

The Echo

The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



November 1996

TOWN ENDORSES "NO" VOTE ON BALLOT QUESTION E

By Jake Quinn

The town council unanimously voted at its October meeting to endorse a "no" vote on Question E on the Nov. 5 ballot after hearing from six representatives of the Glen Echo Fire Department and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

Question E asks citizens to vote for or against adding a section to the County Charter providing for the establishment of one county-wide fire and rescue department, headed by a county fire chief, with full operational and administrative authority over all fire and rescue services including those provided by volunteers.

The fire services representatives, who included Chief Larry Gattis of the GEFD and Peter Morris, Captain of the BCC-RS, asked the endorsement of the town in opposition to Question E.

Michelle Buteau, president of the GEFD, said that the Career Fire and Rescue Officers Association in conjunction with the Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services Employees (together "the Union") sought to establish a county fire chief with authority to control the deployment of firefighting and rescue apparatus across districts, including that of independent units such as the all-volunteer GEFD.

—continued on page 3

RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE; BACK TO SQUARE ONE?

By Carlotta Anderson and Jake Quinn

After 30 years of effort, dating back to 1966, thousands of dollars in legal costs and countless hours spent by town officials, not to mention the passion and occasional acrimony involved, the town appears to be back to square one in its attempts to acquire the former trolley right-of-way alongside its border.

Leonard Bebchick, the attorney for the Riders Group with whom town officials negotiated for three years before reaching an agreement in May to purchase the property for \$90,000, has indicated to the town attorney that he is no longer in the picture. Just as the deal was about to be finalized, the U.S. Court of Appeals transferred the property to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), effective July 31.

Despite this, Mr. Bebchick continued to maintain that he had the authority to transfer the property and urged the town to proceed with the purchase without undertaking a title search. Councilman Anderson noted at the last town council meeting that it was a good thing that the town did not hand over a check to Mr. Bebchick because he did not have the

—continued on page 4

THE ECHO

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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.

TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

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20812

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or by appointment

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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Daryl Kuster 229-2070

ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Kathleen Horwitz 320-2171

Barbara Odell 229-4494

Sarah Patton 320-0037

STREET SIGNS FOR SALE

There are still old street signs available for sale (\$10 each) at the town hall. Please call the clerk/treasurer at 320-4041 to arrange for your viewing of the signs. The following are still available:

Columbia Ave. -1	MacArthur Blvd. -1
Princeton Ave. -3	University Ave. -10
Yale Ave. -1	Cornell Ave. -5
Oberlin Ave. -3	Radcliffe Lane -2
Vassar Circle -4	Oxford Rd. -1
Tulane Ave. -4	Wellesley Circle -3

CORRECTION

Last month's issue was incorrectly dated September, 1996. It should have read October, 1996.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**To Mayor, Town Council and all citizens of
Glen Echo,**

Thank you for your help, sympathy and donation to the American Cancer Society in memory of our husband and father, David W. Fessenden.

The Fessenden Family

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 11—8:00 p.m.

Glen Echo Town Hall

Contact the mayor to add an item to the agenda

QUESTION E (FROM PAGE 1)

This would shift control of GEFD resources from the elected Conduit Road Fire Board to the proposed county fire chief, losing for Glen Echo area residents the ability to control the equipment paid for and owned by local taxpayers, including the new Engine No. 112, she said.

Negotiations between the Union and the Montgomery Fire and Rescue Commission began in March, but broke off during the summer, when the Union decided to take their petition to the electorate, Ms. Buteau said. She said she believes the issue should be resolved through negotiations rather than referendum, a stance also taken by the League of Women Voters.

She said the 19 community-based county fire departments have established The Committee to Save Our Community Fire/Rescue Departments to oppose the petition because they themselves may not lobby.

Ms. Buteau said that in the case of the GEFD the proposal essentially would violate state law, but it would probably require a court challenge to clear up the issue. The GEFD is governed by popularly elected area representatives; John Barrett is Glen Echo's representative.

She said the Union's efforts were motivated by a desire to provide job security for career firefighters, who are paid roughly \$40,000-50,000 per year, with fire captains earning \$60,000-80,000.

Councilman Brintnall expressed concern over the difficulty in adopting a formal decision when only one side was being heard, but at the same time acknowledged that timing was a problem. It was pointed out that proponents of Question E had not approached the council.

A motion to adopt a position in opposition to Question E but encouraging elected officials to address the issues administratively and legislatively passed unanimously.

LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night
at 6105 Harvard Ave.*

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 8:00 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Raya Bodnarchuk, 229-3413

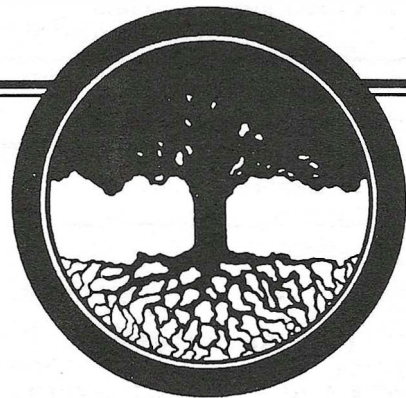
PHONE CO. ACCUSED OF BUTCHERING TOWN TREES

Councilwoman Gloria Levin expressed anger at last month's town council meeting over Bell Atlantic's unannounced "butchering" of town trees, reportedly done to accommodate new telephone and cable lines.

She said it created a huge hole in her magnolia tree. Councilwoman Nancy Long mentioned the "degradation" of a number of trees, including one of the weeping cherries on University Ave., the oak in front of the town hall and the willow oak in the town park.

Clerk/treasurer Edie Springuel said she has been unable to find anyone at Bell Atlantic who knows anything about the work and that the town had not received any notification of the tree cutting. Mayor Beers directed that a letter of complaint be drafted to the Public Service Commission.

--Jake Quinn



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RIGHT-OF-WAY (FROM PAGE 1)

ability to deliver the right-of-way to the town, all representations to the contrary notwithstanding.

Meanwhile, neither the mayor nor the town attorney has been able to get any kind of response from WMATA as to whether it considers itself bound to honor the agreement with Mr. Bebchick. "No one seems able to say yes or no, or indicate they have any authority in the matter," Mayor Beers said.

She said the town attorney has indicated he thinks WMATA might even try to negotiate for a higher price.

The National Park Service, which wants to buy the section of the right-of-way bordering Glen Echo Park, has been similarly unable to contact a WMATA official who has authority in this matter.

"I'm very disappointed," Mayor Beers said. "After about 30 years of effort I thought everything would be resolved favorably by this time. It seems we are back to the drawing board."

Until a foreclosure sale of the property to the Riders Group in 1993, the town was discussing purchase with representatives of O. Roy Chalk and D.C. Transit.

TRASH PICK UP CHANGES

The bulk pick up for December will be on Dec. 18, instead of Dec. 25, due to the holiday.

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.

TOWN HOPES FOR VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WITH SNOW PLANS

By Jake Quinn

The town is hoping that when snow is anticipated residents will comply with requests to park their cars only on the northeast (MacArthur Blvd.) side of University Ave. so that town streets can be plowed effectively.

Residents who live on University Ave. are also asked to park on side streets if at all possible to reduce the demands on University.

Bulletins will be distributed outlining these plans, followed up with phone calls when snow is expected, Mayor Beers said at the last town council meeting. Temporary signs will be posted as well.

A snow policy meeting held Sept. 30 to discuss snow removal plans was attended by Renny Springuel, Leah Hertz, Jim Shaut, Bea Smith, Harry Odell and Mayor Beers. The committee plans to meet again after the first snowfall.

Residents who plan to leave their cars on University when they are out of town will need to coordinate with neighbors to enable the cars to be moved in the event of snow, Councilwoman Levin pointed out.

The mayor suggested that if the voluntary approach planned for this season is not effective, other less voluntary means will need to be implemented.

CLASSIFIED ADS

GLEN ECHO HOUSE FOR RENT. \$850/mo for one; \$975/mo for two; plus 5/6 of fuel oil and elect., 1/2 of water. 3 b. and bath upstairs. L. R. and large kitchen on 1st floor. Available Dec. 1. Non-smokers. Front and rear porch. Large lot in rear. Owner has one rm. & toilet on 1st floor w. sep. entrance for storage. Leave message in Bartlett mailbox, 6101 Harvard Ave.

BANNOCKBURN COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL will be holding an Open House on Nov. 9 from 10 am-noon. Meet our teachers, see our classrooms, and sign up for our 1997-98 classes for 2-5 year olds.

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.**

OTHELIA "TILLIE" MCNOLDY 1913-1996

"Tillie" McNoldy, a beloved resident of Glen Echo for the past 51 years, died at her home at 6100 Princeton Ave. early Sunday morning, October 6. Her husband Earl, known as "Mac," was at her side.

A vivacious, friendly and energetic woman, Tillie will be much missed in the Glen Echo community. She was known to everyone during her 13 years as a clerk at the Glen Echo postoffice, and after her retirement in 1975, was often seen tending her garden, since she was very fond of flowers. In fact, a patron of the post office who developed a prize-winning dahlia in a particular shade of purple named it after her--the "Tillie" dahlia.

Tillie was a prominent contributor to *The Echo* almost from its revival under the current editor in April, 1974. She began writing "The Keyhole" column in August of that year and continued to submit news of Glen Echo residents, current and former, until a few months before her death. She also undertook the job of sending out all the mailed subscriptions each month and keeping records on subscribers.

She also delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years, helped with town Halloween parties, and was active in church affairs. During World War II she was a Gray Lady with the Red Cross. She bowled in a senior citizen's league, to which "Mac" also belonged, until a few weeks before her death.

Tillie and Mac were married in 1941 in Reading, Pa. She stayed there while he served in the U.S. Army in Europe for two years as a cartographer. After his return in 1945, he got a job with the U.S. Army Map Service in Brookmont and they moved to the Princeton Ave. home.

A memorial service was held Oct. 9 at the Pilgrim Lutheran Church, which many Glen Echoans attended. It included eight hymns which Tillie had picked out for her service several years before.

Survivors include her husband, three children, Earl D. McNoldy of Tampa, Nancy Farhood of Gaithersburg and Sharon Kleinfelter of Danville, Va.; a brother, Clarence Gilham of San Pedro, Calif; and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 11331 Amherst Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902.



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WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

New resident **Peter Zeidenberg**, who attended Pyle Jr. High and Whitman High School, was lured back to the Glen Echo area in July when he took up residence at 23 Wellesley Circle. His wife since September 1, **Angie Zeidenberg**, however, is a Texan. She brought with her another Texan, **Prissy**, a miniature six-pound white Maltese poodle who was found eight years ago on a busy street in Austin.

They have been busy remodeling their 65-year-old house, painting and planting flowers, and meeting townspeople, which they say they're enjoying very much. "The people we've met have been very nice," Peter said.

He's an Assistant U.S. Attorney (federal prosecutor) in D.C.; she teaches third grade at the Terrace Elementary School in Annandale. She attended the University of Texas in Austin; he is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Boston College law school.

Peter is an avid tennis player and Angie loves to cook. Welcome to you both!

WANT ASPHALT WORK DONE?

Anyone wanting private asphalt work done at their own cost while the E.E. Lyons Co. is doing street repair work can call Ralph Salvador at E.E. Lyons--tel: (703) 759-2171 or fax: (703) 757-5031.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T "DO" CATS

Dipper, a male Russian blue feline, found himself on his own after climbing to the top of a 60-80 foot elm in his 15 Vassar Circle yard last month. He had to spend the night in the treetop after the Glen Echo Fire Dept. told his owners, the Quinn family, "we don't do cats."

After Dipper, normally an indoor cat, bolted out the door and up the tree, Conor Quinn, 16, climbed to the rooftop in hopes of snatching him. This made Dipper climb out of reach. Unfortunately, Conor found he couldn't get down himself.

Responding to human dangers is on the fire department list, and Conor was rescued, but by then Dipper was so high it would have required a hook and ladder truck to reach him. The firemen reassured the family that they had never seen a cat skeleton in a tree.

The next day they hired a professional tree climbing company, which went all the way to the top and lowered Dipper in a cat carrier.

Dipper, who will be a year old this month, has not learned his lesson and still tries to sneak out, Tina said. Nevertheless, he's "a wonderful cat, everyone's baby."

STREET REPAIRS CAN BE DONE IF GOOD WEATHER HOLDS

By Jake Quinn

Because WSSC has delayed completion of street and sidewalk repairs that were necessary after the major water pipe repairs it undertook in summer, the major street repair and slurry seal work scheduled for town streets has been delayed.

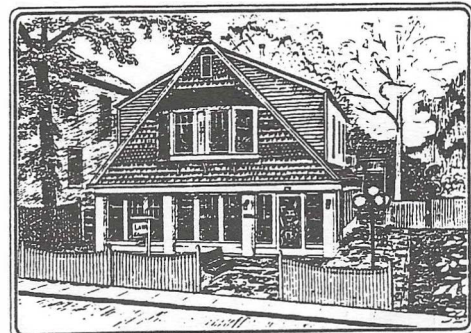
It is now a question of whether the current favorable weather conditions will continue long enough for the work to be completed before winter.

E.E. Lyons, the contractor selected by the town to do the street repairs, has estimated the cost at \$17,000-20,000, Councilwoman Gloria Levin told the town council last month. Added to that is the \$15,480 cost of the slurry seal over all the streets, plus an escalator for not having had the work started by the end of July. Nearly a third of the total is for an extensive repair on Oxford Rd. that will probably cost \$5,000.

The council approved authorization of expenditures not to exceed \$40,000 to cover the work. Councilwoman Levin pointed out that the streets would have to be completely clear in order to apply the slurry seal.

Mayor Beers expressed appreciation for Ms. Levin's work on the street repair project.

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



Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

October 14

The council reviewed two bids for repairs of the **post office storm drain**, each describing a different work plan. There is a question about whether the conduit from the storm drain box to the drain pipe is large enough to handle the water volume. In addition, the scope of the work needed on the storm drain box is uncertain, resulting in the disparate bids. With recent work having cleared the drain, it is not an emergency and the town will try to clarify what work should be done before proceeding...

The council approved a new **six-foot teak bench** for the town park. The cost is \$624 plus \$173 for installation. A site has been selected that will permit placement of additional benches in the future...

Councilman Anderson, who is in charge of **vehicle control**, reported that a warning letter has been sent concerning a pick-up truck on Bryn Mawr Ave. A sailboat on Columbia has been moved from its former location and no action is planned absent a written complaint, he said. An old case, involving a trailer parked on the right-of-way at Harvard, remains open pending resolution of a storm drain problem. He will investigate a truck parked in front of a fire hydrant on Bryn Mawr Ave...

Carlotta Anderson requested that a **barrier** be installed as a safety measure alongside the lower section of Bryn Mawr Ave. Councilwoman Levin will get a recommendation and cost estimate from E.E. Lyons, who will be doing street repairs soon...

The mayor and council met on Tuesday, Oct. 22 to perform a final review of the proposed changes to the **town charter**...

--Jake Quinn

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

September, 1996

Plumb Square (street signs)	\$462.55
Norman Knopf (legal)	\$1,554.12
Landscape Projects	\$266.00

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

ALL LIGHTS AGAIN AGLOW

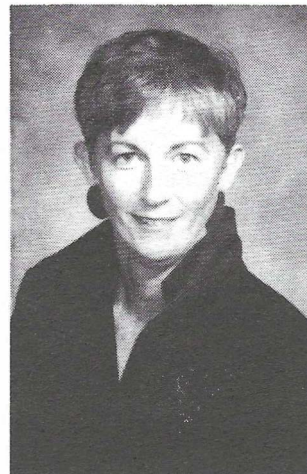
By Councilman Jim Anderson

John Lee and I conducted a survey of the town's street lights on Oct. 20 and found four lights either burned out or broken. They were reported to Pepco, which carried out the necessary maintenance within a week.

Generally, there should be no need for the town to get involved in what is a simple transaction. If you see a light that is out on your street, write down the number that is on an aluminum plate nailed to the poll, the exact location of the light (house number and street) and phone 202-833-7500 to report it.

Clerk-Treasurer Edie Springuel has been trying to keep track of Pepco's performance. She would appreciate it if, after calling Pepco, you call the town hall number (320-4041) and leave on the answering machine the date you called Pepco, the name of the person you spoke to and the location of the light. The necessary work is usually done within a few days.

Pepco has informed the town that it intends to upgrade all the street lights in December.



Eleanor

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

907-7600
229-7990



COUNTY FORMALLY OFFERS \$70,000 FOR HALL CHANGES

By Jake Quinn and Carlotta Andersons

After much prodding, the town finally received a letter from the county formally stating that it will provide a loan of \$70,000 for modifications to the town hall required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to make it disabled accessible.

Mayor Beers told the town council last month that she would not ask it to vote on approval of the loan or hold the requisite public hearing until the funds were offered in writing.

The loan offered by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs will be a forgivable loan at a zero percent interest rate with a term of 10 years. The loan is conditioned upon the continued use of the facility as a town hall for the 10 year term; otherwise immediate repayment of the loan will be required.

YARD SALE GOES WELL

Thirteen residents participated in the town wide yard sale on Oct. 5. Some residents reported that they "cleaned up" while others were happy that they made enough money to pay for what they purchased at others residents' yard sales (one man's junk is another man's treasure).

We had a few "friends of Glen Echo residents" participate, paying their fee while sharing their friends' lawn space or using the town park.

Raya Bodnarchuk and Shirley Strong helped provide signs advertising the sale and some of the Springuel boys moved the big signs back to the town hall after the sale. Next year we are in hopes of having other larger signs at the Harvard and Cornell entrances into town. Anyone wanting to help with these please contact the clerk/treasurer at 320-4041.

The town took in \$80 and spent a total of about \$58.50. The balance from the yard sale goes into the budget to offset expenses in the recreation line.

--Edie Springuel

PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET

5906 Oxford Rd.	\$415,900
22 Wellesley Circle	\$269,000

Around Town

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Bill Shultz**, who is at Holy Cross Hospital. Bill is a former town councilman who has lived at 42 Wellesley Circle for many years...

Glen Echo resident **Tina Quinn** and water color instructor **Bonny Lundy** will present their most recent paintings at the Yellow Barn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, on Nov. 2 and 3. The gallery is open from noon-6 pm each day. There will be a reception from 5:00-8:00 pm on Nov. 2...

Walt Whitman High School present "**Barefoot in the Park**" on Nov. 21, 22, 23 at 7:30 pm in the Whitman auditorium. Tickets are \$6. Call 320-6569. Tickets will also be sold at the door...

FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

November:

Wednesday, November 20, 9:30 am. Springfield Garden Club. "Festive Entertaining for the Holidays" by Martha K. Bindeman, of "Finishing Touches." Refreshments served. All Glen Echo residents warmly welcomed. If you plan to attend, phone Jessie McCardell at 320-4819.

Sunday, November 24, 3:00-8:30 pm. Sacred Harp Singers. All are welcome to sing or listen.

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