

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



May 1997

“IRREGULARITIES” NOT EXPECTED TO STOP MONDAY’S VOTE

By Carlotta Anderson

The town election scheduled for Monday, May 5, is expected to go ahead as scheduled despite several “irregularities.” in which town officials, *Echo* announcements, and prospective candidates failed to conform to requirements of the new town charter.

At a special May 1 public meeting at the town hall called by the Board of Supervisors of Elections to deal with these problems, several residents spoke of their feeling that

RIGHT-OF-WAY NOW TRANSFERRED TO WMATA

The ownership of the former trolley right-of-way has finally been transferred from the Riders’ Group to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Town attorney Norman Knopf wrote that this action by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia “breaks the log jam and hopefully should permit the Town to rapidly acquire the [Glen Echo section of the] right-of-way.”

Meanwhile, the town council last month approved an expenditure of up to \$3,000 for a title search for the right-of-way. It will be done by Ronald MacDonald, who is doing the same work for the National Park Service, which wishes to purchase the section alongside Glen Echo Park.

everyone interested in running for town office should be allowed to do so, whether they had conformed to the letter of the law or not, and that the election should proceed as planned.

When all candidates finally stated that they would abide by whatever the Board decided and not attempt to challenge it in court, there was a general feeling of elation among the 19 people present at this show of community harmony. Especially commended was the goodwill shown by mayoral candidate Renny Springuel, who would have run unopposed if incumbent mayor Debbie Beers had been declared ineligible because of late filing.

The Board, perceiving apparent agreement that there were no impediments to holding the election as planned, decided to do so, although it will meet Saturday morning to hear from anyone who might have been unable to attend the Thursday evening meeting.

The meeting commenced with Betty Briggs being formally chosen Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Elections by the other two members, Lee Clunc and Dorothy Lumsden. The position had been held by Paul Alban, who has been unable to carry out his duties for a number of years because of ill health. Candidates are required by charter to submit their declaration of candidacy to the Chairman of the Board, and the fact that none could formally do so was one of the “irregularities” noted. The Board is also lacking one member.

—continued on page 2

THE ECHO

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	Jillian Horwitz	
	Sally Law	
	Barbara Odell	
CIRCULATION	Susan Grigsby	

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. 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.



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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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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.

ELECTION (FROM P. 1)

More importantly, the deadline for filing was incorrectly stated twice in *The Echo* and once in a town bulletin. The time given was 10 days prior to the election, as the old charter provided. The new charter requires 20 days, a change apparently forgotten by all the current town officials, but correctly noted by candidate Renny Springuel. Nevertheless, all candidates except Debbie Beers met the 20 day requirement.

Other irregularities included candidates not correctly listing their qualifications for office, and incorrect hours given for the election itself. The correct times are 5:00-9:00 p.m. Monday, May 5.

One of the options suggested at the beginning of the meeting by town attorney Norman Knopf was declaring that no one had filed in complete accordance with the charter and delaying the election a month so that the process could begin anew. One resident pointed out that taking that step would also be a violation of a section of the charter.

Early in the meeting, Mr. Knopf stated that the only thing that was certain was that no matter what the Board decided, "someone is going to be unhappy." However, the meeting ended with a feeling of goodwill and general satisfaction among those present with the way it worked out.

MOST ADA RENOVATIONS TO BE FINISHED THIS MONTH

All renovations to the Glen Echo Town Hall required by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) are scheduled to be finished by May 18 except for the inside elevator, according to architect Jo Anne Murray. She expected the council chamber to be re-opened by May 5.

The elevator shaft was nearly completed by the end of April. The old kitchen had been torn out, the new bathroom framed in, and the new walls completed. Cabinets and plumbing were still to be done. Manufacture of the elevator itself will take 6-8 weeks, she said.

The kitchen must be completed no later than May 18 because a function requiring use of the kitchen is scheduled for that date.

--Carlotta Anderson

BRINTNALL LOOKS INTO ANIMAL CONTROL OPTIONS

By Anne Lewis

If the town had an agreement with the Montgomery County animal control department, the county could take care of animal emergencies and work on long-term problems, Councilman Mike Brintnall has determined. Additionally, it could conduct hearings and impose fines.

He will be presenting a proposal on action the town might take in this regard, noting that it probably would want to retain its own animal control officer but perhaps give up its animal control board.

He also said he would investigate why other incorporated towns, such as Gaithersburg and Rockville, get a tax break because they have their own animal control services, but Glen Echo does not.

TOWN SEEKS NEW ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Mayor Beers is looking for a replacement for long-time Animal Control Officer Daryl Kuster, who resigned the volunteer office after serving since December, 1994.

With Daryl's departure, the town lost one of its longest-serving officers, one who has been active in animal control for almost 20 years. She was Animal Control Officer from December, 1978 to February, 1988. She then served on the Animal Control Board until December, 1994, when she again agreed to perform the functions of Animal Control Officer.

In that capacity, she was responsible for enforcing the ordinances concerning animals in the town as well as issuing the annual licenses.

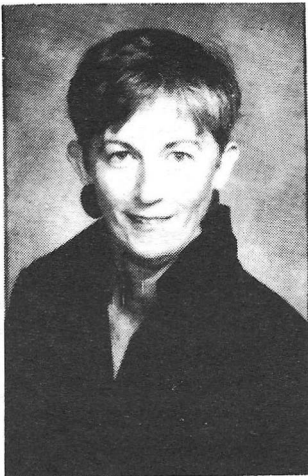
Anyone interested in the position does not have to guarantee the longevity of commitment that Daryl has shown.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 12—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda



Eleanor

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

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229-7990



CANAL OFFICIAL OUTLINES EXPENSIVE FLOOD REPAIRS

By N. M. Grigsby

The canal section nearest to Glen Echo will be rewatered, C&O Canal National Historical Park Superintendent Douglas Faris assured some 25 local residents at an April 8 meeting in the Glen Echo Town Hall. Beyond this pledge and a general timetable for renovation work through spring '98, the situation Mr. Faris depicted was perhaps already known by many in the audience: the Park Service has only just begun to get its hands dirty in what promises to be a very long and pricey restoration of the C&O Canal.

Superintendent Faris and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brandt discussed how the combined impact of 1996's record snowfall, record cold, and record rainfall PLUS Hurricane Fran, led to January and September flood destruction unseen since 1972. Supt. Faris said that proposals for countering the damage were being considered on the basis of their ability to balance issues of "sustainability versus cost-effectiveness," or "can the expense be justified?" In many cases, this means that the particulars of the repair are undecided; only the need for repair is certain. The total estimated cost of planned restoration to the canal exceeds \$64 million. This estimate incorporates \$975,000 for mending the breach at Widewater/Old Angler's Inn, as well as \$10.7 million to revive the area between Lock 12 and Lock 5, which includes the section below Glen Echo.

Supt. Faris was frank in acknowledging that, "there will be more floods." He added that the nature of the canal and Potomac River region create a "continual cultural resource [task] that most [parks wouldn't] want to deal with." Consequently, there have been many questions raised about the

wisdom of allocating money to maintain the formerly high standards in an area predisposed to flood damage.

The Park Service had "...thought long and hard" about not rewatering the area between Locks 5 and 12, according to Supt. Faris. In fact, in a publication distributed at the April 8 meeting, the Park Service stated that "funds should be focused on .. high visitor use areas of the park..." An accompanying list of qualifying regions did not mention Glen Echo. Councilwoman Nancy Long pointed out that if the local area were not rewatered, "there would be quite a public uprising." Glen Echo was probably not alone in its disapproval of suggestions to keep parts of the canal dry. Ultimately, the Park Service decided to rewater the entire canal, but it "must be done in a more sustainable way," Supt. Faris said.

Unfortunately, sustainability does not come cheaply. While the Park Service reported nearly \$12 million "left over" from earlier Congressional solicitations, most of that money has been earmarked for contract repairs. Another estimated \$12.8 million is needed just to complete what the Park Service has designated as its "highest priority projects."

One of these highest priority projects is reestablishing the safety of the canal and towpath for pedestrians. Currently, 43 of the towpath's 185 miles require resurfacing, and there are several pedestrian bridges in need of replacement.

Getting water to the Glen Echo district between Locks 7 and 8 falls under the Park Service's less immediate concerns. Ideally, "minimum repairs" to the large breach at Widewater are scheduled for completion by spring of '98, allowing water to flow past Old Angler's Inn and into the Glen Echo section at that time. The estimated \$12 million for the work between Widewater and Lock 5 includes the expense of removing the floods' mile-long "silt plug" - a multi-ton deposit which has prevented water flow beyond Widewater.

The "silt plug" problem is typical of the limbo haunting the Park Service at this stage - few of the repairs plans are definitively settled in terms of either money or mechanics. Within the next two weeks, the Park Service will publish its flood recovery plan covering the specifics of canal repair. One possibility is constructing an arched metal bridge at the crossover point below Glen Echo where a temporary earthen dike now serves for pedestrian access. It should be noted that such plans assume that adequate financing will be available.

The Park Service is expecting to petition Congress for additional funding, as well as to pursue private contributions. Supt. Faris also introduced the possibility of a savings bond program tentatively labeled "Bonding with Nature," to be sponsored by a local bank, as a potential resource.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

at Ruth Laughlin's

21 Wellesley Circle

229-7032

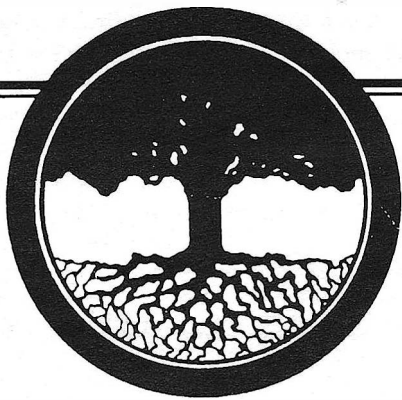
Wednesday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PLANS FOR LONG-RANGE EXPENSES

By Anne Lewis

A committee of town residents is engaged in developing a long-range plan for capital expenses that might need to be covered by the town's reserve fund. Members Tom Kenney, Jim Shaut, Jo Anne Murray, and Councilman Mike Brintnall have worked out a grid for capital needs, such as town hall repairs, streets, landscaping, drainage and signs/fences.

These "will give us an idea of long-term obligations and the annual set-aside for the reserve fund that will be necessary," Councilman Brintnall told the town council last month. Presently, he said, the budget process only includes annual operating needs, and "in the past when we reduced taxes we did it in ignorance of long-term capital needs."



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Around TOWN

Princeton Ave. resident **Michael B. Andry** is president of the local Christmas in April program, which last month mobilized some 3,500 volunteers to repair 85 homes, four D.C. public schools and seven community facilities, according to *The Washington Post*. The work is done mostly by unskilled volunteers. Michael is a long-time volunteer with the program, which has been in existence in the Washington, D.C. area since 1883...

Brockie Stevenson will be the next featured resident on the Glen Echo website. Wellesley Circle resident **Peter Somerville** is producing the feature. Check it out at <http://www.glenecho.com>. You can also visit the new Glen Echo Park website created by Peter and other Glen Echo residents at: <http://www.nps.gov/glec...>

Three new **carousel animals** are now available for riding on the famous Glen Echo Park Denzel carousel. Two ostriches and one horse just returned from restoration at Rosa Regan's studio in North Carolina. The carousel opened on April 26...

Harry Odell came to the rescue last month when builders making the ADA renovations at Glen Echo Town Hall could not find the water line into the building in order to install sprinklers. He remembered that it was under the postmaster's office...

Grasscycling and composting have been so popular in Montgomery County that the county curbed its plan to expand its centralized compost facility, saving taxpayers over \$2.5 million. Seventy percent of county residents are now recycling their yard trimmings, saving the county up to \$1 million annually, the county announced. An astounding 13,000 residents have attended lectures and workshops to learn recycling techniques...

TRASH, RECYCLING PICKUP PROBLEMS?

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CLASSIFIED ADS

STUDIO: Vaulted ceiling with 2 skylights. Window wall/spectacular wooded view. Private entrance to 13x22 ft. building/heat & AC, fluorescent & spotlights, no water. Oak floor/built-in cabinets. On bus line off Massachusetts Ave. NW & Goldsboro Rd. Rent negotiable/utilities included. For details, call 301-229-6423.

HELP WANTED—Approx. 15 hrs/wk. Responsible person to take me to NIH for daily medical treatment, prepare lt. meals, etc. I live in Cabin John. 301-320-7995.

LOOKING TO HOUSESIT (including mother's helper) to be near son, daughter-in-law, grandchild. June, July, August, September. Good with pets and plants. Excellent references on request. Mirabel Lefkowitz [20E] Stratford Hills, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, (919) 933-3454. Even exchange.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 55 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.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

April 14

The town delayed **planting dogwoods** above the Bill Shultz memorial wall by the town hall until the right-of-way purchase is settled because the town is committed to not changing the right-of-way. It will also write a letter to a property owner who has planted trees on the right-of-way, informing the owner that when the right-of-way is acquired, the trees will be under the jurisdiction of the town...

Councilwoman Long reported receiving complaints from the U.S. Postal Service because of **excessive noise by a dance workshop** in March held upstairs in the town hall which overlapped with the Postal Service hours. Four customers wrote complaints about the foot stomping. She said she had not known of "the nature of the dance form" when the use request was granted...

Councilman Brintnall asked that the schedule for **adoption of the budget** be started earlier so the town council can consider personnel items in executive session before the budget is drawn up...

--Anne Lewis

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for mentioning about Mom's passing in *The Echo*. She loved Glen Echo and her friends and neighbors. It was hard for her to sell the house on 16 Wellesley Circle...

She was a great Mom and special person. She will be missed. She is survived by Eric (son); daughter-in-law Dana; Erica and Tyler, grandchildren; David Talbott, step-son; two sisters and one brother. Everyone in Glen Echo has a special place in my heart. It was a good place to grow up in. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Eric Talbott and family

P.S. Mom would have been very pleased to know that the charter was changed on voting. It will be of benefit to other town residents to vote and hold office.

(Editor's Note: Irene Talbott was not permitted to vote during the many years she lived in Glen Echo because she was a Canadian citizen.)



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We've moved from Cabin John

MANY CHANGES PLANNED FOR GLEN ECHO PARK

By Anne Lewis

Glen Echo Park officials are currently developing a new "in-house" plan for changes and renovations at the site. Among the plans are moving the Clara Barton Parkway Police substation to Turkey Run except for one officer, demolishing the Candy Cane structure, renovating the Bumper Car Pavilion and giving priority attention to repairs to the Spanish Ballroom.

A feasibility study that includes "task directives" is ready to go to the regional director for approval, according to Fran Norton. She told the town council last month that since the Park Service took over Glen Echo Park there have been four or five planning teams, and this time "we decided to develop a plan in-house rather than pay outsiders to do it."

She reported some good, current news: a Children's Art Center has opened in the previous First Aid station "with very creative arts activities planned," and a jewelry maker has taken over one of the yurts.

She also said there was a "desperate" need for volunteers at the Clara Barton House. The Park Service will be able to hire an additional staff person, but it is still considering closing the historic house two days a week in fall and winter.

FOLK FESTIVAL CANCELLED

By Anne Lewis

The cherished annual Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park, scheduled for May 31 and June 1, has been cancelled for this year because of safety concerns, according to National Park Service officials.

Planned paving inside the park area was scheduled to be completed in May, but it has not even been started because of weather problems, Fran Norton, unit manager for cultural resource for the park service, told the Glen Echo Town Council last month.

It would be too risky to go ahead as planned with the festival and then face the possibility of unfinished paving or new paving that could be damaged by trucks used for the festival, she said. The short notice made it impossible for festival organizers to schedule the event elsewhere, so it will simply not take place this year.

Ms. Norton said smaller events, such as walk-athons, also might be cancelled in order not to overtax the staff or facilities at the park. Councilmember Mike Brintnall expressed strong "disappointment" about the cancellations. "It is a dangerous step to cut back so severely because of repairs that have been scheduled for a long time," he said.

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

5906 Oxford Rd.	\$399,113
5806 Oxford Rd.	\$445,900
22 Wellesley Circle	Under contract
41 Wellesley Circle	Under contract

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 3—Swing Dance w. Daryl Davis
 Saturday, May 10—Creole Zydeco Farmers
 Saturday, May 17—Sunset Royal Orchestra (big band)
 Saturday, May 24—Annual Irish Ceili
 Saturday, May 31—Tom Cunningham

Dances every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings
 Sunday afternoon tea dances first and third Sunday
 Sunday afternoon family dances second and fourth Sunday

ADVENTURE THEATRE

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 Tickets: \$5.00 Call 320-5331

THE PUPPET THEATRE

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 Tickets: \$5 Call 320-6668

AT THE GALLERY

Jeff Kirk—RECENT WORKS IN CLAY
 May 3-25

FREE MULCH AND FIREWOOD

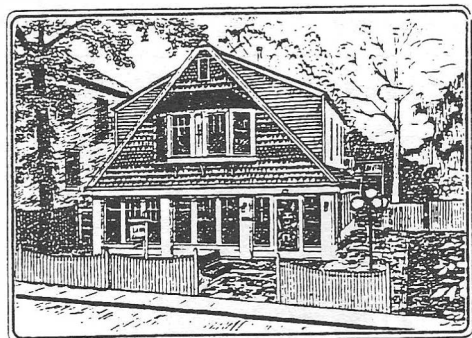
Free mulch is now available from the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning at three park locations on weekends.

Mulch is available at Wheaton Region Park, 12012 Kemp Mill Rd., Wheaton; at Cabin John Regional Park, Indoor Tennis Courts, 7801 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda; and at the Bonifant Landfill, at 1201 Bonifant Rd. The latter location will also offer free firewood.

Bring large bags with you. There is no limit to the amount of mulch each customer may take away. However, park employees are unable to assist in the gathering or loading process.

For more information, call Jim Boyer at (301) 384-0491.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning