



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ SEPTEMBER 2024

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

On July 10, Mayor Costello, Town Manager Angie Zeidenberg, three Council Members—Council Member Spealman was absent—and a couple of residents met on a Zoom call for the monthly meeting. Also in attendance was Eva Webb of LSWG, formerly our auditor, now our financial services provider, who was there to answer questions about recent financial statements.

### Mayor's Updates

Mayor Costello reported on a recent meeting about the planned Clara Barton House renovation. The historical review process is still in progress, and the new anticipated start date is May 2025.

While the main uses of the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will be a new elevator for Town Hall and the milling and repaving of some streets, the Mayor would also like to spend a small part of the money on a Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Town Hall. No one op-

posed this request.

The Town's summer intern will be sprucing up our website, though this may not entail switching away from Wordpress. There may however be a switch to a ".gov" site. Ms. Zeidenberg is also working to introduce an online payment option for Town Hall renters or *Echo* advertisers who prefer not to use checks.

In early July, there was yet another break-in at Glen Echo Park. Using hacksaws and wire cutters, the burglars entered the Crystal Pool and Spanish Ballroom basement, where they stole drills and copper wire.

### Town Financial Services

Ms. Webb of LSWG explained why a budget amendment was necessary to square last year's budget. Money going out should be approved as well as covered by money coming in. A few categories went over budget, but none of them were a surprise, and it was easily covered by a big bump in interest income. The Council passed the amendment to FY24 budget without issue.

Ms. Webb then asked the Council what they would like to see in the monthly financial statement. She said that the reports so far may be too detailed, so the Council was getting bogged down in small monthly fluctuations that are normal. It was agreed that a Budget vs. Actual comparison was helpful and that LSWG would also submit a narrative summarizing the monthly financial activity. Ms. Webb agreed to attend

Council meetings quarterly. The new Town audit will begin soon with SEK.

### Cyber Security

Mayor Costello learned at the recent Maryland Municipal League conference that there is a state requirement for towns to have a cyber security assessment. She is working with the state to undergo that process with the goal of making Glen Echo as secure as it can be. She'll share any details at the September meeting.

### Town Hall Elevator

After several months of weighing two proposals for the elevator replacement that were very different in scope and price, the Mayor presented a new third bid that was more reasonable and included all of the labor. Resident JoAnne Murray, who has been consulting on this process, gave her thumbs up to the \$47K bid

# THE ECHO

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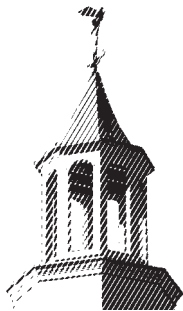
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

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### TOWN MANAGER

Angie Zeidenberg ([townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org))

Next Council Meeting: September 9, 2024, 7:30 PM

from Preferred Elevator, according to Mayor Costello. Pending ironing out the details regarding the warranty on labor and parts and checking references, the Council also gave its approval. The Mayor is hopeful that the install can happen at the end of September. She reports that it should only take a week!

### Odd and Ends

In order to get all of the ARPA funds allocated by the end of this calendar year, the Mayor and Ms. Zeidenberg need to move quickly to get bids for the street milling and repaving. They have already worked with the Town engineers to

identify the highest priority roadways. The Council also discussed whether a group of residents could be tasked with doing the yellow striping after Council Member Wilson mentioned her brothers used to do it.

The Fourth of July parade was a big success, and the Summer Picnic was moved to August 25, because of excessive heat in June.

That heat also means that watering the Bird and Butterfly Garden was a very big job this summer. Vegetation cutback around Town was scheduled for August 5. The loose stones in the path in front of Town Hall need to be repaired.

All of the funds from the



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The Town has set up a separate bank account for funds raised and spent by the Community Garden Committee going forward. Council Member Stiglitz asked if there was a timeframe for spending the \$150K grant procured by Mayor Costello to address stormwater issues around Town

Chesapeake Bay Trust mini-grant have been spent on the creation of the Glen Echo Community Garden—a new, very picturesque addition. If you haven't seen it yet, take a walk past the Irish Inn and consider working a plot.

Hall. The Mayor said the timeframe could be estimated once the funds were in hand. Resident Robin Kogelnik is researching the options.

There was no August Council meeting. —EMILY PARSONS

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It's been a challenging summer for plants. Our extreme heat and drought have left many plants, and gardeners, exhausted from stress. Plants have been exposed to excess sunlight and heat for too long. Therefore, many plants will not thrive and, in some cases, the plants will die. During periods of heat stress, you should consider the following: temporary shading, watering, no fertilizing, applying mulch, and pulling all weeds because weeds tend to be better adapted to extreme conditions. Less water in the soil causes drought stress which leads to wilting. Fortunately, plants can recover when temperatures drop. Permanent damage occurs when a plant remains wilted for an extended period.

While walking through my garden, I look for the plants that wilt first and then consider if I am willing to consistently provide the water they need. If I decide to not continue over watering, I move the plant to more moist conditions with less sunlight or remove it altogether. I have had this experience with a hydrangea which was always the first to wilt while everything around it was still fine. I removed it because I was not willing to water it constantly.

Drip irrigation is an ideal form of watering because the water goes straight to the roots of the plants. Watering

## HOLLY IN THE IVY

by hand is effective when using a watering wand and keeping it close to the surface of the soil. If sprinklers are used, keep water close to the ground to minimize evaporation. It is better to do a deep watering less often than a shallow watering often.



A thorough watering helps plants develop deeper roots as they get needed moisture and nutrients. Watering in the early morning is ideal because temperatures are a bit cooler. The truth is, I water whenever I have the time!

Newly planted plants are more sensitive to heat and drought and need plentiful water to ensure their roots are established. Containerized plants will dry out more quickly than in-ground plants. When young seedlings are planted, watering every day may be necessary until they reach maturity. It is wise to choose native garden plants that need water only in times of extreme drought.

In the accompanying box is a list of plants known as survivors. These plants are tolerant of heat and drought conditions such as we've experienced this summer. Consider planting some of them for a lower maintenance garden. You will conserve water, and your plants will thrive in our conditions!

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

**GARDEN SURVIVORS**

.....

**Shortleaf pine** (*Pinus echinata*)

**White pine** (*Pinus strobus*)

**Eastern red cedar** (*Juniperus virginiana*)

**Persimmon** (*Diospyros virginiana*)

**Black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

**Fragrant Sumac** (*Rhus aromatica*)

**New Jersey Tea** (*Ceanothus americanus*)

**Northern bayberry** (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

**Adam's needle yucca** (*Yucca filamentosa*)

**Maple leaf Viburnum** (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

**'Summer Wine' ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

**Little bluestem** (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

**Switchgrass** (*Panicum virgatum*)

**'Blond Ambition' blue gamma grass**  
(*Bouteloua gracilis*)

**False Indigo** (*Baptisia australis*)

**Butterfly weed** (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

**Blazing star** (*Liatris spicata*)

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

**Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)

**Appalachian mountain mint**  
(*Pycnanthemum flexuosum*)

**Hummingbird mint** (*Agastache 'Blue Fortune'*)

**Silky aster** (*Symphotrichum sericeum*)

**Yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*)

**Bush sage** (*Salvia 'Raspberry Delight'*)

**English lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

**Purple Poppy Mallow** (*Callirhoe involucrata*)

**Sea thrift** (*Armeria maritima*)

**Golden ragwort** (*Packera aurea*)

**Three-leaved stone crop** (*Sedum ternatum*)

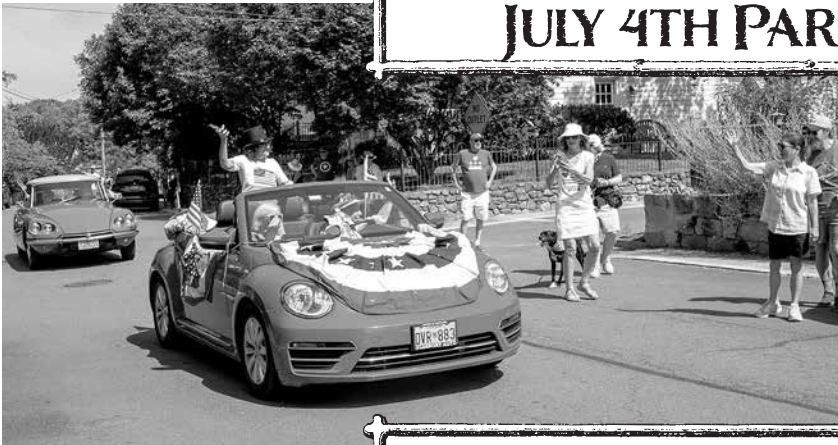


Here's some great online information to check out:

[www.extension.umd.edu/resource/conserves-water-your-landscape/](http://www.extension.umd.edu/resource/conserves-water-your-landscape/)

[www.mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/Documents/tip5.pdf](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/Documents/tip5.pdf)

# JULY 4TH PARADE



# SUMMER PICNIC



The summer was bookended by Glen Echo's annual parade on July 4 and the Town picnic held on August 25, the day before local kids headed back to school.



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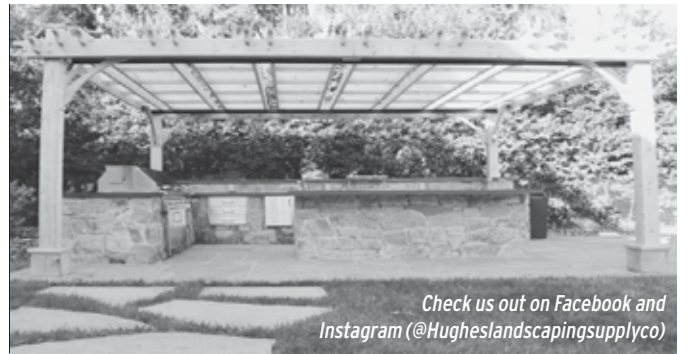
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If you roll around the top of the beltway to the east for about 20 miles or so, you'll find yourself in the unique town of Greenbelt. Though it's now sprawled out to a city of 25,000 people, the historic core is still the charming, walkable, park-filled place first envisioned when it was built under the Roosevelt administration in 1936.

Old Greenbelt, as the residents call it, was an experiment designed to deal with cities overcrowded by depression-era jobseekers. The plan was to have those unemployed workers build the low-cost, well-designed suburban homes they could then live in. And to place those homes on the outskirts of cities, separated by a belt of green space (hence the name) to help improve the quality of life for both.

Only three such utopian villages were ever constructed (the others are in Ohio and Wisconsin) before the Resettlement Administration was ended in 1937 thanks to Congressional critics who thought it was too "socialist." One can imagine the wealthy industrialists harrumphing at all the cooperatively owned businesses started at the town's founding, including a grocery store and a newspaper that are even now still owned by the community



members themselves.

Today, those businesses still reside in the centrally placed Roosevelt Center that surrounds a pedestrian plaza. Art Deco tenements are still connected by walkways, surrounded by parks and trees, and separated from the curving roadways. It all feels more like a college campus than a traditional town, and it has maintained its artsy, progressive vibe.

Along the plaza is the New Deal restaurant and music venue (also a cooperative) where you can enjoy a relaxed summer evening. My son and I dined on some great fried chicken and perused a *Greenbelt News Review* that someone had left at our table.

The articles are very similar to the journalism we do here at *The Echo*. The 12 pages of the monthly in-

cluded the detailed workings of the town council and descriptions of upcoming community events. And there's some quirky neighborhood flavor, like an update on the residents of the animal shelter (currently six dogs, five cats, and a kitten), and some guidance for how you can avoid dis-

orienting the local wild beaver after dark (don't shine your flashlight at it), along with a friendly column that provides short reviews of films of interest. But what makes me jealous is that those reviews are all for an actual, independent, community-owned movie theater right in the heart of town.

This was the main reason for the visit: I wanted to get a close-up look at historic Greenbelt Cinema—serving the finest films to this community since 1938. The theater is arguably the Roosevelt Center's crown jewel. The front of the white brick building is wrapped in a gently curved white marquee, from which a central tower stands—steadfastly heralding "GREENBELT" down its side in an art deco font backlit by neon when the evening light fades.

Its location lets residents take a relaxed stroll over to the other side of the park to catch a movie at a classic, single-screen neighborhood institution. (They were able to add a 40-person "screening room" next door, when the laundromat closed down.)

In 2002, the owner of the theater threatened to turn it into a dollar store, and the town stepped in to buy it and keep it going for the community. Today it shows a mix of independent films, along with the occasional blockbuster. (We caught *Twisters*, a remake which was a lot more fun and a lot less stupid than I feared it would be.)

It's run by a dedicated staff, supported by a non-profit organization, and hosts educational and cultural events alongside the affordably priced films. While the rest of the movie industry is still struggling post-pandemic, it seems as if theaters like the Greenbelt that are deeply connected to their community have found ways to thrive.

If you love a historic theater as much as I do, Greenbelt is definitely worth the trip. But even if that's not your bag, it still might be worth stopping by for a visit to a living piece of American history that seems in many ways similar to our own beloved Town.

—DAN SPEALMAN



New baby Harper

**Holly and Osamu Shimizu** of Bryn Mawr Avenue have happy news to share: Their daughter **Alexa** gave birth to daughter **Harper Marie Shimizu** on August 11. Harper lives in San Francisco with her brother **Henry** (almost 2) and her moms, Alexa and Katie Shimizu.



Alexa and Harper

## HAVE YOU HEARD?



Ben and Hana

**W**ellesley Circle residents **Stacey and Andy Malmgren's** son **Ben** married Hana Yarbrough in June in Ridge, Maryland. Ben and Hana

live in Cambridge, MD, where Ben is finishing up his master's degree in Marine Estuarine Environmental Science at the University of Maryland's Horn

Point Laboratory. Hana, a materials chemist, works as a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton.

.....  
**T**his month kicks off with the 53rd Annual **Labor Day Art Show** in the Spanish Ballroom. Come peruse all manner of art (available for purchase) August 31 through September 2 from noon to 6 PM. Glen Echo residents (or natives) Joci Khalifa, Isarra Etulain, Martha Morris, and Ian Costello have work in the show this year. There will be free dance and live music in the Bumper Car Pavilion at the same time, so you can make an afternoon of it!



**C**heck out the **updated GlenEcho.org website**—The Town flag is now featured, and payments for Town Hall rentals can be

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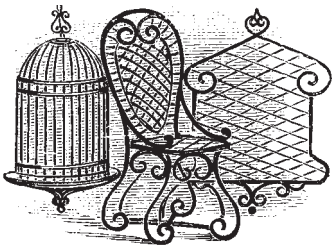
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made with a credit card. Residents have long asked for this feature, so thanks to our new Town Manager Angie Zeidenberg! The website also continues to provide contact info for many utilities and County services and answers to questions like "How do I report a streetlight is out?" or "How do I sign up for the Town's listserv?"

.....  
**S**ave the date for the annual **Town-Wide Yard Sale**: Saturday, October 5, from 9 AM-1 PM, with October 6 set as a rain date. Start clearing out attics, closets, and garages for what is al-



ways a bustling event. Residents typically set up along University Avenue, which will be partially closed to vehicles, though you are welcome to set up in front of your home anywhere in Town. The organiz-

ers will handle publicizing the event. Volunteers will be needed, and SSL hours are available. Contact **Jan Shaut** at [jshaut@gmail.com](mailto:jshaut@gmail.com) if interested or if you have any questions.

**Real Estate**

In August, 12 Wellesley Circle sold for \$900,000.



*There is new signage at the top of Cornell reminding trucks to use Oxford Road to enter Town.*



**They Say it's Your BIRTHDAY!**

- Sept. 1, **Mads Anderson**, 11
- Sept. 18, **Alya Kishore**, 7
- Sept. 21, **Liam Dobson**, 14
- Sept. 26, **Stella Gillberg**, 10
- Sept. 27, **Teddy DiBona**, 3
- Sept. 28, **PG Parsons Amdur**, 11
- Sept. 28, **Declan Spealman**, 14

**GOINGS ON**

**Town Hall Events**

**September 4, 11, 18, 25**  
 8-10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents



**Local Events**

**September 14** 2-6 PM, 53rd Annual Cabin John Chicken & Crab Fest, Clara Barton Community Center  
*LOOKING AHEAD: October 5* 9 AM-1 PM Town-Wide Yard Sale (October 6 rain date)



**Glen Echo Park Events**

- August 31, September 1** 12-6 PM, Social Dance Free-For-All with live music, Bumper Car Pavilion
- August 31, September 1 & 2** 12-6 PM, Labor Day Art Show, Spanish Ballroom
- September 5, 12, 19, 26** 11 AM, Aquarium kids story time
- September 27** 8-10 PM, Comedy Night, Ballroom Back Room
- September 29** last day of the Carousel season
- The Puppet Co.** [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org); 301-634-5380
- DinoRock Productions: Dinosaur Babies** through September 8
- Bixby the Cat: A Halloween Adventure** September 29-November 5
- Tiny Tots** select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10 AM

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