

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered; 1904



August, 1992

GLEN ECHO SWEARS IN TWO NEW COUNCILMEMBERS

By Carlotta Anderson

In a romantic ceremony at the town hall on July 14 marked by candlelight and champagne toasts, Donald W. Moran and Michael Brintnall were sworn in by Mayor Beers as new town councilmembers. The champagne was an elegant touch added by the mayor and Councilwoman Long. The flickering light, however, was not part of some charming ritual, but a necessity caused by power failure after one of Glen Echo's frequent summer outages.

The two new councilmembers were appointed last month to serve until the next town election in May, 1993. They filled the seats vacated by Harry Odell, who resigned in April, and Debbie Beers, who replaced George Borsari after his June 30 resignation.

The whole procedure was complicated by more than semi-darkness.

Councilman Moran had been nominated to the post by former Mayor Borsari in May, but the council had tabled action on his nomination. He was confirmed in the post at the July 13 town council meeting by councilmembers Beers, Long and Shultz before Ms. Beers was selected mayor. This eliminated the question of whether the remaining two members could constitute a quorum.

DEBBIE BEERS BECOMES MAYOR

By Nick Frabotta and Carlotta Anderson

Glen Echo has a new mayor! Town councilmember Debbie Beers was appointed mayor unanimously by a three-member council at its July 13 meeting. She replaced George Borsari, who resigned on June 30, with less than a year remaining in his term. The fourth council seat has been vacant since Harry Odell resigned in April.

"I hope to accomplish some things that I think have been deferred, mainly in terms of maintenance of public space and review of the charter and ordinances," said the new mayor after speaking glowingly about living and raising her children in the friendly environs of Glen Echo.

Mayor Beers was sworn in the following day at the Montgomery County Circuit Court in Rockville.

She was first elected to the town council in 1981 and served until 1987. She was re-elected in 1989 for a four-year term. An attorney specializing in tax and estate planning at the law firm of Silverstein and Mullens in D.C., Mayor Beers lives on Wellesley Circle with her husband, Don, and children Laura, 13, Emily, 11, and Michael, 6.

The town charter provides that when fewer than two years of a town official's term remain, a replacement will be appointed rather than elected.

—continued on page 3

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**TOWN OF GLEN ECHO
MARYLAND**

20812

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6106 Harvard Ave. or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD 20812

Office Hours: Call to arrange an appointment

MAYOR

Debbie Beers 229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Brintnall 229-6792

Nancy Long 334-2865 or 229-1369

Donald Moran 320-2796

Bill Shultz 229-1269

CLERK-TREASURER

Kate Horwitz 320-2171

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

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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.

NOTICE

Due to the absence of *The Echo* editor in September, the subject of an editorial review board will not be on the agenda at the Sept. 14 town council meeting. It will be scheduled for discussion at the October meeting.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 10 — 8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact Mayor Beers if you wish to add an item to the agenda.

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NEW COUNCILMEMBERS (from p. 1)

After councilman Moran was sworn in two days later (making a council of three members), Mayor Beers nominated councilman Brintnall, who had run for the office in 1989. He was unanimously confirmed and immediately sworn in.

Councilman Moran is Senior Vice President of Lewin-ICF. He has lived on Yale Ave. for the past two-and-a-half years with his wife, Cindy, and has two children.

Councilman Brintnall is Director of Professional Affairs at the American Political Science Assn. and previously was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mount Vernon College and a political science professor. He came to Glen Echo in 1981, and lives on Wellesley Circle with his wife, Isabel, and daughter, Rachel.

BUDGET FINALLY APPROVED AFTER REVISIONS

By Nick Frabotta

The proposed fiscal year 1992-93 town budget came under close scrutiny at the July 13 town council meeting and was approved with many changes, after having been rejected by the council the previous month.

Clerk-treasurer Kate Horwitz explained that the reason the personal property taxes collected last year were more than twice the budgeted figure was because they reflected deposits from the previous year. She agreed to investigate the non-payment of personal property taxes in Glen Echo by the Garfield photo studio. She said that currently Mr. Garfield is reporting only his Silver Spring address for tax purposes.

In the matter of choosing a new firm to conduct the town audits, Ms. Horwitz reported that she had interviewed several accounting firms used by other municipalities in order to obtain estimates of fees charged for auditing services. It was agreed by the council that \$6,000 would cover these expenses.

Funds allocated for maintenance of public space were increased from \$8,000 to \$15,000. A lively discussion took place between residents present and the council about street repairs. The option of slurry seal was explored. Clerk-treasurer provided an estimate of \$16,200 for this procedure, which thinly covers the pavement and lasts about five years. Councilman Shultz said that the last engineer to examine the town streets deemed them in basically sound shape, despite the patches. As evidence of this, he cited the lack of potholes in Glen Echo.

Before adopting the revised budget, the council agreed to allocate \$5,000 for consulting fees to bring the town's facilities into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.



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COUNCIL CONSIDERS ECHO INSURANCE

By Nick Frabotta and David Sproul

Whether *The Echo* should have liability insurance was discussed at length by the town council last month. At issue was how the paper is defined--whether it was just a community newsletter or, since advertising revenues and subscriptions are collected, a true publication.

A community handout apparently would not be subject to extra insurance for liability coverage, according to the town's insurance agent, but a "publication" would require an estimated \$3,000-4,000 additional insurance annually, Clerk Treasurer Kate Horwitz told the council.

Councilmembers wondered if the problem could be solved by having free advertising and changing subscription cost wording to "handling costs," since the \$10 fee basically represented postage and handling.

Editor Carlotta Anderson suggested that since *The Echo* had been in existence more than 17 years without liability insurance it could continue to do so. She said she would research what other towns do regarding liability insurance for their newspapers.

Ms. Anderson had reminded the council at its June session that including *The Echo* in the town's insurance policy was approved in 1989 and money added to the year's budget for that purpose but that no action was taken. She requested that coverage be included in the current budget.

Town attorney Tom Craven is looking into whether *The Echo* might be considered a typical government function and thus immune from suit.

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POWER SURGE DOWNS ECHO COMPUTER

The Echo editor's computer (and television set) were the latest victims in what has become a long history in Glen Echo of damaged equipment due to power surges. Both pieces of equipment were connected to surge protectors.

Since the computer was necessary for the desktop publishing, that work had to be done instead by Sir Speedy, the printer of the paper, using a different program. Thus, *The Echo* looks different this month.

The surge took place sometime during the week of July 18-25. A neighbor reported hearing the "explosion" of his circuit breakers during that period and found all the breakers had jumped open. Another neighbor found his VCR inoperable and had to have it repaired.

The damage to the computer and TV set was reported to the PEPCO claims office, which is sending a claims form. In the past, residents who have filed such claims have been reimbursed for repair costs. The number is (202) 872-2452.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

July 13

Twenty-four town pets have received licenses for this fiscal year, the clerk-treasurer reported. She has called those who have not yet renewed and plans to drop off applications to encourage renewal...

Councilmembers, the clerk-treasurer and an interested resident walked through town surveying the landscaping needs last month. Residents will be invited to inspect a landscaping plan which will include those areas which traditionally have been maintained by the town...

The town will purchase a computer and related software in order to computerize town records...

The clerk-treasurer will be on vacation from Aug. 1-15...



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BRIEFLY NOTED

Mayor Beers and Councilwoman Long on July 17 attended the opening of the newly reconstructed bridge at Great Falls, Md. Along with other officials, they enjoyed a spectacular view that has been unavailable since the old bridge was washed out in 1972. The viewing point is now reachable to the public via an easy stroll down the towpath from the Great Falls Tavern, which is located at the end of a road leading from the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and Falls Rd...

The newly elected treasurer of the Glen Echo Park Foundation is Michael Rodemeyer of Harvard Ave...

The Shimizu family's garden on Bryn Mawr and University Aves. was the cover story in the July 9 issue of The Washington Post's home section. It was written by Wellesley Circle resident Susan Tamulevich...

Councilwoman Nancy Long has been appointed to another five year term on the C&O Canal National Historic Parks Commission by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan. She has already served 14 years on the commission...

Two conducted walks along the C&O Canal will be held by the park and planning commission this month. The two-hour hikes leave from the Meadowside Nature Center in Rock Creek Regional Park, 5100 Meadowside La., Rockville. The Aug. 11 walk begins at 9:30 a.m.; the one on Aug. 21 at 10:00 a.m. They are for adults only...

There have been two more incidents of indecent exposure on the towpath. On June 22, near the WSSC filtration plant, a white male in his 20's, 5'10", 150 lbs., exposed himself to a woman hiker. On June 9, at 4:30 p.m., a woman jogger encountered a semi-nude white male, 45, 5'10", 180 lbs. with short hair and a moustache. He was wearing a blue baseball cap and blue shirt. The Road Runners Club of America cautions women about walking or jogging alone in isolated spots...

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LETTER TO TOWNSPEOPLE

We want to express our thanks to you for your gift of flowers for Daniel's wake. We are sustained by your sympathy and support.

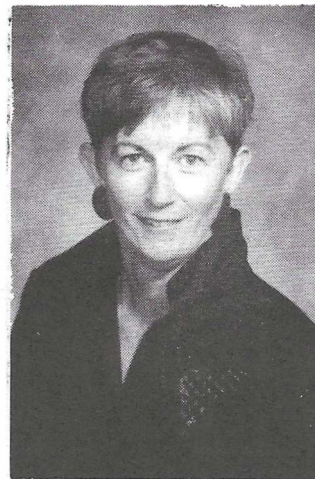
Some of you may remember Daniel when he was a small boy, running around Glen Echo with his pals Matt and Neil. He had grown into a very handsome twelve year old boy, a very loving and affectionate child, and a great joy to us. He was a student at Grace Episcopal school--which he loved--and had been accepted at St. Anselm's Abbey School for seventh grade. He was interested in all sports--especially lacrosse, basketball, tennis, track--and even swimming (he may deny it--that's Molly's arena). He was quite artistic and mathematical, loved to build things, to discuss religion and politics, and didn't have much interest in reading--not surprising for someone always in gear and rollin' at 100 mph. He leaves an unfillable gap, an irreparable rent in our lives. We miss him so.

We appreciate your kind thoughts in these sad times.

Your friends,

Chuck, Pat and Molly

(Ed. note: Daniel Benner, who lived in Glen Echo from 1982-1985, was killed in an automobile accident on River Rd. on April 13. The town sent flowers on behalf of all residents.)



Eleanor

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WATCH OUT FOR NEW SCAMS, CRIMES

By Jim Anderson

There are people cruising the area who claim to be interested in home improvement, but are really interested only in improving their financial position. They prey on people who want to improve their property and gardens, especially older residents.

The scam, as described at the Bethesda Police Citizens Advisory Board meeting this month, involves people who are described as "gypsies." Sometimes they are the real thing - members of the rogue-branch of the Romanish tribe that also plagues European cities. Sometimes they are home-grown.

Usually they come with an offer to resurface driveways or seal sidewalks or roofs. If rejected, they come back, sometimes in professional looking vans, offering "rebates" in the form of a \$20 bill. This sometimes hooks elderly people who don't have a clear idea of their own finances and give the "contractors" larger amounts of cash to get the "rebate." Sometimes it's just a simple device to have somebody talking at the front door while an accomplice walks in the back door and cleans the place out.

Carnapping or carjacking, as described in last month's Echo, is no joke. It's the new crime, especially for "hot" cars, like Nissan 300zx's. Basically, it involves an armed stickup to take the car, usually for use in another crime, because it's easier to take a car by force than to hot-wire one. The police advice is: don't resist, give up the car; it's insured. People who resisted have been killed.

(Jim Anderson of Glen Echo is a member of the Bethesda Citizens Advisory Board for the Montgomery Police Department. He welcomes and will transmit any complaints, suggestions or advice about the law enforcement situation. Call him at 229-3748.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED. Local real estate home office needs part time secretary, some bookkeeping, some computer skills. Call 229-0969.

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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.

WELCOME, NEIGHBOR!

A Latin teacher and an economist are among the new arrivals in Glen Echo. Susan and Howard Gruenspecht moved to 6006 Princeton Ave. in May along with their three children, Joshua, 12, Ben, 9, and Joe, 2.

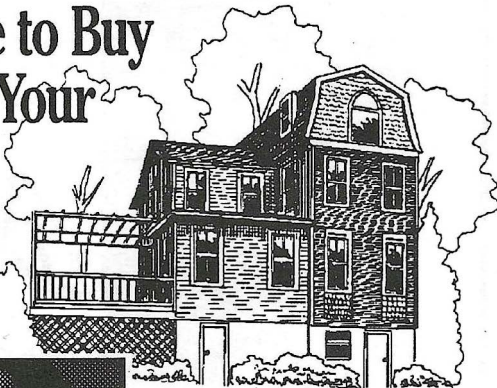
For the past two years, while renting in Bethesda after seven years in Pittsburgh, they were looking for a house in a small community like the town outside Philadelphia where Susan grew up. Howard is from New York City.

Since the move from Pittsburgh, Susan has taught at Einstein High School and Rolling Terrace Elementary School. She currently is a volunteer at the Greentree homeless shelter. Howard served first on the senior staff of the Council of Economic Advisors and then became deputy director of the policy office of the U.S. Dept. of Energy, where he is now.

In Pittsburgh Howard was a professor of economics at Carnegie-Mellon University, while Susan taught Latin in that city's public schools.

In addition to camping, they enjoy "social bridge" and are always interested in new partners. Ben plays soccer, hockey and baseball, while Joshua is an avid baseball card collector.

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