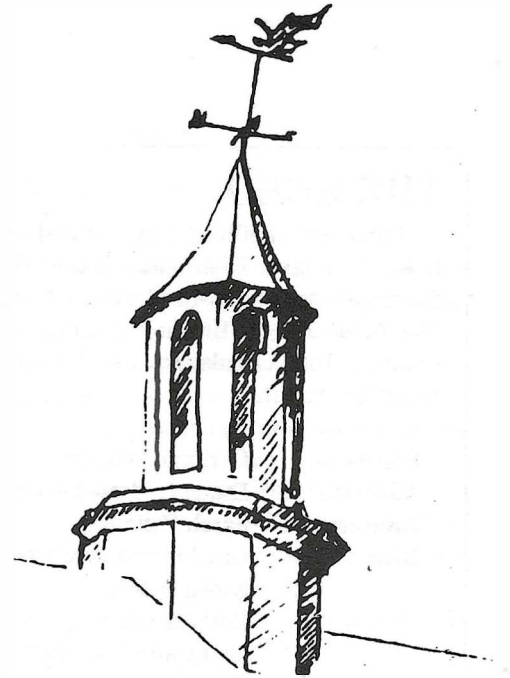


The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



July 1996

NEW BUDGET INCORPORATES MAJOR EXPENSES

By Julia Wilson

The Glen Echo Town Council June 3 approved the FY 1996-97 budget with proposed expenditures of \$213,729. The new budget includes increases for capital improvements mainly for renovations of the town hall to comply with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA). Another major expenditure expected in the next fiscal year is the purchase of the right-of-way abutting MacArthur Blvd. The budget also includes increases in the real estate and personal property taxes for town residents.

The council has budgeted \$30,000 for ADA renovations to the town hall to make it disabled accessible. The plans include a hydraulic lift to the second floor and a bathroom to be installed on that floor. The council is expecting funding for the project to be covered in part by a grant from Montgomery County's Department of Housing.

In the new budget, the council has allotted \$35,000 for the purchase of the right-of-way, which would enable the town to maintain that strip of land as green space in perpetuity. The council expects to get a grant from Project Open Space for 75% of the full purchase price, according to Mayor Deborah M. Beers.

—continued on page 4

OWNERSHIP QUESTIONS CLOUD RIGHT OF WAY BUY

By Carlotta Anderson

In a development that caught the mayor and council by surprise, the U.S. Court of Appeals in D.C. on May 31 handed down a decision that the Riders Fund, which Leonard Bebchick represents, must turn over all assets of the Fund to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority within 60 days.

These assets--"liquidated and unliquidated"--include unsold real property, of which the former trolley right-of-way bordering Glen Echo is part.

Shortly before the court's decision, the Glen Echo Town Council had come to an agreement with Mr. Bebchick to pay \$90,000 for that section of land. He was interested in an immediate closing on the sale but the council decided to first conduct a title search and seek Open Space funds for part of the costs.

Mr. Bebchick never mentioned that a suit was pending to either the council or the town's attorneys at any time during the three years of negotiations for the purchase, according to Mayor Debbie Beers.

Mr. Bebchick is reportedly out of the country until

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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EDITOR Carlotta Anderson 229-3748
ASSISTANT Diana Hudson-Taylor
REPORTERS Sarah Patton
DISTRIBUTION Brockie and Jane Stevenson
 Sarah Hewitt
 Barbara Odell
 Cathy and Mallory Polak
 Sally Law
CIRCULATION Susan Grigsby

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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.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

Town Office 320-4041

6101 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

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

ECHO DELIVERER NEEDED

After many years of faithful service, Cathy Polak would like to give up her *Echo* delivery route. She is one of five residents who ensure that each household received a copy of the paper each month.

The editor seeks another public-spirited citizen to take over Cathy's route. Please call her at 229-3748 to volunteer.

TAPES OF TOWN MEETINGS

Any resident wishing to have a tape of any of the town meetings may now request copies from the clerk/treasurer. The resident requesting the tape must supply the blank tapes to the town office and a copy of the tape of the requested meeting will be returned to them. Call the town office at 320-4041 for more information.



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RIGHT OF WAY PURCHASE (FROM PAGE 1)

July 2. The town's lawyers have written to him demanding an explanation and an assessment of how this transfer will affect the purchase, she said.

Meanwhile, the Park Service told town officials that it will be negotiating with WMATA, the new owners of the property, to purchase its portion of the right-of-way.

The Riders Fund was set up by the court in order to make restitution to bus riders in the Washington metropolitan area who had been charged excessive fares in the 1960s by D.C. Transit. The judgment eventually designated over \$11 million as the restitution owed the bus riders.

However, in the May 31 decision, the court concluded that the best method of distributing these funds was to current bus riders, not those who had been overcharged. It instructed WMATA to use the funds for the purchase of new buses for use "in the affected service area."



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FREE WATER PERIOD REFLECTED IN BILLS

Some residents were confused to see no indication of credit or rebate on their WSSC bills last month because they knew that water use was to be free while a water bypass system was in use during the pipe relining project.

In fact, that free water is supposed to be reflected in the bills, because water meters were not attached during the bypass period and so could not add the water used then, according to the pipe relining job supervisor from WSSC.

At the time work was underway in front of each house a hose was connected to the bypass system and the meter was removed, she said.

Residents will not see a rebate or credit because the reading reflects water use only for the period when no hose was connected

However, Councilwoman Levin reported a water bill that was twice as high as usual and said she's heard similar complaints from other residents. Something would seem to be amiss for any resident getting a higher than normal water bill, or even a normal one.

Councilwoman Long said that some residences are still experiencing low water pressure.

Much clean up work remains to be done, including clearing sediment off the street, resurfacing, replacing corners, sodding and brickwork.

--Carlotta Anderson and Sarah Patton

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

An occasional marathoner is one of the newer residents of Glen Echo, having moved from Chevy Chase to 1 Wellesley Circle with his wife, baby and an English au pair on Dec. 30.

Dave Chitwood ran in the Boston Marathon in April and "limps through" the 26-plus miles around Washington in the Marine Corps Marathon every year. Originally from Baltimore, he is a nematologist at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville.

His wife, **Claire Kelly**, hails from Michigan but has lived in the Washington area for many years. She is in charge of systems for ICMA Retirement Corp, a financial services company. They have an 18-month-old son, **Ryan**.

Their au pair is **Joanne Aldritt** from Ainsdale,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a 19-year owner (7/54-5/75) and 10-year resident (7/54-11/64) of 7309 University Ave. in Glen Echo, I found great interest and pleasure in reading the May 1996 edition of *The Echo*. Families mentioned in it brought back many fond memories of living among so many nice people--McNoldy to one side, Bartkus to the other, Carroll to the rear, and Fessenden just down the street a ways.

Also of interest were the articles on the trolley right-of-way and of the support being given to the C&O Canal restoration.

It is the latter in which I have a particular interest at this time. This is due to my being the lead person for the Disaster Relief Fund of the National Capital Branch #8047, Lutheran Brotherhood. Our Fraternal Branch Council has designated \$1,000 of this fund to be matched with \$2 for each \$1 donated to the fund for this purpose. This has the potential for \$3,000 to be made available for canal restoration (\$1,000 donated + \$2,000 matched). Donations received together with the matching funds will be disbursed to the National Park Foundation.

Those wishing to participate should make their checks payable to: "LB National Capital Branch #8047" (with the memo notation: "DR 96-C&O Canal Restoration") and send them to our Treasurer, Don Kull, 5911 Avon Dr., Bethesda, MD 20814. When prepared this way the donation is tax deductible.

Daniel E. Bella

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 ON THE INTERNET?

There was considerable discussion at the town picnic about developing a World Wide Web site for the Town of Glen Echo.

John Bruce Wells has offered the services of his Internet consulting and web design firm--Potomac River Media--to design, develop and host the site on a *pro bono* basis. This will be discussed at the next town council meeting, which interested residents are urged to attend.

BUDGET (FROM PAGE 1)

After the water company has completed the current pipe relining project, the streets will be slurry sealed, which is designed to preserve them in good condition. The \$5,000 allotted for sidewalk repairs in the new budget will cover that expenditure.

The council also voted to approve a 10% raise for the clerk-treasurer position, to \$13,750. Clerk-Treasurer Edie Springuel sent a letter to councilmembers indicating that the job is becoming more and more time-consuming and she finds that the average number of hours originally estimated for the job is not enough to fulfill all the administrative duties and other tasks which the town would benefit from. The council decided to take up the issue of an additional raise in a separate meeting in the fall. The salary of the clerk-treasurer has been a continuing issue for the last couple of years.

In the FY 1996-97 budget, the council raised the real estate tax to \$.37 per \$100 valuation, up from \$.35. According to the mayor, this will result in an average tax increase of approximately \$20 per household.

The budget also raised the personal property tax rate to \$.75 per \$100 valuation, which is the rate it was at prior to last fiscal year. This tax only applies to businesses that are based in the town.

Councilmember Michael Brintnall pointed out that \$108,000 of the budget will go to running the town and getting through the year, the remainder of the budget, approximately \$105,000, will be used for capital improvements.

The town expects income of \$134,348.50 for the 96-97 fiscal year. Of this, \$35,193 will be earned from real estate taxes, \$8,193 from personal property taxes, \$32,697 from the town's share of the state income tax, \$12,995 from the Highway Fund, \$23,500 from the Post Office in rental fees, \$2,000 from rental of the town hall, and about \$1,000 from *The Echo* for advertisements and subscriptions. The council also expects to have \$158,599 remaining in an interest-bearing reserve fund in the bank.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Those of us who own property adjoining the former trolley right of way would like to respond to the statements made by Councilman Anderson as reported in the June issue of *The Echo*. In those statements Councilman Anderson apparently tried to blame the adjoining property owners for the high price paid by the town for the purchase of the right of way and accused us of planning to build eyesores on that property. As we are sure our neighbors would agree, it is not becoming of a council member to attempt to pit neighbor against neighbor in this way. With all due respect, the Councilman needs to get his facts straight.

First, the adjoining property owners did not submit any bids to Mr. Bebchick, the attorney for the trust that owns the right of way. Moreover, a representative for the adjoining property owners called the mayor and a council member to inform them that we were not submitting any bids, with the specific purpose of assuring the town that we were not competing with the town for purchase of the right of way.

Second, the adjacent property owners do not know where Councilman Anderson got the idea that any of us "intended to build structures" on our adjacent sections; rather, our main concern has been to ensure that the right of way remains a green "buffer" between our homes and busy MacArthur Blvd. In fact, over two years ago the town council refused our first request to attach a conservation easement to the right of way assuring that it would be maintained solely as a green space with status quo parking. The town has since agreed to attach a conservation easement to the land and we continue to rely on the good faith of the council to do so. In any event, we were offended by his suggestion that, if given the opportunity, any of us would build structures that would "reduce the resale value of every house in town." Such a statement is not only insulting, but ridiculous. It is certainly not in our own interest to reduce property values in Glen Echo. Indeed, we were the ones pushing the town to include an anti-development clause in its resolution concerning purchase of the right of way.

We have no doubt that the town council had in mind "the welfare of all town residents" in its purchase of the right of way, and the townspeople have seemingly acquiesced to its purchase without being informed about the actual purchase price. Councilman Anderson does not bring credit to the council, however, by misleading the townspeople about what actually occurred.

Lisa and Larry Landsman Dave Robinson Brockie and Jane Stevenson
Madeleine Carter and Alec Graham Kate and Jim Horwitz Ann Ford and Nick Frabotta

Councilman Anderson replies:

I never said, implied or suggested that the adjacent property owners did not have a perfect right to make a bid on the right of way. But the law of the marketplace began to operate when they, individually or collectively, expressed their interest to the putative owner in making a bid. That's the reason he gave when earlier, lower bids from the town were rejected by him and the bankruptcy court.

I and other members of the council got the idea--from statements made by the person involved--that one property owner hoped to erect a carport on the property if it were purchased. Nobody could predict what current or future owners of other properties would do with additional land. That's the point of what the council did. It foreclosed, for the good of all, what might be done in the future by anybody, whatever their intentions.

Mayor Beers requested that excerpts from the following letters be published:

Leonard Bebchick to Mayor Beers, Dec. 18, 1995:

"A goodly number of the adjacent property owners wish to acquire portions of the Trust's properties adjacent to

theirs, and we have had discussions with them. Nonetheless, we have desisted in pushing forward on that front because of the Town's expressed interest in acquiring the entire strip at one fell swoop. But if the Town is unable now to move forward to make such an acquisition at a fair price, we will proceed to market these properties to willing and able adjacent property owners."

Leonard Bebchick to Norman G. Knopf (town attorney), Mar. 15, 1996:

"As to the conditions of the Town's counter-offer, they are generally acceptable except for the price which is far too low and is hereby rejected.

"We agree that time is running short, and the Trust is under increasing pressure to dispose of this property and to meet the entreaties of adjacent property owners to sell to them; a consortium sale in lieu of numerous individual sales has been proposed.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

June 10

Norman Bernhardt and Rene Springuel agreed to recruit people to form a committee to deal with **parking problems** and develop a snow emergency plan...

Councilwoman Long announced that the town has received a gift of a **Maryland flag** for the Town Hall from former Maryland Congressman Gilbert Gude. It will replace that tattered one currently placed there...

The council seemed to be leaning toward rejecting Metricom's request to bring **wireless data service** to individuals in town on the grounds that the town doesn't get anything out of it. The question is still pending the opinion of the town attorney...

A resident complained that if the town purchases the right of way parcel residents who are accustomed to **parking** there will be "usurping" the space belonging to all the town's citizens. The council pointed out that the spaces are technically there for anyone to use, although, as one councilmember pointed out, the residents whose houses border the right of way would no doubt be annoyed to find someone else parked there since most people harbor proprietary feelings toward the parking spaces closest to their homes..

Two bushes at the top of Harvard that block pedestrians' view of cars as they come up the hill and prepare to turn onto MacArthur Blvd. will be cut back...

--Sarah Patton

Around Town

The county has begun construction of an overpass to carry the **Capital Crescent Trail** traffic safely above River Road. It is expected to be completed by fall. With the opening of the bridge over Canal Road last month, runners, hikers, cyclists and skaters have available an eight-mile paved course from Georgetown to downtown Bethesda....

Jamie Platt led the Romanian Dance Workshop at the Glen Echo Park Folk Festival on Saturday, June 1...

Councilwoman Nancy Long reported that a **mourning dove** built her nest on the window sill at the upper landing of the town hall next to the coat rack...

In one more of the ongoing series of **articles extolling the joys of living in Glen Echo**, the *Washington Post* on June 22 described the town as "part cultural center, part historic site and part small-town community" and said it has "a long list of potential home buyers."

Quoting residents Michael Rodemeyer, Jan Shaut and Jane Stevenson, and featuring a photo of Brockie and Jane Stevenson in front of their Yale Ave. home, the article compared Glen Echo to a close-knit New England town...

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

July

Sunday, July 28, 3:00-8:30 p.m. Sacred Harp Singing. Traditional shape note folk hymns, psalm tunes, spiritual songs, anthems and fugue-type tunes will be sung with a rotation of leaders, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Singing school for beginners, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Potluck supper, 6:00 p.m., followed by more singing. All are welcome to sing or listen.

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

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GLORIOUS DAY FOR PICNIC

Held on one of the loveliest evenings of the year, the annual town picnic on June 23 attracted some 30 people of all ages to the front lawn of the town hall for socializing and food to share. Soft drinks and paper products were provided by the town. Mayor Beers brought beer and wine. Those on the scene helped with the clean-up.

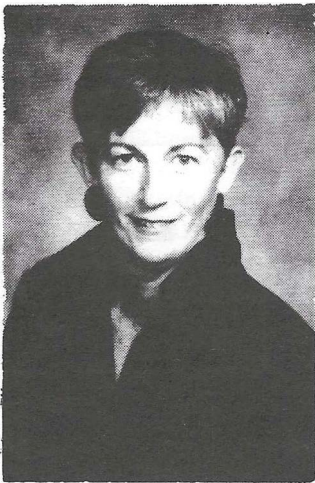
It was a most pleasant occasion.

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

22 Wellesley Circle	\$289,000
5906 Oxford Rd. (unbuilt)	\$425,000

PROPERTIES SOLD

23 Wellesley Circle	\$260,000
---------------------	-----------



Eleanor

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

907-7600
229-7990



RESIDENT COMPLAINS OF ANIMAL CONTROL INACTION

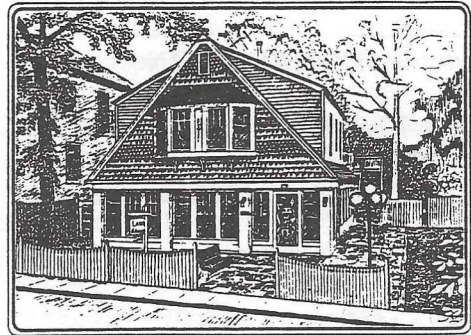
By Sarah Patton

The Animal Control Board has ignored a number of complaints regarding a dog on Vassar Circle, resident Rene Springuel told the town council last month. He said the dog has menaced town residents, attacked other dogs and, most recently, bitten a small child who had to go to the hospital for treatment.

Mayor Beers pointed out that the town and Animal Control Board can only take action when victims are willing to put their complaints in writing and come forward at a public hearing to weigh in on the dog's fate. Although the Board has received at least three letters of complaint against the dog, the people who have witnessed the attack or were themselves menaced by the dog have not followed through on their complaint, she said.

Town ordinances say that menacing or vicious dogs can be removed from town, but leave the procedure up to the discretion of the Animal Control Board. The Board recently agreed upon a three-step process to follow in the case of a complaint about an animal. This will be used regarding incidents with the dog on Vassar Circle.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

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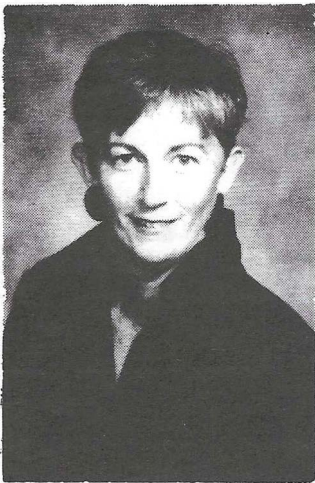
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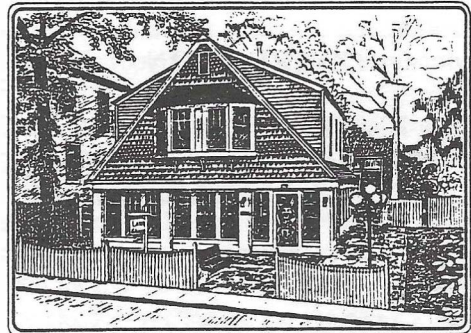
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Financial Planning

CRIME IN NEARBY AREAS

Monday, June 3. INDECENT EXPOSURE. 6:00 p.m., Clara Barton Parkway and DC Line. A man has often been observed standing on a small cement platform near the Little Falls pump house exposing himself. Description: black male in his 50s in dark clothing and blue baseball cap.

Sunday, June 2. INDECENT EXPOSURE. 7:12 p.m., C&O Canal, berm side of canal east of Marsden Tract near Billy Goat Trail and mile marker 11. A man exposed himself to a woman hiker. Description: white male, 6', in his 40s, glasses with short hair pulled back.

Contact: U.S. Park Police, (301) 492-6293.

--Road Runners Club of America, Bulletin #77.

PARK NEWS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has decided to adopt the Clara Barton House, park official Fran Norton told the town council last month. The park service will be collaborating with the DAR on projects such as furniture acquisition and genealogy research on Clara Barton, and a DAR member will donate two period cane chairs to the house.

This year's folk festival attracted 18,000 visitors, a record high. Ms. Norton thanked the town for the use of the Oberlin Ave. property during the festival.

The Glen Echo Park Foundation and the National Park Service are trying to raise \$75,000 to restore horses and other animals on the 1921 Denzel carousel. To date, some 20 of the animals have been restored and repainted in their original colors.

--Sarah Patton

BODY FOUND NEARBY

The body of Aris Rellas, 34, of Phoenix, Md. was found last month by a fisherman in Cabin John Creek about 20 feet from the path to the canal which begins at MacArthur Blvd. and Wilson La. The man had been reported missing nine days before, according to police reports. His car was found abandoned on the Beltway near the Cabin John Parkway.

Resident John Wells, Glen Echo's new unofficial representative on the Bethesda Citizens Police Advisory Board, was told by Bethesda police that the cause of death was under investigation but that no foul play was suspected.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 8—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

CORRECTION

In last month's issue, we incorrectly gave the name of the school Laura Beers graduated from. It was

HELP WANTED

Persons ages 14 and up to help around the town. Jobs include some minor outside cleaning, filing and organization in town office. \$4.25 per hour, part time and temporary. Please call the town hall at 320-4041 and leave your name and phone number if interested in summer work.

HALLOWEEN PARTY - PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Does the year seem to be going by too fast? Are you interested in helping out with the town Halloween party or pancake breakfast?

The clerk/treasurer is looking for several adult type spooks and goblins of the nice variety to help organize the town Halloween party in October.

If you fit the description, please call the town hall at 320-4041 and leave your name and phone number.

All help is appreciated and the more people assisting with the parties the less work for everyone. We are looking for everyone participating to help but would like to have a few idea people to plan the events.