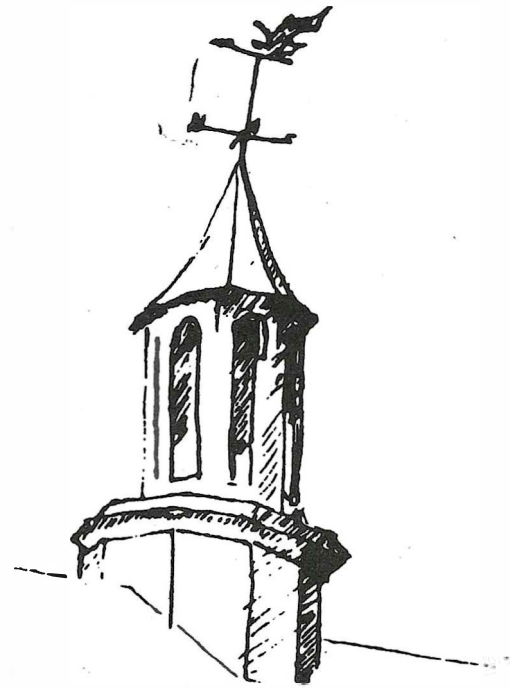


# The Echo

## The Town of GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND Chartered, 1904



September, 1994

### WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT TOWN DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

#### ***PARK SERVICE THINKS OXFORD DRAIN NOW O.K.***

**By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson**

Flooding of yards and basements in the vicinity of the Oxford Rd. and University Ave. intersection may have been eliminated by a "drop inlet" recently installed by the park service above the main drain there.

At least Frank Cucurullo, Glen Echo Park site manager, seemed optimistic when he described the new configuration to the council last month, and it appeared to be functioning well during the most recent storm.

The purpose of the metal and asphalt backdrop is to channel water into the drain even if it becomes clogged with debris, rather than allowing it to flow onto town properties.

Several town residents who have suffered from the overflow met at the site last month with Robert Stanton, Regional Director of the National Capital Region, to describe their problems. He was invited to meet with them by Councilwoman Long, who was present, as was Mayor Beers and Councilman Shultz.

He promised to get whatever expert advice was necessary to solve the problem.

#### **COUNTY PROMISES COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION**

**By Carlotta Anderson and David Sproul**

After a series of water main breaks which have caused repeated "sinkholes" and flooding of Harvard Ave. yards this year, and another series of heavy equipment repairs which stopped the water only temporarily, the county appears to have acknowledged that the system is so deteriorated that a whole new Glen Echo drainage system is required.

Four representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, as well as Montgomery County Councilwoman Betty Ann Krahnke and an assistant, met with Mayor Debbie Beers, Councilwoman Nancy Long, and two town residents at the town hall on August 15 to discuss a resolution of the problem.

The meeting was set up in response to letters from the mayor to John Thompson, Chief, Division of Public Works, and Councilmember Krahnke, asking that the county to take "immediate steps" to deal with a "greatly deteriorated" storm drain system, which includes problem areas of town in addition to the Harvard Ave. location. With her letters, the mayor enclosed letters from several residents describing their difficulties and frustrations during recent storms.

Edgar Gonzalez, Chief, Division of Engineering Services, said

—continued on page 3

## THE ECHO

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## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

208 12

**Town Office 320-4041**

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

208 12

Office Hours: Call to arrange an appointment.

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Anderson 229-3748

Michael Brintnall 229-6792

Nancy Long

Bill Shultz 229-1269

### CLERK-TREASURER

Edie Springuel 320-2699

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Bertha Smith 320-3629

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD

Daryl Kuster 229-2070


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.

## SOME VEGETATION STILL BLOCKING SIDEWALKS

Some half dozen residents who have still not trimmed back vegetation which overhangs town sidewalks will be receiving letters soon giving them a last deadline before the town does the work and bills them.

All sidewalks are supposed to remain free of obstruction from plant materials at all times so that they are easily passable for pedestrians. All overhanging vegetation should be cut back to a height of 8-10 feet.

Several announcements have notified residents that the deadline for cutting back overgrowth was August 1.



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## COUNTY PROMISES NEW DRAIN CONSTRUCTION (from p.1)

his office will begin with a comprehensive study of the whole Glen Echo drainage area, including MacArthur Blvd. and Bannockburn, where much of the water coming into town originates. This will take a couple of months, he said, adding "Let's do it right and let's do it just once." He said the department has the money for this analysis.

Included in the study will be drainage problems on Oberlin Ave.; at Oxford Rd. and University Ave. (see article, p. 1), where the department will work in coordination with the Park Service; and possibly elsewhere in town. He asked to see relevant town maps in order to check out the local topography.

Mr. Gonzalez said his next step will be to go to the county council with a proposal for funding for a completely new and upgraded permanent system. He gave no timetable for its completion.

Mayor Beers told the council last month that the project hinges on the county's ability to identify an adequate source of funding. She said it seems uncertain whether the money will come from the county's operations budget or capital improvements budget.

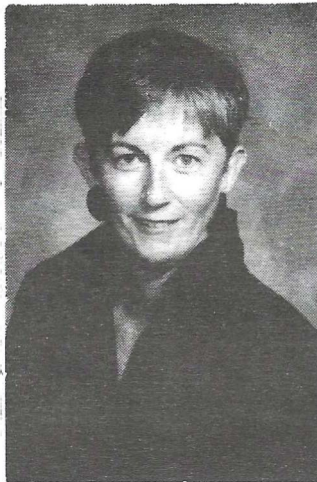
Mr. Gonzalez noted that the present line might be abandoned and a pipe installed under Harvard Ave. itself, instead of in the backyards of residents, as it is now. However, it might be most cost effective keep it where it is. Resident Tom Kenney, who was present at the meeting, indicated he would be willing to grant an easement to lay the new pipe on his property "if that were the only way to do it," and thought the other property owners would listen to such a proposal as well. He said they were especially concerned about possible root damage from major digging to two large trees, a sycamore and an elm.

Mayor Beers described how geysers of water shot up through Oberlin Ave. during a recent storm, leaving cracks in the newly asphalted roadway, and a severely damaged surface. She said that the asphalt contractor believes storm drains run under the street,

—continued on next page

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 12—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."

907-7600  
229-7990



## HARVARD DRAINAGE TEMPORARILY WORKING

By Carlotta Anderson and David Sproul

Crews from the county's Division of Public Works have nearly completed grading and sodding Harvard Ave. back yards after the third major effort to repair breaks in storm drainage pipes there.

Jan Shaut, whose back yard has been a series of sinkholes and mud for most of the year, expressed relief to have "the trauma of the back yard behind us." The patchwork of new pipes, patches, aluminum collars, catch basins and other bits and pieces has apparently worked well during several recent downpours.

The repair is considered only temporary, however. (see article, p. 1).

No work has been done in the backyard of her next door neighbor, Tom Kenney, who says that a sinkhole which developed on August 5 indicates there is at least one unlocated break on his property. He is also concerned that the wall separating his back yard from University Ave. is cracking and pulling away from the sidewalk because of blockage of a grate there.

Mr. Kenney has written a detailed letter to Edward Gonzalez, Chief, Division of Engineering Services, Department of Public Works, describing the history of the sinkholes and the repairs. In the letter, he outlines what he perceives to be the responsibilities of the affected property owners, the town and the county, and asks the county to proceed "with all dispatch."

## **HARVARD DRAINAGE (from p. 3)**

and asked the county engineers to determine if there is a break in the line.

She said she thinks a lot of the drainage problems in that area resulted from the construction of the parking lot several years ago by The Inn at Glen Echo. The county engineers were asked to determine if the restaurant had obtained a permit for construction of the lot, and if the Inn, in fact, actually owns all the asphalted property, since part of the lot appears to be on the former trolley right-of-way.

Water main breaks are not the only cause of drainage problems, however. Since the streets have been re-surfaced many times since their construction, the height of curbs has been relatively lowered, making it more possible for water to flow into yards. Mr. Gonzalez suggested milling down the streets to lower their level, but Mayor Beers said this would not be financially feasible for the town.

Several homeowners on Harvard and Bryn Mawr have also "tapped into" the main line, which Mr. Gonzalez said creates problems. "Often, the connections are not the best quality," he said, "and when the system is at capacity, the added pressure can cause breaks."

Although Glen Echo has managed to get the attention of the county for its water pipe problems, its situation is by no means unique, according to a recent article in the Washington Post. Deteriorated pipes, which are aging faster than they are being replaced, are causing breaks throughout the whole metropolitan area. Keeping the water system maintained will become increasingly costly, according to the article, and customers will be the ones to pay the price.

The Division of Public Works has agreed that it is responsible for the maintenance of storm drains in Glen Echo. Its representatives present at the meeting, in addition to Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Thompson, were Andy Fadeley, District Supervisor, Bethesda Depot, and Joel Magram, Senior Engineer, Division of Engineering Services.



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## **NEW CLERK TREASURER ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITIES**

**By David Sproul and Carlotta Anderson**

Edie Springuel, a Vassar Circle resident for more than 10 years, was appointed new town clerk-treasurer at the August town council meeting.

She replaces Kate Horwitz, who resigned after more than two years in the position because of increased responsibilities as a speech/language therapist at the Stone Mill Elementary School in North Potomac.

Ms. Springuel assumed her duties immediately, taking minutes for the meeting. However, Ms. Horwitz resumed the job during the last two weeks of August, while the Springuel family went on vacation, and will assist in the transfer of duties in September.

The appointment was recommended by Mayor Debbie Beers and approved by Councilmembers Long and Anderson, with Councilman Shultz opposing. He complained that he had heard of several applications which were never presented for the council's consideration.

Mayor Beers said that the applications came in "at the eleventh hour" and were from people who lived too far from the town. Citing the need to make a decision before Kate Horwitz left, she said that she chose not to consider these last-minute applications.

Ms. Springuel lives at 21 Vassar Circle with her husband, Renny, and six children. She is president of the Lactation Consultants Association of Greater Washington and has worked as a private lactation consultant.

### **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.

## RUTH E. MCWILLIAMS CORDER

Ruth E. McWilliams Corder, wife of Frank G. Corder and mother of Michelle Corder, died June 29 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, following a severe heart attack she had suffered two days earlier.

Ruth and Frank Corder lived in Glen Echo for 33 years at 6004 Bryn Mawr Ave., where they raised their daughter. Neighbors will remember Ruth for her warm and loving personality, her friendliness and helpfulness, her generous hospitality, her love of all things beautiful, and her many contributions to the enrichment of community life in our town. She loved to garden and to entertain, and had a natural flair for home decorating.

Ruth was born in LaGrange, Ohio, and attended Mount Vernon Academy, where she graduated in 1943 as president of her class. She met Frank on her graduation day. Before moving to the Washington area, she worked in a World War II defense plant in Elyria, Ohio. In 1945, she married Frank in Hyattsville, Md.; their only child, Michelle, was born in Takoma Park in 1947.

Ruth held positions in the human resources offices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Dept. of the Interior, and the Dept. of the Navy. At the time of her retirement, she had administrative responsibility for the college recruitment program, cooperative education programs, and the summer hiring of inner-city youth for the David Taylor Research and Development Center.

After Frank retired, the Corders moved to their farm near Fredericktown, Ohio, in 1986. Both were very active in alumni affairs for Mount Vernon Academy. The *Mount Vernon News* noted that "she devoted her final years to her family and to promoting hospitality at major MVA alumni events."

A memorial gathering was held on July 31 at the Glen Echo Town Hall for Glen Echo neighbors and Washington area friends.

To honor her memory, the Ruth McWilliams Corder Memorial Fund for Mount Vernon Academy Alumni Hospitality has been established. Contributions may be made to MVA Alumni Association, c/o treasurer Naomi Kelly, 27 Eden Ave., Fredericktown, Ohio 43019.

—Nancy Long

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

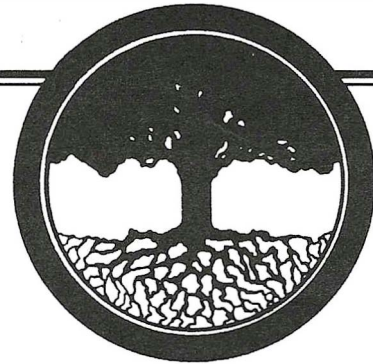
August 8

**A massive White Oak tree** owned by Bell Builders fell across Oberlin Ave. on Aug. 7, a day of unusually good weather. Some on the council speculated that the tree had been undermined by a recent oil spill on the property as well as by digging by a WSSC subcontractor. The street was blocked for a couple days before the owner had the tree removed. The subcontractor also failed to cordon off a deep ditch dug around a fire hydrant, Mayor Beers said, and someone fell into the hole when it was full of water...

Councilwoman Long encouraged the council and residents to see the **new art hanging on the town hall walls**, including framed sketches of town sites by Harvard Ave. artist Brockie Stevenson...

**Electrical upgrading at the town hall** is substantially completed, Mayor Beers reported. The town hall sign is now lit at night. The question was raised why wires run across the rear of the building at a point where a potential elevator would be placed to conform to the Americans With Disabilities Act. She determined later that the electricians felt there was no other logical place to put them, and said she considered it best to leave them there for the time being...

—David Sproul



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## CAR NOTES

Although the problem of cars parked on town streets has improved—there are none that I consider to be abandoned—there are still some cases where unlicensed and undriven cars are parked, apparently eternally, on private property.

To re-state the town's vehicle control policy: the town government acts on its own to deal with cars on public property.

For vehicles that are legally defined as abandoned and that are on private property, I will only act when I get written complaints from other town residents. Although I may think the cars ought to be removed, I won't do anything until I see evidence of community concern.

I think it's a good idea for car-owners to know their own cars, and one good way is to change your car's oil and filter every 3,000 miles or so. With the right tools, including ramps to safely raise the front end of the car, it's a manageable, 30-minute job and it gives you a chance to inspect the underside of the car to see what else may be going on down there.

It's a terrible idea—as well as illegal—to put the dirty oil in some container and throw it out with the trash. Or worse, to pour it down the sewer, where it will wind up in the Potomac. From the recent ugly oil stains on our streets following the trail of the trash trucks, I suspect some oil was included in town trash bags. These bags are quickly punctured by the truck's compacting system, and the residue is left on our streets, eventually to flow down through the sewage system to the river.

A better idea is to collect the drained oil in a plastic container and bring it to the Glen Echo Exxon station, which is certified to handle recycled oil. They will send it off to be used for other purposes. But don't mix any other substance with it. The station has an electronic "sniffer" that rejects anything that is contaminated.

—Jim Anderson, Glen Echo Town Councilmember

## REMEMBER, THE TOWN SPEED LIMIT IS 20 MPH

### HOW TO RECYCLE TELEPHONE BOOKS

New telephone books are in the process of being delivered.

Through Sept. 25, you can drop your old ones off for recycling at the Montgomery County Transfer Station, Rt.355 and Shady Grove Rd., Rockville.

For more information, call the Recycling Hotline at 590-0046, from 1-4 p.m., weekdays.

## THE KEYHOLE

By Tillie McNoldy

A celebration honoring the late **Ruth Corder** was held at the Glen Echo Town Hall on July 31. Many of her friends, family and former neighbors were there to join in enjoying her memory and partaking of her favorite food and music. It was an enjoyable time and one on which Ruth would have placed her stamp of approval.

When residing in Glen Echo, the Corder family lived at 6004 Bryn Mawr Ave. (see obituary, p. 5)...

**Nancy McDonald** of Wellesley Circle has temporarily moved to Cheyenne, Wyo., to help her son raise his two-and-a-half year old daughter. **Daryl** and **Bill Kuster** are living in the Wellesley Circle home in Nancy's absence...

### SOME TOWN PETS STILL NOT LICENSED

Twelve residents were sent letters in early August by Clerk Treasurer Kate Horwitz notifying them that the licenses for their pets had expired on June 30, and that because they had failed to meet the deadline they would be assessed double the regular licensing fee, as provided for in the town ordinances.

Seven responded promptly. As of the beginning of September, the remaining pet owners will have to pay triple the fee, according to the clerk-treasurer.

The normal fee is \$4 for a male or spayed female dog or cat and \$8 for an unspayed animal.

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### Wild Bird Center

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Cabin John, MD 20818  
(301) 229-3141

A half-mile past the one lane bridge

## ***SIDEWALK REPAIRS TO BE DONE SOON***

The number of sidewalk blocks scheduled to be replaced has not yet used up the allotted budget, Mayor Beers told council members last month.

She plans to have HMF Paving, the contractor, install curb cuts at street corners, as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Councilwoman Long asked that the contractor be asked to try to match existing concrete color when replacing blocks, something that was not done well when the last blocks were laid.

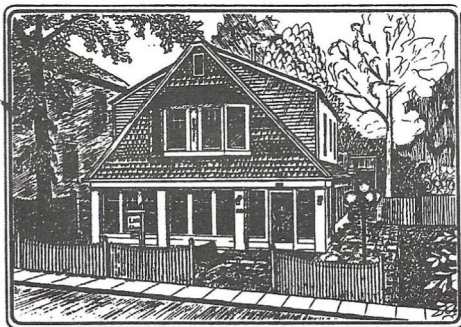
Mayor Beers requested that townspeople refrain from chipping or salting the new blocks this winter in an effort to remove ice or snow from in front of their residences.

—David Sproul

### ***PROPERTIES ON THE MARKET***

13 Vassar Circle	\$449,000
36 Wellesley Circle	\$389,991
7306 University Ave.	\$345,000

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## **BRIEFLY NOTED**

Glen Echo residents had the opportunity to hear a concert of exceptionally beautiful music by **Shetland fiddler** Catriona MacDonald at the town hall on Tuesday, Aug. 16. She performed with piano accordion player Ian Lowthian. Although there was an admission charge for Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club members and the general public, Glen Echo residents were offered free admission...

What could have been a serious **water main break** on Wellesley Circle was repaired by WSSC after residents reported seeing a stream of water flowing out of the street. The emergency repair caused a water service interruption of several hours for nearby residents...

**A bicycle collided with a car** at the Bryn Mawr Ave.-MacArthur Blvd. intersection the morning of Saturday, Aug. 6. The car had stopped at the stop sign prior to turning right into MacArthur but the driver did not see the oncoming bicycle. A boy riding the bicycle was slightly injured. Police determined that both the bicyclist and the driver were at fault, but did not issue any citations. Neither was a Glen Echo resident...

On Aug. 11 at 1:40 a.m., a **Chrysler minivan caught fire** and burned near the intersection of Wilson La. and MacArthur Blvd., causing an estimated \$12,000 damage. The Glen Echo Fire Dept. had no information on the cause other than it was not considered a case of arson...

A three-acre tract, with a beautiful view of the Potomac River, has been purchased by the State of Maryland for a public park, according to *The Heights' Echo*, of Glen Echo Heights. Located near Wissioming Rd. next to a 10-acre tract above the Little Falls basin owned by the National Park Service, the park, to be known as the **Potomac Overlook Conservation Park**, was acquired after a community campaign for its acquisition, which began in 1988. The concept was included in the 1990 Master Plan of the Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission, and furthered by County Councilwoman Betty Ann Krahnke, according to the paper...

### ***GLEN ECHO PROPERTY SALES***

6105 Yale Ave.

\$349,000

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## DANCE SCHEDULE

September 10—Zydeco Dancing with Gino Delafosse, \$10.

September 17—FIFTH ANNUAL SPANISH BALLROOM FUNDRAISER (Sassparilla—swing dancing), \$12

September 24—The Tom Cunningham Orchestra, \$8

October 8—Cajun Dancing with The Basin Brothers, \$10

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

## COMING EVENTS

September 2–5—LABOR DAY ART EXHIBITION  
September 10—CHROHN'S AND COLITIS WALK-A-THON

September 18—CHILDREN'S CHAUTAUQUA DAY. noon to 5:00 (storytelling, performances, workshops)

September 25—TREASURES IN THE ATTIC SALE  
October 6—IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE FESTIVAL.

October 16—WAMU PICKIN' IN THE GLEN BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL.

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

### The Reluctant Dragon

Through September 11

### Pegora the Witch

September 24–October 30

Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30

Tickets: \$4..50 Call 320-5331

### One Bad Apple

A Musical Comedy for the Whole Family

Sept. 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8:00

Sept. 5 at 2:00, Sept. 18 at 3:00

## THE PUPPET COMPANY

### Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs

To October 2

Every Wednesday and Thursday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.

Most Saturday and Sundays, 11 a.m., 1:00 & 2:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$4. Call 320-6668

## AT THE GALLERY

ART GLASS EXHIBIT—September 2–October 2

## *CLEAN YOUR ATTIC FOR PARK FOUNDATION SALE*

The Glen Echo Park Foundation would like you to collect all your junk (other people's treasures) for their fall rummage sale.

They need books, household goods, jewelry, furniture, toys, crafts, sports and office equipment and white elephants—but no clothing—for the Attic Treasures sale on Sunday, September 25.

Call the Foundation office at 320-2330 if you have goods to donate, or drop off your donations weekdays 8:30–5:30 at their office in Glen Echo Park. All donations are tax deductible.

## *FENCE CHOSEN FOR TOWN HALL SITE*

Fearing the liability hazard posed by the new retaining wall which borders the town hall parking lot, the council moved to spend nearly \$1,300 to erect a metal fence along the top of the wall.

The low bid came from Mid-Atlantic Deck and Fence for \$1,257.75.

The fence will be four feet high and will be made of painted aluminum resembling wrought iron.