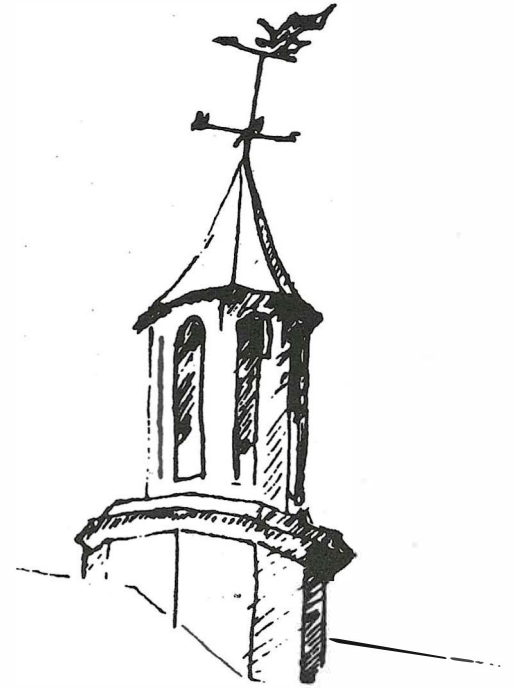


# The Echo

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

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December, 1993

### VAST, MYSTERIOUS SINKHOLE APPEARS IN BACKYARD

By Carlotta Anderson

"There's a big hole in the back yard," Robert Shaut, 7, announced to his family members as they were eating breakfast in the back room of their Harvard Ave. home on Sunday morning, Nov. 28.

They gasped when they saw what he was pointing at. It was "humongous, the most amazing hole you've ever seen," said his mother, Jan. Measuring about 10 feet in diameter, and six feet deep, the chasm appeared sculptured, an almost perfect circle.

"It looks like a meteor hit the back yard," marveled Mayor Debbie Beers. Jim Shaut and his neighbor, Tom Kenney, erected a fence around the area to protect a parade of sightseers.

The mysterious excavation appeared after a day and night of heavy rains which overwhelmed storm drainage systems throughout the metropolitan area.

Originally water was bubbling up from the bottom and a little waterfall was visible. Later, the hole drained itself. The Shauts investigated storm drains on University Ave. and found nothing blocked. WSSC informed them that none of its pipes was involved.

The town called in Spartan Plumbing, which believes the hole is caused by a break in the main pipe which runs parallel to Harvard Ave. It would have to dig up the pipe to determine where the break is and use a camera scope to make sure there are no other breaks. Repairs might cost up to \$6,000, according to Mayor Beers.

#### **HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, Dec. 18--9:30 a.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall**

**All Residents Welcome**

**Volunteers solicited. Please call Kate  
Horwitz, 320-2171.**

## 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.

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<b>Assistant Editor</b>	David Sproul
<b>Reporters</b>	Susan Grigsby
<b>Distribution</b>	Brockie and Jane Stevenson Sarah Hewitt Barbara Odell Cathy and Mallory Polak Sally Law
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**Next Deadline December 23**

**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	334-2865 or 229-1369
Bill Shultz	229-1269

### CLERK-TREASURER

Kate Horwitz 320-2171

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Bertha Smith 320-3629

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Daryl Kuster	229-2070
Susan Shultz	229-1269

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.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

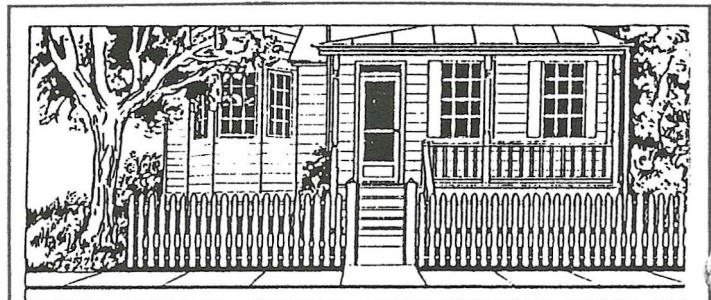
**WANTED: CHILDCARE PROVIDER for Glen Echo family with newborn. Some cooking and light house-keeping preferred. Please call Lisa or Larry at (301) 229-1747.**

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

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.

## AN APPRECIATION

Many thanks to **Rachel Brintnall**, who delivered *The Echo* since November, 1991. Her route has been taken over by **Sarah Hewitt**.



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

## TOWN MAKES OFFER FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY

By Susan Grigsby

The town has made a specific offer to purchase the portion of the former trolley right-of-way which parallels MacArthur Blvd. from the east side of Oxford Rd. to the end of Radcliffe La., Mayor Debbie Beers announced at the Nov. 8 council meeting.

As of *Echo* deadline time, the town had received no reply to the Nov. 5 letter, which was sent to Leonard Bebchick, representative of the owners of the property. The decision to attempt to buy the stretch was voted by the Town Council at its Sept. 13 meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Kate Horwitz told the council that town taxes for the land had not been paid by the current owners, and she planned them to send a second notice.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 13—8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall  
Contact the mayor if you wish to add an item to the agenda

**LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
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*Heather Cottage*

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## PLAN TO MOVE FIRE TRUCKS THREATENS GLEN ECHO

A proposal to transfer trucks from three nearby fire departments to an up-county location is expected to be voted upon at a meeting of the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Commission on Dec. 9.

The President of the Conduit Road Fire Board, Bob Roop, says that if a large number of protest calls are received, it might enable the Glen Echo Fire Station to keep their aerial-ladder truck, according to the town's representative on the board, John Barrett.

The county is apparently planning to move ladder trucks from Glen Echo, Co. No. 11; Bethesda, Co. No. 6, at Wisconsin and Bradley; and Bethesda, Co. No. 26, Democracy Blvd. near Montgomery Mall. Cabin John is slated to get a small ladder truck at some time in the future, John Barrett reported.

He said that the plan to move the truck from the Glen Echo station seriously threatens the lives and property of the residents living in the Glen Echo area.

If the proposed cutback is approved, there will be either four or five career personnel at the Glen Echo fire station, he said. With four on a shift, two are used for the ambulance and two for the engine. However, at least three fire-fighters are required on the engine before they can enter a building for rescue or fire suppression.

Bob Roop can be contacted at 229-1024. He has said that he would be willing to speak at a town council meeting.

—Carlotta Anderson

### PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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	OPEN BIBLE FORUM	6:00 p.m.
	EVENING SERVICE	7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	PRAYER TIME	7:00 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY AT ANNEX	10:00 a.m.

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## **RETAINING WALL FINISHED; STREET WORK HAS BEGUN**

The new retaining wall alongside the town hall has been completed. Councilman Shultz pronounced it an attractive solution to the problems at that location, including erosion and drainage from the previous slope. It also serves to widen the exit roadway and preclude future damage to the hillside by trucks unable to negotiate the turn.

Some street repairs remain to be done by the A.B. Veirs Co.

One location is at the top of Cornell Ave. and another on Harvard Ave., where a new pot hole has appeared. Extensive work on Oberlin Ave. remains to be completed.

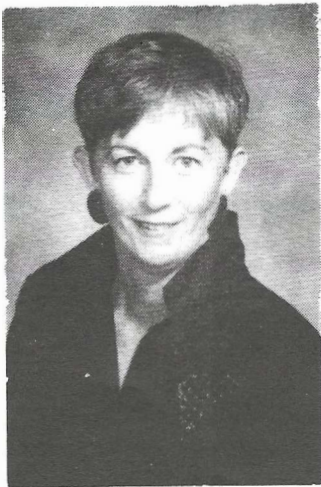
Next spring there will be more patching and resurfacing, Mayor Beers said. She asks that any resident who is aware of special problem areas to bring their condition to her attention before then.

The contract for repairing sidewalks has not yet been awarded. The town is hoping for a second bid.

—**Susan Grigsby and Carlotta Anderson**

### **LEAF CLEANUP**

A leaf cleanup of town streets was carried out by the Peyton Co. last month. There may be another leaf pickup in December, according to Mayor Beers. If so, a town bulletin will be circulated with the date.



*Eleanor*

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

907-7600  
229-7990



## **TOWN HALL INSURANCE CALLED INADEQUATE**

**By Susan Grigsby**

The current insurance on the town hall, \$231,000, was called "woefully inadequate" at the Nov. 8 town council meeting. Councilman Shultz said he felt \$750,000 would be a more appropriate figure in light of the rise in building costs.

It was pointed out that many of the facilities of the town hall have been grandfathered in, and if any restoration were necessary, it would have to meet new building code requirements.

The accident coverage for the town is apparently non-existent.

Clerk-Treasurer Horwitz discussed the non-profit insurance organization LEGIT that was set up by the State of Maryland for small municipalities. The council voted to authorize the mayor to apply for town membership in LEGIT.

Councilman Shultz and Mayor Beers had met with LEGIT officials earlier that day in order to secure quotations on the coverage which the town desires. All local governments wishing to participate in the organization must apply for membership prior to obtaining coverages.

## **IS THERE TOO MUCH MONEY IN YOUR ESCROW ACCOUNT?**

**By Carlotta Anderson**

Since the assessed values of most town properties were substantially lowered this year, the amount of property taxes owed was correspondingly decreased. However, there may be residents who have not yet experienced the benefit of this tax reduction.

Those who simply pay a monthly sum to their mortgage company which includes taxes and insurance may be building up a large overpayment in their escrow account. This is because mortgage companies usually continue billing the same amount until they do an annual analysis of the account and discover that since the tax bills were lowered, there is a substantial overage.

We discovered this after inquiring why we received a check of over \$1,200 from a mortgage company with no explanation. However, we did not receive a similar check from another mortgage company on our other house in Glen Echo. The explanation given was that they had not done a recent analysis of our account, but would do so on request.

The representative suggested that we might like to leave the money in the escrow account, "just in case," an idea which we rejected, since she said no interest would be paid. In short order, we received a check for nearly \$900.

## NANCY LONG RETIRES FROM SCIENCE GROUP

By Carlotta Anderson

Nancy Long, a member of the town council since 1969, retired in October from nearly four decades in the Fellowship Office of the National Academy of Sciences. During her tenure, the Fellowship Office awarded many thousands of Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships on behalf of the National Science Foundation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Ford Foundation, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy.

At the time of her retirement, she was Assistant Director of Fellowships.

She is currently serving as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, specifically to Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the new contractor for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. In this capacity, she has thus far travelled twice to Oak Ridge, Tenn., where she spent a week on each visit instructing the ORAU staff.

Her only previous job had been as administrative assistant in an office of her alma mater, George Washington University.

While at the Fellowship Office, she and a colleague amused themselves and fellow workers by making lists of unusual names and quotes from applications and reference letters, which was, according to an article about her retirement in a publication of the National Research Council, "a collection well known in certain quarters."

A lifetime resident of Glen Echo, who grew up on Wellesley Cir., lived on Bryn Mawr Ave. and, currently, is back on Wellesley Circle. Nancy also has had an outstanding career in community volunteer efforts. In addition to her long service as a town official, she was the first person to chair the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission, being sworn in by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. She was recently appointed to a second five-year term as a representative for Montgomery County on the commission.

In August 1975, she was one of a group of about 25 who travelled the entire length of the Potomac River with then-Congressman Gilbert Gude to study water quality and land and water use. She is past president and current member of the Board of Directors of the C&O Canal Association; she has hiked the 185-mile C&O Canal towpath twice.

She is also past president of the Potomac Valley League and a current member of the League's Council of Presidents.

Nancy was a founder and member of the Board of Directors of the Glen Echo Park Foundation, and was the leading force in mobilizing citizen support for ensuring that the celebrated Denzel Carousel remain in the park.

At the time of her retirement, she was honored with a reception at the National Academy of Sciences as well as a picnic in Dickerson, MD, which was attended by former Fellowship Office employees who arrived from six states.

The perfect holiday gift!

### GIGI

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illustrated by Ilse Bischoff  
with a foreword by Nancy Mann Israel,  
the author's daughter

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- Learn, in the new foreword, where a restored "real-life" Gigi now prances on a working carousel

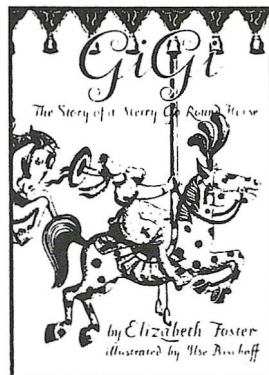
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Hardcover 118 pp.

## USE OF THE TOWN HALL

All residents are entitled to use the Town Hall on payment of a \$50 deposit, which is returned if the hall and grounds are left in a clean and undamaged condition.

Non-profit organizations may apply to use the hall with a \$50 deposit, which is returned on the basis of the above qualifications.

Other groups may rent the hall for \$400, with a \$50 refund if hall and grounds are left in a clean and undamaged condition.

For all other information and reservations for use of the hall, please call the town office at 320-4041.

## WELCOME NEWCOMERS

Once you live in Glen Echo, it's hard not to come back. Joining the many residents who have returned or never left is **Julia Wilson**, who moved to 6000 Bryn Mawr Ave. in November with her husband, **Speke**. Julia is the daughter of Jim and Carlotta Anderson and grew up on Wellesley Circle, arriving here at the age of four.

The couple moved here from Pittsburgh, where Speke obtained an M.B.A. from Carnegie-Mellon University. He is employed at Meridian Corporation as a renewable energy consultant. Previously, he was a history teacher at Landon School in Bethesda and at the International School in Brussels, Belgium.

Julia, a graduate of the University of Michigan, has worked as an editor and reporter for States News Service and various publications. She is currently looking for a job.

When **Lisa Landsman**, **Larry West** and family moved to 6108 Princeton Ave. this fall, there were four in the family. On Oct. 19, a new member was born, becoming the youngest current resident of Glen Echo. **Alexander**, who came into the world at Columbia Hospital, now weighs 10 pounds, five ounces. He joins sister **Elise**, 14, a ninth grade student at Walt Whitman High School, and **David**, 13, who is in the eighth grade at Pyle Junior High.

Lisa, who grew up in New York City, is taking time off from her job as a lawyer with the D.C. firm of Shea and Gardner. At this time, she counts raising two teenagers and a new baby as her principal "hobby." She says she is just beginning to get outside and would love to meet other mothers in town.

Larry is a lawyer with the same firm; his family lives in Carderock Springs.

They always thought Glen Echo very charming, like a real community, Lisa said, which is why they looked for a place here. "I don't like the suburbs," she said. "I wanted a small town feeling."

When **Jerry Meyer** had the opportunity for a transfer to the D.C. area, the family was looking for a very small community, like those they knew in New England. They also wanted to be as near wilderness as possible. Looking for a "rural feel" in Columbia and Olney, they were steered instead by friends to Glen Echo and Cabin John. What **Pam Meyer** especially liked here was that each house was "funky and different."

With daughter **Samantha**, 12, they moved to 7106 Radcliffe La. last month, after seven years in Newton, Mass. Jerry is a vice-president in the Senior Living Division of Manor Care Corp. Pam does a lot of volunteer work, especially at family shelters and food pantries for the homeless. Samantha, a student at Barrie School in Silver Spring, is involved mainly in music and art activities.

They also have a greyhound dog, Ruby.

Hiking, camping and backpacking are the chief family recreations. Pam and Jerry's "abiding passion" is leading Sierra Club service trips to the Southwest, involving archeological work with the Bureau of Land Management and building trails in wilderness areas for the National Forest Service. Their favorite site is Chaco Canyon in New Mexico.

Pam says she welcomes new friendships and would love to meet women who are home during the day would like to accompany her in strenuous hiking or rock climbing.

## THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to two of our neighbors who are convalescing at home following several days in area hospitals.

**Thelma Fessenden** of University Ave. was a patient at Columbia Hospital.

**Bea Smith**, also of University Ave., was at Sibley Hospital.

Glad they made it "home for the holidays" and are not planning any return trips.

**Paul Alban** of Bryn Mawr Ave. is now a guest at Carriage Hill Nursing Home in Silver Spring. He is improving and looking forward to returning to Glen Echo.

Our sincere sympathy to **Billy Briggs** and family upon the loss of his mother. **Ellen** and husband, **Bailey**, lived on Yale Ave. for many years and were well-known. Ellen was a clerk at the Glen Echo Post Office until her retirement. Several years ago she moved to Frederick, MD. and passed away at a nursing home there.

**Kathy** and **Peter Godfrey** have moved, but not very far. Their new home on Wellesley Circle backs onto their former home on Bryn Mawr Ave. They have lived in Glen Echo some seven years.

### FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

**October 1993**

Craighead Construction (wall at town hall)	\$2,300.00
Kate Horwitz (salary)	\$690.87
Esther Cerruto (town hall cleaning)	\$100.00

*(A full accounting of all bills paid and payments received is available as part of the town council minutes.)*

# A SCARY TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

By Ann K. Ford  
("Ghostwritten" by Nicholas P. Frabotta)

Halloween hit Glen Echo in fine style on Oct. 31 when the town hall was invaded by young goblins, witches, skeletons and other assorted beasts.

The townspeople brave enough to come to the spooky festivities fortified themselves against the cold, wet night that lay ahead with seasonal fare, including candy apples, pumpkin cookies and cider. Most declined the "witches' brew" (rumored to have eye of newt) offered by Frankenstein's monster and his bewitching cohorts in the "Haunted House."

Kate Horwitz led the gleeful goblins, cowgirls, princesses and super heroes in a rousing game of musical chairs, a balloon-hopping race and other games. None of the participants left without a prize.

As evening descended on Glen Echo, the happy revelers and their parents left to practice the Halloween ritual of trick-or-treating throughout the neighborhood.

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

November 8

Some dissatisfaction was expressed by town council members concerning lack of information it had received from the town attorney, Tom Craven, concerning **purchase of the right-of-way**...

For **future bookings of the town hall**, the town office telephone number will be used, instead of that of Councilwoman Long, since her phone is out of order...

It was requested that all **outgoing checks** for town expenditures be listed with a notation for their use so there is a clear paper trail. The Clerk-Treasurer said that was an easy correction to make...

Susan Grigsby

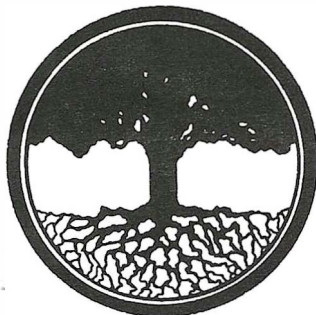
### "CRAFTS FOR CHRISTMAS" SALE IN BANNOCKBURN

A "Crafts for Christmas" sale will take place on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 1:00-5:00 p.m., at the Bannockburn Clubhouse, Bannockburn Dr. and Laverock La.

The Glen Echo potters are participating.

### PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

7306 University Ave.	\$427,000
32 Wellesley Circle	\$157,000



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# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## COMING EVENTS

**December 4 & 5—Jane Franklin (Modern Dance)**  
**Hall of Mirrors**

**Reservations and Information: 229-6022**

**January 7—Polar Bear Ball (Winter Contra Dance)**

**Spanish Ballroom**

## Glen Echo Park Video

A 60-minute video by local film-maker Kevin Wyrach is shown at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays in the National Park Service office. The film traces the park's 102 year history, much of it told first hand by local people, including some Glen Echo town residents.

## BURGLAR ALARM OWNERS MUST REGISTER

A new county law requires those who have burglar alarms in their homes to register with the Montgomery County Dept. of Police.

If you have a monitored alarm system, call your alarm company for a registration form.

If you don't have an alarm company, you may request a registration form from the county police. Call 217-4290.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$30, payable by check or money order.

No alarm system may be installed or used in Montgomery County that has an audible alarm system that can sound continuously for more than 30 minutes. Last year county police responded to over 41,000 alarm calls. Of these 98 percent turned out to be false alarms. According to the new law, which went into effect on Sept. 1, any household's first three false alarms are free. After that there is a scaled schedule of fees ranging from \$50 to as much as \$4,000.

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**The Secret Garden**

Through December 12

**The Christmas Carol**

December 18-December 24

**The Little Mermaid and the Prince**

December 26-January 2

Daily at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. from December 18.

Tickets: \$4.50 Call 320-5331

## THE PUPPET COMPANY

**The Nutcracker**

Through December 23:

Call for holiday performance schedule.

Tickets: \$4. Call 320-6668

## HOLIDAY SHOW AT THE GALLERY

The Glen Echo Gallery will be offering a selection of gifts for purchase in a variety of media: pottery, fabric, wood, oil, watercolor, collage and seasonal items. The work is handmade by local artists.

The Gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

## GLEN ECHO Pharmacy

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