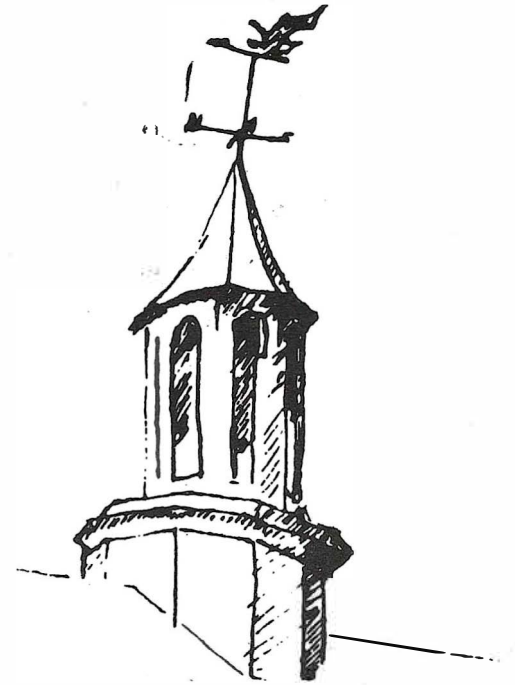


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



February, 1995

VENDORS GET A REPRIEVE

By Carlotta Anderson

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers postponed the Jan. 4 closing of the open air market at MacArthur Blvd. and Wilson La. in the face of massive public opposition.

Vendors are now permitted to remain until March 1, at which time there will be another public meeting. Meanwhile, the corps and the county are looking into ways for the county to take over law enforcement for the site, which is federal property.

Around 35 local residents attended a Jan. 11 meeting at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John to protest ousting the vendors. They represented the Bannockburn Civic Association, Cabin John Citizens Association, Town of Glen Echo, and Potomac Conservancy. The 93-year-old produce vendor, Tony Dicarantonio, was there with his wife and teenage son, who made an ardent plea for delay of the scheduled closing. Only a couple voices were raised in favor of moving the market elsewhere.

A letter from the Glen Echo Town Council supporting continued public use of the area by small businesses as well as for parking space for those using the canal was read to the group by this reporter. The council agreed at its January meeting that the small vendors performed a public service, so long as there was no overnight parking, camping or other abuse of the area.

Problems that pushed the planned closure were outlined by G.R. Boggs, Chief, Real Estate Division, Corps of Engineers,

--continued on page 4

NATURAL GAS IN GLEN ECHO? COME TO FEB. 13 MEETING

By Bonnie Whyte and Carlotta Anderson

Washington Gas representatives will be present at the February 13 town council meeting to tell residents what is involved in bringing natural gas to Glen Echo.

A video will be shown at 8:00 pm, followed by a question and answer period.

The gas company had asked the town to conduct a survey, indicating it would only undertake the required construction without charge if 75 percent of residents were interested. No survey was conducted because the council felt it was a chicken-and-egg situation, in which no resident would be serious until costs were established.

Most homes in town use a combination of oil and electricity, or are all all-electric, although some residents have propane tanks. It has been commonly assumed that crossing the MacArthur Blvd. aqueduct with a gas pipe was not possible for safety reasons, although it appears increasingly that this was a myth. There are now several homes on the river side of MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John that have natural gas piped in.

A campaign for natural gas by Cabin John resident Richard Sablowsky resulted in a presentation by Washington Gas before a crowd of 40-50 at the Jan. 24 meeting of the Cabin John Citizens Association. The gas company handed out forms to be sent in; those who indicated an interest in having gas piped into their homes will be approached directly. What the cost will be

--continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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MARYLAND

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Town Office 320-4041

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20812

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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.

MOST SIDEWALKS CLEAR AFTER FIRST SNOWFALL

The first real snowfall of the winter brought around six inches of snow to Glen Echo on Sunday, Jan. 29. It was a great day for snowmen, snow fights, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities.

The great majority of Glen Echo households cleared the sidewalks around their property, as required by the snow ordinance passed by the town council as of Dec. 3. It provides that sidewalks must be shovelled within 24 hours after snowplows come through town.

Those who neglected to shovel made it difficult and dangerous for those who had to or chose to walk through town.

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STREET REPAIRS APPROVED; TOWN PLANS SLURRY SEAL

By Bonnie Whyte

After years of discussion, the town council unanimously approved at its Jan. 9 meeting a plan to slurry seal (cover with road sealant) all the town streets.

Engineers have been recommending for at least a decade that all streets be slurry sealed due to their many cracks, holes and drainage problems. The council agreed that the heavier grade of slurry was necessary, similar to that recently used on Massachusetts Ave. and in Bannockburn. Depending on the contractor, slurry sealing in Glen Echo was estimated to cost in the range of \$22-23,000 and take from two days to a week for completion.

Mayor Beers told the council that emergency legislation would probably be necessary to give the town authority to move cars from the streets when the slurry operation was scheduled.

An engineering evaluation by A. Morton Thomas and Associates of Rockville laid out priority levels of street repairs needed throughout town. Councilmembers Brintnall and Levin will work with the firm to develop the final specifications to go out for bids, which must be received before spring in order to make repairs this year.

The council approved the immediate repair of the growing potholes at the top and bottom intersections of Cornell Ave. and Wellesley Cir. Town contractor Mark Peyton was authorized to "cold patch" the potholes until the street repairs were made.

The evaluation report disclosed serious safety problems. The southern end of town, involving Oberlin, Bowdoin and Tulane Avenues, has the most critical needs, according to Councilmember Levin. It will be necessary to fix a rippled road, repair a vast drop-off on the edge of Bowdoin and add an underground drain.

Despite property issues with the National Park Service and the Inn at Glen Echo, the site has reached the point of imminent repair needs. Councilmember Brintnall recommended that, for clarity and decision-making purposes, the bidding specifications separate the potentially contentious areas as options. Responsibility for the water flow is key to making and paying for the repairs.

Fran Norton, Supervisory Park Ranger at Glen Echo Park, was present at the meeting and will discuss the matter with park officials.

NATURAL GAS (from page 1)

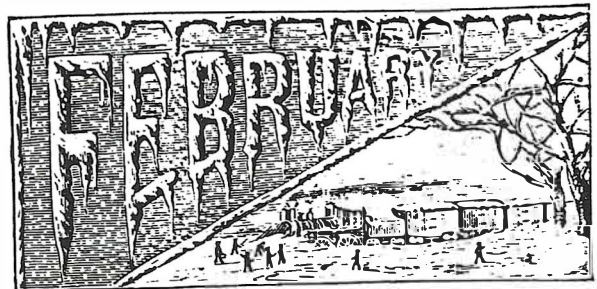
will depend on how many residents are interested on a given street.

Before installing a pipeline, Washington Gas weighs installation costs against projected revenues, according to an article in the January issue of *The Village News*. If enough customers do not commit to gas service to cover costs, the cost/revenue differential must be deposited by those contracting for service in a non-interest-bearing escrow account for five years.

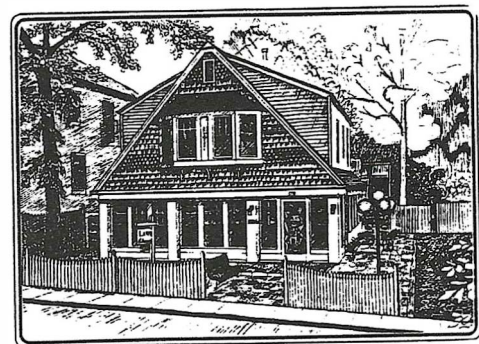
As additional customers acquire service, the money is returned in increments until all deposits are refunded, the article said. If the number of new customers does not meet the quota necessary to cover installation costs within that time period, the remaining deposit funds are forfeited to Washington Gas.

It gave as an example a pipeline costing \$10,000. If three customers contracted for service, generating estimated revenue of \$6,000 for two years, those customers would have to deposit a total of \$4,000.

Gas company officials indicated that crossing MacArthur Blvd. was not a serious problem, according to Cabin John Citizens Association co-president Fred Mopsik, although approval must be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has jurisdiction over the road and aqueduct.



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VENDORS (from page 1)

Baltimore District. He noted that vendors are using federal property free, the corps has no authority to enforce county zoning laws or regulations nor to grant easements to individuals, there is an unregulated traffic pattern for which the corps is subject to liability, and the vending constitutes unfair competition to local merchants.

The lot's function is to serve as a "staging area" for repair of the bridge, and the corps cannot dispose of the property. Montgomery County currently has enforcement duties over a 25-foot swath from the middle of MacArthur Blvd. into the lot. Mr. Boggs revealed that the corps had proposed to the county that that area be widened by perhaps 10 feet and put it into the public use category, giving the county jurisdiction over vending activities located in the space.

The county council is currently considering new legislation regulating vendors. Hal Phipps, Manager of the Land Use Compliance Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection told the forum. It is possible that the forthcoming vendor laws could help resolve the problem, Mr. Boggs said.

Representatives of Bannockburn, Cabin John and Glen Echo will meet with county police officials on Feb. 2 to discuss possible future enforcement at the site.

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.

NEW FEE SCHEDULE BEING DEVELOPED FOR TOWN HALL

By Bonnie Whyte

The council still has no new proposals on how best to pay for the cost of keeping the town hall in good condition while having it serve as a public use facility.

In recent years, all varieties of non-profit groups have been using the hall for free, while resident usage has not been well-monitored. Councilmember Nancy Long, in charge of dealing with use requests, said that the free use of the hall is why so many groups come to town. Fifteen requests for the space already have been received for 1995.

Councilmember Jim Anderson said he thought there were four principles to abide by: The hall was built for town use; the town and its residents should not suffer if it is made available to others; the town needs to protect itself; and a reasonable schedule of fees should be applied.

Mayor Beers suggested that the post office rental fees be viewed as funds for capital expenses, such as the American With Disability Act-related need for an elevator, and that rental fees for the hall be viewed as off-setting funds for its operating costs.

Clerk-Treasurer Edie Springuel said that standard cleaning fees could not be recouped by the \$50 deposit, which is refunded if the hall is left in clean condition. Non-profit groups currently use the hall for free; they, as well as residents, post a \$50 deposit. All others may rent the hall for \$350 plus a \$50 refundable deposit.

It was suggested that there was wide variety in what constitutes a non-profit organization, and that a schedule of differing fees should be charged.

More responsibility on the part of town residents using the facility was urged by Councilmember Gloria Levin, who suggested a checklist of cleaning jobs to be performed. Several residents have reserved the hall in their name but not been present at affairs held by others, and clean-up problems persist.

Councilmembers Long and Brintnall were asked to develop new rental prices and deposit policies for the February meeting.



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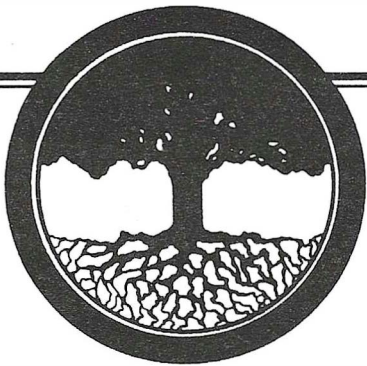
CLARIFICATION

In the last issue, the *Echo* reported that Mayor Beers told the town council at its December meeting that WSSC was implying it would not replace a broken storm drain without access to a certain property.

The agency involved in the repair work is the county Dept. of Transportation, rather than WSSC, as the *Echo* reported. In addition, Tom Kenney informs us that he and the other Harvard Ave. residents have been providing access on a routine basis to DOT's engineers and work crews and that the replacement work is progressing.

According to the meeting minutes of Dec. 12, Mayor Beers reported to the council that Mr. Gonzalez, Chief, Dept. of Transportation, told her in November that "there was nothing they could do for the Harvard Avenue storm drain situation as, to his understanding, one of the residents refused to give an easement through his property." She told the council that the resident was "willing to discuss the issue of an easement should there be no other possible solution."

The mayor wrote to Mr. Gonzalez in early January requesting a status report on storm drains.



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MUNICIPALITIES TARGET UNFUNDED MANDATES

By Jim Anderson

It seems to be open season on Unfunded Mandates, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that order municipalities to take certain actions without supplying the funds for those actions.

As newly elected Maryland Delegate Ray Beck told a meeting of legislative representatives and officials of Montgomery County municipalities on Jan 26 in Annapolis, "The mandates are well-intentioned but they pre-empt what many local officials want to do with their budgets." The recurring theme at the Annapolis meeting was that local governments have a better feel than higher levels of government about how their available funds should be spent because they are closer to the people.

Beck, a former council member in Kensington, estimated that the ADA requirements would soak up seven percent of that town's budget. Depending on the exact specifications and time allowed, the ADA requirements could cost Glen Echo up to 40 percent of its current annual budget.

Glen Echo was represented at the Maryland Municipal League-sponsored session by Mayor Debbie Beers, Councilmembers Nancy Long and Jim Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer Edie Springuel, *Echo* Editor Carlotta Anderson, and Rene Springuel.

One of MML's four focus issues for this legislative session is to put an end to state-level unfunded mandates, such as sediment control, or "livability" codes, which are ordered by the State Assembly but paid for by the municipalities.

Action at the state level parallels voting on Capitol Hill, where Congress is moving toward abolishing federal unfunded mandates. However, none of the proposed legislation is retroactive, meaning that the ADA requirements for municipalities, including Glen Echo, stand, unless the administration puts a moratorium on suits involving laws that impose undue hardships on municipalities.

The mayor and town attorney Norman Knopf have also been doing research in advance of a scheduled March meeting with Montgomery County's ADA coordinator.

NEW BABY IN TOWN

Glen Echo's youngest resident, **Allegra Rose Wilson**, was born Jan. 4 at Sibley Hospital, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces. She joins her parents, **Julia** and **Speke Wilson**, at 6000 Bryn Mawr Ave. She also can be seen in her stroller being wheeled about town by grandparents **Carlotta** and **Jim Anderson** of 38 Wellesley Circle.

TOWN GETTING RID OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Progress in ridding the town of abandoned or overly-parked vehicles is slow, but making headway, according to Councilmember Anderson. Such vehicles can be towed from streets by the town after proper notification to the owners, he said.

Vehicles on private property can be towed only if a written complaint is submitted and the owner disregards several notifications. Anonymity is promised if the complaint is given directly to Councilman Anderson.

Informal notices have been sent to three town residents asking them to remove their cars.

—Bonnie Whyte

BRIEFLY NOTED

A **traffic light** is scheduled to be erected next spring at the 75th St. entrance to the Clara Barton Parkway in Cabin John, according to the January issue of *The Village News*, although a "Comment" in the same issue by resident Jack Smith calls it "a silly idea" that should be opposed. The Cabin John Citizens Association has already taken a vote in favor of having the entrance from the Parkway closed for two hours eastbound in the morning and westbound in the afternoon...

A new **teen center** is being organized in Cabin John in conjunction with the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Events will be held at the Clara Barton Community Center. A large opening night featuring a DJ will be scheduled for late February, according to *The Village News*. The Teen Center needs furniture to equip the lounges, and adult volunteers to serve on the advisory board. For further information, contact June Spencer at 229-6496...

Resident **Carol Barton** of Yale Ave. is curator of an exhibition of contemporary artists' books and sculptures. "Milliseconds to Millennia: The Art of Time," which is on show at the Ellipse Arts Center, Arlington, Va., until Feb. 25. She will give a Gallery Talk on Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 pm...

"It's the Road to Frustration" is how the *Washington Post* characterized the "seemingly endless repairs" on the **Clara Barton Parkway**. Actually, the three-year project is running slightly ahead of schedule, with completion expected in early September rather than the original October estimate, but the Jan. 26 article questions why the contractors were given so much time for the project in the first place...

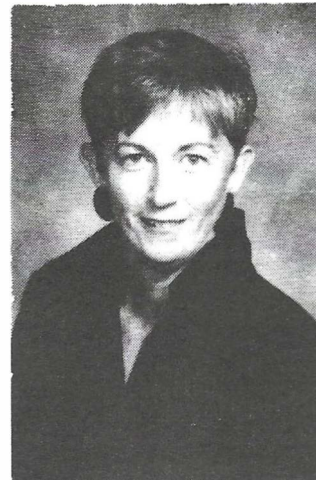
CLASSIFIED ADS

ARE THERE ANY GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS interested in some pick-up bridge games? I would love to play and am looking for partners. Please call Leila Webster at 229-7205.

PROF. WRITER/NONSMOKER LOOKING TO RENT guest house or pvt. apt. in house w/sep. kitch, bath, yard for dog. Cabin John/Glen Echo. Call Chris at (202) 537-6046.

INCOME TAX RETURNS CAREFULLY PREPARED by nearby neighbor. Moderate charges. Glen Echo reference. Harry Greenspan, 229-4575.

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.



Eleanor

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The 1995 Summer Fun Program, a non-co-oping weekday program held from 9:30 am-1:30 pm, runs from mid-June to the end of July.

Call 320-3331 or 320-4252 for more information.

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FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

December 1994

Knopf Law Offices	\$714.38
A. Morton Thomas (street surveys)	\$1,445.00
E.E.Lyons Construction (street repairs)	\$4,620.00

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



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THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

Our sincere sympathy to the families of two of our former neighbors, **Rebecca Dennis** and **Joe Stickno**, who passed away recently.

"Becky" Dennis, with her husband, **Frank**, and children **Nancy** and **Eddie**, lived in Glen Echo for many years. Prior to moving to 5806 Oxford Rd., they lived on Wellesley Circle. At the time of her death, she resided at Asbury Methodist Home in Gaithersburg. Nancy and family now live in Ohio, and Eddie and family in Germantown, Md.

Joe Stickno lived at 6107 Yale Ave. for many years. He and **Maxine Canada** were a familiar sight around town before moving to Auburn, Kansas, several years ago.

GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

13 Vassar Circle

\$394,000

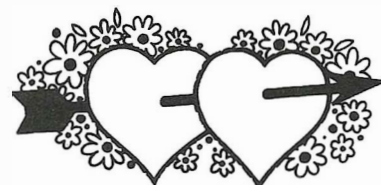
PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

36 Wellesley Circle

\$379,991

CORRECTION

The address of one of the properties listed as under contract in last month's issue should have read 7306 University Ave., not 7308.



GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

WEEKEND DANCES AT THE PARK

Saturday, Feb. 11—CAJUN DANCE with Harry LaFleur and Aldus Rogers

Saturday, Feb. 18—MARDI GRAS CAJUN DANCE, Benefit for the Spanish Ballroom

Saturday, Feb. 25—SWING DANCE with the Tom Cunningham Orchestra

Square and contra dances every Friday night

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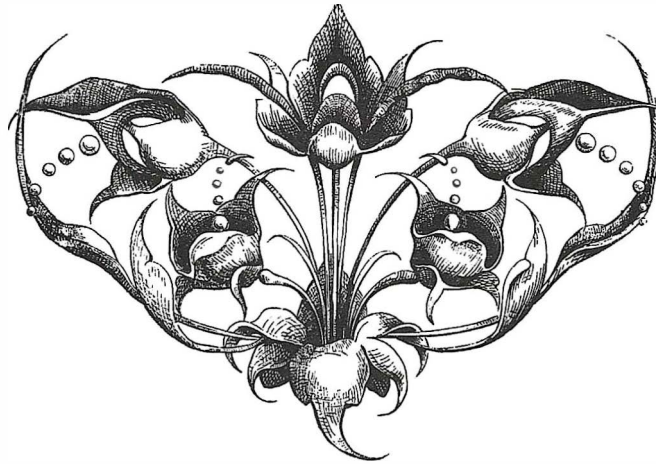
Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.

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

Tickets: \$4. Call 320-6668

AT THE GALLERY

TRAVEL NOTES: Artworks by J. Lea Lansaw



EXTRA ECHOS AVAILABLE

If you didn't get your copy of *The Echo* or would like an extra one, there are a few left each month at the Glen Echo post office.

Just ask a clerk for one.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 13—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

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