

# The Echo

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



September 2000

### **PARK SERVICE PROPOSES NEW MANAGEMENT OPTION FOR GLEN ECHO PARK**

**By Phyllis Fordham**

The new alternative management plan of the National Park Service for Glen Echo Park dominated the Aug. 14 Glen Echo Town Council meeting.

Karen Pittleman, Park Site Manager, discussed the NPS's recently released Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. In this statement, the NPS states its preference for a Modified Public Partnership Alternative. This plan was not one of the five possible management "scenarios" NPS suggested more than two years ago.

The new plan is similar to the Public Partnership scenario which was recommended by County Executive Douglas Duncan's Glen Echo Park working group. However, in the Duncan plan maintenance of buildings and grounds would be the responsibility of the NPS. In the alternative plan offered by the NPS, "life cycle" maintenance would be the responsibility of the non-profit organization that would oversee the park's management. This would be done via a Board of Directors, with the NPS serving as an ex-officio member of the Board. Ms. Pittleman indicated that there was no guarantee that a representative from the Town of Glen Echo would serve on the Board.

—continued on page 3

### **TOWN COUNCIL REJECTS PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**By Peter Somerville**

At a special Aug. 22 town council meeting, townspeople and councilmembers discussed how the town should respond to the National Park Service (NPS) draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Glen Echo Park.

In the 150-page document, which was published early this month after two years' study, the NPS states its preferred management option as a Modified Public Partnership with Montgomery County.

Under this plan, Glen Echo Park would continue to be owned and largely maintained by the NPS, but the programs at the park would be managed by a non-profit board overseen by the county. Some maintenance costs would be the responsibility of the board.

Twelve town residents and two visitors attended the special town meeting. A number expressed concerns about the plan and the possible impact it might have on the quality of life in town. Most of the criticism was related to the lack of detail in the document. There is no description of how the board would be constituted and many of the figures in the financial plan are inconsistent.

The council agreed that the NPS's choice of a preferred option did not significantly change the town's

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## THE ECHO

Published unofficially by, for and in the Town of Glen Echo, Maryland. Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* on file at Little Falls and Rockville libraries. Total circulation: 190. Distributed the first weekend of the month.

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**Next Deadline September 22**  
**Printed by Allied Printing, Bethesda**

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: 301-229-3748.



*Printed on recycled paper*

## THE LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*invite all residents to hear Leila Webster  
tell about her three year stint in Vietnam*

*at Carlotta and Jim Anderson's  
38 Wellesley Circle*

*Tuesday, September 19, 8:00 p.m.*

*An acceptance by Monday, September 18  
would be much appreciated*

*301-229-3748*

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND 20812

**Town Office 301-320-4041**

**6106 Harvard Avenue or Box 498, Glen Echo, MD  
20812**

**Office Hours: Monday (if holiday, moved to Tuesday),  
and Thursday: 9:30 am- 12 noon, or by appointment**

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## PROPERTIES SOLD

6100 Princeton Ave.	\$361,000
	(incorrectly reported last month)
41 Wellesley Cir.	\$365,000



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## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN (FROM P. 1)

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which was requested by the Glen Echo Town Council under the Freedom of Information Act in June, ultimately was incorporated into the new Draft Management Plan. The statement noted the increases in noise, which will impact neighborhood streets, stemming from the planned construction and increased traffic. According to the text of the Draft Management Plan, "During a popular dance event as many as 200 vehicles could be forced to park off-site. These vehicles would like park along MacArthur Boulevard and on residential streets in the Town of Glen Echo northeast of the park."

In order for the park to become self-sufficient as laid out in its new budget, there is an assumed tripling of activities and special events at the Park.

The EIS also mentioned the cumulative effect when multiple events, such as golf tournaments, occur on the day of heavy park activity.

Some of the possible ways suggested to alleviate traffic impact included adding directional signs, re-directing overflow traffic, constructing a pedestrian underpass underneath the Clara Barton Parkway Access Road, constructing a parking garage, and improving public transportation. Ms. Pittleman said the underpass, parking structure and an improved parking management plan for special events were considered unlikely alternatives due to the cost.

Copies of the draft plan are available for review in the Town Hall.

Mayor Debbie Beers and other councilmembers questioned why the revised budgets differ substantially from earlier ones. Ms. Pittleman explained that some figures in earlier analysis on other alternatives were incorrect due to omissions. She also discussed the transfer of life cycle (capital improvement) costs from the Park Service side of the ledger to the Public Partnership. Since the Partnership will be increasing use through their marketing efforts and increased use will shorten life cycles of structures and equipment, she said, NPS believes the costs should be borne by the Public Partnership.

Councilmembers also asked about what appeared to be duplicate staffing, since the Partnership will have its own personnel and NPS staff will not decrease under this scenario. Ms. Pittleman explained that the Partnership staff will consist of an executive director, marketing representative and bookkeeper to serve the Partnership. Park staff will be needed to focus on their maintenance issues and, particularly, interpretive topics which the park will continue and expand.

A public hearing will be held by the NPS on the draft plan on Thursday, September 7, in the Spanish Ballroom. Details of the meeting and announcement of a special open session to discuss the draft plan on Aug. 22 in the Glen EchoTown Hall were distributed to all residents.

## TOWN COUNCIL REJECTS PLAN (FROM P. 1)

position that was stated at a public hearing two years ago.

That position emphasized that the town has a special relationship with the park and believed that the NPS alone should continue to manage the park.

Councilman Michael Brintnall said that the new figures in the plan showed that the option of NPS management is viable, whereas under a Modified Public Partnership the county would have to enforce federal policies, which is illogical. He also noted that the document gives no explanation of why the proposed option is preferred.

Mayor Debbie Beers will give the town council a draft of a statement that will be made at the public hearing on Sept. 7, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom (this draft is on the town website: <http://www.glenecho.org>). Town residents are encouraged to attend the meeting.

After the hearing there will be a public comment period until Oct. 13.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 11—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."

907-7600  
229-7990



## COUNCIL VOTES TO CONSTRUCT SPEED BUMPS

By Phyllis Fordham

The Town Council unanimously passed a motion at its August meeting to bid and construct speed bumps as provided for in the recently passed Vehicle Control Ordinance.

The ordinance allows for speed bumps on Bryn Mawr Avenue between MacArthur and University, Oxford below University, and Oberlin between MacArthur and Bowdoin.

Carlotta Anderson, who was in attendance, noted that the new ordinance as passed was not distributed to residents and is not on the town web site [It has since been distributed to each household in town].

The mayor said she is going to draft an amendment to the ordinance which allows for raised crosswalks. She said that if additional speed bumps are desired, there would be time to publish ordinance changes before a hearing that would take place prior to construction.

The Council also considered putting a speed bump on the section of Oxford between MacArthur Blvd. and University, a location that was not included in the ordinance because some residents at that location said they did not want speed bumps there. Part of their reasoning was concern over the effectiveness of speed bumps, and potential danger if a speed bump were placed near the crest of the hill at Oxford, which is already a navigational issue in bad weather.

However, several residents at the council meeting said that a single speed bump on Oxford Rd. below University would not be sufficient to solve the speeding problem.

The issue of bumps on Oxford is a response to perceived speeding of vehicles entering the park for events, rather than those of local residents. Two visitors at the meeting recommended shifting the entrance into the parking lot from lower Oxford to upper Oxford with the exit at the location of the present entrance. Another suggestion was a separate access from MacArthur directly into the park or parking lot

Resident Jim Anderson requested crosswalks on MacArthur at Princeton and perhaps flashing lights. The mayor said that while stop lights on MacArthur Blvd. are very rare, she will send a letter to the county requesting that a crosswalk with blinking yellow lights be placed at this location.

Councilman Norman Bernhardt said he will work on constructing and placing temporary signs in town, which are allowed without a hearing or change in the ordinance. They will include "children at play" and "do not enter" signs. He will also lower stop signs, since several members of the council believe they are more visible when lowered. Councilman Bernhardt will consult with the mayor on placement of any signs before they are erected.


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## OPEN HOUSE AT CLARA BARTON

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Galveston hurricane and tidal wave will be commemorated at the Clara Barton National Historic Site on Sunday, Sept. 10 from noon to 4:00 p.m. It is free and all ages are welcome.

The program will feature a talk and book signing by Erik Larson, author of the best selling book, "Isaac's Storm." Also featured will be a talk and book signing by Elizabeth Hayes Turner, co-author of the soon to be released book, "Galveston and the 1900 Storm."

There will be a special exhibit using photographs taken after the storm which vividly illustrate the devastation.

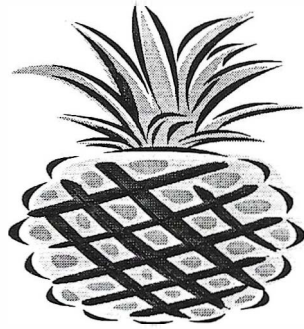


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# The Town of Glen Echo



## Centennial Celebration Lecture Series

Presents - Author/Historian William Offutt  
To Discuss His Book,  
"Bethesda: A Social History"

Where: The Glen Echo Town Hall  
6105 Harvard Ave

When: Sunday Sept 17, 4- 6 p.m.

Books will be available for purchase  
and signing by the author.

Light refreshments will be  
served.

Event is open to all interested persons. For info, call the  
Town Hall, at: (301) 320-4041.

## LETTER TO GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

Farewell dear Glen Echo'ers!

Samir and I would like to thank you for welcoming us in Glen Echo and being our neighbors for the last three years.

When we moved in, coming from Potomac Palisades in DC, we were surprised to discover a real community, where people knew each other and are involved in the town's life. Coming from a French village, I had a true feeling of being at home, to be genuinely welcome and eventually to belong here! *The Echo* played of course an important role in creating this nice inclusion feeling and also the ladies' nights (thanks so much, ladies!), where I learned a lot about the town and its inhabitants.

Maybe the most important though was the luck to have great neighbors (with a special mention to Gloria and Susan!), who took care of the house and the plants during my frequent trips to Indonesia, and would keep me informed of everything by email. We'll keep fond memories of the walks along the canal, the brunches at the Inn, the activities of the park, the lovely gardens .... even the little rabbits and opossums that used to visit us!

We are now moving to Bethesda to give the house back to its owner [Leila Webster], who will, I am sure, be a better replacement for the ladies' night! I was so sad to leave ... every time we drive on McArthur Blvd., I look through the town's streets, peering as if I had left something there ...

**Florence and Samir**

(fcazenave@worldbank.org)



## ANIMAL ORDINANCE ENABLES COUNTY ENFORCEMENT

Councilman Michael Brintnall introduced a draft animal control ordinance at the Aug. 14 town council meeting. It provides for the adoption of Montgomery County regulations and enables county enforcement of them.

Dogs and cats in Glen Echo would require Montgomery County tags. The town would maintain a list of dogs in Glen Echo licensed by the county to aid in identification of stray, lost or injured dogs.

There is provision for a town animal control officer in the new ordinance whose authority would only apply to animals other than dogs and cats.

There is also provision for a Local Animal Advisory Committee whose function would be to informally assist townspeople in resolving disputes regarding pets. The board would have no formal authority.

The proposed ordinance will be debated at the next town council meeting.

A copy of the draft ordinance has been circulated to town residences. It is also available on the town website: <http://www.glenecho.org>.

The Montgomery County provisions can also be viewed at the town hall, or on the web at <http://www.co.mo.md.us/charter/html> as Chapter 5 of Local Laws and Ordinances.

### Paid Advertisement

## THE GLEN ECHO BAPTIST CHURCH

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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.

## TWO RESIDENTS HAVE AN EYE-OPENING TRIP

Elizabeth Schar and Joseph Koenig spent their vacation driving among the minefields and abandoned villages of Bosnia and Croatia. Both had a curiosity about the region and "wanted to see first-hand what was going on."

On the Bosnian-Croatian border they passed town after town that was completely abandoned, the houses full of bullet holes, the roofs stolen by scavengers, the residents all gone. But in Bihac, Bosnia, the scene of extensive fighting, people were calmly walking around among buildings riddled with bullets.

The Wellesley Circle residents had no itinerary. "We didn't know where we were going until we got there," Elizabeth said. Struggling in limited German and Italian, they were able to ask, "Do you have a room?" and, at restaurants, to insist, "No meat" since they are vegetarians.

Wherever they were, "everyone loved Americans." They found the rocky Croatian coast a vacation spot mainly visited by Germans and Poles. Slovenia was undeveloped and seemed like a Germanic country of a half century ago. In the lush hills of Bosnia each tiny town had a minaret looming over a delicate mosque.

The roads were fine and there were no border crossing problems. The trip turned out to be "wonderful and absolutely fascinating," Elizabeth said.

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

August 14

Mayor Beers said recommendations made in the **study on town streets** by A. Morton Thomas and Associates were too broad. She will write asking that the firm provide another report...

The council unanimously voted to award a contract to Hughes Landscaping, the low bidder, to replace **bushes in front of the town hall**...

Removal of contaminated soil from an **abandoned underground storage tank** is not yet complete due to a larger amount of soil than anticipated...

Several councilmembers will invite **Rep. Connie Morella and her opponent in the forthcoming election, Terry Lierman**, to speak at the town hall on separate occasions, so as not to appear political.

--Phyllis Fordham

## BRIDGE, BIKE PATH REPAIRS DELAYED

By Carlotta Anderson

Construction on a concrete lining of the water conduit under MacArthur Blvd. is beginning and will continue for nine months. This will involve digging trenches at various points along the roadway between the D.C. line and Old Angler's Inn and shooting a sand-and-cement mixture into the pipes.

There's good news for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians who use the pre-Civil War era bridge between Glen Echo and Cabin John. Repairs to the Union Arch Bridge which will necessitate its closing to traffic for many months have been re-scheduled from this summer to next.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is only now advertising for new red parapet stones, with a contract to be awarded this month, according to Dave MacGregor, Chief of Planning and Engineering at the Corps' Washington Aqueduct Division. He estimates eight to nine months to procure the stones for the exterior walls, with work to begin at the earliest in July, 2001.

The repaired bridge will include a concrete wall to separate vehicular traffic from the pedestrian walkway immediately adjacent to it due to safety concerns. Mr. MacGregor said that over the years cars have veered over the current low separation wall and hit the wrought iron grillwork at the far side of the walkway but luckily no pedestrians have been hit.

The planned repaving of the rough and cracked surface of the bike path along MacArthur Blvd will have to wait, said Leroy Anderson of the Montgomery County Highway Services Section. Resurfacing of both the road and bike path will only begin after the Corps of Engineers finishes its repairs, perhaps not until after the bridge construction is completed.

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## TOWN BECOMING WILDLIFE CENTER

Suddenly this year we seem to have an abundance of wildlife in town. Many residents have seen the small gray wild rabbits hopping through their yards. Perhaps the bunnies are attracted by the many vegetable gardens here.

When Anne Lewis found a small gray creature no longer than her finger on her Wellesley Circle lawn one morning, she thought it might be a large mouse. Its eyes were closed and it had "a fat little pink tummy." But when Anne noticed it was tailless, she realized it was a baby rabbit. She took it to a wildlife rescue center in Gaithersburg where they told her that baby rabbits are born full of their mother's milk, enough to last a day. They customarily make soft little nests in a depression in the grass and line them with fur.

On one August evening around 6:30 p.m., two deer were munching yew in the front yard of the Andersons' house, also on Wellesley Circle. They were reluctant to be photographed, however. One darted back into the woods, but the other bounded down Wellesley, turning right into Cornell Ave. and then into the woods.

And then there is the unwelcome wildlife: mosquitoes. They are unusually plentiful this year, probably because of almost daily rainfall. Those residents who wear shorts are beset by leg bites and evening picnickers face an onslaught of the buzzing attackers.

It is important for residents to reduce the opportunity for mosquitoes to breed by turning over all containers in which water can be collected. With the advent of the West Nile virus, mosquitoes can be more than just a nuisance. Indeed, a little more than a century ago they carried malaria in this area and it was rumors of an outbreak of that disease that brought the ruin of the Chautauqua headquarters here.

## WELCOME, NEWCOMERS!

◆ **Jane and John Wagner** are spending much of their time these days restoring their new home at 6100 Princeton Ave. They plan to do all the inside "cosmetic" work themselves, assisted by members of their families.

Both families are experienced in renovating houses, which is why the Wagners felt up to taking on the task of doing a whole house restoration of the 1918 building.

For more specialized work, like dry wall, however, they plan to hire professionals. Meanwhile, they say the house is "definitely livable."

Originally from Illinois, the Wagners moved to Glen Echo in July from an area near the Dulles airport. Because they had once lived briefly in the Palisades area they were familiar with Glen Echo and "lucked out" when they saw the Princeton Ave. house advertised for sale. They are especially pleased to live in such a "great neighborhood" because they are expecting their first baby in January.

Jane is an attorney specializing in commercial litigation but is currently devoting her full attention to home improvement. In light of the coming addition to their family, she is not sure about her future plans as a lawyer. John is a partner in a fund-to-fund investment group, Sports Venture Partners, and works primarily out of his home.

They are not planning to enlarge the house at this time, although they might install a master bath upstairs.


Although both John and Jane are very interested in sports, their primary "hobby" these days is "getting the house together."

◆ It's a "welcome back" to **Leila Webster** of 12 Wellesley Circle. Leila spent three years in Hanoi promoting private business for the International Monetary Fund in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Although she enjoyed her stay in Hanoi a lot she is delighted to be back, she said. "The fresh air and green is most appreciated," she said, "and my house is in better shape than when I left." She returned with Felix, the cat she left with, as well as Lucky and Grace, Japanese bobtails from Cambodia. They flew home via Paris and stayed in a cross-species family hotel there one night.

She will be discussing her experience on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Jim and Carlotta Anderson, 38 Wellesley Circle (see page 2). All Glen Echo residents are invited.

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## NOTICE

The Town of Glen Echo is accepting bids for repairs of sidewalk blocks.

Anyone wishing to bid should contact the town Clerk/Treasurer at 301-320-4041 with a per unit price to replace a 3X3 foot concrete block.

## TELEPHONE BOOKS WILL BE PICKED UP

Waste Management will be providing the town with a dumpster for the collection of the new Maryland telephone books when they are delivered in September or October.

This service will be provided as part of the town's contract with the firm.

Telephone books may not be put with other paper recyclables, like paperback books, because of the type of glue in them.

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Heather Cottage

Financial Planning

## LABOR DAY ART SHOW TAKES PLACE THIS WEEKEND

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Art Show held at Glen Echo Park is being held this weekend, Sept. 2-4 from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom.

The work of more than 150 artists will be on display. Most items are for sale.

Visitors to the Labor Day Art Show will enjoy a concurrent watercolor exhibition in the park: "Bonnie Lundy: New Work." It will run through Sept. 24 in the Stone Tower Gallery.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SMALL HOUSE FOR RENT—GLEN ECHO.** \$1,100/mo. unless you are satisfied with existing interior paint colors, then \$1,000/mo. 3 bedrooms, bath, living room, large kitchen, back and front porch. I pay 1/6 electricity & fuel, 1/2 water bill. Call Fred Bartlett after 7 pm at (202) 244-5910.

**FOR SALE—One Life Fitness Stairmaster 5500** \$800. Light wood table with four high back chairs \$300. In excellent condition. Contact 301-263-9463.

*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: 24<sup>th</sup> of each month.*

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**BE SURE TO ATTEND WILLIAM OFFUTT'S TALK ON SUNDAY, SEPT 17, FROM 4-6 P.M.**