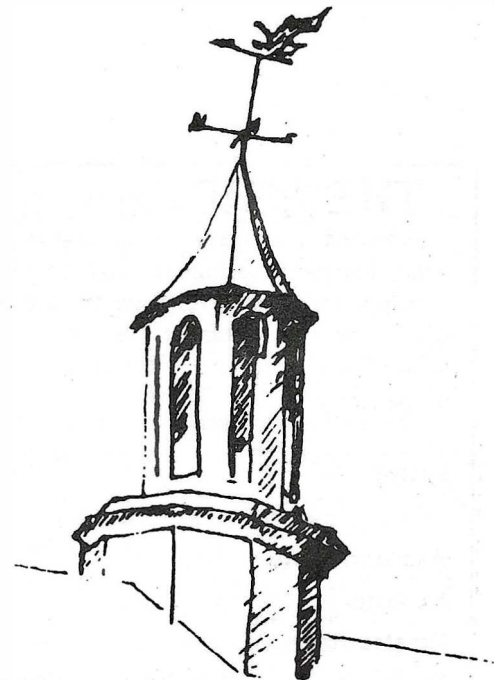


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



February, 1991

SERIES OF CRASHES PROVOKES ACCIDENT SITE REVIEW

By Carlotta Anderson

On the Saturday before Christmas Anne Lewis looked out her Wellesley Circle window and gasped to see 12 cars lined up on the rain-slickened parkway ramp below, all of them damaged or having caused damage.

"It was like the demolition derby," she recalls.

Apart from the large number of cars involved, however, the incident was by no means unique. The alarming sound of skidding cars slamming into ramp railings or each other is a commonplace for town residents living above the sharp curve of the Cabin John Parkway where it intersects the Clara Barton Parkway inbound.

During the period from Nov. 23 to Dec. 23, park police recorded 18 accidents at the spot, two involving personal injury.

"I'm amazed that insurance companies haven't complained, and that park authorities haven't done something," Ms. Lewis said.

"We know that curve is a problem," said Bill Shields, assistant superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway when informed of the accident count by *The Echo*. He said correcting it has been put off due to budget cutbacks, dual jurisdictions and perplexity as to the solution.

The main cause of the accidents, it is agreed, is excessive speed. A sign cautions motorists to slow to 35 mph, which is a safe speed unless there is ice or snow, Mr. Shields said. But many motorists ignore the sign, according to Lt. Harold Weber of the park police, Glen Echo substation. "If the ramp is slick and they

NEWSPAPER RECYCLING RESPONSE "OUTSTANDING"

By David Sproul

About 20 percent of the town households got their newspapers out on the right day and right time for the first day of resumed newspaper recycling last month.

Mayor Borsari reported to the town council that he arrived at that figure from an informal survey and considered the compliance rate "outstanding." He said he counted bundles at 20 houses and estimated the number of residences in town at 100.

Newspaper recycling was started again on Jan. 10 after its discontinuation last April when Southeast Recycling Corp. announced that it would no longer be able to pick up the papers free.

The mayor said he saw several bundles in plastic bags, which are not permitted. The newspapers should be stuffed into paper grocery bags or tied with string in bundles no more than 12 inches high.

Papers should be placed at curbside on Thursdays by 7 a.m.

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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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

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

Ilona 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.

USE OF THE TOWN HALL

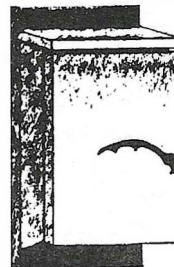
All residents are entitled to use the Town Hall on payment of a \$50 deposit, which is returned if the hall and grounds are left in a clean and undamaged condition.

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 contact Councilwoman Nancy Long, 229-1369 (evenings and weekends).

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DANGEROUS RAMP (from page 1)

get into the curve at 50 mph, they will skid," he said. "The police have to set up flares a half mile away to get people to slow down."

But as Anne Lewis points out, even if the first car is speeding and smashes into the railing, other cars may be obeying the speed limit and suddenly come upon a car in the middle of the roadway. "It may be irresponsible people who initiate the accident, but innocent people who are getting injured," she said.

Although the ramp structure is on park service land, it was built and is maintained by the state of Maryland. Reviews of the accident site have been conducted by both the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Federal Highway Administration over the years, with various solutions proposed.

The federal engineers recommended that the surface of the curve be covered with a more abrasive material called "popcorn," Mr. Shields said. This would give it a more skid-resistant surface and improve drainage.

After learning of the high number of recent accidents, Mr. Shields looked over the site with park service engineers. He said other possible solutions would involve banking the curve more to the left for faster drainage or creating a "groove-out rumble strip" on the pavement which gives a vibration when tires run over it. This alerts people to slow down even if their radios are on, he said.

Flashing lights or larger signs might also be considered.

Mr. Shields is requesting a meeting between park service engineers and officials from the Maryland State Department of Transportation to discuss the problem, he said.

MAYOR REQUESTS BRIDGE NOT BE TOTALLY CLOSED

By David Sproul

Closing of the Cabin John Gardens bridge, the main access to the Clara Barton Parkway inbound for local residents, has caused "a serious hardship," Mayor George Borsari has informed the parkway superintendent. He also claimed that it is causing safety problems.

The bridge was closed in early January for repairs and is not scheduled to be re-opened until September.

Because of long waits for cars exiting the parkway at Glen Echo, motorists are taking risks. Mayor Borsari wrote in a letter to Kitty Roberts, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. He also referred to an increase in MacArthur Blvd. traffic which may have been responsible for two recent accidents.

The principal suggestion of the letter was that one lane on the bridge be kept open during construction. In a discussion at the January town council meeting, a suggestion was made for the temporary installation of a stoplight at the Glen Echo exit to allow southeast-bound traffic to safely make the left turn off the parkway up to Glen Echo.

Most present found it hard to understand why the construction will take until September to finish.

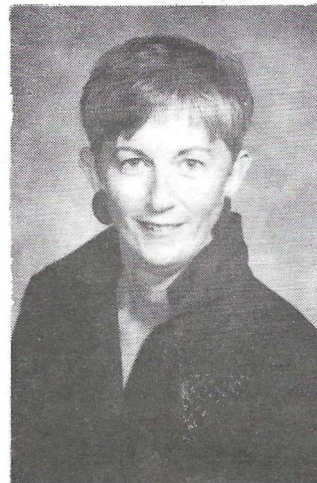
CLASSIFIED ADS

BABY-SITTING. European woman psychologist, temporarily residing in Glen Echo, available for daytime or evening baby-sitting. Has own transportation. Call Anita at 320-2887.

RESPONSIBLE, MATURE WRITER seeking to rent a small house in Glen Echo area; or half a house. Call 229-6319.

TYPING, 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.



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COUNCILMAN OBJECTS TO MAYOR'S LETTER

By Carlotta Anderson

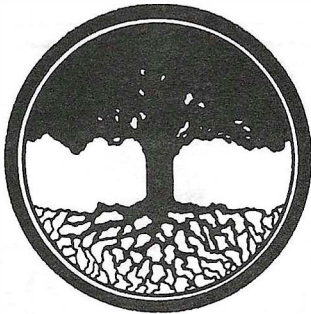
Councilman Shultz asked at the January town council meeting to make an on-the-record rebuttal to Mayor Borsari's letter which was distributed to town households last month.

He said that contrary to the mayor's assertion that annual leaf pickups were not discussed at meetings, \$4,000 had been appropriated for street sweeping and leaf collection in this year's budget.

If there were regular street sweeping, it would lessen the burden on Charlie, he said, and the mayor "was as responsible as anyone for Charlie being criticized," because "he needs some assistance."

He also complained that there had been no action on an abandoned vehicle which he had reported to the mayor in a private conversation. The mayor responded that he would not act on verbal complaints—even from other town officials—and that all complaints must be in writing.

"There is no single instance of anyone bringing to my attention in writing a violation of the ordinances that hasn't been resolved," Mayor Borsari said. "But I will not go around town to seek out violations."



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RESIDENT ASKS COUNCIL TO CONSIDER STOP SIGN

By Carlotta Anderson

David Sproul wouldn't mind a stop sign at his driveway if he thought it would stop accidents, he told the town council last month, but he didn't think it would "help prevent anything."

He said that cutting the bushes at the intersection of Wellesley Circle and upper Cornell Ave. had substantially improved visibility. He asked the council to reconsider its intention to bring vehicles to a halt on Cornell, a decision made a year ago after a group of Wellesley Circle residents petitioned to have a mirror put there.

There is already a stop sign on Wellesley, but cars turning into Cornell do not have a clear view of oncoming traffic because of plants and a fence.

Although Mr. Sproul pointed out that there had never been an accident at the spot, Councilwoman Debbie Beers referred to several "near misses" and Councilman Odell called the situation "kind of spooky." They discussed the possibility of removing or cutting back a row of old pine trees on Cornell that obstruct visibility and are presumed to be on town property.

Responding to Mr. Sproul's request, the council voted to delay the erection of a stop sign until it could investigate alternative solutions. Councilmembers Beers and Nancy Long volunteered to look into the matter before the next council meeting.

MORE SIDEWALKS GETTING SHOVELED

Those who like to—or have to—walk through Glen Echo were pleased to note that most townspeople shoveled their sidewalks after the January 7 snowfall.

This was especially important because of the freezing conditions the following day. Unfortunately, some unshoveled sections made walking treacherous.

Perhaps the backsliders can keep their snow shovels at the ready for the next snowfall so that passage through town will still be a possibility for pedestrians of any age or agility.

GLEN ECHO Pharmacy

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COUNCIL REJECTS GARFIELD COMPROMISE

By David Sproul

The town council has decided to reject a compromise reconstruction plan submitted by Peter Garfield for a small parking lot alongside his photo studio on Bryn Mawr Ave.

As part of a long-standing dispute, Mr. Garfield agreed last April to re-build a sidewalk across the driveway he had constructed in the fall of 1989. Although he had previously denied that the town has an easement at the location, he offered to pay the town one dollar a year for use of the contested land and allow it to be seen as his using the town's right-of-way.

The council accepted this compromise at the time, and indicated that while certain technical standards would have to be met, these were not likely to reopen the controversy.

However, the council complained in September that the drawings submitted for the reconstruction were unclear, and decided to go into "executive" (closed) session for the purpose of reviewing the town's options with the town attorney.

According to the minutes of this session, which the council unanimously voted to release at its January meeting, the compromise was rejected because of a perceived hazard to motorists and pedestrians. The town attorney was instructed to pursue the matter using "any necessary steps, including institution of suit to protect the town's rights."

PARK EVENTS LIMITED DUE TO LOT CONSTRUCTION

By David Sproul

Construction on the Glen Echo Park parking lot is scheduled to be completed by May 19, but the date may have to be pushed back even though this entails financial penalties for the contractor, according to Joanne Hanley, the park site manager.

Severe limitations are being imposed on the park by the ongoing construction, she told the town council last month. No new events will be allowed on the park calendar this year and event organizers will have to submit an acceptable parking plan involving busing and carpools before any event will be given the final go-ahead, she said.

The Big Apple Circus may or may not be scheduled for the site this year, she said. Apparently the finances and logistical details for the visit are still in a state of flux.

Ms. Hanley ran through a list of successful projects finished at the park during 1990. She also introduced William Morris, the new site manager for the Clara Barton house. He is a veteran of many National Park Service assignments, including 10 years in Alaska.

Mr. Morris described plans to repaint the interior and exterior of the house during the spring and early summer. The project will take longer than normal due to stringent environmental guidelines on the removal of paint possibly containing lead, he said.

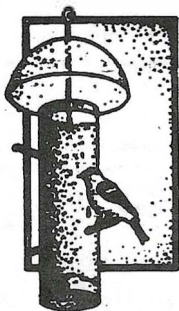
NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 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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RECYCLE YOUR PAPERS

Town newspaper pickup for recycling has resumed.

WHEN? Every Thursday morning

WHERE? The curbside in front of your house

HOW? Tied in bundles or stuffed into a **paper** shopping bag

WHY? To benefit the environment by reusing newsprint instead of dumping it in landfills or burning it.

To reduce the number of trees needed and the energy-consuming production process involved in the production of newsprint

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

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22 Wellesley Circle	\$349,950
34 Wellesley Circle	\$469,000

GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

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The Magic Flute

In March:

The Magical Worlds of Whimsey Woods

Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.

Most Saturday and Sundays, 11 a.m., 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$4. Call 320-6668

ADVENTURE THEATRE

The Revenge of the Space Pandas

Through February 17

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Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$4..50 Call 320-5331

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Sunday, February 3 - 1 & 3 p.m.

AT THE GALLERY

MISIA BROADHEAD

Allegories, oil on canvas

Through February 24

Hours: Noon-5 pm, closed Mondays and Holidays

TOWN ACTIONS PENDING

—Correction of low curb problem at lower intersection of Wellesley and Cornell

—An ordinance making *The Echo* an official organ of Glen Echo

—Installation of stoop signs at Harvard and Columbia

—Organization of town records by Infomanagement

—Sound system at Town Hall

—Street and sidewalk repairs

—New chairs at the Town Hall

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

November and December 1990

Kerns Painting	\$2,018.27
MJR Landscaping	\$990.00
Holiday Party	\$626.18
Santa Suit	\$206.82
Cohen & Smith (audit)	\$4,000.00

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