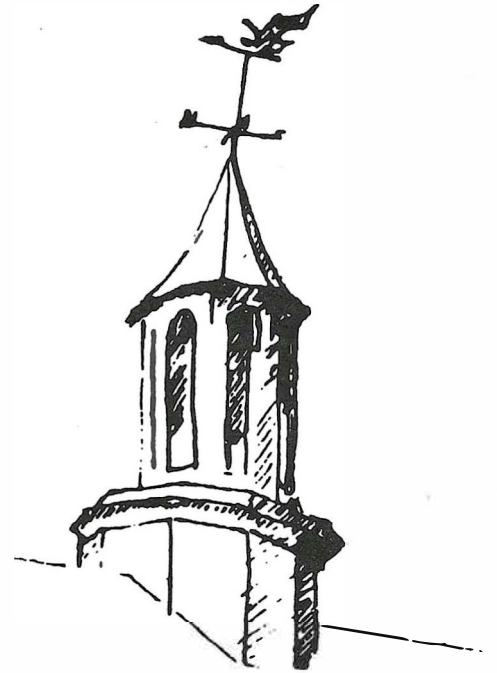


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



April 2000

PARK AGREES TO INSTALL MORE PLAYGROUND SWINGS

By Carlotta Anderson and Phyllis Fordham

National Park Service Supt. Audrey Calhoun has agreed to postpone some landscaping work at Glen Echo Park so that more swings can be erected at the site of the new temporary playground. The town had written her requesting that construction of the concrete pad, benches, and drinking foundation be delayed until the playground could move back to its current location near the Spanish Ballroom.

However, as Supt. Calhoun wrote to Madeleine Carter of the Glen Echo Park Foundation--Playground Committee, she approved the placement of two bays of swings only (four swings), and the third bay would have to remain in storage until the playground was placed in its permanent location.

She based this decision on the grounds that if all three bays of swings were placed in the circle, the NPS risked "compromising the safety zone due to the location of one or two existing trees." The playground equipment was purchased with over \$37,000 raised by the volunteer Playground Committee. The town and NPS each contributed \$5,000.

Ms. Carter asked the town council at its March 13 meeting to write again to Supt. Calhoun and enclose a letter from a playground design company saying it had determined last fall that it appeared only one tree needed to be relocated a few feet in order to accommodate all the swings.

—continued on page 3

VOTE ON VEHICLE ORDINANCE DELAYED TO APRIL MEETING

By Phyllis Fordham

Because the town council made a number of changes to the published vehicle control ordinance proposal at its Mar. 13 meeting, it has delayed a formal vote on it until the April meeting.

Councilman Norman Bernhardt said he would like to have penalties for unpaid traffic fines increased by more than \$10 after 15 days. Councilman Mike Brintnall suggested instead a \$25 increase after 30 days, and all council members agreed to this change except Councilman Bernhardt.

Council members noted that the speed limit in the ordinance as changed will be 20 mph. They also discussed the location of speed bumps and stop signs, which will be defined in the ordinance.

Diana Hudson-Taylor of Wellesley Cir. referred to a letter she sent the council expressing fear of abuses in the enforcement of the ordinance, in particular sections concerning the authorization to impound illegally parked vehicles and dispose of them if charges remain unpaid for 30 days.

In response to her concern, the council clarified that two people would be required to determine if a vehicle, even on private property, should be considered "junk."

Ms. Hudson-Taylor also pointed out that section 19.2, which includes such terms as "left unattended," "unreasonable length of time," and "impair the aesthetic values of the

—continued on page 5

THE ECHO

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TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

The following activities booked at the town hall are free for town residents:

Thursday, Apr. 6, 7:00-10:00 p.m.—American Indian Inter-Tribal Council meeting

Sunday, Apr. 9, noon-4:00 p.m.—Folklore Society music workshop.

Thursday, Apr. 13, 8:00 p.m.—Folklore Society music work shop.

Friday, Apr. 28, 8:00 p.m.—Folklore Society concert

Saturday, Apr. 29, 10:00 a.m.-noon—National Campaign to Save Glen Echo Park meeting.

Sunday, Apr. 30, 3:30-5:00 p.m.—Folklore Society family dance

Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. **English Country Dance.**
Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

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.

PLAYGROUND (FROM PAGE 1)

Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilwoman Nancy Long met with Supt. Calhoun, Glen Echo Park site manager Karen Pittleman, and two other park officials Mar. 17. They could not persuade Supt. Calhoun to change her mind. She did, however, acknowledge that storing the swings would be inconvenient and agreed to take another look at the site once the playground was installed, according to Mayor Beers.

She indicated that she might reconsider their installation if it looked like removing the sapling would make room for the last swings without endangering the children. The town officials assured her that in that event the tree would be replaced once the playground is moved to its permanent location.

Supt. Calhoun said that because of delays in the NPS work schedule, the new playground could not be installed in its temporary spot until summer. She agreed to leave the old playground in place until then.

However, the temporary playground will have to be shut down for safety reasons when work is underway on the Arcade, which will be rebuilt, she said.

TOWN YOUNGSTER, 7, ORGANIZES PETITION FOR MINI-GOLF COURSE

By Carlotta Anderson

Spenser Steele, 7, of Bryn Mawr Ave. is petitioning the National Park Service to restore the old mini-golf course at the southeastern end of Glen Echo Park. Accompanied at times by other town youngsters, he has collected 138 signatures in Glen Echo and in his second grade class at the Jewish Day School in Rockville.

Soon he will send the petition together with a letter he has written to NPS Supt. Audrey Calhoun. It requests that if there is any extra money from the current restoration project at the park, it be spent to bring back the mini-golf course.

"It would be fun for families to play miniature golf," the letter says. "I would like to do anything I can to help and I know many adults would like to help who think that bringing back mini-golf to Glen Echo Park would be a good idea."

Spenser is the son of Meris and Mark Steele. He has two sisters: Kellan, 5, and Bryna, 2.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 10—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

WHAT SHOULD TOWN SPEND MONEY ON?

Residents with suggestions for items they would like to see in the town's 2000-2001 fiscal budget are asked to get in touch with Mayor Debbie Beers before the May town council meeting. Please call her at 301-229-7308 or send an e-mail to: Beersd@erols.com.



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REPAIRS POSTPONED ON UNION ARCH BRIDGE

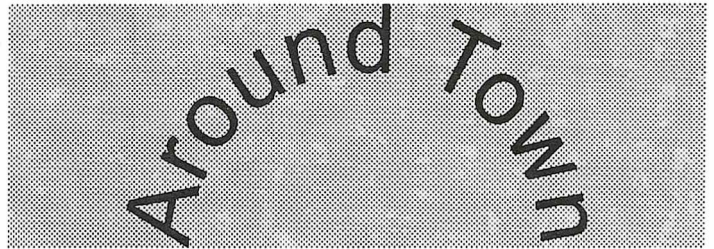
By Carlotta Anderson

Replacement of the red parapet sandstone blocks on the one-lane bridge into Cabin John, scheduled for this summer, has been postponed until next summer. The bridge restoration will require closing of the bridge for several months.

The blocks are deteriorating on the bridge, built in 1861. It is under the jurisdiction of the federal government because the aqueduct carrying Washington's water lies beneath it.

Getting the new stones from the quarry is the cause of the hold-up, according to Dave MacGregor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official. Having the stones cut and delivered to the bridge will take six to nine months, he said. They should be on the scene before construction begins in order to minimize the time that the bridge will be closed.

The restoration design is complete, and bids for the project will be solicited this summer.



Carolyn and Jack Reeder of University Ave. have spearheaded a petition drive to reopen the historical archives of the hundreds of families forced from their homes in the 1930s for the creation of Shenandoah National Park, *The Washington Post* reported. The Reederes have published several books about the Blue Ridge and its people.

The archives were closed in 1997 for cataloging, a job that might take years more. In an article titled "Anger in Appalachia," the *Post* described the expulsion of the families, who were paid an average of \$6 an acre for their property and whose cabins were burned or torn down to make sure no one returned. Scholars want access to the materials and some believe the Park Service wants to control what is written about the controversial resettlement. The park superintendent says it just wants the proper safeguards because about 10 percent of the collection has been lost or stolen...

The U.S. Park Police are planning to build a new **horse stable at Carderock** to replace the one formerly at Glen Echo Park. Scheduled for construction by the end of September, it will have six stalls and cost around \$409,000. Four full-time mounted park police will patrol trails from Fletcher's Boat House to Great Falls...

Town auditor James H. Brandon was the subject of a *Washington Post* article, "Another Happy Sit-Down With the Tax Man," on Mar. 13. Brandon has prospered over the years "by remaining clean and straight," the article said. His business is American Express Tax & Business Services...

The **Safeway at Little Falls Mall** off Sangamore Rd. will not close this month, as previously reported, while the Mall is being transformed into "The Shops at Sumner Place." It will remain open until the renovation project begins in their existing space. Chevy Chase Bank, Potomac Valley Bank and CVS, however, are now located in temporary trailers in the parking lot while the interior mall level shops are being demolished. The projected opening for the new shops is November...

Polo Ramirez, one of Peru's master ceramicists, gave a demonstration of traditional Peruvian hand-formed pottery techniques at Glen Echo Park on Mar. 21. The potter's wheel, which comes from Egypt, is not traditionally used by the native peoples of North and South America. Instead they shape hand-formed pottery using a rock and paddle...

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Eve Arber's,
24 Wellesley Circle*

Wednesday, April 12, 8:00 p.m.

CLARA BARTON HOUSE CELEBRATION APRIL 29

The 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Clara Barton House as a National Historic Site will be celebrated on Apr. 29 with a candlelight tour of the house.

The Glen Echo Park carousel will be operating and there will be a dance at the Spanish Ballroom.

ORDINANCE (FROM PAGE 1)

community," are vague and ambiguous. Mayor Debbie Beers noted that section 19.2 was not an ordinance change and referred back to the Montgomery County ordinance which makes the intent clear.



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GLEN ECHO JOINS IN REQUEST TO "STOP THE STINK" BY CANAL

By Phyllis Fordham

Glen Echo will add its voice to a complaint by other local communities about the unpleasant odor along the C&O Canal between Great Falls, Md. and Georgetown, the town council decided last month. The smell apparently is the result of improperly maintained sewer vents along the Potomac Interceptor Sewer, which runs along the Potomac River from Dulles International Airport to the Blue Plans Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Because of the difficulty in accessing them, the vents are difficult to maintain. Filters have not been changed for 30 years, and the result is unpleasant odors that seem to come from the canal, but don't.

Burr Gray, President of the Cabin John Citizens Association, asked the council to support a request to the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) that it permanently eliminate the emission of the hydrogen sulfide and other sewer gases which generate "innumerable complaints about foul odors."

The council agreed that Glen Echo should join the 11 other community organizations who sent a letter calling for a stop to "the deliberate venting of large quantities of toxic and offensive sewer gases in park lands." They are the citizens associations of Cabin John, Brookmont, Bannockburn, Glen Echo Heights, Mohican Hills, Persimmon Tree Homeowners, Woodacres and Palisades.

The Potomac Conservancy and two canoe associations filed a lawsuit in October, 1999, against WASA, accusing it of violating the law.

Glen Echo will send its own letter to WASA.

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FEWER TRASH PICKUPS TO SAVE TOWN MONEY?

By Phyllis Fordham

In an investigation of possible trash collection cost cutting measures, Councilman Norman Bernhardt presented the town council last month with a cost comparison of three alternative methods of trash pickup.

The current contract between the town and Waste Management, which provides for two pickups weekly, plus yard waste and monthly scrap pickups, currently costs \$25,114 per year.

The town could continue contracting itself with a waste service, but limit the pickups to once a week to save several thousand dollars. Mixed paper recycling would be included.

Another option would turn the contracting over to Montgomery County. The savings would be about \$7,600 per year for once-weekly pickups for trash and recycling.

The town would have to buy 67-gallon covered roll-around containers for mixed paper at \$40 each. The paper would not have to be bagged or bundled and boxes would not have to be broken down, which would reduce the trash output and substitute for one trash pickup.

The county also has an expanded recycling program which includes scrap metal.

While the county has no regular pickup for large items, a citizen can call to have large items picked up, to a limit of five times a year for the town.

Mayor Beers expressed her concern about once a week pickup and anything that will take more time for town residents. There also was concern about the apparently very large size of the county recycle containers. Councilwoman Long said we should think long and hard before giving up authority to the county.

Councilman Bernhardt noted that the town would simply be entering into a bulk purchasing arrangement. He will get out a survey to residents and the matter will be taken up again at the April meeting. A decision will have to be made by May or June to join into the county's agreement and have it included in the town budget.

The mayor requested a sample agreement which other towns have signed.

NOW IS TIME TO CUT BACK GROWTH OVER SIDEWALKS

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to cut back vegetation planted on their property which grows over town sidewalks or hangs over them in such a way as to impede pedestrian passage.

Overgrowth should be cut **all the way back to the property line.**

Vegetation which has not been cut back by residents will be cut back by the town shortly, according to Mayor Debbie Beers.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE ALERT

The next meeting of the Centennial Committee will be Wednesday, Apr. 26, at 7:30 at the Glen Echo Town Hall. All committee members are requested to attend.



Eleanor

"Let's talk about what's happening up and down MacArthur Blvd."

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MISSING ECHO?

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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

March 13

The town council unanimously accepted an offer from Richard Grant of Wellesley Circle to manage a **website for the town** on which residents could register their own domains. It would be intended as a public service, not to be used for commercial purposes, and there would be no charge for using it...

Diana Hudson-Taylor of Wellesley Circle asked the town to provide a \$100 **donation to CAAN (Citizens for the Abatement of Airport Noise)** since it is a watchdog committee concerned with noise that affects Glen Echo residents. Councilman Mike Brintnall objected that he did not approve of the town funding groups that were formed for lobbying regarding certain issues. He thought the town should take a stand on airport noise separate from CAAN, since we may not always agree with its actions. A motion to provide the funding carried 3-1, with Councilman Brintnall opposing...

The council considered the **bids for landscaping** and awarded the contract to Landscape Projects in the amount of \$9,585. This will be the third year of a contract with that firm...

Councilwoman Long reported that the **Management Plan for Glen Echo Park** has been delayed until mid-May and the Business Plan has finally been issued. She expressed concerns about the plans for the Arcade building, where it is proposed to have a third floor for classrooms and a lot of retail space. She said the interpretive space is small and there will be no room for movies. Mayor Beers agreed to write a letter supporting a new mini-golf course...

Town attorney Norman Knopf wrote the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Mar. 7 asking why the town has not heard of a closing date for its **purchase of the former trolley right-of-way**. He noted that the town "is concerned that delay may cause it to lose its funding from the State" and asked for an immediate response...

--Phyllis Fordham

TRASH, RECYCLING PICKUP PROBLEMS?

Call Waste Management directly at 301-340-0774.
Ask for Dispatch

POTOMAC CONSERVANCY WANTS MUSEUM AT LOCK 8

By Carlotta Anderson

The Potomac Conservancy, a land trust dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Potomac River watershed, is proposing that it renovate Lockhouse 8 and convert it to an interpretive center with offices. There is currently no lockhouse between Georgetown and Great Falls that the public can go into.

Lockhouse 8 is located on the C&O Canal between Glen Echo and Cabin John.

The Conservancy, which was founded six years ago, is currently storing canoes at the lockhouse. It uses them for access to Minnie's Island, where it runs an educational program and living lab.

Estimate for the renovation work is \$250,000, for which the Conservancy would seek funding. It seeks a cooperative long-term agreement for use of the lockhouse with the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

Architectural drawings for the renovation show a glassed-in rear porch which would be a conference room, an interpretive center and office/lab on the first floor, and offices, work stations, and toilets on the second floor.

The Advisory Committee of the C&O Canal Park endorsed the concept of using the lockhouse for environmental education at its Mar. 10 meeting. The proposal will be brought up again at the committee's June meeting.

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Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 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.


HELP POLICE BY REPORTING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

The most important weapon police have is citizens calling in suspicious behavior they observe, members of the Bethesda area Community Advisory Board were told Mar. 8. One's first impression is probably right so don't try to second-guess it, said a Kensington detective who was dealing with a rash of break-ins. Just call the police at 301-279-8000 (call 911 for emergencies).

There were no crimes to report for the month in the Cabin John/Glen Echo area. Crime is at a 30-year low, according to the new Commander/Captain of the Bethesda Police Station, Luther Reynolds. He replaces Capt. Clarke, who was named head of the Police Training Academy.

--Norman and Diana Hudson-Taylor

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CO-OP FOOD STORE PLANS MOVE FROM CABIN JOHN

Citing high rent, an out-of-the-way location, and worsening parking problems, the Bethesda Co-op in Cabin John is planning to move to a new location at the beginning of next year. The proposed site is in the former Circuit City space of Hechinger Square Shopping Center across from Montgomery Mall.

This is bad news for the many local residents who have patronized the Co-op for its excellent variety of cheeses, organic produce, and grains, nuts and dried fruits which could be scooped out of bins at lower prices than the packaged versions.

With rent at \$15,400 a month--\$32 per square foot--the Co-op is tied for highest rent in the mid-Atlantic/Northeast region with the Flatbush Co-op in Brooklyn, N.Y. Landlords of the MacArthur Plaza where the Co-op is located also propose increasing the rent by five percent per year. They suggested that the Co-op transform itself into a more upscale grocery, according to *The Bethesda Co-op News*, which is not in accord with cooperative principles.

Since the Co-op moved from Bethesda Ave. to its MacArthur Blvd. location eight years ago, the natural foods business has burgeoned. Not only Fresh Fields, but Giant and Safeway have begun featuring organic foods. "As trailblazers in the business, we are, in a sense, a victim of our own success," notes the *Co-op News*.

Faced with stronger competition, the Co-op feels that without a move "the increasingly high rent, the poor location and the lack of parking... could eventually do us in."



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