

# The Echo

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

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April, 1994

### TOWN GOES GREEN FOR ADULT PARTY

By Carlotta Anderson

Serenaded by a strolling guitarist singing Irish melodies, 40 Glen Echoans celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an Irish Ceili held at the town hall on Saturday, March 19.

After imbibing assorted beverages during a convivial social hour, they sat at long tables for a hearty, family-style, sit-down dinner. Platters of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and home-baked Irish soda bread were passed down the line.

The dessert of "Irish trifle" was served by the Bannerman caterers. It was followed by a limerick contest. After each guest wrote the first two lines, the paper was passed to another guest, who had to complete the limerick and read it aloud.

The subjects, which ranged from the mayor of Glen Echo to Whitewater (but making no connection between the two!), were greeted with much laughter. Prizes were baskets filled with traditional Irish flora, which served as table decorations.

For the first official Glen Echo St. Patrick's Day party, all adult residents were personally invited by mailed invitation. There were several in attendance who had not come to a town party for many years, if ever before.

Clerk-treasurer Kate Horwitz arranged the party, assisted by volunteers Susan Grigsby, Norman and Deborah Bernhardt, Stephanie Smith and Jim Horwitz.

### COUNCIL VOTES TO HAVE COUNTY COLLECT TAXES

By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

The town council last month voted to turn the responsibility for collecting town taxes over to the county. Councilwoman Nancy Long strongly opposed the change, saying that the right and duty to tax its citizens was one of the most important functions of a government and should not be surrendered.

She asked why the town had purchased additional office equipment and computer software that could make such chores easier if it did not intend to use them for that purpose.

Mayor Debbie Beers said that the goal was not just administrative expediency, but to avoid the costly and embarrassing mistakes that had plagued the town tax collection process up to the present time.

There will be no cost to the town of Glen Echo and the town will receive receipts on a monthly basis, a slight delay from the present system.

In case of non-payment of taxes, the county enforcement measures are automatic. They include, after suitable warnings, auction of the delinquent property.

To assuage Councilwoman Long's objections, the mayor said that the decision could be reversed in a year if the arrangement proved unsatisfactory.

## THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents are \$10 per year. Copies of *The Echo* are on file at the Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

<b>Editor</b>	Carlotta Anderson 229-3748
<b>Assistant Editor</b>	David Sproul
<b>Reporters</b>	David Sproul
<b>Distribution</b>	Brockie and Jane Stevenson Sarah Hewittl Barbara Odell Cathy and Mallory Polak Sally Law
<b>Circulation</b>	Tillie McNoldy

**Next Deadline April 22**

**Printed by Allied Printing, Bethesda**

## 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

Debbie Beers 229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Anderson 229-3748  
Michael Brintnall 229-6792  
Nancy Long  
Bill Shultz 229-1269

### CLERK-TREASURER

Kate Horwitz 320-2171

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Bertha Smith 320-3629

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about *The Echo* may be addressed to the editor, the mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the editor at 229-3748.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The mayor would like any resident who would be willing to serve as a member of the Animal Control Board to contact her at 229-7308. The board generally meets extremely rarely, and only in cases of a written complaint from a resident regarding a town pet after attempts to resolve the problem by Animal Control Officer Bea Smith have failed.

## SOON TIME FOR NEW TOWN PET LICENSES

Residents are reminded that licenses for town pets will expire on June 30. New ones may be obtained by contacting clerk-treasurer Kate Horwitz at the town offices, 320-4041.

License fees are \$4 for a male or spayed female dog or cat and \$8 for an unspayed pet. The cost of licenses doubles after June 30.

All town pets are legally required to have licenses issued annually by the town of Glen Echo. The license, when attached to a collar, is a benefit to pet and owner, since it serves to identify lost animals.



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## WHO IS LIABLE FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX?

Every Glen Echo town resident who is self-employed and whose office is in his or her home should be paying personal property tax to the town. Personal property consists of the equipment used to conduct the business.

If you are self-employed, conduct your business out of your home and are not already paying personal property tax to the town, please contact clerk-treasurer Kate Horwitz at 320-2171.

In past years, the town made no active effort to determine which residents were liable for personal property tax and did not bill them, according to Mayor Debbie Beers. Although the town will probably not try to collect back taxes, she said, it will attempt to determine who should be billed in the future, possibly through information from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

—**Carlotta Anderson**

### *PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET*

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## RESIDENT COMPLAINS OF SEDIMENT AND OIL FROM CONSTRUCTION WORK

By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

Oberlin Ave. resident Isabelle Umpleby told the council at its March meeting that construction work on the building beside her home had generated unacceptable levels of sediment and runoff. She also reported that a considerable quantity of fuel oil was allowed to run from an obsolete tank onto the street and into surrounding dirt, jeopardizing nearby trees.

Mayor Beers offered to enlist town sediment control officer Jim Shaut, who was present at the meeting, in getting the county to intervene. She said that the county strictly enforces laws prohibiting runoff and oil leakage.

Ms. Umpleby said that she did not want to see the construction firm fined. She only wanted the mess cleaned up and work patterns corrected. She also suggested that the dumpster for the project which had been parked over the town sidewalk for an extended period of time was being used for refuse from other projects and had become an irritant.

After the meeting, Mayor Beers contacted the builder, Frank Bell, of Bell Builders, Inc., who said he intended to confer with Ms. Umpleby and to scrub the street with appropriate detergents. He said he planned to comply with all regulations concerning discarded oil and would dispose of the dirt properly, as well as erect silt fences.

Mayor Beers invited him to attend the April meeting of the town council.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 11—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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

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## POLICE NEWS

By David Sproul

- Street robberies in downtown Bethesda are an alarming new development. At least six have occurred already this year, with victims ranging in age from 16 to 70, according to the Washington Post. Purses and wallets were snatched by someone saying or suggesting he had a handgun on Willard, Woodmont and Bethesda avenues, and other pedestrian streets...
- Capt. Alan Rodbell is the new commander at the Montgomery County Police Bethesda District headquarters, replacing Capt. Fred Ailes, who has moved to the Silver Spring district headquarters...
- What with street crime on the rise in the Bethesda district, Capt. Rodbell suggested that private business owners consider imitating an experiment ongoing in Times Square, New York City. Booths are placed in crowded areas where citizens can find a sympathetic volunteer to give them directions and who will be able to telephone in cases of emergency...
- Ride-along appointments in a police car are still accepted and can be illuminating. The rides are available in the 10 am-4 pm and 4 pm-10 pm shifts. They are open to any county resident age 16 or older. For details, contact Officer Gary Renninger at 657-0612...
- Recent burglaries in Chevy Chase were made by using a homeowner's ladder to enter unlocked second-story windows, according to Capt. Rodbell. He advised putting away any ladders or devices which can be used for climbing...
- The most common crime in the Bethesda district is larceny from cars, both locked and unlocked. Two cars were stolen from the River Falls neighborhood when keys were left on the dashboard. Police strongly advise sticking with the basics: lock the car, take the keys, leave nothing valuable in sight through the windows.

(David Sproul serves as a member of the Bethesda Police Advisory Board.)

### Paid Advertisement

#### THE GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH VASSAR CIRCLE, GLEN ECHO MD.

Jesus Christ is our Lord, Saviour and God. He still performs miracles at the Glen Echo Baptist Church. A born again fellowship. 229-4430.

**Sunday Morning:** PRAYER 8:00, FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30, WORSHIP AND PRAISE, 11:00. All are invited!!

**Sunday Evening:** 6:00 WHY WE BELIEVE THE JEWISH BIBLE, 7:00 PRAISE, TESTIMONIES, WORSHIP, SINGING

**Wednesday Evening:** 7:00 PRAYER, TESTIMONIES, BIBLE QUESTIONS

**Friday Morning:** 10:00 COMMUNITY PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

Collecting food and clothing for the homeless and needy.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**TWO HARD-WORKING WHITMAN STUDENTS** want to mow your lawn. Professional equipment with own truck. Reasonable rates. Call Toby Orme, 320-4236 or Jeremy Welsh, 229-3351 for free estimate.

*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.*

## BRIEFLY NOTED

The **aerial ladder truck** made its controversial move from the Glen Echo Volunteer Fire Station to the Cabin John Fire Station on River Road last month. Glen Echo firefighters and local residents had been fighting for retention of the truck, saying it was vital for nearby rescue operations. A lawsuit filed against the county fire and rescue commission was dismissed in circuit court...

The first .6 mile of the **Capital Crescent Trail** was opened last month. It extends from Bethesda Ave. to Little Falls Parkway, next to the Bethesda Pool, and was built with federal and state funds. The next 3.4 miles of the hiker/biker trail will continue to the District Line. When completed, the 11-mile trail will run from Silver Spring to Georgetown, following the alignment of the former Georgetown Branch right-of-way. It will have a 10-foot wide asphalt bike path with a 4-foot wide unpaved hiking and jogging trail running parallel to the bike path for most of the distance...



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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

March 14

A bid of \$500 from Joanne Murray of Murray and Associates to perform a survey of the town's obligations for complying with the **Americans With Disabilities Act** was approved unanimously. Ms. Murray said that she will be working with the fire marshal to be sure the town hall satisfies the pertinent requirements...

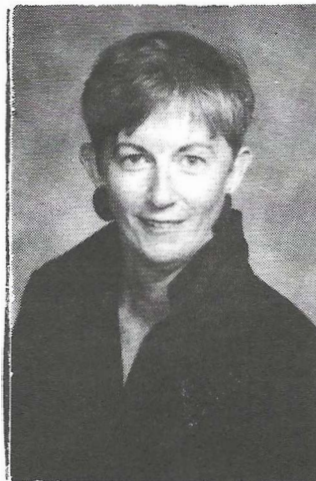
Resident Jim Shaut complained that the work crews repairing **storm drains on lower Harvard Ave.** had ruined shrubs worth \$500 by piling dirt on them. Mayor Beers said she would consider holding back some of the payment if it proved that the crews had ignored ways to avoid unnecessary damage...

A group of about 50 people will hold a convention for board gamers on July 1, 2, and 3 at Glen Echo Town Hall. The event will not be open to the public and will be by invitation only. The council agreed to charge a reduced fee for the three-day meeting...

Lam's Landscaping was selected for the second year in a row to do **general town landscaping**, based on low price, services offered and demonstrated knowledge of plant and tree care. Proposals from several landscaping firms were considered...

Mayor Beers announced that the town is now a member of **LGIT, the Local Government Insurance Trust...**

---David Sproul



*Eleanor*

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# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## PARK NEWS

The town council last month approved a request from Glen Echo Park site manager Frank Cucurullo to use its land between Tulane and Oberlin Aves. for a performance stage for the annual **Washington Folk Festival**. The site may also be used for a few craft tents. The festival will take place June 4 and 5...

The **yellow barn** is now being used as a studio by painter Walt Bartman, who was selected as artist-in-residence for the barn, replacing furniture maker Henry Barrow, who was situated there for almost two decades. Proposals for the locations made available to artists-in-residence are granted on a three-year basis. There were five proposals for the yellow barn, according to Mr. Cucurullo. He told the town council last month that he did not want to comment further on the change due to possible litigation...

An engineer will be asked to look at the **drainage problem** at the intersection of University Ave. and Oxford Rd., Mr. Cucurullo told the council...

--David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

## WEEKEND DANCES AT THE PARK

**APRIL 9--CREOLE ZYDECO FARMERS, Cajun/Zydeco. \$10**

**APRIL 10--Sunday afternoon BAILROOM TEA DANCE season begins, 3-6 p.m., \$8.**

**APRIL 16--The swinging blues of BIG NITE OUT, \$7**

**APRIL 23--THE COTTON CLUB. Sounds of Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway and others performed by the Tom Cunningham Orchestra. Period garb is optional. Admission, \$8**

**MAY 7--The J STREET JUMPERS, swing dancing, \$7**

Every Friday night--Contras, squares, and other country dances. 8:30-11:30, \$5

Every Sunday night--Squares and contras for intermediate and advanced levels. 7:30-10:30 p.m., \$7

Workshops 8-9; Dances 9-midnight.

## COMING EVENTS

**APRIL 2 & 3-- I.A.B. Showcase, modern dance/ performance art, Hall of Mirrors, 229-6022**

**APRIL 8--Story telling with Meliss Bunce, Adventure Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$3, 320-5331**

**APRIL 10--MS Society Super Cities Walkathon**

**APRIL 23 & 24--Claudia Brand & Krauss & Company, modern dance, Hall of Mirrors, 229-6022**

**APRIL 24--Footsteps in the Sky, musical celebrating folk tales from around the world, Adventure Theatre, 7:00 p.m. Free. 530-5331**

**APRIL 30 & MAY 1--Cathy Paine Going Solo, experimental dance and vocal works, Hall of Mirrors, 229-6022**

**MAY 6--Story telling with Linda Fang, Adventure Theatre, 7:30 p.m., \$3, 320-5331**

## KIDS' NATURE WALK AT WILD BIRD CENTER

The Wild Bird Center in Cabin John will hold a children's springtime nature walk on Saturday, April 30, at 10 a.m. Designed for children ages 6-10, the walk on the C&O Canal will focus on the changes that spring brings in the natural world, including bird courtship and migration.

Cost of \$5 per child includes a copy of Peterson First Guides--Birds. Parents are invited to attend as well. Call the Center at 229-3141 to reserve a space.

Also on April 30, from noon to 2 p.m., the Center will host a visit of live birds of prey from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. An Eastern Screech-Owl, a Red-Tailed Hawk, and a Turkey Vulture will be among the birds on display.



**REAL ESTATE? Tell a friend to call JANE STEVENSON at Coldwell Banker. (O) 654-3222 (H) 229-3578**