

# The Echo

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



July, 1991

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## COUNCIL FAILS TO SUPPORT MAYOR'S PROPOSED TAX CUT

By Anne Lewis

With only two residents present (one an *Echo* reporter), the town council held a brief hearing on the proposed 1991-92 budget on June 17 and adopted it with a few minor changes.

The council did not even vote on the proposal of Mayor George Borsari to reduce the property tax rate by 50 percent to 16 cents per \$100 valuation. The mayor said that the town's surplus would take care of any major street repairs in the future (re-sealing is included in the new budget).

But Councilmember Harry Odell suggested that it would be "prudent" to add to the town's surplus at this time rather than reduce it, because "there is a trend over the country for municipalities to wake up and find out they do not have the monies they anticipated."

The anticipated surplus for the coming fiscal year is \$153,099, which includes past years' surpluses.

A resident suggested that the town pay for having the vines covering trees along MacArthur Blvd. removed in order to prevent them from being overrun and damaged. The mayor said he would ask the Town Hall maintenance person to give an estimate for the work.

There was also discussion of residents' use of vacant land, including the Chalk right-of-way, for dumping. This can interfere with water control, Councilmember Nancy Long pointed out.

The council added \$2,500 to the proposed \$24,500 budgeted for trash collection. It increased Town Hall repair allocations to \$12,000 from the proposed \$4,900 in order to cover repainting and

—continued on page 2

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## TOWN MAY TAKE GARFIELD TO COURT

By Gail Robinson

Town attorney Tom Craven has drafted a complaint which would initiate a lawsuit against Peter Garfield for constructing front parking spaces for the Garfield Studio across an area which the town contends is its use-established right-of-way.

Mr. Craven has contacted Mr. Garfield's attorney on several occasions in an attempt to schedule discussions. Mayor Borsari told the town council last month. Each time, Mr. Garfield's attorney has said he would have to talk to his client, but has not gotten back to Mr. Craven, according to the mayor.

The town attorney planned to make one last attempt to determine if there is a willingness to negotiate; if that fails, he will start a legal proceeding to force Mr. Garfield to remove the encroachment on town property.

## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

208 12

Town Office 320-4041

6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD.

208 12

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

Iona 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.

## BUDGET PASSED (from page 1)

replacing of rotted wood. It added \$1,000 to the allotted \$1,000 for street sweeping to cover both fall and spring sweeps for tree debris that collects at those times.

A discussion about the need for certain signs in town, such as "no through street" and possibly "no dumping" led the mayor to suggest that the town needed a sign design plan that would detail where to put signs and which signs to use, rather than "add signs here and there."

The most heated discussion concerned whether or not the town treasurer/auditors had been requested to submit quarterly reconciliations of the budget and expenditures. Councilmember Bill Shultz said he had requested written reports. Mayor Borsari said the auditors were making more regular checks of the books and that the council needed to be informed of the expenses only "in the last few months of the fiscal year" in order to prepare the next budget.

Because of more frequent use of auditors, this item in the budget exceeded projections (\$4,000 spent vs. \$3,500 budgeted), he said. Councilman Shultz said a copy of the auditors' reports would be sufficient. The mayor said the town clerk/treasurer could copy the reports every quarter and give them to Councilman Shultz.

## **HISTORIC BUILDING IN THE THROES OF MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION**

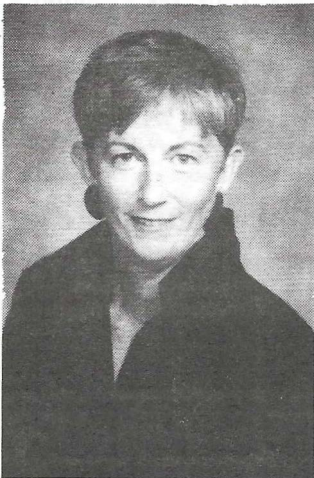
By Carlotta Anderson

The major reconstruction of 6109 Harvard Ave.—in which the original building had to be almost totally torn down— was necessitated by a massive invasion of powder post beetles, according to owner Jim Horwitz. The contractor marveled that the house had not collapsed, so extensive was the damage. Jim said.

The house has a long and colorful history. Once known as Canada's Restaurant, and later as Echo I, it was built more than 60 years ago. In the 1930s, it was run by Sarah Canada and her son, Donald, as a combination food store and post office (they lived next door at 6106 Yale Ave., now the home of Jame and Brockie Stevenson).

After Prohibition ended, it was turned into a tavern, but continued as the town post office until the new Town Hall was built in 1957. At that time, Donald's sister, Sally, converted it to a restaurant/bar, later noted for the riotous behavior of the patrons.

After a time as a residence, it was again opened as a restaurant under the name Echo I, which quickly failed because it lacked an alcoholic beverage license. It has been used as a residence since then.



*Eleanor*

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

907-7600  
229-7990



## **COUNCIL DEFERS SIGN AT HAZARDOUS SITE**

By Gail Robinson and Carlotta Anderson

Councilwoman Debbie Beers reported last month that since the cutting back of foliage on the Robinson property there had been no further complaints from residents about traffic hazards due to obscured visibility at the upper intersection of Wellesley Circle and Cornell Ave.

Based on this, the council voted to table any further action at the corner for the time being.

One of the original complainants, Jim Anderson, wrote that although he would have preferred a mirror at that location, or failing that, a stop sign, he would accept the solution of cutting back of trees so long as there was a "monitoring plan to keep them cut back to a size no larger than present." Councilmembers decided to leave it to those who complained to monitor the site.

If any new complaints are received, the council agreed, it will move immediately to install a stop sign on Cornell Ave. without reopening discussions.

The erection of a stop sign was decided unanimously by the council in February, 1990, after receiving citizen complaints. However, the mayor did not have the sign put in place because, he said, resident David Sproul asked him to hold off to determine if the problem would be solved by cutting back the trees. The projected stop sign would be placed near Mr. Sproul's driveway.

The council then decided to delay erection of the sign until it could investigate alternative solutions. The Robinsons substantially cut back the trees which blocked visibility, but refused to remove two Canadian hemlock trees which Councilwoman Beers suggested would provide a wider viewing angle for approaching cars. It was then decided to check with the original complainants to determine if they were satisfied with the present situation.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STARTS IN GLEN ECHO**

The vacation bible school of the Glen Echo Baptist Church will be held July 22-26, from 9 am to 12 noon. The school is for children ages 4-16.

Activities will include Bible lessons, games, food and fun.

Registration day is Saturday, July 20, from 11-12 am. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call Sherry Deebo, 229-2934.

## RESIDENTS INVITED TO ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING

By Gail Robinson and Carlotta Anderson

Town resident Norman Bernhardt is bringing English country dancing to the town hall this summer.

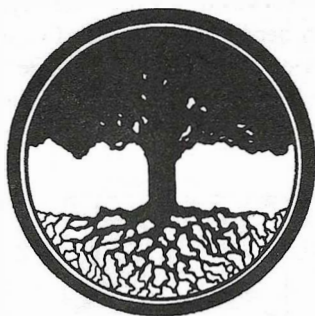
Mr. Bernhardt, of Bryn Mawr Ave., asked the council to permit him to arrange eight weekly dances. The council, indicating concerns about additional upkeep requirements, noise, and parking, approved four dances, but did not rule out permitting weekly dances in the future.

The dances will take place on three Thursday evenings—July 11, 25 and Aug. 8—from 7:30-10 pm. They are expected to attract about 50 people and will be free of charge to town residents.

There will also be an English dance party on Saturday, July 20, from 7-11 pm., with a minimal charge.

Mr. Bernhardt describes the dances as "nice social events." The dances are easy to learn, he said, and all dances will be taught. The country dance group has had the town piano repaired and tuned. Other instruments to accompany the dances will include violin, flute, and concertina.

Mr. Bernhardt stressed that he hopes town residents will attend and plans to put flyers in everyone's mailbox. Children and young people who like to dance are also invited. For further information, call him at 320-2469.



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## WELCOME NEWCOMER

By Gloria Levin

A resident of Washington for five years who rented with various housemates and her cat, Felix, **Leila Webster** wanted to purchase a home near the Potomac River. She was aware of Glen Echo from her patronage of the Bethesda Food Coop.

It was Christmas eve and the day before a vacation in Jamaica, to be followed by a business trip to Eastern Europe. While these circumstances may not sound auspicious, they didn't deter Leila from purchasing 12 Wellesley Circle. The negotiations were conducted, internationally, by FAX.

Now that she is moved in, Leila compares Glen Echo favorably to the country charm of her family home near Chapel Hill, N.C.

An economist at the World Bank, Leila's interest in international development began as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Thailand, followed by a three-year stint for the State Dept., with Southeast Asian refugees. She returned to North Carolina to earn a degree in social work, then founded, and for five years directed, a battered women's shelter.

Restlessness led her to enroll in a master's degree program in economics at the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. She interned at the World Bank during her studies and has continued working there, specializing in private sector development in Eastern Europe.

While her job involves substantial travel, Leila looks forward to fixing up her new home and joining community activities.

Leila joins two other former Peace Corps Volunteers on the corner of University and Wellesley—Sue Grigsby (also Thailand) and this reporter (Peru). Does Glen Echo boast other former Peace Corps Volunteers?

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(703) 938-5788

## THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

Our congratulations and best wishes to **Kimberly-Jo Deebo** and **Jack Vircraft**, who were married at the Glen Echo Baptist Church on Saturday, June 15.

Kimberly-Jo is the daughter of **Mary Money** and **Joe Deebo** and the granddaughter of **Marge Deebo**.

Following the wedding, a reception for 150 guests was held at Marge's home at 1 Vassar Cir. With the temperature in the 90s, the swimming pool was the main attraction, followed by the large tent in which tasty food and beverages were served. The enjoyable reception was due to the combined efforts of grandmother Marge, father Joe and step-mother **Sherry Deebo**. Kimberly and Jack will be "at home" in Germantown, Md.

Out-of-town guests included **Eloise** and **John Deebo** from Lake of the Woods, Va. They at one time lived at 7327 University Ave. Also attending were **Bobby** (another former Glen Echo resident) and **Linda Ulrich** from Ft. Lauderdale, Fl., and **Tim** and **Grace Deebo** from Virginia.

Back for their second visit this year were **Sharon** and **Jim Kleinfelter** and their four girls. Jim was guest preacher at a special service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on Massachusetts Ave., so this was not exactly a vacation trip. Since Sharon grew up in town, she is ready to return for any occasion.

(Help Tillie peer through The Keyhole. Leave information for her about your or your family's doings at 6100 Princeton Ave.)



### GLEN ECHO Pharmacy

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## WOODEN SIGNS MAY MARK TOWN ENTRIES

By Gail Robinson

Woodworker Tom French last month discussed with the town council how wooden signs could be used to grace the town entry ways. One of 10 artisans in the new woodcarvers' yurt at Glen Echo Park, Mr. French gave his presentation at the invitation of Councilwoman Nancy Long.

Mr. French brought photographs of signs he has completed for a variety of buildings and jurisdictions. He estimated the cost of a 15-20 foot sign with minimal ornamental carving at \$1200-\$1300. The signs are expected to last eight to 12 years with some maintenance, he said.

The council agreed that the signs were very attractive, but expressed concern about possible vandalism if an elaborate sign were erected on MacArthur Blvd. Possible alternatives discussed included placing simple signs at the first and last town entrances on MacArthur, with a more elaborate sign at the town hall.

Mr. French and his fellow woodcarvers will be starting classes open to the community this month. Mr. French teaches a sign-carving workshop. Pocketknife Whittling and Carousel Horse-Carving Workshop will also be offered.

### 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.

### Invite <sup>(the real)</sup> BAT MAN to Your Backyard



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Responsible, experienced BABYSITTER AVAILABLE.** Glen Echo resident. Aged 12-1/2. Call Laura, 229-7308.

**BACK FROM COLLEGE FOR THE SUMMER.** Eager to earn money on weekends. I would like to do any kind of work around the house or in the garden (including lawn mowing). I am also an experienced baby sitter and I love children. Please contact Judit, 229-3748.

**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.*

## 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 the clerk for one.

## TOWN ACTIONS PENDING

- An ordinance making *The Echo* an official organ of Glen Echo
- Installation of stop signs at Harvard and Columbia
- Organization of town records by Infomanagement
- Sound system at Town Hall
- New chairs at the Town Hall

## BRIEFLY NOTED

Harvard Ave. artist **Raya Bodnarchuk** had her bronze and wooden sculptures exhibited last month in a two person show with Mark Barry at the Knight Gomez gallery in Baltimore. The *Baltimore Sun* critic found her life-size bronze sculptures possessed of "a kind of essential serenity" which "testify for a vision of something eternal in the human spirit..."

The editor has been hearing complaints from residents about **dogs leaving piles** on their lawns and sidewalks in recent months (and has herself been troubled by this situation). Pet owners are reminded that it is not fair to their neighbors and against town ordinances to let their dogs out loose to perform bathroom functions...

Glen Echo residents **Nancy Long** and **Michael Rode-meyer** have been elected to the Board of Directors of the Glen Echo Park Foundation...

## TRASH COLLECTION TIMES

**Tuesday & Friday**—all except heavy-weight trash, including garden refuse..

**Thursday**—newspapers, to be bagged and picked up separately (they can be placed in paper grocery bags). Should be out by 8 am.

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

Leaf bags are available at no cost to town residents for garden refuse **ONLY**. Contact the mayor or clerk/treasurer.

## PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

6108 Bryn Mawr Ave.	\$379,000
22 Wellesley Circle	\$309,000
16 Wellesley Circle	\$285,000
15 Vassar Circle	\$449,000
5 Radcliffe Lane	\$319,000

## BALTZLEY GRANDSON VISITS CHAUTAUQUA CELEBRATION

By Carlotta Anderson

The grandson of Edwin Baltzley, who purchased 516 acres of land and named it Glen Echo on the Potomac in 1888, for the first time visited the site last month and saw his first photo of his grandfather.

Lynn Radcliffe and his wife, Jean, from Long Island, N.Y., were invited to the June 16 centennial celebration organized by the Glen Echo Park Foundation. It commemorated the opening 100 years ago of the Chautauqua National Assembly, and an exhibit of photographs and artifacts entitled "Glen Echo: the First 100 Years."

The Radcliffes were taken on a tour of the park and the former location of Chautauqua buildings was pointed out to them. They saw puppets of Edwin Baltzley and his twin brother, Edward, which are used by the puppet theater for a historical show.

Historian Richard Cook, who specializes in the Glen Echo area, gave them a boxful of Baltzley family photographs. Town Councilwoman Nancy Long took them to see the house at 44 Wellesley Circle where Edwin Baltzley lived from 1891-1897.

The centennial celebration featured a two-hour live concert broadcast by WMAL personalities, with a succession of performances by local musicians.

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Frank Bracken replaced Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, who was ill, but Mrs. Lujan attended. Also present were Congresswoman Constance Morella, state legislators Betty Ann Kranke and Bruce Adams, Robert Stanton, National Park Service regional director, and Paul Pritchard, President, National Parks Conservation Association.



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at Shannon & Luchs. (O) 986-9292 (H) 229-3578**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I was pleased to learn that the Town of Glen Echo had donated \$1,000 to the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Prk.

While recognizing my own subjectivity, I have a problem with one sentence in the article announcing the donation. "The foundation board has recently trimmed costs and eliminated the fulltime staff manager's position..." (From fall, 1987, until the end of 1990, I was the Staff Director).

If you will note on the front page of the same issue of the *Echo* there is an article by Sproul and Anderson about the June 16 Chautauqua celebration, for which I wrote the proposal. The article says: "It is being organized by Harnett and Associates, a public relations firm hired by the foundation" The Foundation paid this firm a \$5,000 retainer in September of 1990 and a \$1,500 monthly fee thereafter. The contract between GEPF and Harnett stated they would be paid \$20,000 between September, 1990, and June of 1991.

My salary was \$20,000 for a full year. I submit that the foundation board did NOT trim costs but chose to change their costs from an in-house staff to a fundraising firm.

Sincerely,  
Diane Leatherman

## FILMMAKER SEEKS PARK REMINISCENSES

A University of Maryland graduate film and video student is seeking all interested parties to participate in a documentary on the Glen Echo amusement park.

The filmmaker, Kevin Wyrach, is interested in interviewing all those who would like to reminisce about the park as well as those who could make available home movies or photographs. Interviews will take place at the town hall or at other locations as desired.

This historical documentary is timely, due to the centennial celebration of Glen Echo Park, and will include the park's history from 1891 to the park's closing in 1968, with an epilogue heralding the park's current image.

Mr. Wyrach and other students were taping on-site interviews during the centennial celebration at the park on Sunday, June 16. They will be continuing to seek other interviews throughout the summer and fall.

This documentary will function as a master's thesis for Mr. Wyrach. If you are interested in participating, please call him at (301) 656-9138.

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## COMING EVENTS

July 13 & 14—JAZZ FESTIVAL  
 July 27—CHILDREN'S CHAUTAUQUA DAY  
 August 24 & 25—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 75TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW  
 August 28—September 2—LABOR DAY ART SHOW

### THE PUPPET COMPANY

In July  
 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

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown  
 Through July 21  
 Snow White and Rose Red  
 August 3-September 8

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
 Tickets: \$4.50 Call 320-5331

## ARTISTS INVITED TO EXHIBIT WORK

Area artists are invited to exhibit their art work in the National Park Service 75th Anniversary Art Show to be held in the Spanish Ballroom on Aug. 24 and 25.

All submitted pieces must feature the landscapes, wildlife, or history of any area across the country managed by the NPS.

For information and an entry form, call 492-6229

## SPANISH BALLROOM DANCE SCHEDULE

July 6: TBA

July 20: THE DEANNA BOGART BAND — Rock 'n Roll, R&B, and Red Hot Boogie Woogie

July 26: Cajun Dance

Free dance lessons at 8; dances 9-12. Admission \$7. Sodas and juices for sale. Casual clothing suggested.

FRIDAY NIGHTS: Squares, contras, and country dances, 8:30-11:30, \$5

MOST SATURDAY NIGHTS: TOM CUNNINGHAM ORCHESTRA — Big Band swing, 9-12. \$7.

SOME SUNDAY AFTERNOONS: For information, call 492-6282

SUNDAY NIGHTS: Squares and contras, 7:30-10:30, \$6

## THEFT AT PARK DELAYS BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

By Carlotta Anderson

Four large laminated pieces of timber were stolen from the Glen Echo Park parking lot now under construction sometime over the weekend of June 15-16, according to Joanne Hanley, site manager. They had a value of about \$400 and measured 6" x 8" x 10'.

The contractor is ordering replacements, but the theft has delayed completion of the bridge, Ms. Hanley said.

The massive quantity of dirt piled up alongside Oxford Rd.—dubbed Mt. Glen Echo by the locals—was dug out during excavation of the creek bed and will eventually be hauled off the site. Its quantity is far greater than anticipated, Ms. Hanley said, and will increase the cost of the parking lot reconstruction, although she didn't know by how much.

What with the stolen timbers and unanticipated extent of excavation, completion of the work is way behind the original target date of May 19. Ms. Hanley said she is awaiting word on a new schedule but her personal opinion is that all will be finished by the end of the summer.