. Craven told the council that it had three choices: it could comment in favor at the subdivision request hearing; it could comment in opposition, or it could do nothing. He said that since he and Mr. Papadopolus have a lawyer/client relationship, he would not wish to be the town's legal representative in the matter without written permission given because of his possible conflict of interest. He said he would ask the Park & Planning Commission to inform the town of the date of the hearing.

The council voted unanimously to table the subject for the time being.

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PARK LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT DESCRIBES LOT PLANS

By Nancy Helmig

Minnehaha Creek will be visible as a natural watercourse across the Glen Echo Park parking lot, with two four-foot cascades and a deck with a view, when renovation after the June storm devastation is completed next spring.

In describing the design to the town council last month, Glen Echo Park landscape architect Lynn Pilgrim said the sides of the creek will be planted and curbed median strips with vegetation will be created throughout the parking area.

The design team decided to remove the culvert over the creek and simulate as much as possible a natural watercourse, with its location determined by the bedrock of the creek, she said.

The new entrance over a bridge and then by a path to the park will be closer to MacArthur Blvd., she said. Councilmembers noted that this restores the entrance to its historic location of years ago.

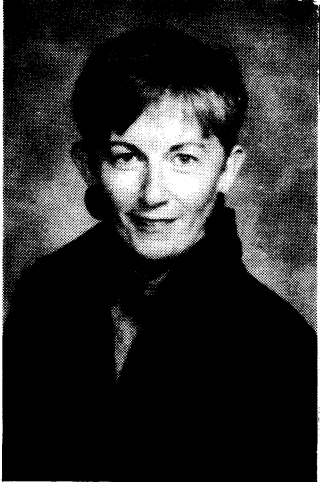
During excavation of the creek, the walls of the old amphitheatre showed up, Ms. Pilgrim said. They will be used to stabilize the walls of the creek. Councilmembers Odell and Long informed the park planners that Minnehaha Creek had previously been called Naylor's Branch, and that they favored a return to this name in future plans.

The plans she described called for moving Clara Barton House parking closer to Oxford Rd. and its intersection with University Ave. and having more green space in front of the hill on which the house stands in order to improve the view from the porch.

Present plans call for around 150 parking spaces for Glen Echo Park on the lower lot (compared to the previous 175), according to Joanne Hanley, park site manager, who was also present at the September town council meeting. There will be backup parking on two sod areas, including the present picnic area, she said, but new areas will be set aside for picnicking.

Mayor Borsari objected that the plan to combine the entrance and exit driveways into a single roadway at the site of the present exit drive would create a major problem. He said there is insufficient space for cars to turn from MacArthur Blvd. onto Oxford and enter the parking area at the same time cars are exiting. The park officials said they would look into this.

The \$700,000 required for the parking lot reconstruction is currently available in the park service budget under emergency flood money appropriations, Ms. Hanley said. The next step in the process is a regional review of the plans; an environmental impact statement is in progress, she said. She estimated that work could start this fall, with completion projected for next spring.



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PLANNING BOARD PROPOSES PARK-AND-RIDE FACILITY IN PARK PARKING LOT

By Nancy Helmig and Carlotta Anderson

Both the mayor and Glen Echo Park officials expressed opposition at the September 11 town council meeting to a Montgomery County Planning Board proposal to use the Glen Echo Park parking lot as fringe parking for 250 cars.

The concept, recommended in the board's final draft of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan, could only be implemented with approval of the Town of Glen Echo and agreement by the National Park Service, the document noted.

Glen Echo Park site manager Joanne Hanley, and Lynn Pilgrim, landscape architect for the parking lot, assured the council that the Park Service would be unalterably opposed to this use.

In making the proposal, the planning board noted that "intensive efforts are needed to increase the amount of car-pooling, vanpooling and transit use to and from the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area" and recommended establishing a Share-a-Ride type program such as has been done in Silver Spring.

OTHER PROPOSALS IN MASTER PLAN FINAL DRAFT

The final draft of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan for development in the area in the next 10 years contains the following proposals for local areas. The plan must still go before the county executive before approval.

TOWN LAND BETWEEN TULANE AND OBER-LIN:

Recommended that it be used for either a town park or two single family dwellings.

Suggested tennis courts or other "adult active recreation" which might be funded cooperatively by the town, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission and the state Open Space program. Described site as "isolated," and not suitable for young children's recreation.

MACARTHUR AND GOLDSBORO (bordering on Exxon station)

Recommended for 26 or fewer townhouses, with development clustered in the relatively flat area adjacent to Goldsboro to preserve the steep slopes. There is currently one house on the five-plus acre property.

MACARTHUR AND GOLDSBORO (across from Glen Echo Park)

Two sites with total of some eight-and-a-half acres, one with two vacant houses on it.

Recommended 16 single family houses, possibly in clusters, with careful siting to preserve trees and provide adequate buffering from the homes on Tulip Hill Terrace.

GARFIELD STUDIO, ALPINE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Recommended continue with existing or other appropriate use. Little development potential on sites.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

The town Halloween party will be held on Sunday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. Anyone willing to help plan the party should contact Deborah Beers at 229-7308 as soon as possible. Volunteers are needed to decorate, bring refreshments and help clean up. Any ideas for entertainment will be especially appreciated.

PLANNING BOARD WANTS HOUSES BY RESTAURANT AVAILABLE AS OFFICES

By Carlotta Anderson

The three houses on Tulane and Oberlin Aves. are in "a site not conducive to residential use" because of their proximity to The Inn at Glen Echo, according to the Montgomery County Planning Board.

The board's final draft of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Master Plan recommends that they be used instead as non-resident professional offices, but with the existing houses retained "to continue a residential scale and character."

Such a recommendation does not prevent the houses from being used as residences, the plan notes, but provides the opportunity for an alternate use.

In its comments to the planning board, the town did not take a formal position on these sites, suggesting only that they continue in the R-60 zoning category with any variances considered on a "case-by-case basis."

The many residents who have occupied these houses for decades might disagree about whether they made nice homes. They have always been situated next to a tavern or restaurant, and at some periods the customers were exceptionally raucous compared to today's clientele.

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THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

Once again, three former residents returned to Glen Echo to renew friendships and see the changes.

Ann (Olive) Metz and her husband, **George**, stopped here on their way home to Vero Beach, Fla. They left Florida in May with their trailer home, and had been to Maine before returning along the east coast.

Ann and her twin sister, **Nan**, grew up in town. Together with their older sister, **Janet**, and brother, **Jack**, they resided with their parents at 6103 Princeton Ave. and later moved to the home their parents built at 6109. The parents, **Mary** and **Delmar Olive**, are now deceased. Both Ann and Janet live in Vero Beach; Nan in Tampa; and Jack makes his home in Frederick, Md.

Also seen around town were **Irene** and **Ed Cannon**, formerly of Vassar Circle. They now live in Sun City, Ariz., but make frequent trips here for business purposes and to visit son, **Johnny**, and his wife in Gaithersburg.

While here, they joined **Lee Clune**, **Mary Helen Lumsden**, **Dorothy Lumsden**, **Paul Alban** and **Mac** and me at Raindancer for dinner. Like Ann Metz, they were surprised by the remodeling of homes in town, and the many new residents. "Very few old-timers around anymore," was a frequent comment.

Congratulations to our neighbor **Holly Shimizu**, of Bryn Mawr Ave., whose timely advice on plant watering was recently seen in the Montgomery Journal. Holly, the head of public programs for the U.S. Botanic Gardens, states that "you definitely don't want to water your plants unless they're dry. You are the best judge and you judge by sticking your finger in the soil an inch or two." That way you get to know your plants—when they need water as well as when they become pot-bound.

Between Holly and her husband, **Osamu**, and their gardening expertise, one can readily understand and appreciate their efforts and attractive results at 6101.

Nancy Helmig recently spent 10 days in Laguna Niguel, Calif., helping her daughter, **Stacy**, with her new baby, **Zachary Charles Neminsky**. Stacy's first child and Nancy's fifth grandchild came into the world weighing nine pounds, four ounces, and is doing "marvelously," according to Nancy. His father, **Tosh**, is an architect; his mother, a paralegal.



HOW TO GET ACTION FOR TOWN PROBLEMS

Mayor George Borsari announced last month that he has instituted a new system for citizen complaints regarding town affairs. Instead of having different councilmembers responsible for problems in specific areas, he will "field" all complaints, he said, enabling townspeople to "go to one place to get their problems solved." Complaints should be communicated directly to the mayor, preferably in writing. Mayor Borsari's address is 6107 Princeton Ave.

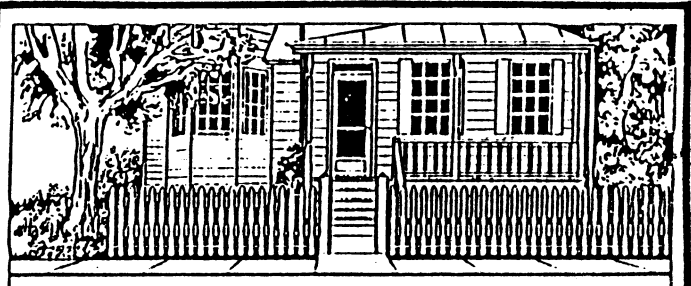
Problems can also be brought to his attention by telephoning him at 229-4555, or calling the town office at 320-4041 and leaving a message on the answering machine. Messages are picked up daily by Clerk/Treasurer Ilona Almasy, the mayor said.

The mayor said he intended to handle routine complaints himself, but would bring any matter involving the expenditure of over \$1,000 to the attention of the council, as required in the town charter.

—**Carlotta Anderson**

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

23 Wellesley Circle	\$299,999
7309 University Ave.	\$300,000
7314 University Ave.	\$365,000
6010 Princeton Ave.	\$367,500
6109 Harvard Ave.	\$270,000



REAL ESTATE? Tell a friend to call JANE STEVENSON
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TRASH PICKUP DAYS CHANGE

Waste Management, Inc., has informed the town that trash pickup will switch to Mondays and Thursdays beginning in October. Mayor Borsari said the company expects the change to save an hour or two or its time. A town bulletin will be sent out advising residents of the new times, he said.

Councilmembers suggested that since many holidays fall on Monday, there may be more missed pickups in the future.

At least two town residents called the newspaper recycling company to complain about missed pickups of newspapers last month. They were told that if no one calls to complain about a missed pickup, the company is unaware of it.

Townpeople are encouraged to complain promptly after any future missed newspaper pickups. The number to call is 589-4002.

—David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

CLASSIFIED ADS

VIOLIN FOR SALE. Suitable for student. Good condition, new strings and bow. \$125. Anderson, 229-3748.

TYPING, word processing. Experienced, good references. Call Jennifer, 229-9121.

WANTED: Resident to do occasional pen or pencil illustrations for *The Echo*. Please call the editor at 229-3748 to volunteer.

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 the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 9—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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

BRIEFLY NOTED

● The town's new **insurance policy** will cover *The Echo* editor and reporters as soon as an ordinance can be written making the paper an official organ of the town. The ordinance will probably require the appointment of an editorial review board...

● An **insurance auditor** has written the town asking to review nearly all the town's records. Mayor Borsari said he feared this would require a large commitment of time and planned to discuss the matter with the town's insurance agent before acquiescing...

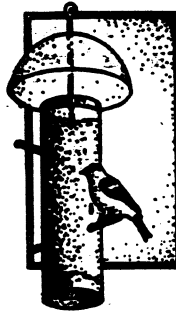
● The mayor has decided to restore Roger Cohen as **town auditor**. Mr. Cohen had been the town's auditor for many years before the town switched briefly to the services of another accountant...

● Mayor Borsari said that under his administration Councilwoman Long will still be town liaison to the park and will schedule events for the Town Hall and Councilman Odell will continue to be responsible for maintenance of the Town Hall, but the mayor will take over other **responsibilities formerly undertaken by councilmembers**. Councilman Shultz will no longer be responsible for town streets and sidewalks; neither he nor Councilwoman Beers have been assigned regular duties. The mayor wishes all complaints about violations of town ordinances to be made directly to him (see page 6)...

● Town **tax bills** will be going out soon. Town taxes are due November 1...

—David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

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GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 7—**TOM CUNNINGHAM ORCHESTRA** (big band) and **DARYL DAVIS** (rhythm 'n blues). Fundraiser for rehabilitation of the Spanish ballroom
Jitterbug workshop 7-8 pm; Dance 8-1 am. \$12

October 21—"PICK AND SWAP". WAMU presents four bluegrass bands, noon-5:30 pm.

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS

Charlotte Andreasen is a new resident at 29 Wellesley Circle, at least until next June. Charlotte is staying with the Beers family as an *au pair* for a year as part of a program run by "The Experiment in International Living's" *Au pair* program.

She is 19 years old and was born in Kolding, Denmark, where she lived before coming to the U.S. Charlotte, who speaks English, German and French, as well as Danish, has already had her mail delivered to the editor because of the similarity in their names and addresses.

—Debbie Beers



MOTOR OIL RECYCLING

Pouring used oil from one car engine into a storm drain can create an eight-acre oil slick in Maryland waterways, Gov. William Schaefer has pointed out.

Such action is also illegal, as is dumping the oil in your trash, or pouring it directly on the ground.

Used motor oil should be taken to one of Maryland's oil collection facilities for recycling. The nearest one for Glen Echo residents is Chevy Chase Chevrolet, 7725 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase.

ADVENTURE THEATRE

Lady Dither's Ghost
September 23-October 29
Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30
Tickets: \$4..50 Call 320-5331

THE PUPPET COMPANY

In October:
The Magic Mirror

Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.
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NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

The following information is from the Montgomery County police:

- The sound of breaking glass in your neighborhood is probably the most suspicious sound you can hear. Call the police immediately. The sound could indicate a burglary or theft in progress.
- The number one cause of traffic accidents on the Beltway is tailgating. Do not follow the car in front too closely. Leave a cushion of safety in front of you, even in heavy traffic, and always leave a way out in case of emergency.

Recent nearby incidents:

August 1 7600 MacArthur Blvd., aggravated assault, 11:35 pm, victim shot with BB-gun by passing motorist in white VW Rabbit.