

# The Echo

The Town of  
**BLEEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



January 1996

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## MAYOR BREAKS TIE VOTE ON NEW HALL RESTROOM

By David Sproul

Mayor Debbie Beers used her tie-breaking capacity to cast a vote at last month's town council meeting in favor of a handicapped access restroom near the town hall kitchen area rather than in an enclosure projecting from the rear of the building.

The council had split 2-2 on the issue. The mayor only votes in case of a tie.

Councilmembers Levin and Anderson also preferred the "A" plan, or indoor solution. Councilmember Anderson said his main motivation was the cheaper price tag, saving \$14,000 in costs. Councilmember Levin suggested that some shrewd carpentry work could make access to the kitchen easier.

Councilmember Long, while also expressing reservations about the additional cost, weighed in for the attached-to-the-back plan "C" for the bathroom, which also called for a masonry shroud around the elevator shaft. Councilman Brintnall thought the additional cost was small when compared with the total bill of \$70,000-100,000 and the long service life expected of the addition.

Residents present were also split. Eleanor Balaban felt that most town hall functions are not so crowded that the interior floor space will be missed. Norm Bernhardt and Jamie Platt spoke emphatically for the "C" scheme since it offers more floor space for dances.

In voting for scheme "A," the mayor cited her continued concern with the probability of frozen pipes in any attached-to-the-back restroom. As passed, the decision contained a compromise solution of wrapping the elevator shaft in a masonry shaft.

But architect Joanne Murray said that tight clearances would probably prohibit a masonry shroud. She thought that a wooden structure covered with low-maintenance siding might answer all the stated concerns.

The council left it to her professional judgment to propose a final solution.

### SPECIAL MEETING THIS MONTH

There will be a special town meeting in January at which future storm drain construction plans will be discussed.

Residents will be notified by town bulletin as soon as a date is set.

## 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: Monday: 10:00-1:00 pm; Friday: 9:30 am-12 noon

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Anderson 229-3748

Michael Brintnall 229-6792

Gloria Levin 320-5068

Nancy Long

### CLERK-TREASURER

Edie Springuel 320-4041

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Kathleen Horwitz 320-2171

Barbara Odell 229-4494

Sarah Patton 320-0037

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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN TOWN HALL OFFICE

Do you have some extra time to help organize the files at the town office, run small errands, get the past year's records in order for storage?

The clerk/treasurer could use your help.

If you are a high school student who needs service hours and is civic-minded, or an adult (age of no concern) who would like to help with this challenge, please call the town office at 320-4041 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

December 11

The council agreed to begin a policy of immediately depositing the **security deposit checks** for town hall reservations except in cases of those with whom the town had previous experience. The mayor said she was worried that people who were notified that they were about to forfeit the deposit due to damage or trash might move to stop payment on the checks...

The outgoing secretary of the **Mohican Swimming Pool** Association notified Councilwoman Long that there are many people from Glen Echo who are members. This is relevant to setting rental rates for use of the town hall by the association. Councilwoman Long said she would still like to examine the association's bylaws...

The announced plan to **widen MacArthur Blvd.** and install traffic lights near the Inn at Glen Echo has been under consideration since 1988. Glen Echo Park Unit Manager Fran Norton told the council, although it took many in the area by surprise. She said there is no proposal to use Park Service land and the project will be contained entirely on U.S. Army Corps of Engineer land. She thought work might begin by spring...

The county police seem to be slacking off in their efforts to have **scofflaw cars towed**, Councilman Anderson reported. He said it took the police five weeks to mark a car that was up on ramps on Vassar Circle and that a few days afterwards, the car had been moved into the driveway at the address, still as non-functional as before. He reiterated that he will only move against abandoned cars on private property with a written complaint in hand...

After its regular meeting, the council moved into executive session to consider the **right-of-way purchase**. A resident objected to the town's business being conducted behind closed doors. Several council members tried to give him a quick summary of the tortuous process that brought the council to this point. Purchase of real estate is one of the reasons accepted for closed-door meetings under Maryland's "Sunshine" laws...

—David Sproul

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST A HUGE SUCCESS

Filled with a holiday spirit of conviviality, at least 65 Glen Echoans enjoyed a delectable breakfast with their friends and neighbors at the annual town pancake breakfast in the town hall on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Organized by Sarah Patton and Edie Springuel, the event boasted almost as many helpers as there were participants.

Anne Lewis, Kate Horwitz, Raya Bodnarchuk, Ruth Laughlin and Nancy Long were busy with set-up and decorations.

Pancake makers included Norman and Deborah Bernhardt, Susan Grigsby, Betsy Platt, Michelle Wells and Jim Anderson. Diana Hudson-Taylor and the Grant-Suttie family brought juice; Marc Levenson came with homemade bread.

Tom Kenney provided one of his famous casseroles.

English country dance music provided by Liz Donaldson and Stephanie Smith on piano and fiddle contributed to the festive atmosphere.

After their breakfast, the children enjoyed decorating graham cracker gingerbread houses provided through the combined efforts of Bea Smith and guest volunteer Jean Gregory.

—Carlotta Anderson

*LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.*  
*(301) 229-8500*



*Heather Cottage*

*Financial Planning*

## WSSC TRIES TO VIDEOTAPE INSIDE OF TOWN DRAINPIPE

By David Sproul

An attempt by WSSC to videotape the interior of a troublesome town drain pipe was unsuccessful, Mayor Beers told the town council last month. But before the equipment failed, the workers were able to determine that the combination concrete/terracotta pipe is essentially open, but deteriorating.

The section examined was from just below University Ave. moving upward toward MacArthur Blvd. in the area between Harvard and Bryn Mawr Aves.

The mayor said that the crew saw several "cuts" into the pipe where residents have added drains over the years. They also reported that a Bryn Mawr backyard swimming pool has been built over the line, with a cement shroud constructed around it.

The county still wants to hold a single-topic meeting in town to weigh alternative strategies with those residents who live along possible construction sites.

The mayor said that property owners along Bryn Mawr and Harvard should get bulletins notifying them of the meeting as soon as a date is selected.

## COUNCIL DECLINES POSITION ON HUME BUILDING REQUEST

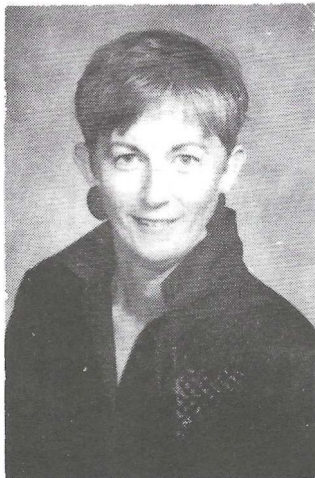
By David Sproul

After considering a request from a Princeton Ave. property owner for a statement from the town that would help him through zoning requirements and facilitate the sale of his backlot for building another house, the town council unanimously voted to refrain from taking a position.

The town did decide to acknowledge receipt of the application materials from Thomas Hume and remind the planning board that it would like timely advance notice in the future when such cases arise.

Although Councilman Anderson was worried about going on record as accepting a 5,000 sq. ft. lot as buildable, and Councilwoman Long wondered why the lot in question was identified as being in the R-90 instead of R-60 zoning category, it was agreed that an acknowledgement of receipt of an application does not necessarily constitute an acceptance of the detail it contains.

Mayor Beers told the council that the town attorney advised that if the town should oppose a resubdivision, the planning board needs a supermajority of 4-out-of-5 members to override the opposition. Councilmembers noted that this would have been useful knowledge during debates on earlier construction plans around town.



*Eleanor*

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

907-7600  
229-7990



### CLERK-TREASURER HOURS AT TOWN HALL CHANGE

The clerk/treasurer's hours at the town hall will change effective January 1, 1996. The new hours will be:

Monday: 10 am-1 pm  
Friday: 9:30 am-12 noon

The Wednesday evening and Saturday morning hours will be eliminated due to lack of use by town residents.

Should the above hours be inconvenient for a town resident to conduct business at the town hall, an appointment can be made with the clerk/treasurer by calling the town office at 320-4041. Please leave your name and phone number where you can be reached during the above hours. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

## WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

● **Michael Kaperst** and **Lisa Delligatti** "stumbled upon Glen Echo and absolutely fell in love with it." Their house at 5900 Oxford Rd., which they moved into in July, is "perfect" for them, with its combination of "old charm and modernization by its previous owners."

As regional director for the Discovery network, which includes the Discovery and Learning channels, Lisa travels across the U.S. every week, selling to cable companies.

Michael is general manager of Sterling Mirror Co. in Beltsville, where he has been on the staff for the past 18 years.

Lisa loves to cook and exercise—including weights, a Stairmaster and racket ball. She is eager to become involved in town activities.

Michael spends his free time reading. Another favorite and obviously welcome activity is that "he likes to eat what I cook," Lisa says.

● Joining the many other media representatives who call Glen Echo home is **Jerry Bodlander**, who moved to 36 Wellesley Circle in April with his wife, **Elaine**. Jerry has been a radio correspondent for the Associated Press for the past 17 years. Elaine is a manufacturer's representative for a lighting company.

Originally from south central Ohio, Elaine moved to the D.C. area two years ago just after she and Jerry were married. He grew up in New York City.

They moved here from Bethesda because they loved the neighborhood and the opportunity to be able to walk to the canal towpath. They also enjoy bike riding, and, especially, feeding the Glen Echo birds.

### WINTER BIRDWALKS

The Wild Bird Center in Cabin John is scheduling Winter Birdwalks every Saturday morning. The birds are easier to find now that the leaves have fallen.

Participants leave the Center parking lot at 7687 MacArthur Blvd. at 8:00 am and return around 10:30 am. Warm drinks are served afterwards.

Walks usually take place at Great Falls except for the first Saturday of each month when longer walks are scheduled. On Saturday, Jan. 6, the site will be Huntley Meadows, Va., an extensive freshwater wetland hosting over 150 species of birds.

## FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

### January

**Thursday, Jan. 4.** 7:30 pm. American Indian Intertribal Cultural Organization.


**Tuesday, Jan 17,** 9:30 am. Springfield Garden Club. "Pruning." Please reserve by calling Jessie McCardell, 320-4819. Refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, Jan. 21,** 3:00-5:30 pm. Community dance for families. Caller: DeLaura Padovan. Music by Steve Hickman and Friends. Traditional American music. Children welcome. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

**Every Wednesday,** 8:00-10:30 pm. English Country Dance. Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

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## TOWN MAY GIVE UP ITS ANIMAL CONTROL FUNCTIONS

There is no reason why the county can't assume some of the town's animal control functions on a case-by-case basis, Councilman Brintnall told the town council last month. He said he had learned this from Paul Hibler of the county's animal control division, who said he would bring up the matter with the county executive.

The town of Barnesville, Md. recently voted to relinquish its animal control functions, Councilman Brintnall said. He said the town could retain its licensing procedures but wondered how desirable that would be if all other functions were transferred to the county.



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## PARK OFFICIALS DESCRIBE MILLION DOLLAR UPGRADE

**By David Sproul**

A million dollar utilities upgrade at Glen Echo Park which is scheduled to begin next spring will replace the "trunk" lines for water and sewer service within the park and install empty conduits for future electric service upgrading.

The money available is not sufficient to replace aging pipes within buildings, park officials told the town council last month.

Park superintendent Audrey Calhoun said that the pipes will likely be in place in time for the summer Folk Festival, but that paving might have to wait until fall. One of the first pieces of construction will be an underground vault near the Yellow Barn for WSSC to install the initial water and sewer valves and headers, she said.

As for the much-debated "utility structure," she said it is slated for what is now the stable area but is not funded and may never be built.

The grassy area bounded by Tulane, Bowdoin and Oberlin Aves., once considered for the utility structure, will serve as the staging area for the construction and will likely get quite muddy and ugly during the work, Ms. Calhoun said. However, the Park Service will videotape the area before work starts to provide a reference for restoration work afterwards.

At least four sycamore and two oaks will have to be sacrificed in order to gain access to long-buried pipes. The areas near the comfort station and entrance to the Crystal Pool will suffer disproportionately, she said.

The contract is in final review by the Park Service's Denver Service Center. Ms. Calhoun was joined in her presentation to the council by Park Service officials Fran Norton and Lou Delorme.

### ***FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT***

**November 1995**

Landscape Projects	\$556.38
James H. Brandon (audit)	\$2,575.00
Allied Printing (Echo)	\$137.08

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

## BRIEFLY NOTED

**Josh Gruenspect** of Princeton Ave. was one of the top competitors in the 1995 University of Maryland High School Mathematics Competition, according to *Black and White*, Walt Whitman High School's student newspaper. Turning in one of the highest Whitman scores, Josh placed 16th in the state. There were 205 competitors statewide...

**Glen Echo Park** may have to cancel some of its programs unless it finds new sources of revenue, the *Black and White* reports. It quotes Glen Echo Foundation chairman Dwain Winters to the effect that "...we need to find means of income other than the NPS (National Park Service). If we can't, then there will have to be a down-scaling and possibly an eventual stoppage of programs." The NPS gives the park \$500,000 a year, but it is not enough to even pay salaries of all the park rangers, according to the article...

A mid-December late afternoon **ice storm** took many residents by surprise and they were unable to clear the sidewalks in front of their houses before the ice had hardened. Nevertheless, a good many **did** get the work done, and they were by no means limited to the youngest and hardiest of Glen Echoans. Others were considerate enough to sand the walkways, earning the gratitude of those who habitually walk through town...

## 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.



## BLOOD DRIVE AT NURSERY SCHOOL

Bannockburn Cooperative Nursery School is scheduling a blood drive for Friday, February 9 from 8:00 am-2:00 pm as part of its community outreach efforts. All local residents are encouraged to come and give blood. Please call 320-4252 for further information.

A parent-run non-profit preschool, Bannockburn currently has an opening in the two-year-old and three-to-four-year-old class. If interested, call the school or Heidi Bumpers, Membership Chairman, at 229-8395.

## 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.

## 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.

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, January 13—CREOLE ZYDECO FARMERS (Zydeco): \$10**

**Saturday, January 27—TOM CUNNINGHAM ORCHESTRA (Swing dancing): \$8**

**Every Friday night—Square, contra and country dances, 8:30–11:30 pm, \$5**

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**Peter and the Wolf**

Through February 18

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$5.00 Call 320-5331

## THE PUPPET COMPANY

Until January 14:

**Trouble in Toyland**

January 17–February 25

**"Circus!"**

Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

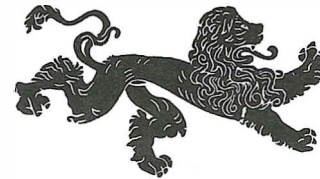
Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$5. Call 320-6668

## AT THE GALLERY

**Drawings by artists Sandra Bracker, J. Lea Lansaw and Cathic France Nelsen**

January 6–January 28, noon–5:00 except Mondays



## SPECIAL PICKUP INFORMATION

Large quantities of household discards are regularly picked up on the last Wednesday of every month. It is not necessary to arrange for a special pickup, nor is there a limitation on the number of times each household can put out these materials.

However, large piles of construction debris or demolition materials will not be picked up. In such cases, the resident is expected to get a dumpster.

In the event that there is not room on the truck for the amount of materials put out, Waste Management is supposed to send out a second truck the following day. Residents wishing to alert Waste Management to their throw-aways in advance can call Randy Johnson at 340-0774.

## TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES

**Tuesday & Friday—all trash, except heavy-weight objects.**

**Tuesday—recyclables, including plastic, metal and glass. Newspapers tied or in paper grocery bags. Garden refuse, cut into four-foot lengths and tied, placed in compostable leaf/grass bags, or in a large trash container labeled "Recycling" and used only for yard waste.**

**Last Wednesday of the month—heavy or large quantity of discardables.**

## TRASH, RECYCLING PICKUP PROBLEMS?

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