

# The Echo

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



February 1998

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### RESIDENTS DISCUSS PLANS FOR PARK'S FUTURE

By Peter Somerville

About 30 town residents attended the first public meeting on the development of the management plan for Glen Echo Park held on Jan. 20 at the town hall. Members of the National Park Service planning team from the George Washington Memorial Parkway headquarters at Turkey Run presented the five possible scenarios that had evolved from their initial internal discussions.

As outlined in the NPS newsletter distributed to every house in town, they include:

- No action and fewer services;
- Continued NPS management with the cooperators responsible for rehabilitating and maintaining the structures containing their programs;
- Naturalized settings/open space, with removal of all structures except the carousel and Chautauqua tower;
- Management by a public entity, such as the state or county;
- Management by a single private or non-profit entity.

The newsletter includes a comment form that invites resident feedback and suggestions. Comments on this first phase may be submitted until Mar. 5.

The main problem, as explained by deputy superintendent Dottie Marshall, was diminishing federal funding com-

pounded by internal NPS restrictions on how funds generated by park programs could be directly put back into the park. She said no additional money for rehabilitating the structures was expected, and without such work "the buildings would eventually crumble."

Ten years ago the money needed for rehabilitation was estimated at \$20 million, an amount that probably would not be sufficient today, according to park officials.

—continued on page 4

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### BABY BOOM CONTINUES

On Jan. 14, at 3:10 p.m., Benjamin Andrew Malmgren was born at Georgetown University Hospital. Weighing nine pounds, seven ounces, he was 21 inches long.

He is now back in Glen Echo with his parents, Stacey and Andy Malmgren, at their home at 42 Wellesley Circle.

Benjamin made his appearance considerably after the due date of Dec. 28 mentioned in last month's *Echo*, and was born by Caesarian section. He is "just great," according to his mother, and "doing all the right things."

Two Glen Echo babies were born in January, and two more are expected in April.

## THE ECHO

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**Next Deadline February 20**

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. 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.



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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:** Monday and Friday: 9:30 am- 12 noon  
or by appointment

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Norman Bernhardt 320-2469

Michael Brintnall 229-6792

Gloria Levin 320-5068

Nancy Long

### CLERK-TREASURER

Betsy Platt 320-4041

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Kathleen Horwitz 320-2171

Sarah Patton 320-0037

## FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

**Sunday, Feb. 8, 3:00-5:30 p.m. CONCERT AND COMMUNITY DANCE for all ages.** Judy Cook leads a songfest for the whole family and then plays for the dance, along with her husband, Dennis. Susan Taylor from Baltimore calls. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

**Saturday, Mar. 7, 8:00 p.m.** Folklore Society of Greater Washington concert.

**Sunday, Mar. 8, 3:00-5:30 p.m. COMMUNITY 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.

## COUNTY DISCUSSES DRAINS WITH AFFECTED RESIDENTS

By Carlotta Anderson and Sarah Patton

About a dozen Harvard and Bryn Mawr Ave. property owners and several town officials assembled at the town hall on Jan. 15 to hear Montgomery County Property Acquisition Specialist Tom Reese and other county officials state the need to get easements to some town properties in order to construct a new storm drainage system.

The proposed system would carry water from MacArthur Blvd. down upper Bryn Mawr Ave. to University and along University to hook up with an existing pipe system behind the houses on lower Harvard and Bryn Mawr Aves. No easements would be required for upper Bryn Mawr because the pipe would go down the roadway. On lower Harvard it would go through residents' back yards.

Officials said they were hoping for amicable easements, but otherwise were prepared to initiate condemnation proceedings, according to Harvard Ave. resident Tom Kenney, who notified the other affected property owners and town officials that the meeting would take place.

Mr. Reese told them that if any trees were lost during construction property owners would be compensated for the reduction created in the value of their property. He said he was a property appraiser and would be ascertaining the amount involved. One tree involved is a sycamore at the bottom of the two streets.

In addition, the county would offer reimbursement for the digging up and re-establishing of whatever landscaping materials, walls or other structures would need to be moved during the construction, Tom Kenney reported. He said it would necessitate cutting a 20-25 foot wide swath through some of the properties.

The county also proposes to seal off the existing pipe that extends from MacArthur to University and re-direct the water flowing from Bannockburn and Fairway Hills down the planned new Bryn Mawr drain. The drain carrying water from the parking lot of the town hall would be hooked up to the new system, but the county apparently considers the upper Harvard section a private drain not carrying public water and would abandon responsibility for its maintenance.

Mayor Debbie Beers has asked the town attorney to give an opinion on whether that drain is carrying public or private water before the town takes an official position on the matter.

The purpose of the new storm drain system is to correct long-standing flooding problems in Glen Echo yards. Its design has been under consideration for several years and was chosen as the cheaper of two proposed options. Work would begin in fiscal year 1999.

Because the meeting was not an official one, it was

## RESIDENT HIT BY CAR AT HARVARD ENTRANCE

Wellesley Circle resident Jim Anderson was injured after being hit by a car turning into Harvard Ave. at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 5. He was walking in the middle of the bicycle path crosswalk in the direction of Cabin John and was struck from behind.

Thrown onto the hood of the small foreign car, he then rolled off and hit his head on the pavement. He suffered abrasions to his forehead and right leg, as well as a severe contusion of the leg. X-rays did not show any broken bones, although his leg is still painful and his mobility restricted.

It was dark at the time, and although the intersection is well lit, the driver said he did not see Jim until he hit him.

There have been a number of accidents involving bicyclists and pedestrians at town entrances over the years and many drivers do not exercise sufficient caution in entering or leaving town. The bicycle path is almost directly adjacent to the roadway, so that once a driver has made a turn into town he or she is immediately crossing it. This is especially hazardous in the case of fast-moving runners or bicyclists who may suddenly appear at the crossing although they weren't there as the driver began the turn.

Residents are encouraged to check the bike path in both directions before making a turn so that future accidents may be prevented.

At the last town council meeting, Councilwoman Nancy Long also expressed concern that people exiting the post office tend to turn around the corner of the town hall, then speed up the hill to Harvard Ave. There was some discussion of a GO SLOW sign to be placed at the corner of the town hall to address this problem.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 9—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

held in the upstairs of the town hall as one of Tom Kenney's two annual private uses as a resident. In addition to most of the affected property owners, who included Councilwoman Nancy Long, it was attended by Mayor Beers and Councilwoman Gloria Levin.

## PARK FUTURE (FROM PAGE 1)

After a question and answer session, the audience was split into four teams to suggest ways of solving the problem of how the park should be managed. The teams debated and questioned for over an hour and 11 flip chart pages of suggestions and issues were recorded.

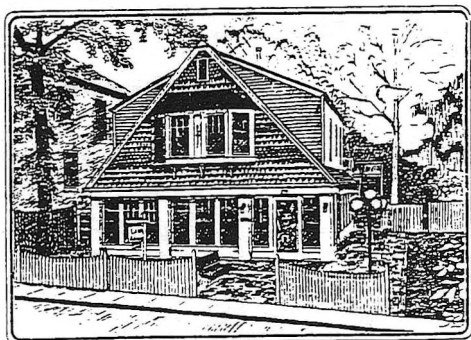
Two days later, similar meetings were held for the cooperators who provide the programs at the park. A further 17 flip chart pages of suggestions were generated. Since the livelihood of the cooperators depends on the park, the suggestions focused on lifting restrictions that limit fundraising by the cooperators.

The next public meeting will take place at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John on Feb. 3, from 7-9 p.m.

Members of the NPS planning team said that many of the suggestions from the participants were new and exciting to them and would be considered in the next phase of developing the plan.

Town residents Peter Somerville and Debbie Lange (301-320-8129), Jamie and Betsy Platt (301-320-7099), and Councilwoman Nancy Long (301-320-4041) have attended multiple planning process meetings and would be happy to provide more detailed information. As the process evolves, details are posted on the park web site at <http://www.nps.gov/glec>.

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*Heather Cottage*

*Financial Planning*

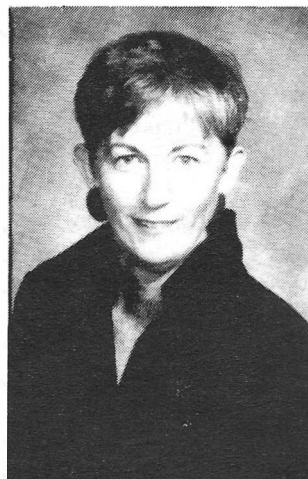
## Around Town

Wellesley Circle resident **Laura Beers** flew to Prague, Czechoslovakia, last month for a semester abroad studying at Charles University. Laura is in her sophomore year at Princeton University.

Laura was one of a group of students selected from universities throughout the country to study politics, history and culture in Prague. The classes will be in English. Laura will return to Princeton in the fall...

The town has applied for a new address for the **town website**: [glenecho.org](http://glenecho.org). Approval for the address is expected sometime in February. In the meantime, you can continue to access the website at: <http://198.232.144.128...>

The **Cabin John post office** will have 24-hour lobby access beginning in mid-March. *The Village News* reports...



*Eleanor*

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

907-7600  
229-7990



## ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD CONSIDERS NEW PROCEDURES

By Sarah Patton

The town Animal Control Board met Jan. 12 to review hearing and complaint procedures concerning animals in town and to generate recommendations for the town council regarding adoption of the county's animal control ordinances and enforcement.

Suggestions subsequently presented to the town council by Councilman Mike Brintnall at its January meeting included:

--that the Animal Control Board be turned into an Animal Advisory Committee, with a chairman appointed by the mayor;

--that the town adopt Montgomery County's animal control ordinances and allow the county to enforce them. The town committee's role would be to attempt to mediate disputes and help resolve problems informally without recourse to legal action;

--that the town committee advise town residents on how to take recourse to the county ordinances;

--that the town co-enforce certain provisions of the county's ordinances in the category of "nuisance dogs," such as dogs at large, barking dogs, and the deposit and removal of dog feces, and that violation of these provisions be subject to a municipal infraction notice issued by the town;

--that dog licensing be turned over to the county, but that Glen Echo animal tags be issued without charge to every town pet so that the committee could quickly determine whether an animal at large belonged to a town resident;

--that free rabies vaccinations offered by the town be abolished

Councilwoman Nancy Long said she didn't want to give up total control of animals in town. She said she saw that as another instance of the town's authority slipping away.

Although the Jan. 12 meeting was publicized in *The Echo*, there were no town residents present other than the members of the Animal Control Board—Kate Horwitz, Councilman Brintnall, and Sarah Patton.

The county has just appointed a new animal control administrator and is in the midst of rewriting county ordinances. Councilman Brintnall spoke with the new animal control officer, who said that the new ordinances will be ready soon to go before the county council for approval, but that they would not differ substantially from the old provisions.

The town council decided that the Animal Control Board's recommendations should be passed along to the town attorney so he could put them into more formal language to be voted on at a future town meeting.

## POST OFFICE NEEDS SPACE

By Sarah Patton

Glen Echo post office officials have asked to meet with the town council to discuss the possibility of expanding into the town hall space now occupied by the council chambers. They said their operation is very cramped in its present quarters and is not meeting the new standard in post offices which have lots of self-service areas and fewer personnel.

Post office official Keith Kendrick also proposed bumping out their wall in the front of the town hall. They will present a plan to the council in either February or March.

Although Mayor Beers told them it was out of the question to consider moving into the council chambers, other council members urged at the January town council meeting that that possibility be considered. Councilman Brintnall said maybe the town should rent them the council chambers (if it was lucrative enough) and find quarters somewhere else like the Baptist Church annex or the Wild Bird Center.

The post office had approached Glen Echo Park about the possibility of moving their operations over there, but the idea was rejected by the park service.

### SUMMER MEMBERSHIPS AT BANNOCKBURN POOL

Bannockburn Swimming Club is now accepting applications for 1998 summer memberships, for which the early registration deadline is Mar. 9. If you would like to receive an application form, please call or fax Henriette de Bruyn Kops at 301-320-0232.

A few permanent memberships have become available for homeowners within the club's designated area. A permanent membership entitles the member to lower seasonal dues, confers voting rights, and is transferable to future home buyers. For more information, please call the above number.



### *Intimate Dining*

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## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night*

*at Debbie Lange's,  
49 Wellesley Circle*

*Wednesday, Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP, 301-320-8129*

### TRASH, RECYCLING PICKUP PROBLEMS?

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

### Paid Advertisement

## THE GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH VASSAR CIRCLE, GLEN ECHO MD.

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**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.

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

January 12

Fran Norton, Unit Manager of Glen Echo Park, reported that the planning process on the **future of Glen Echo Park** is proceeding (see page 1). She assured the council that the park service's priority is to keep the original Chautauqua mission and that it values the town's input on the future of the park. She said a decision on the future of the park would be made by October, 1998.

She mentioned that the Waldorf School had approached the park, asking if they could buy it. Mayor Debbie Beers said the post office had also asked if it would be possible to move their operations to the park. Both these ideas were rejected.

Councilman Mike Brintnall suggested that the council ask the town attorney to look into what would happen if the park became more commercialized, for example, whether the town would have to impose a sales tax...

Councilmembers expressed shock that the police had no interest in responding to the **car break-ins** that occurred in December. Mayor Beers will draft a letter of complaint to the police...

The town has sent a request for proposal to five contractors to do the **survey work** for the former trolley right-of-way which the town intends to purchase...

Councilman Norman Bernhardt reported he put in a **thermostat** upstairs in the town hall as well as doorstops. He wants to get estimates on replacing the air conditioning units, which are unsatisfactory, forcing people to open windows and let the noise out. He will also check on blocking long distance calls from the telephone that was installed as part of the ADA requirements...

Clerk/treasurer Betsy Platt said that both the auditing and accounting categories were **over budget**. The council voted to reallocate money from other categories to cover anticipated expenses in legal fees...

The next meeting of the **Long Range Planning Committee** was scheduled for Jan. 27. Councilman Brintnall suggested that the clean-up of the council chambers be part of that committee's tasks...

There is a **new computer** at the town hall...

--Sarah Patton

## LONG-TERM CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE AT WORK

By Michael Brintnall

The town's Long-term Capital Planning Committee has been meeting periodically to identify long-term maintenance and repair needs in Glen Echo. The group is looking at the timetable and financing needed to keep up with street and sidewalk repair, preventive maintenance at the town hall, street signs, retaining walls, etc. We are also seeking to ferret out maintenance needs and risks that may currently be overlooked or under-appreciated.

The committee will develop a worksheet identifying the town's capital assets, estimates of when they may next need attention, and likely costs to maintain them. This worksheet will be presented to the town council as a background and working document to help in budget discussions and maintenance planning. The project will tell the town, for example, how much should be set aside annually in reserves to assure funds are on hand for needs when they arise.

Anyone in town is invited to contribute information or join the group. To date, town residents Tom Kenney, James Shaut, and JoAnn Murray have been meeting along with council members Michael Brintnall, Gloria Levin, and Norman Bernhardt, and town clerk/treasurer Betsy Platt. Contact Michael Brintnall at 301-229-6792 or at work at 202-628-8965 (or at [brintnall@naspaa.org](mailto:brintnall@naspaa.org)), or Betsy Platt at the town hall for more information.

### PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

5900 Oxford Rd. \$399,000

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES

5806 Oxford Rd. \$325,000

### SNOW NOTICE

In case of snow, residents are requested to park only on the northeast side of University Ave., the side nearest MacArthur Blvd.

There should be **NO PARKING** on the river side of the street.

This will facilitate snow plowing as well as permit fire and rescue access on the designated Snow Emergency Route.

Residents of University Ave. who have options for parking elsewhere are requested to do so rather than park on University.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE BY OWNER:** Beautiful classic Cape Cod in Glen Echo featuring sensational first floor addition. Gourmet Kitchen, sundrenched Dining and Great Room. Hardwood floors throughout, 3BR, 3Full Baths, Fireplace in Living Room, Finished Basement for au pair or home office. Deck off Great Room. Offered at \$399,000. Agent co op. Please call for appointment 301-320-9448.

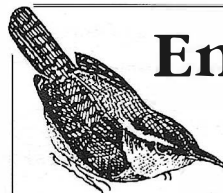
*Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 55 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

### FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

December/January 1998

Waste Management (trash removal)	\$2,284.54
COMPUSA (HP computer)	\$2,482.97
Landscape Project (January)	\$716.67

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



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# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## COMING EVENTS

Every Saturday, swing, cajun & zydeco, etc.  
 Every Friday, traditional country dances  
 Every Sunday, contras, square and folk dances  
 Sunday afternoon tea dances:  
     First & third Sundays, waltzes, foxtrots and ballroom, 4:00-6:00 pm  
     Second and fourth Sundays, traditional American and international dancing for all ages and abilities, 3:00-5:30 pm

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**Revenge of the Space Pandas**  
 Through February 15  
 Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
 Tickets: \$5.00 Call 320-5331

## THE PUPPET THEATRE

**Dinosaur Babies**  
 Through February 8  
**Aladdin**  
 February 11-March 15  
 Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30  
 Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00  
 Tickets: \$5 Call 320-6668

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park is in need of a few good volunteers during daytime hours. Volunteers should have office experience and be able to commit to four to six hours per week for at least six months.

Congenial office environment, interesting work, and the chance to become involved with Glen Echo's unique arts programs makes this a highly rewarding volunteer opportunity.

Please call Sam Swersky, Park Ranger, at 301-320-6266 for more information.

## PARK NEWS

Lead paint is being stripped off the floor of the carousel. It should be finished and repainted in time for the opening of next season.

This work is thanks to an anonymous donor who gave \$500,000 for restoration to the carousel. The park service has five years to spend the grant.



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