

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



March 1999

FEDERAL BUDGET INCLUDES FUNDS FOR PARK RESTORATION

By Diana Hudson-Taylor

Standing by Glen Echo Park's Dentzel Carousel on the beautiful morning of Jan. 30, Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes announced the commitment of the Federal government to support the renovation and rehabilitation of Glen Echo Park's buildings.

Two days later, President Clinton submitted a budget to Congress that included \$6 million over a period of three years for the work via the line item proposal for a Five Year National Park Maintenance Plan.

This plan was designated in the budget for the Dept. of the Interior, which finances the National Park Service. The plan lists \$2 million to be spent on the park for each of three years, beginning in the year 2000.

Present at the announcement were John Berry of the Dept. of the Interior's Budget Committee; state and county officials, including Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan; Glen Echo town council members and mayor; park officials; and some 100 members of the interested public, plus the press media.

When asked what was to be "the first priority of the money," Audrey Calhoun of the National Park Service responded that it was still "to be determined." She said priorities could not be set until the NPS knew how much money it had to work with.

The \$6 million Federal share follows last summer's recommendation of the County Executive's Working Group,

which proposed a shared financial support for the \$19 million estimated cost of renovation and rehabilitation of Glen Echo Park structures, with the Federal, Maryland State and Montgomery County governments each contributing one-third of the funds.

TWO COUNCILMEMBERS TO BE ELECTED MAY 7

A municipal election will be held Monday, May 7, to elect two councilmembers for four-year terms. There is no salary for the offices.

The seats up for election are currently held by Councilmembers Gloria Levin and Nancy Long. Neither has yet indicated whether she will run for re-election, although Councilwoman Long said she is thinking seriously of running.

The charter requires that anyone wishing to run for office must file a written declaration of candidacy by no later than 20 days prior to the election. Contact Clerk-Treasurer Betsy Platt at the town office, (301) 320-4041, for further information.

Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the town at least one year prior to the election, and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens.

THE ECHO

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Nancy Long

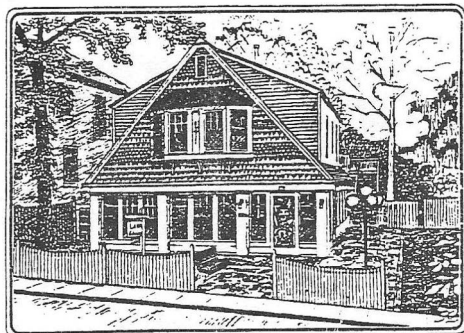
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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

TOWN HALL POPULARITY STILL CREATING PROBLEMS By Jerry Bodlander

The town council continues to grapple with trying to get maximum financial return from renting out the town hall while not infringing on the lives of people who live nearby.

The latest concerns arose after two groups which currently use the town hall sought to expand their use. One request called for use of the town hall one Sunday a month for a year.

Not only is the hall becoming overused, said Mayor Debbie Beers, it is creating a scheduling and crowding problem. She praised Councilwoman Nancy Long's efforts to handle all the requests, but added the council "isn't a booking agency." Some meetings result in a solid line of cars parked on University Avenue, she said.

But Councilman Norman Bernhardt stressed the benefits of having community cultural events and said he hasn't heard any complaints about the activities.

The town hall has a use committee that meets regularly.

PARK BUILDING RESTORATION WON'T NEED ENVIRONMENTAL O.K.

By Jerry Bodlander and Carlotta Anderson

The National Park Service says an Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Echo Park will take 14 months to complete. But NPS official Michael Wilson has told a meeting of the park's working group that the EIS would apply only to the management portion of the different plans being considered, not the structural rehabilitation work. Such environmental concerns as traffic, commercialization and impact on local communities would be dealt with in such a report.

The park service will be doing the environmental statement, not the county, as *The Echo* reported last month, according to Councilwoman Nancy Long.

After completion of the statement, the management aspect of the park will be decided from among the scenarios presented in the NPS's draft plan a year ago.

Councilwoman Long also said NPS is working with the county on a cooperative agreement so rehabilitation work on the buildings can begin. That is considered not to be subject to environmental impact considerations.

She noted that the administration building is supposed to be demolished and rebuilt, and said it is "rather puzzling" that it wouldn't be subject to the environmental statement.

The impact on the community is considered to be negligible as far as rehab work is concerned, she said. But she noted that there will be lots of heavy vehicles involved in the work.

Councilwoman Long also quoted Mr. Wilson as saying that within the park service there's no objection to the county management scenario, Councilwoman Long reported, adding that after the meeting Mr. Wilson spent considerable time explaining that the town's concerns and proposals were still very much under consideration.

In a separate but related matter, Councilwoman Long said cooperator groups at the park have been discussing differ-

ent retailing ideas. She says one idea is to have an expanded gift shop in order to generate more revenue. She said any idea along these lines needs to be evaluated carefully because of the potential for over-commercialization.

TOWN RELUCTANTLY RENEWS LANDSCAPING CONTRACT

By Jerry Bodlander

The town council reluctantly voted at its Feb. 8 meeting to approve a bid from Landscape Projects to handle the town's landscaping for the next year. But members painted a less than rosy picture of what they think of the company's work.

The company's bid of \$9,049.00 was the lowest by almost five thousand dollars.

Landscape Projects has a three-year contract with the town, but council members said a desire to get better service prompted them to seek other bids. But they decided it wasn't worth the extra money to go with another company.

Still, council members stressed the company needs to clean up its act. They cited complaints that the cleaning of storm drains and other work isn't done without prompting.

Council members were also troubled by a letter from Michael Abert, president of Landscape Projects. One member called the letter arrogant, another misleading, because Mr. Avert said the company had offered ideas to improve how the town looks. None of the council members was aware of any suggestions.

Some were also troubled that the letter didn't acknowledge that there are weaknesses with the work his company has done.

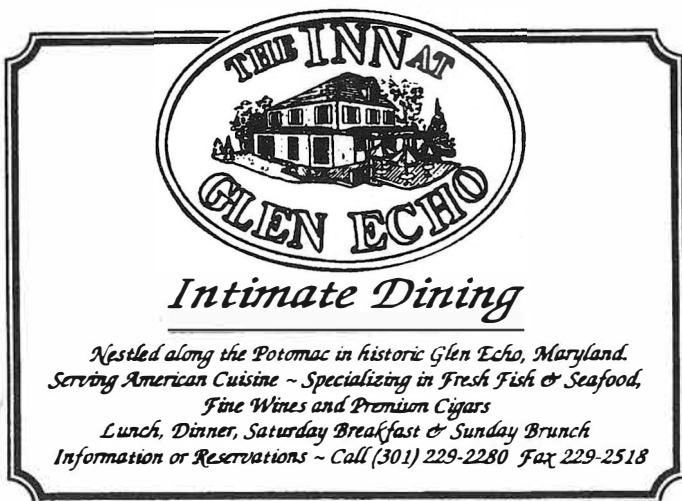
Mayor Beers said the town looks "very nice" and said that overall the company hasn't done a bad job. She has invited an official from Landscape Projects to attend a council meeting so council members can air their concerns face to face.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 8—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



GETTING TO THE HEART OF GLEN ECHO'S POST OFFICE

By Leslie Bythewood

"We're the post office with a heart. That's what a lot of our customers say about us," says Yvonne Harrison, a postal clerk who joined the Glen Echo post office 14 years ago and knows what it takes to keep customers coming back. "At larger post offices, you don't know people's names." Not so at the Glen Echo post office, where people know each other and go out of their way to be friendly and gracious.

The Glen Echo post office is also a place where people in wheelchairs can move around more freely, thanks to postmaster Sue Bradbury, who made sure of that by persuading the powers-that-be to go forward with her plans to remodel the post office last year and provide easier access for people with special needs. Before the renovations, people with disabilities had a tough time getting through those narrow service lines.

Sue, who was with the Glendale post office for 19 years before becoming postmaster here, is only in her second year of service, yet she has made her mark fast, pushing the remodeling proposal through and fighting for wider counter lines.

But these days it takes a lot more than efficient counter lines, ease of access, and saying hello to keep customers happy. Knowing how to relate to the public is just as important. Sue not only enjoys dealing with the public but also takes a moment to get to know customers on a more personal level and often stops to chat with them. With that kind of courtesy and attentiveness, is it any wonder customers didn't seem to mind coming up to a makeshift trailer while post office renovations were underway last year?

One event that seems to steal the hearts of children and adults are the prearranged post office tours that Yvonne gives every year around Valentine's Day for local Girl Scout troops, elementary schools, and nursery schools.

As the children enter the lobby with their teachers or Girl Scout leaders, they're already chomping at the bit to put Valentine's cards and letters in the mail for family and friends. "The kids get a big thrill out of it," says Yvonne, who tries to give two or three tours a day while the other clerks keep the counter lines moving.

After they mail their Valentine's cards Yvonne introduces them to Glen Echo's mail carrier and takes them behind the scenes so they can see just how their letters get processed.

She also provides some colorful historical anchors they can latch onto, like how the streets throughout the Town of Glen Echo all came to be named after some of the best Ivy League colleges in the United States. At the end of the tour, the kids walk out with an armful of goodies: candy, a book on the history of stamps, a coloring book, and collector cards with pictures of postage stamps.

Which just goes to prove some things are better learned and

absorbed outside of the classroom. After all, reading about a post office isn't the same as being there: seeing a postal clerk's warm smile; hearing people standing in line say hello and talk with each other; watching postal clerks reach out to customers who come up to the window with questions--those are the educational blueprints for success that can give kids a head start.

--Leslie Bythewood is a writer living in Chevy Chase.

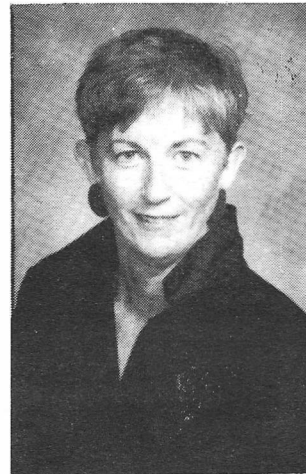
LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Carlotta Anderson's,
38 Wellesley Circle*

Wednesday, Mar. 10, 8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP 301-229-3748



Eleanor

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

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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

February 8

Surveyors are nearly finished with their survey of town boundaries. Mayor Beers said this should be the last hurdle before closing the sale of the **former trolley right-of-way** by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to the town...

The town council voted 3-1 to one reorganize the way the **town budget** is structured. Acting on a motion by Councilman Michael Brintnall, the council voted to group expense categories 3,4 and 6 (Audit and accounting, Legal, and Insurance and Bonding) into one category called professional services. It also voted to combine categories 8,9,10 and 11 (Refuse and Recycling, The Echo, Animal Control and Recreation) into another category. The idea, Brintnall said, is to make it easier to move money between the categories though they would be budgeted separately...

There will be **water back in the C&O Canal** by the end of March. Councilwoman Nancy Long said she was told by Douglas Faris, Superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park...

Clerk treasurer Betsy Platt says she'll look into whether the town needs to take any steps to be prepared in advance of the **year 2000**. Though the town only has one computer, she noted that it should consider issues like how the town would handle being without power should a problem crop up when the year 2000 begins. She noted other communities are taking preparedness steps on the Y2K front...

--Jerry Bodlander

STORM DRAIN AGREEMENTS UP TO AFFECTED RESIDENTS

By Jerry Bodlander

The Glen Echo Town Council is urging all residents who are affected by the proposed storm drain work to make their feelings known to the county. Those who have expressed concern about the county's plans live on Harvard and Bryn Mawr Aves.


Mayor Beers says that at the request of Michael Rodemeyer and Jim Shaut, she contacted the county to ascertain the status of the project. The current proposal, which calls for the drain to be rerouted around a sycamore tree at the request of some residents, remains in the works.

Montgomery County plans to try to reach agreements on easements on the properties of some residents, but if that doesn't work, a condemnation plan remains a possibility, the mayor added.

The town's only interest, the mayor said, is to move things along to make sure that funding isn't jeopardized.

The town has gone to "extraordinary lengths" to accommodate everyone's concerns, but now is the time for affected residents to take the lead in dealing with the situation, she said.

The mayor characterized the situation as "essentially an argument about money between the county and the property owners." The mayor says the responsibility for moving things along rests with the property owners.



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WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

Constance Rojas Macy and **Dan Macy** had been looking a year for a "true community" to put down roots in. So when their Realtor and longtime family friend, Eleanor Balaban of Bryn Mawr Ave., showed them the house next door to her which had just gone on the market, they snapped it up in two days.

They knew the area because Constance's brother lives in Cabin John, and had been concentrating their search here, in old Kensington, and in the Woodside area of Silver Spring. They moved to 6005 Bryn Mawr at the corner of University Ave. on August 21 from their Greenbelt town house.

Dan grew up in Sheffield, Mass. and attended law school at American University. He is an attorney with a software company, Mortgage Banking Systems, in McLean, but is also enrolled part time at the University of Maryland in a social work curriculum.

Constance, a psychiatric social worker, will be moving from working in a mental health unit of a local hospital to doing psychotherapy in a private psychiatrist's office in Rockville and Greenbelt. She also has a small private practice in Silver Spring.

She hails from Berwyn Heights, near College Park, took her undergraduate degree in English at Catholic University and her graduate degree at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus. She spent a summer on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, volunteering in various tribal programs.

Dan, a semi-professional photographer, has also helped set up an Internet cooperative providing Internet access and web page hosting. It now has 80 members.

Both Constance and Dan are interested in participating in town activities and are looking forward to warmer weather and the expectation of meeting most town residents, whose strolls are likely to take them past the Macy's centrally located home.

A warm welcome to them both!

BANNOCKBURN POOL OFFERS MEMBERSHIPS

Permanent memberships at the recently renovated Bannockburn swimming pool are available for homeowners within the pool's designated area. The permanent membership is transferable to the future buyer of your home.

A limited number of summer memberships are usually available on a yearly basis. The dues are higher than for permanent members.

For further information contact Henriette de Bruyn Kops at (301) 320-0232.

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE AT CLARA BARTON CENTER

A wealth of interesting classes and programs are being offered at the Clara Barton Community Center in the former Clara Barton School building in Cabin John. There would seem to be something for everyone.

An ongoing exercise and strength training workshop for seniors held Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30-12:15 requires only a senior activities card, which costs \$12 for the year.

A fitness room with stairmasters, bicycles, a multi-station machine, leg press and free weights is available all hours the center is open at a cost of \$15 for six months usage or \$25 a year.

There is drop-in bridge Monday from 9:30-11:30 and Friday from 10:00 to noon. Drop-in table tennis is held Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00.

Other classes sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Dept. which will begin in April include "Definitions" (leg, arm, shoulder and back work to tone and build strength); Karate/Jujitsu for ages 5-12 and 13 & up; and Wee Wanna Be (sports for ages 3-5)

Special March programs for seniors are held Wednesdays at 1:00. They include: Mar. 3—"Myths about Senior Oral Health"; Mar. 17—yoga instruction; Mar. 24—"How to get a good night's sleep," and a movie Mar. 31.

The Center is located at 7425 MacArthur Blvd. in Cabin John. For more information, call 301-217-6830.

' 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.

FUND-RAISING UNDERWAY FOR NEW PLAYGROUND

The efforts to raise money for a new playground at Glen Echo Park are in full swing, according to members of the group of residents from Glen Echo, Bannockburn and Cabin John who make up the volunteer Playground Committee.

Bannockburn and Cabin John civic associations have already chipped in and the committee members have plans to revisit the Glen Echo Town Council next month to ask for financial help to revamp the ramshackle playground. In addition, the committee, which is an official committee of the Glen Echo Park Foundation, is raising money from individuals in the adjoining neighborhoods and businesses in the area. There have already been some very generous donations from residents of Glen Echo. As of February 11, \$1832 has been raised and more has been pledged, including \$1,000 from the Puppet Company.

The goal of the committee, which includes Madeleine Carter, Stacey Malmgren, Debbie Lange, Julia Wilson, William and Katherine Ward, Polina Grant and Claire Kelly, is to raise at least \$15,000 and have the playground under construction by summer 1999. The National Park Service, which owns the land, has no money in its budget to contribute to the effort, but officials there have said they are willing to construct the playground once the equipment is purchased.

"There are at least 22 children in Glen Echo under the age of six and certainly more to come. This is an important part of our neighborhood, a vital part of preserving the character and friendliness of the town," says committee chair Madeleine Carter.

The committee is always looking for more volunteers. Any questions about the plan can be directed to Madeleine Carter at (301) 320-7720.

I will support the playground at Glen Echo Park with my tax deductible contribution.

I am enclosing a check payable to Glen Echo Park Foundation - Playground. The Glen Echo Park Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$200 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

In addition to my monetary donation I want to contribute my time. Please contact me.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS NEEDED AT MINNIE'S ISLAND

On March 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, The Potomac Conservancy will be participating in the 11th Annual Potomac Watershed Clean up sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation and is looking for volunteers. One nearby site that might interest Glen Echo residents is at Minnie's Island just below Lock 8 on the C&O Canal.

The Conservancy is also looking for skilled craftsmen and others with carpentry experience and tools to help finish renovations at Minnie's Island in preparation for their spring Potomac Living Laboratory programs. Projects include completing outdoor benches, building indoor laboratory work stations and equipment cabinets, repair window framing and hanging closet doors.

To sign up or for more information contact Matt Berres at (703) 642-9880 at (202) 338-4700 or by e-mail at mberres@potomac.org.

Summer internship opportunities are also available.




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FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Thursday, Mar. 4, 7:30—American Indian Intertribal Council

Sunday, Mar. 7, 11:00-2:00—National Campaign to Save Glen Echo Park

Wednesday, Mar. 17, 9:00—Springfield Garden Club, "Gardens in Ireland"

Friday, Mar. 26, 6:00—Bannockburn Havurah

Every Tuesday, 7:00-10:00—Irish Step-Dancing

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.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

November-1998-February 1999

Friedman & Fuller (aud. & acct.)	\$2650.33
Chas. Cooley Stonework (sidewalk)	\$14,449
WSSC (water)	\$300.94
Town holiday party	\$688.58
Univ. of Maryland (code update)	\$250.00
Knopf & Brown (legal. 4 mos.)	\$2,037.32
Seton Name Plate Co. (Oxford stop sign)	\$102.30

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

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