

# The Echo

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



March, 1990

### NEW STOP SIGN VOTED FOR CORNELL

By Dorrit Green

A group of Wellesley Circle residents, who find it dangerous to drive into the upper section of Cornell Ave. because of limited view of the roadway, last month petitioned the town council to place a mirror at that intersection so they could view oncoming traffic.

Councilmembers agreed that it is a dangerous intersection and some improvement should be made. Councilman Shultz suggested placing a stop sign instead of a mirror on Cornell Ave. because people are driving too fast on Cornell. He said a stop sign is cheaper and less likely to be vandalized. There already is a stop sign on the Wellesley Circle corner.

Mayor Borsari agreed that a stop sign was a good idea, while a mirror might not be adequate or large enough. He said he was afraid people might look at the mirror and keep on moving.

If there were a stop sign, "whoever doesn't stop would be liable for any accident," he said.

Councilwoman Beers also stressed that the bushes at that corner, which were recently trimmed, must be kept cut down.

The council voted unanimously to install the stop sign as a first attempt to solve the problem. Councilman Shultz suggested the situation be reevaluated in 60 days. He invited residents to comment.

The mayor said he would call the sign installers and tell them to put the stop sign in place.

### *PEPCO REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING*

A representative of PEPCO will be at the March 12 Town Council meeting to answer questions from residents concerning the frequent power outages experienced by the community in recent years.

The appearance was arranged by Councilwoman Deborah Beers after resident Bea Smith brought up the issue of PEPCO's response to the increasingly frequent power failures at the Dec. 11 meeting.

Kim Watson, a supervisor in the Office of the Vice-President of Customer Services, will research Glen Echo's history of outages and PEPCO's response to them prior to her appearance at the March meeting.

### **NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, March 12—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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

## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

MARYLAND

208 12

Town Office 320-4041

6 106 Harvard Avenue or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD.

208 12

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

Ilna Almasy 320-4108

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Mary Masulla	229-6521
Daryl Kuster	229-2070
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.

## TAX REFUNDS COMING SOON

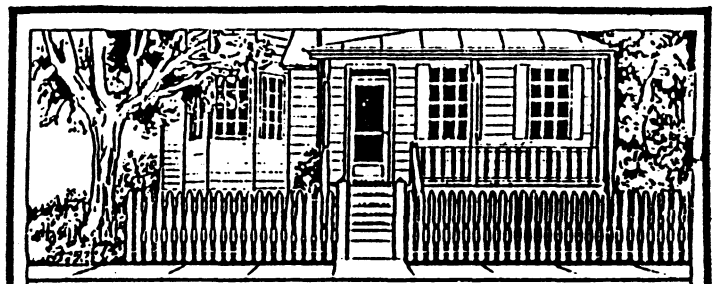
By Carlotta Anderson

Residents can expect a 25 percent refund of town taxes in their mailbox soon, Mayor Borsari said. It is simply a matter of Clerk/Treasurer Ilna Almasy typing the checks up and sending them out, he said.

The overpayment was due to the county's miscalculation of the town's tax rate, he said. The Glen Echo Town Council reduced the rate in July from 54 cents to 40 cents per \$100 of real estate valuation. The county was informed of the new tax rate, the mayor said, but they used the old one when calculating the Glen Echo town tax bills, which were due November 1.

The town has received a new print-out for each house, figured on the basis of the correct tax rate.

The refund was not made earlier, Mayor Borsari said, because he wanted to discuss how to do it with the auditor.



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

## COUNCIL EXAMINES VASSAR DEVELOPMENT; TAKES NO ACTION

By Dorrit Green

Town Council members, expressing some frustration because they lacked information about a projected re-subdivision on Vassar Circle, took no action on the matter at their February meeting.

Mayor George Borsari said the town had received a letter in January from the National Capital Park and Planning Commission asking for comments on the re-subdivision from the town, but he could not find the town's copy at the meeting. Councilwoman Beers said she thought each member of the council should get a copy of all official notices as soon as they are received.

She and Nancy Long said they wondered why they had never received copies from the planning commission, since they are adjacent or confronting property owners.

Council members viewed the elevation and site plans submitted by the builder, Natco, Inc., to Mayor Borsari. The plans indicated variances from set-back requirements would be necessary.

Councilwoman Beers wondered as well why no variance signs had been erected at the 13 Vassar Circle site. The mayor said he didn't think a variance was necessary unless a building permit had been denied.

In his cover letter, the builder requested that the council comment to the planning board on the design and site plans of the projected houses. The mayor countered that the town had no function except to comment on the proposed re-subdivision only, and that the "normal policy" was not to comment. He noted that the re-subdivision would split the property into two lots and that each would have the requisite 6,000 sq. ft.

Councilman Shultz said that it was not the subdivision but the relationship between the size of the house and the size of the lot that "would appear to be the problem."

Resident Renny Springuel said he would like to see the structure "downsized" so the roof line didn't stand above other houses. He said he was afraid "we'll end up with a skyscraper" that would destroy the character of the town. He said he thought it was important for the council to express these views, whether the town could enforce them or not.

The mayor expressed exasperation at the prolonged discussion and said, "I'm truly sorry I asked these people to tell us what they were doing. I'll never do that again."

Since the mayor could not find the copy of the planning commission letter, council members took no action. Councilman Odell commented in annoyance that "we meet once a month. We could get organized here."

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### **ADOLESCENT PROGRAM OPENS IN CABIN JOHN**

Bethesda Youth Services, which offers an array of prevention and early intervention services to adolescents and their families, moved into the Clara Barton School in Cabin John last month. It is a community service program of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase YMCA. All of its services are offered free of charge.

Included in the programs for young people aged 10-19 and their families are an outdoor adventure group, tutoring, therapeutic recreation activities, parent education, suicide prevention services, family enrichment programs and family, group, and individual counseling.

The facility is staffed by nine full-time and two part-time professionals, plus two clinical consultants. It also depends on the help of college and university interns, as well as community volunteers.

For further information, call 229-1347.

Adult volunteers are needed to tutor youths for one to two hours per week. No specific education or training is required. If you are interested, call Jeanie at 652-2820. Also needed are area rugs in good condition. If you have one to donate, call Debbie at 652-2820.

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## BANNOCKBURN SEEKING BUS STOP SHELTER

By Carlotta Anderson

Bannockburn residents, tired of perching on the often slippery or muddy sliver of hilly land allotted for those awaiting buses at the Glen Echo terminal, are negotiating with the county for a shelter and other improvements.

The Bannockburn Civic Association is asking for a smooth paved area and sidewalk approach, adequate drainage and lighting, and possibly a trash container and benches in addition to the shelter, according to Mary-Ellen Sayre, chairman of its transportation committee. She said the neighborhood association is working closely with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation on this issue.

The county is seeking a pull-out lane and space for the buses to stand, she said. It is currently remeasuring the Goldsboro Rd. right-of-way and checking plat maps to determine if sufficient public space is available for the improvements.

Gen. Donald Dawson, who owns the adjacent property at the site, has refused to grant the county an easement or sell it any of the land, according to a transportation department spokesman.

The terminal was moved to its present location about eight years ago. For the past seven years, the county has considered several alternative spots, none of which proved practicable.

Except for recently improved lighting, some grading and the posting of bus schedules (all thanks to agitation by Bannockburners) nothing has been done in the intervening years to make life pleasanter for local bus riders.

## TOWN COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

February 12

Mayor Borsari recommended that the town accept a proposal from the accountants to review the books and make changes in the way they are kept. The total cost for a quarterly review would be \$4,000. Councilman Shultz said he thought it might help "make sense of things" and recommended a quarterly audit for at least a year. Councilwoman Beers agreed it might be helpful to do for one year "to get things back on track"...

The post office will stay in its present location at the Town Hall until the end of 1992, the mayor announced...

Councilwoman Beers suggested a monthly status report on some of these matters that "seem to slide by from month to month." She mentioned the curb work that should be done at the lower end of Cornell Ave. and Wellesley Circle to prevent water problems for nearby homes, which was discussed at the October council meeting...

Town attorney Tom Craven has researched the area in front of the Garfield Studio and is confident the town has an easement there, he informed Peter Garfield's attorney. He sent along documentation from the 1960s that showed Bryn Mawr Ave. and a sidewalk cutting across the property at least 20 years ago. However, he asked them to state their position in order to determine why there is disagreement on the issue...

—Dorrit Green

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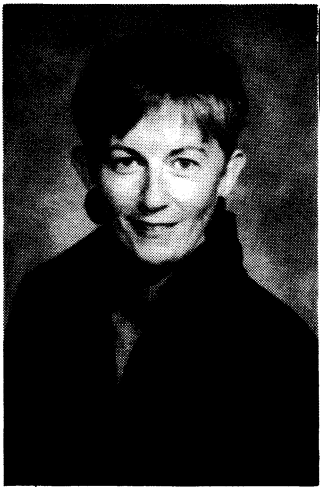
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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**GIVEAWAY. Body-building weights, 8 lbs. and 15 lbs., and bars. Call Anderson, 229-3748.**

**RESPONSIBLE SINGLE** wishes to rent in Glen Echo. Non-smoker, no pets. Desires own bathroom; share or own kitchen, etc. No basements. For spring or earlier. Call 229-6319.

**BETHESDA YOUTH SERVICES, located in the Clara Barton School, seeking to hire 20 hr/wk administrative asst. for computer data entry, record keeping, and general office duties. Call Debbie at 652-2820. Also needed: Adult volunteers to tutor youth 1-2 hrs/wk. No specific education or training required. Call Jeanie at 652-2820.**

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.

## PROPERTY OWNERS MEET TO PLAN TAX APPEALS

Following the Jan. 10 town meeting with representatives from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, town residents Eleanor Balaban and Gloria Levin prepared and distributed a survey questionnaire.

The questionnaire asked if town homeowners intended to appeal their property tax assessments; on what grounds; what information they planned to use to support their case; and their interest in sharing information.

Of 13 respondents, 10 had filed (or intended to file) an appeal. Seven people met Feb. 15 to share ideas. No one had yet received notification of a date for a hearing.

One resident plans to protest on the basis of major inaccuracies on the worksheet of his property. Others planned to point out deficiencies that would lower their properties' valuation or were gathering information on sales of comparable properties.

—Gloria Levin

## ENGINEERS INVESTIGATE TOWN PROBLEM AREAS

By Carlotta Anderson

Mayor George Borsari last month showed representatives of Greenhome and O'Mara, the town engineers, six problem areas on town streets and sidewalks last month, he said. They were:

—Parking lot behind the Town Hall. A reoccurring problem with ice appears to be caused by uneven pavement. Also large tree roots partially block the storm drain. Earlier attempts to clear the drain have failed. The engineers will recommend methods of solving these problems.

—Damaged sidewalks. The firm will determine whether it would be cheaper to patch these on a continuing basis as damage occurs or do specific areas of town on a five or 10 year basis.

—Slurry-sealing roadways. The engineers found the streets in good shape and will look into whether slurry-sealing is advisable.

—Bowdoin Ave. Water running off the street is undercutting some of the roadway at this location.

—Water problem at lower end of Cornell Ave. and Wellesley. The engineers said the cause of water leakage in the basement of a house at this location was not readily apparent. They will re-examine the site after a rainfall.

—Partially clogged storm drains at the ends of all streets.

The firm determined that a hole in the upper section of Cornell Ave. was not made by surveyors, as claimed by a resident at last month's meeting, but by WSSC, the mayor said. He said WSSC had recently marked several locations in town where work presumably is scheduled.

## GLEN ECHO Pharmacy

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# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## THE PUPPET COMPANY

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Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.  
Most Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m., 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.  
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## ADVENTURE THEATRE

### Black Beauty

March 3-April 8  
Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
Tickets: \$4..50 Call 320-5331

## TAKE CARE WHEN CROSSING BIKE PATH

There have recently been a couple of accidents or near-collisions between cars and bicyclists or joggers at the entrances to town. This is the result of motorists turning into town streets without checking out the bike path, or leaving town without coming to a full stop and proceeding only after determining that the bike path is clear.

Remember when turning off or onto MacArthur Blvd. that anyone on the bike path has the right of way and that you will be held liable if there is an accident.

## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

The following information is from the Montgomery County Police:

Call the police immediately (911) if you observe any suspicious person, activity or situation. Don't think you're bothering us. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think about what could happen if you don't act.

Some of the most obvious events to report include:

Any stranger entering your neighbor's unoccupied house.  
A scream.

Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices.

Anyone peering into parked vehicles.

The sound of breaking glass or any loud explosive noise.

Persons loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.

Check identification of all solicitors, meter readers, delivery and repair people prior to permitting them into your home.

## PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

7325 University Ave. \$395,000

## GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

6010 Princeton Ave., Lusk to Lorenzen \$360,000  
7309 University Ave., Reptsik to Mondale \$300,000  
7314 University Ave., Maggin to Reeder, \$350,000

Information on town property transactions is provided by Rufus Lusk through his Lusk Reports, a real estate information service.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT January 1990

Lynott & Craven, conf. with mayor & retainer	\$287.50
Christmas party	\$165..83
MJR Landscaping, Oct. & Nov.	\$95..00

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