

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



May 2000

PLAYGROUND ERECTED; OPENS IN EARLY MAY By Jim Anderson and Bonnie Whyte

Under a steady rain that turned the earth into a soupy, ankle-deep mud, a team of volunteers and professionals worked for two days to assemble and install the new playground equipment in Glen Echo Park. The work was the culmination of more than two years of volunteer work that began with a group of Glen Echo volunteers who collected some \$37,000 to buy the equipment.

On Tuesday, April 18, the volunteers, under the direction of Peter Somerville and Debbie Lange, began assembling the ultra-modern and ultra-safe equipment, including a swing set, a complex "tree-house" that includes a slide and ladders, and a series of free-standing structures for climbing and swinging from. The overall supervision was carried out by representatives of Kompan, the playground equipment manufacturer.

All of the equipment had to be anchored in two-foot-deep holes that were dug in the rocky soil and then filled with solid concrete. Work continued from 7:30 a.m. until after dark under the cold, chilling rain. Breakfast bagels and a box lunch contributed by Sodexo Marriott were provided. The Glen Echo Park Foundation donated coffee bought from Starbucks at a discount.

Some of the volunteers, which in addition to Glen Echoans included people from other local communities and from Glen Echo Park, returned the next day to continue plowing through mud and assembling the equipment. A num-

ber of them have no playground-aged children.

The area, which expands the site of the old playground next to the Spanish Ballroom, had to be covered with a layer of gravel, then a geotextile fabric and then about 12 inches of "wood carpet" to cushion any child falling down. This work was to be done April 25-29 by volunteers.

The volunteers up to *Echo* press time included: Eve Arber, Ed Hunter, Stacy and Andy Malmgren, Julia and Speke Wilson, Tom Kenney, Jim Anderson, Katherine Ward, Xan Koneff, Steve O'Donnell, Karen Melchar, Benno Schmidt, Polina and Richard Grant, Nancy Abeles, Brian Gross, Robert Lange, Evan Henschel, Sally Beckwith, Stan Fowler, Karen Pittleman, Kenny Barnett, Tim Maloy, Sam Swersky, Christin Sjormeling, and Andy Klein, as well as Debbie Lange and Peter Somerville. Vicki Hewitt, Angie Zeidenberg, and Cheryl Rothenberg served as baby-sitters for the volunteers' children.

The playground was scheduled to open in early May.

George Washington Parkway Superintendent Audrey Calhoun finally agreed to let the new playground be erected in its established location after reviewing the construction situation at the park. She previously had planned to put most, but not all, of the play equipment temporarily in the circle area near the carousel, a much smaller and less contained area.

—continued on page 3

THE ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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20812

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 Nancy Long

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Betsy Platt 301-320-4041

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Kathleen Horwitz 301-320-2171

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

LAW & ASSOCIATES, INC.
(301) 229-8500



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

NEW WEBSITE BEING SET UP FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

Soon www.glen-echo.md.us.gov will become a new community website, with links to the official town website, www.glenecho.org. Resident Richard Grant is setting up the new registered website on his server.

It is anticipated that the site will resemble school sites, with contacts, announcements and a forum for residents. It may be able to provide email addresses for town residents. Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilman Tim Maloy will work with Mr. Grant in developing the site.

Councilman Maloy thanked Mr. Grant for his work, as well as the excellent work of Peter Somerville, who produced the www.glenecho.org site and John Bruce Wells for getting Glen Echo into the Internet age.

It is estimated by town officials that 80 percent of Glen Echo homes are hooked up to the Internet.

--Bonnie Whyte

PLAYGROUND (FROM PAGE 1)

The former playground site was scheduled to be used as a staging area for building materials for construction on the Spanish Ballroom and the arcade buildings.

Much consternation at the limited location had been expressed by the Playground Committee, composed of town residents and others, who raised funds for new equipment to replace the 1983 swings, slide and jungle gym. The uproar of residents, delays in contracts, as well as watching several dump trucks driving around the park on their missions, apparently convinced Ms. Calhoun and Site Manager Karen Pittleman that using the larger playground area made more sense.

When asked why volunteers were used to install the temporary playground equipment, Ms. Pittleman explained that if the installation was supervised by Kompan, the playground contractor, it would assume the liability rather than the NPS. The playground committee had raised more money than it needed, according to Debbie Lange, and offered to provide the needed volunteers. It paid \$3,114 for the "supervised installation" as against the \$9,000 the company charges if it installs the entire equipment itself, she said.



Eleanor

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

907-7600
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TRASH COLLECTING TIMES AWAIT RESIDENT SURVEY

By Bonnie Whyte

In reviewing the upcoming contract for garbage disposal, the Town Council invited Elliott Hanin from Waste Management Services to the April 10 meeting to discuss options.

Council Member Norman Bernhardt has sent town residents a survey to find out their preferences concerning once or twice a week pickups, as well as recycling and bulk material pickups. Residents are urged to return the surveys and make their views known to the council.

Mr. Hanin said that the town has several choices. Glen Echo could cede the services to the county and have once a week pickup. Or the town could consider levels of service at various price points, among different vendors.

Mayor Debbie Beers and Councilmember Michael Brintnall noted their concerns that raccoons and other animals frequently get into town trash cans, despite valiant efforts by residents to prevent that, and were concerned that once a week pickups would exacerbate the situation. Mr. Hanin said he hadn't heard about that problem before, but said that many independent towns in the county remain on a twice a week schedule.

Mr. Hanin recommended reviewing the monthly bulk material pickup, as Glen Echo was the only local area receiving this level of service. It costs the town \$250 per month, whether there is a lot or no material picked up.

Waste Management offered to provide a container for once a year telephone book recycling when the new books come out in the fall. Phone books require different recycling methods due to their bulk and the different glue used in the binding process.

The council will review the survey results and discuss the collection services at the May meeting.

Mobil



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SERVICE MANAGER
MD STATE INSPECTOR

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TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

April 10

It appears that the deed to the **former trolley right-of-way** that extends between MacArthur Blvd. and the Town of Glen Echo may be delivered to the town's attorney by May. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, owners of the property, had attempted to retain an easement that it could sell to a cable company to lay cable underground, but the town refused. Glen Echo insisted that the deal be completed in the next month in order to fund it from Maryland Open Space dollars, which have a time limit on availability...

Bids to **repaint the town hall** (inside and outside) will be advertised in May in hopes of getting the job done this summer. Anyone interested should contact Councilman Norman Bernhardt or Clerk/Treasurer Betsy Platt about submitting a bid. Bids must be in by May 30...

The town attorney is drafting language to enable the town to turn over **animal control** authority to Montgomery County...

Bell Atlantic currently has **DSL service** (high speed Internet) available for a high fee in Glen Echo. It is expected that others will enter the market and the prices will drop to about \$75 within a year or so...

The town attorney provided the council with extensive comments on the draft **Vehicle Control Ordinance**. The council will review them and take up the ordinance at its May meeting...

D.C.'s Water & Sewer Authority responded to Mayor Beers' letter concerning the **smells emanating from the sewer line** running alongside the C&O Canal. According to Ron Linton, Chairman, "near-term steps to place odor-control devices will be completed this summer, and design of long-term improvements will start this spring"...

--Bonnie Whyte

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

Our new residents at 1 Vassar Circle are **Sophie Keefer** and **Christopher Day**, who moved here in January from a Connecticut Ave. apartment "with no character" and "can't imagine a better neighborhood" than Glen Echo, in Sophie's words.

They especially like its closeness to the river, and enjoy running on the C&O Canal towpath.

Accompanying them were their two cats, Waverly and Nora.

Sophie grew up off MacArthur Blvd. and attended Georgetown Day School. After graduation from McGill University with an English major, she attended law school at Catholic University. She now is a communications attorney with the firm of Willkie, Farr and Gallagher in D.C.


Christopher attended South Lakes High School in Reston, then majored in engineering at North Carolina State College. A current night student at Catholic U, where he will receive his J.D. degree in May, he works during the day as a patent agent for the Finnegan, Henderson law firm.

New/old residents are **Julia** and **Speke Wilson**, and their children **Allegra**, 5, **Bram**, 2, and **Miles**, four months. They moved to 7309 University Ave. last month from a house a few blocks away in Fairway Hills. All but Miles used to live at 6000 Bryn Mawr Ave., and Julia originally moved to Glen Echo at the age of six with her parents, **Jim** and **Carlotta Anderson**, Wellesley Circle residents.

Speke, who grew up in D.C. and attended Hamilton College, is advertising director for the on-line investment forum, The Motley Fool. Julia, a graduate of the University of Michigan, formerly worked as a reporter and now does part-time editing for The Motley Fool. Allegra attends Clara Barton Nursery School and will begin kindergarten in the fall.

Welcome to our new residents!

*Landscape Design • Installation • Decks
Retaining Walls • Maintenance • Hauling • Gutters*



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John Hughes
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PARK PLANS STILL BEING DISCUSSED; OUTCOME WILL IMPACT TOWN

By Bonnie Whyte

The Business Management Plan for Glen Echo Park is still a work in progress. The Town Council is reviewing the immense document for discussion in May for an official position. "The future of our town depends on the final outcome of this plan," said Councilwoman Nancy Long at the April 10 meeting.

The town's position stated last July was that it viewed the National Park Service as "the proper entity to conserve [Glen Echo Park] and provide the basic financial support of its maintenance and operation." This was in contrast to the conclusion of the working group set up by County Executive Douglas Duncan that the park should be managed by a private, nonprofit governing board.

Councilman Mike Brintnall commented that in his preliminary review of the document, it was very different from the original plan and didn't really include any private sector model.

The council all agreed that the plan was aimed at generating funds so that the park could become self sufficient. Councilwoman Nancy Long noted that a third floor would be added to the arcade building to provide additional rental space for classes, while providing very little space for park history. The current "cooperators," those who run classes and programs at the park, will have to bid for their space, with no apparent weight given to their current status. She urged "everyone to take advantage of this material" since an official statement from the town is due to the National Park Service in May.

An environmental impact statement was not made available. Town officials planned to obtain a copy due to the significant effect the park has on the town. It appeared that the document contained little or no discussion of transportation to the park by any means other than private car.

The report is available at the town hall for review, as well as the Glen Echo Park business office. As a helpful hint, there is a summary on page 92.

PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Glen Echo Site Manager Karen Pittleman reported to the Town Council April 10 that work to stabilize the tower and the Spanish Ballroom was complete and successful.

The restrooms have been completely gutted and will be rebuilt with handicapped access in time for the Irish Festival in May.


Lead paint removal has been a major project in the soffits of the arcade building as well as the carousel. Please admire the new paint on the carousel.

When asked about other projects, Ms. Pittleman speculated that it was likely that the ballroom would be open all summer for dancing, since the ballroom and arcade bidding process was behind schedule.

--Bonnie Whyte

STREET SWEEPING SOON

The annual street sweeping of town streets is scheduled to take place the first week in May. A town bulletin will inform residents of the date.



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FOR SALE: Dovekie-21' Shallow Water -camper -Sailboat with many extras, \$4,900. Call Norman Hudson-Taylor 301-229-2163.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR a new employee at Law & Associates, Inc. We are a small financial planning office located next door to the Inn at Glen Echo. This person would be a permanent employee. Hours are flexible. Job description would be clerical assistant/filing/errand running/general office work. Salary is generous with certain benefits provided. This is a perfect job for the right person. Call Rebecca at 301-229-8500.

WANTED: Someone to mow my lawn. Call 301-320-3629.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: \$4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

You are invited to a Ladies Night

*at Julia Wilson's,
7309 University Ave.*

Tuesday, May 23, 8:00 p.m.

RSVP 301-320-2331

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

Conduit Road Fire Board would like a representative from Glen Echo to sit on the board. The Fire Board oversees the operation of the local fire departments. Involves attendance at approximately one meeting per month. Anyone interested may contact Lenore Clarke at 202-874-3423 or Mayor Debbie Beers at 301-229-7308.

Animal Control Board will soon be short two members. This three member town board establishes regulations and procedures for enforcement of the Animal Control Ordinance, hears complaints of violations and prescribes action to be taken. If interested, please contact Mayor Debbie Beers at 301-229-7308.

Animal Control Officer: Duties include enumerating town pets, citing violations of the Animal Control Ordinance, issuing licenses and performing functions related to animals found at large, injured, abandoned, suspected of being rabid or ordered impounded by the Animal Control Board. If interested, please contact Mayor Debbie Beers at 301-229-7308.

UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

TOWN PICNIC--Saturday, June 17
HALLOWEEN PARTY--Tuesday,
October 31
HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST--
Saturday, December 16

**Clerk-Treasurer Betsy Platt is looking
for volunteers!**

RESIDENTS NOW CAN RECYCLE MAGAZINES AND CATALOGS

A Waste Management official confirmed at last month's Town Council meeting that magazines, catalogs and cardboard may now be recycled and collected from Glen Echo residents. Telephone books are **not** included. With this change in pickup service, all paper products must be bundled in paper bags or tied up and not just dumped into the recycle bins with bottle, cans and some plastics.

CITIZEN REPORT OF SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR CATCHES CRIMINAL

Last month's rash of burglaries in Kensington was solved by a citizen reporting suspicious behavior, and reporting the license tag number involved in the suspicious activity to the police. Within six days the police were able to track the suspect and observe the suspect committing a burglary and fencing his wares at a pawn shop before arresting him.

There were no crimes reported for the Cabin John/Glen Echo area at the April 12 Bethesda Area Community Advisory Board meeting.

To report suspicious non-emergency activity call police at 301-279-8000. Call 911 for emergencies.

—Norman and Diana Hudson-Taylor

RAIL ROUTE THROUGH TOWN? BAFFLING PLANNING REPORT

By Bonnie Whyte

The Town Council received a massive Maryland planning report suggesting the possibility of a rail line between Bethesda and the Tysons Corner area which appears to go through Glen Echo Park or the town.

While most of the plans outlined in the report are closer to the Beltway, three proposals indicate a very fuzzy, inconclusive line from downtown Bethesda, along the Georgetown branch or perhaps Goldsboro Road, through the park or the town, and then across the river to Virginia. No further details are available at this time nor is it clear how the planners envision crossing the river, much less transecting Glen Echo.

The Maryland Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a hearing April 26 at the relocated B-CC High School at Northwood in Silver Spring to discuss the potential for alternate mass transit routes around the Beltway to alleviate traffic.

One plan to be discussed, P2, would include heavy rail, like the current Metro, on the route through Glen Echo, while plans P4 and P6 indicate light rail, similar to trolleys, along the same route.

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 PARK ACTIVITIES

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 20—USO Dance, 8-midnight
Sunday, May 21—Art in Action Day, 1-5 pm
Saturday, May 27—22nd Annual Irish Feis, 9-4 pm
Sunday, May 28—Irish Festival, noon-6 pm
Saturday & Sunday, June 3 & 4—Washington Folk Festival, noon-midnight (Sat), noon-6pm (Sun)

ADVENTURE THEATRE

Puss in Boots
 April 22-May 28
 Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30
 Tickets: \$5.00 Call 301-320-5331

THE PUPPET THEATRE

Cinderella
 Through May 28
 Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30
 Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00
 Tickets: \$5 Call 301-320-6668

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

Thursday, May 4, 7:00-10:00 p.m.—American Indian Inter-Tribal Council meeting
Saturday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.—Folklore Society concert
Sunday, May 21, 3:30-5:00 p.m.—Folklore Society family dance
Saturday, May 27, 10:00-noon—National Campaign to Save Glen Echo Park

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.

NOW IS TIME TO CUT BACK GROWTH OVER SIDEWALKS

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to cut back vegetation planted on their property which grows over town sidewalks or hangs over them in such a way as to impede pedestrian passage.

Overgrowth should be cut **all the way back to the property line.**

Vegetation which has not been cut back by residents will be cut back by the town shortly, according to Mayor Debbie Beers.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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



Intimate Dining

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