

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



November, 1995

DRAFT OF NEW CHARTER MAKES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The Mayor and Town Council last month checked through a preliminary draft of a new Town Charter that would make several important changes in the way the town government will operate.

The revision was prepared at the town's request by Wayne Rhodes of the University of Maryland's Institute for Government Service. The 34-page draft revision preserves most of the existing government structure, brings some provisions up to date with current state laws, and makes several changes.

A significant proposed change, approved by the council, would permit non-U.S. citizens to vote in town elections, provided they are otherwise qualified voters (town residents over 18 years of age who are registered.)

Although non-citizens are not permitted to vote in U.S. elections, the majority of the council decided that there were no compelling reasons, such as dual nationality loyalties, for denying such residents the right to vote in local elections. There was also a majority feeling that the change would encourage non-citizen residents, who pay local taxes, to become involved in town affairs.

Another approved proposed change would set up a Recall Election provision, making it possible for residents to petition for an election to remove a specified elected town officer. The exact number of petitioners and the percentage of votes required for removal in such an election are still to be worked out.

There was some discussion about whether the possibility of such a Recall Election, by itself, would create a poisonous atmosphere in Town, or whether the threat of such a provision would clear up problems by reminding officials that they could be subject to removal for "malfeasance or nonfeasance."

A minor change in council procedures involves what would constitute a legal quorum.

The Town Charter corresponds roughly to a federal or state constitution. It lays out the rules by which government has to

--continued on page 2

HOLIDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 9

9:00 a.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

All Glen Echo residents invited

Please call the Clerk-Treasurer

at 320-4041 to make reservations

THE ECHO

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TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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

20812

Office Hours: Mon. & Fri.: 9:30-noon; second Sat. of mo.: 9:00-noon; third Wed.: 8:00 pm-9:30 pm..

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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.

CHARTER (from page 1)

work and sets out the duties and responsibilities of town officials, including council, the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer.

The Institute of Government Services will next undertake a general revision of the town ordinances, the specific laws which are passed by the town government under the umbrella of the charter.

Revision meetings are open to the public. The final draft of the charter will be circulated to town residents and published as required by Maryland law before it is formally adopted. A copy of the draft revision of the charter is currently available at the Town Hall.

—Jim Anderson



**REAL ESTATE? Tell a friend to call JANE STEVENSON
at Coldwell Banker. (O) 654-3222 (H) 229-3578**

COUNTY PLANS STOP LIGHT AT PARKWAY ENTRANCE

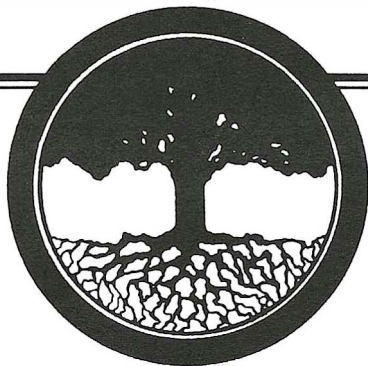
By Carlotta Anderson

The county Dept. of Transportation is planning on putting a stop light on MacArthur Blvd. at the three-way intersection near the Inn at Glen Echo where cars enter and leave the Clara Barton Parkway.

In a telephone call to the town office, a county spokesperson mentioned that the stop light was part of a bigger project to widen MacArthur Blvd. on the hillside side in the area of the parkway access.

Mayor Beers called the project "a really bad idea" and questioned who petitioned the county to take this step. No one she spoke to seemed to know. She said she hoped the town could mount an effective opposition.

When she spoke to county officials, she also learned that they had lost all information the town provided them regarding its desire for a pedestrian signal at Princeton Ave. that would enable townspeople to safely cross MacArthur Blvd.



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TOWN APPROVES ADA PLAN

By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson

The town council at its October meeting voted to approve a plan for modifications to the Town Hall to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

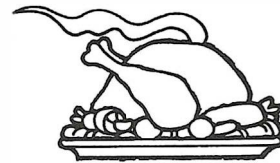
The survey and plan were devised by architect Joanne Murray, a resident of the town, and her firm, Murray and Associates. Its cost was \$8,700.

The cost of the construction itself will depend on which of several alternate proposals the town decides on. The mayor estimated that it would be around \$70,000.

Mayor Beers warned that the town probably will have to stick to federal rules when bidding the final work. This might include Davis-Bacon Act wage scales, for example, she said.

The town will likely go with the county's plan for obtaining Community Development Block Grants for the work because the county offers more aid in preparing various documents.

The county offers 100 percent of the construction costs but only of work performed under the grant. This would not include curb cuts already done nor the survey of ADA requirements.



ADA MODIFICATIONS WON'T CUT MUCH TOWN HALL SPACE

Members of a volunteer committee, including three Town Council members, looked over the Town Hall one evening last month with a view to seeing how ADA modifications, including a second-floor toilet with handicapped access, would affect the available space in the upstairs hall.

The survey, suggested by resident Norman Bernhardt, an organizer of the Country Dance evenings, checked the proposed dimensions, which were laid out in tape on the floor by resident Joanne Murray, the consulting architect who is advising the town on ADA matters.

No decisions or proposals were made, but it appeared that the proposed modifications would only impinge by about one foot beyond the present kitchen counter and thus would not have a major impact on the usable space, especially if some storage space for mops and brooms were provided.

Ideas are to be explored further, including building an extension for the new restroom.

—Jim Anderson

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

October 9

The mayor said she will set up a single-topic community meeting to discuss plans for the **new storm drainage line...**

Town resident Norman Bernhardt told the council that the **floor in the town hall** recently was covered with a thick coating which stuck to the dancers' shoes in chunks. He asked to be allowed to take over maintenance of the floor so that dancers could count on finding a consistent surface from week to week. The matter will be discussed with the town hall maintenance firm before the issue is resolved...

Mayor Beers said that a longstanding holdout has finally purchased a town license for their dog. She said the **animal control ordinances** are seriously in need of revision because of the town's difficulty in handling this area of responsibility. She thought the town should probably turn the job over to the county because residents' health and safety are at stake...

The town's **new street signs** should be installed soon, Clerk-Treasurer Springuel said. Councilman Anderson noted that the stop sign on Oxford at University Ave. is widely ignored. No definitive action was taken. He also warned of a treacherous pothole covered with leaves in front of 6104 Bryn Mawr Ave. It was put on a list of street repairs to be done...

Councilman Anderson reported one longstanding **vehicle control** case finally resolved and no others pending. He reiterated that he will not go onto private property uninvited to pursue a vehicle control case and will not act in such cases unless he receives a **written** complaint...

—David Sproul

POLICE NOW ENFORCING VENDING REGULATIONS

By Carlotta Anderson

Montgomery County police began enforcing the new vending laws at the beginning of October and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has put a No Vending sign at its lot at the corner of Wilson La. and MacArthur Blvd.

Other than those wanting to sell used cars, all vendors who once plied their wares there appear to have re-located.

Because the site is within 300 feet of both a traffic signal and an intersection, it cannot qualify as a vending site under the laws which became effective in July, according to Craig Homesley of the Corps of Engineers.

In the first months after the laws were passed, vendors were just given warning notices, but now citations will be issued. This will probably include car vendors.

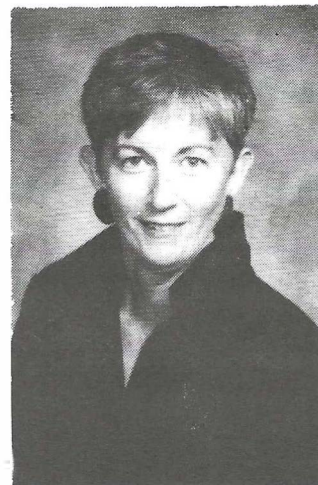
The Corps of Engineers plans to keep the site open for recreational parking.

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 13—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor if you wish 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



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A half-mile past the one lane bridge

GROWING DEER PROBLEMS PROVOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public concern about the growing number and activities of white tailed deer impelled the county to set up a special task force in 1993. Its Comprehensive Management Plan for White-Tailed Deer is currently under discussion, with implementation of it to begin in the next months.

Its aim is to reduce deer-human conflicts, including deer-vehicle collisions, damage to shrubs, gardens, crops, and natural areas, and the possibility of transmission of Lyme disease.

A wide range of management alternatives is being considered. Some are as mild as repellents, scare devices, supplemental feeding and habitat management. Others include a controlled hunt by specially tested hunters or sharpshooters positioned on elevated platforms, trapping and relocation, the use of contraceptives and the restoration of predators like the eastern cougar.

Public hearings on the problem were held in area high schools last month. For more information on the plan call (301) 650-2613.

LIVELY TURNOUT AT TOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY

By Carlotta Anderson

At least 60 people, including a knight, a witch, a devil, Cleopatra, a scarecrow and a jack-in-the-box showed up at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 29 for the annual Halloween party.

Festivities included an extremely competitive game of musical chairs, won by Liam Springuel, a costume parade, won by many small residents, gas balloons and a large array of refreshments.

Volunteer efforts were provided by Tina Quinn, Cindy and Michael De Paolis, games; Veronique Rahill and Sarah Patton, costume parade competition; Michele Wells, Julia Wilson, and Meris Steele, refreshments; Kate Horwitz, Padraic Springuel and the Girl Scouts, decorations and set-up; and Joanne Murray and Kate Horwitz, clean-up.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: All Nighter WOOD STOVE looking for a new home. Best offer. Call Veronique or Bill at 320-0317.

BABY SITTER wanted for 5 yr. old charming daughter for occasional mom & dad night out, weekdays and week-ends. Should be 15 yr. old or more. Veronique or Bill at 320-0317.

LEAF RAKING AND SNOW SHOVELING. Call 320-2699 and ask for Bernie. Town of Glen Echo residents only.

FOR SALE: Youth's Bunk Beds, colonial style, maple stain, good cond., incl. 1 mattress. \$90. Wooden High Chair, antique type, \$10. Child's Booster Seat, \$5. Three large professional Wooden Easels, good cond. \$15 ea. Call 320-3904 after 6 pm or weekends.

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.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

September 1995

Knopf Law Offices	\$388.05
Landscape Projects	\$1,273.76
John Gogarty, MAI (appraisal, right-of-way)	\$1,200.00
<i>(A full accounting of all bills paid and payments received is available as part of the town council minutes.)</i>	

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



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

BRIEFLY NOTED

We recently saw a town resident and her helper pruning, fertilizing and mulching **trees on MacArthur Blvd.** alongside the town. The 14 pin oaks, sugar maples, honey locusts and sweet gums were planted by several residents as well as by the town...

After three long years, work on rebuilding the **cantilevered bridge of the Clara Barton Parkway below Glen Echo** is completed, the *Washington Post* reported. The bridge, one of the area's more unusual road structures, has a left lane outbound built over the left lane inbound. The retaining wall that holds it together was cracking, and the upper road needed redecking. The repair project cost \$2.3 million...

The National Park Service has redecked the old railroad bridge over the C&O Canal towpath and Canal Rd. at Arizona Ave. The 87-year-old bridge will carry the **Capital Crescent Trail**, a paved path for hiking, biking, jogging and in-line skating between Bethesda and Georgetown. Montgomery County expects to complete building two bridges for the trail—one over River Rd.—within the next six months.

The 10 foot wide path will extend from the towpath near Key Bridge to Bethesda Ave. over an abandoned railroad right of way...

—**Carlotta Anderson**

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.

THE KEYHOLE

By **Tillie McNoldy**

Richard Carroll, formerly of 6105 Yale Ave., does it again! Not satisfied with having his first book published last month, he now announces that his wedding to **Tiffin Bird Shewmake** will take place this month.

The big day is Nov. 4, and Riverdale, Md., will be the scene of the event. The vows will be exchanged at Riverdale Mansion, followed by a reception.

Nancy Miller, who at one time lived at 6101 Bryn Mawr Ave., paid a visit to her "home town" and her friends. Nancy now lives in Wausaukee, Wis., but has fond memories of her childhood in Glen Echo.

(Help Tillie peer through the keyhole. Tell her what's going on with your family by leaving a message at 6100 Princeton Ave.)

WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

There are four new residents at 6106 Bryn Mawr Ave. **Michele** and **John Wells**, with children **India**, five-and-a-half, and **Charlie**, 4, moved to Glen Echo in July from Silver Spring.

They happened upon Glen Echo while househunting and "fell in love with the charm and appeal of the small town," says Michele.

Michele is an actress who does narration for the Library of Congress books on tape. John is marketing director for Technical Resources International, Inc. India is in kindergarten at Bannockburn Elementary School and Charlie attends nursery school in Brookmont.

—**Julia Wilson**

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

1 Wellesley Circle

\$349,500

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

November

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.

Sat. & Sun, Nov. 11 & 12. Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Volksmarch Hike. Start and finish at town Hall. Each day 5 km, 10 km and 25 km walk, mainly on towpath. Start when you like and go at your own pace.

Wed., Nov. 15. 9:30 a.m. Springfield Garden Club (see article this page)

December


Every Wednesday, English Country Dance. (See Nov. listing)

Sun, Dec. 3. C&O Canal Association Board Meeting. 1:00 p.m.

Sat, Dec. 9. **TOWN PANCAKE BREAKFAST.** 9:00 a.m. Call town office for reservations.

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YARD SALE GREAT SUCCESS

The town's recent yard sale was a "fun day" and a "roaring success, town council members agreed at their October meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Edie Springuel said that there were 13 registrations, two dropouts and one sneak-in, for a total of 12 tables. The cost of participation was \$5 to help promote the event.

Suggestions for next year's event were aired. One resident asked for more advanced notice so that townspeople could generate a larger pile of castoffs. Several suggested timing the event to be close to the end-of-the-month trash pickup so that unsold items could be quickly moved out.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS AT GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Holiday mantel arrangements is the topic of the meeting of the Springfield Garden Club at the Glen Echo Town Hall on Wed., Nov. 15. All Glen Echo residents are invited to attend.

The flower arrangements will be demonstrated by Linda Roechelin, National Cathedral Altar designer.

Refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m, with the meeting to begin at 10 a.m. Please reserve by calling Jessie McCardell, 320-4819.

POLICE REPORT CONTINUING BIKE THEFT EPIDEMIC

An epidemic of bike thefts, mostly from garages, has caused the Montgomery County Police to issue a Crime Prevention Alert.

Here are some of their suggestions to avoid this problem:

- Always keep your garage door closed.**
- Always lock the doors and windows of your garage.**
- Always lock your bicycle whether it is inside or outside the garage.**
- Always lock your vehicle and remove all valuables.**

Report all suspicious activity and crime to the police without delay. Dial 911 for emergency, 279-8000 for non-emergency.

The police also emphasize that county law requires you to register your bicycles with the police. This may be done for 50 cents at any county police station.

County law also requires that all children 17 and younger **MUST** wear a helmet while riding or being carried on a bicycle.

GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

DANCES

Sat., November 4—Walt Wagner and His Serenaders, \$8

Sat., November 11—Roy Carrier & the Night Rockers, \$10

Sat., November 18—The O'Tones, \$8

Sun. aft., Nov. 19—Waltzing with The Vienna Strings Ensemble, 4-6 pm, \$6

Sat., November 25—The Tom Cunningham Orchestra, \$8

Every Friday night—Square, contra and country dances, 8:30-11 pm, \$5

Every Sunday night—Square and contra dancing, 7:30-10:30 pm, \$5

ADVENTURE THEATRE

A Little Princess

November 4-December 10

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$5.00 Call 320-5331

THE PUPPET COMPANY

To November 17:

Cinderella

November 24-December 22:

The Nutcracker

Wednesday through Saturday, 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00

Tickets: \$5. Call 320-6668

EVENTS AT THE PARK

Friday, November 10—*Poetry in the Park*

Sat. & Sun, November 11-12—Seneca Valley Sugarloafers' Volksmarch

Sun. & Mon, November 19-20—Modern Dance Performance in the Glen Echo Dance Theater



CANAL FOUNDATION LAUNCHES FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The C&O Canal Association has agreed to be the tax-exempt umbrella organization for a campaign to raise \$3,000,000 in three years for work on the Monocacy Aqueduct, according to Nancy Long, a member of the board.

She said the aqueduct is possibly the most majestic structure along the canal, with its seven stone arches. It was stabilized after damage in 1972 and will benefit from further stabilization, providing continuity for the towpath, she said.

—David Sproul

ABANDONED VEHICLE POLICY FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

Cars on the public streets which are not currently licensed will be towed by county police immediately.

Licensed cars parked on the street which are not moved for a reasonable period of time - two weeks - will be issued one warning, after which a Municipal Infraction Notice will be issued. Unlicensed cars on private property will be the subject of a warning and then a Municipal Infraction Notice if the responsible Town Council member, Jim Anderson, is given a complaint in writing by a town resident.

The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential, even from other members of the Town government.