

The Echo

The Town of
WELLESLEY, MARYLAND
Chartered, 1904



January 2000

WELLESLEY CAR, SHED BURGLARIZED LAST MONTH

Burglars stole lighting samples worth \$1500 and clipped out a car phone from an unlocked automobile parked in a Wellesley Circle driveway late Friday or early Saturday, Dec. 3-4. They also discarded a number of items in the yard next door.

They also entered an unlocked shed of another house and took a hanging light on a long extension cord. It was also discarded and found a few days later on top of the wall across the street.

The town circulated a notice to residents notifying them that these break-ins had occurred and warning them to secure their homes and cars and report suspicious incidents to the police.

The resident whose car was burglarized was awakened in the early morning hours of Saturday two weeks later and saw a car parked in front of her car with the motor running.

After she came to the window the car backed up and she called police. When she got off the phone she saw it parked in front of the house with the shed. She did not see if a police cruiser came to investigate.

When she reported the burglary, police told her it appeared to be the work of professionals and that a gang was working the Bethesda area. They said the fact that coins in full view had not been taken reinforced that conclusion, because juveniles would not have left them behind. They

OFFICIAL ENFORCES TOWN PARKING LAWS By Jerry Bodlander

Going to the post office was more expensive than expected for eight motorists on Monday, Dec. 13.

Clerk/Treasurer Betsy Platt said she issued eight municipal infraction forms to people who didn't obey the town's parking laws. Each ticket carried a fine of \$25.

Ms. Platt said some people blocked driveways, others parked on the "no parking" side of the street or in front of the stop sign on Harvard Ave. She said the situation was so bad the mail truck couldn't get out. It might not be bad if the town got a reputation of being tough about enforcing parking regulations on Harvard, she said.

Councilman Norman Bernhardt noted that the town has a reputation for being a pushover. Mayor Debbie Beers said many of the people will rip the tickets up, but Ms. Platt noted the tickets will at least make them think twice.

The town can get the identities of the people from the state, using the license plate of the car involved in the infraction.

recommended she keep the car locked because burglars don't like to break into a car.

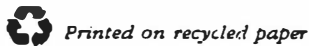
THE ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office 301-320-4041

**6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD
20812**

Office Hours: Monday (if holiday, moved to Tuesday), and Thursday: 9:30 am- 12 noon, or by appointment

MAYOR
Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

COUNCIL MEMBERS
 Norman Bernhardt 301-320-2469
 Michael Brintnall 301-229-6792
 Timothy K. Maloy 301-229-4745
 Nancy Long

CLERK-TREASURER
Betsy Platt 301-320-4041

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

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 Kathleen Horwitz 301-320-2171
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TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:
<http://www.glenecho.org>

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DELECTIBLE BREAKFAST AT HOLIDAY PARTY

Some 60 residents of all ages devoured a scrumptious breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Town Holiday Party at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

Several of them volunteered to flip pancakes, which were served with maple syrup, vegetarian sausage, mixed berries, and chocolate chips. Side dishes were smoked salmon, bagels, cheese, fresh pineapple and beverages.

Charming music was provided by Karen Ashbrook on hammered dulcimer.

The event was organized by Clerk/Treasurer Betsy Platt, and cost \$450. She was assisted in setting-up by Councilmembers Norman Bernhardt and Nancy Long. Jan Schaut, Dorrit Green, Julia Wilson, Jim Anderson and Tim Maloy flipped pancakes. Guests who stayed to the end helped with the clean-up.

THELMA BEAUBIEN FESSENDEN

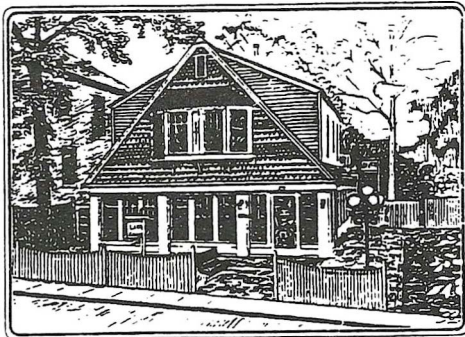
Thelma Fessenden, who lived in Glen Echo 56 years before moving to New Hampshire in 1998, died in Nashua, N.H. on December 22nd. She was in her mid-80s.

She was one of the town's well-loved elders, welcoming residents to her home for food and conversation, and still driving her Chevrolet station wagon until her departure.

Born Thelma Beaubien, Mrs. Fessenden grew up in Brookline, N.H., where she met her husband, David. They married in 1940 and moved to Glen Echo in 1942, first renting rooms at 6005 Yale Ave., then at 7310 University Ave., a house owned by Beaubien relatives and still the residence of her grand-nephew Jim Beaubien. In 1945 they bought the house at 6005 Bryn Mawr Ave., where she continued to live after the death of her husband in 1996.

When her son, David, Jr., and his family moved to New Hampshire in 1998 she accompanied them. At the time of her death she was living in the Greenbrier Nursing Home in Nashua, N.H. She is also survived by a son, Stephen, of Tampa, Fla., and six grandchildren.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

TOWN MOVING TOWARD SOME SPEED BUMPS

By Jerry Bodlander

The town is moving toward the possible installation of speed bumps, especially on Oxford Rd.

The town council at its Dec. 13 meeting approved a resolution calling for the town to consult with a civil engineer about the location and placement of temporary speed bumps. At the same time, an ordinance is being drafted that would give the town authority to install speed bumps.

Several council members said this doesn't mean the council will automatically go ahead with speed bumps.

The vote came after residents William Ward and Bea Smith expressed concern about cars speeding down Oxford Rd. Mr. Ward said the problem is greatest when people are late and rushing to a class or event at the park. He said there's little problem at major events because the park service has employees keep traffic under control.

A majority of the households answering the recent survey about the town streets favored speed bumps. Councilman Tim Maloy said 27 favored speed bumps, while 19 opposed them.

Residents also liked the idea of having more signs reminding motorists of the speed limit. Twenty-seven households favored painting the words "stop" or "slow" on the pavement. Only four opposed that.

Some residents suggested speed bumps or rumble strips for Harvard, but also felt that Oxford was the major problem. The flow of traffic and the parking situation on Harvard Ave. were also a concern to many respondents.

Council members again discussed a variety of options for Harvard, including whether it should be turned into a one-way street, but no consensus was reached.

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TOWN PRESSING WMATA FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY SALE

By Jerry Bodlander

It's going to be a while longer before the town can buy the former trolley right-of-way. Town attorney Norman Knopf told the town council at its Dec. 13 meeting that the Washington Area Metropolitan Transportation Authority (WMATA) is refusing to sell the portion the town wants to buy at the present time because of a dispute with the park service, which wants to buy the section in front of Glen Echo Park.

Mr. Knopf noted that the sale to the town has been approved by the court and said he may have to threaten WMATA with contempt of court for not going through with the deal. He was trying to arrange a meeting with WMATA's general counsel.

The question is if the Open Space Program funds could be jeopardized if nothing happens by the end of this fiscal year. That's where the \$90,000 that's funding the town's purchase is coming from.

PARK DANCES WILL MOVE TEMPORARILY TO PAVILION

By Jerry Bodlander

The rehabilitation of Glen Echo Park is underway as the National Park Service works on the general management plan. The Cuddle-Up pavilion is about three-quarters complete and the puppet company and metalworks yurts as well as the hall of mirrors have new roofs.

The next roofing project is the Bumper Car pavilion. It will begin some time in January with a goal of finishing by May, acting site manager Karen Pittleman told the Glen Echo town council last month.

She said the Spanish Ballroom will be taken out of service in June and dances will be held instead in the Bumper Car pavilion. The ballroom work will take about six months. There will be canvas sides for the pavilion which can be dropped down when it is used for dances during colder weather.

In response to a question from the council about replacement of the ballroom floor, she said that the floor is very brittle in some areas and will need work in the future. Now would seem to be the time to do it if the money can be found, she said, but there is no extra money in the \$18 million budgeted for park repairs. She said the feeling is that cost overruns would eliminate any chance of getting a new floor.

The tower on the parkway side of the ballroom has sunk about a foot, Ms. Pittleman said, and the company that moved the Cape Hatteras lighthouse will be fixing the problem this month.

The continuing work is not expected to affect the festivals, she said, adding that the park service is "very committed to keeping the festivals" and other park programming.

She said the first draft of the final plan for the park management has been reviewed and the park service's preferred alternative will be publicized in February. The environmental impact statement has been finished and will be included in the plan.

Town officials said they'd like to see the plan before it is made public.



Eleanor

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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Thurs., Jan. 6, 8 p.m., American Indian Intertribal Council Organization meeting

Sunday, Jan. 9, 3-5 p.m.—Folklore Society family dance.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Daughters of American Revolution meeting

Sunday, Jan. 23, 12:30-5 p.m., C&O Canal Assn. Board meeting

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.

LOCAL CRIME NEWS

Two break-ins of commercial properties in the Glen Echo area were reported at the Dec. 10 beat meeting for local police officers.

On the night of Dec. 3-4 a brick was thrown through a section of the glass door of the Captain's Market at 7606 MacArthur Blvd. Alarms and flashing lights were triggered; nothing was taken.

The glass front window of the Market on the Boulevard (7945 MacArthur Blvd.) was broken the night of Nov. 14 and a small quantity of beer and cigarettes were taken.

The next beat meeting, open to the public, will be held Friday, Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. at the Friendship Heights field office.

--Norman and Diana Hudson-Taylor

CLASSIFIED ADS

PIANO LESSONS. Over 25 years experience. Nationally certified. Room for intermediate students. Call Ann Mitrisin (near Glen Echo), 301-229-7882.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 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: 24th of each month.

NEW WILSON BABY

Miles Winslow Wilson was born at Sibley Hospital on Saturday, Dec. 18, to Julia and Speke Wilson, weighing eight pounds, nine ounces. He joins sister, Allegra, 5, and brother Bram, 2, at the family home in Fairway Hills. They will be moving back to Glen Echo this spring, to 7309 University Ave.

Julia and Speke want to thank all the Glen Echo neighbors who were so generous and helpful during her six weeks of bed rest.

Julia is the daughter of Jim and Carlotta Anderson of Wellesley Circle, who now have five grandchildren.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 10—8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



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Around TOWN

A fascinating new booklet, "**How Glen Echo Park Joined the National Park Service,**" has just been published by Owen Kelley, who in his professional life is a senior programmer at the Institute for Computational Sciences and Informatics at NASA in Greenbelt. Mr. Kelley follows the story of the park from its Chautauqua beginnings in the late 1890s to the "apartment building scare" period in the mid-60s, when the owners, the Rekab Corporation, wanted to build five 16-story apartment buildings, and through the land swap in 1970 when the General Services Administration gave Rekab a property in Northwest Washington in exchange for the park property. The GSA finally transferred Glen Echo Park to the National Park Service in 1976. The 32-page booklet is available from Mr. Kelley for \$2 per copy at 301-614-5245 or okelley@gmu.edu.

Glen Echo Park carousel restorer Rosa Ragan and her team are currently removing paint from the rounding boards which encircle the top of the carousel and covering them with white gesso to provide a smooth surface for repainting them, the Glen Echo Park Foundation newsletter reports. Although the carousel is closed off, visitors can peek inside and see workers in on ladders wearing white spacesuits to protect themselves from lead dust.

Construction is now underway on a **fish passage** to allow shad to pass Little Falls Dam for access to prime

Potomac feeding and spawning habitat between there and Great Falls. The Potomac Conservancy and other fisheries advocates have long considered it an important conservation priority to restore the American shad to their home on the Potomac.

When the US Fish and Wildlife Service built the 12-foot high dam it included a fish ladder in the dam's design. But the ladder was besieged by problems and the effort was abandoned in the mid-60s. The new passage consists of a series of three "W" shaped barriers that will slow the flow of water passing through the 24-foot long notch in the dam, according to the Potomac Conservancy newsletter.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at Angie Zeidenberg's
23 Wellesley Circle
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 8:00 p.m.*

Please RSVP 301-320-7714

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 PROPERTY SALES

1 Vassar Circle	\$460,000
7309 University Ave.	\$460,000
7316 University Ave.	Under Contract



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