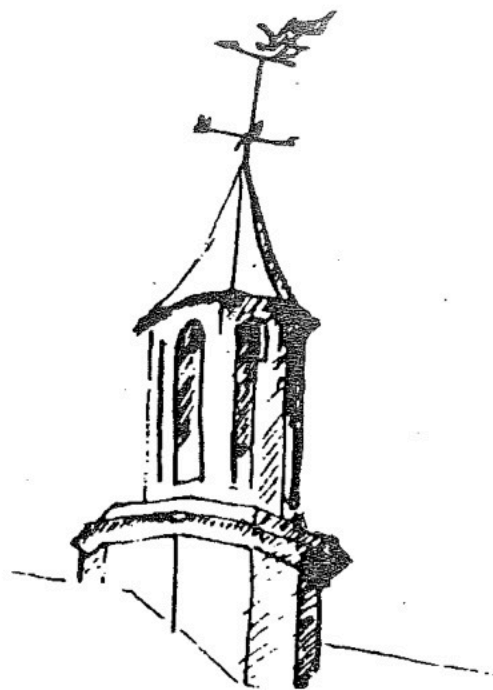


# The Echo

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

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October 2006

### RESIDENTS OBJECT TO JOINING FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

By Rex Rhein

Two town residents objected at the Sept. 11 Town Council meeting to the town's previous decision to enter the federal flood insurance program. The town as a whole is not in a flood plain, but a tiny part at the foot of Oberlin Ave. is.

Phyllis Fordham said she had not heard about the town's intention to enter the program until she read about it in Sept. issue of *The Echo*. (*The Echo* reported that in August the council unanimously voted to approve a "Resolution of Intent to Enter the National Flood Insurance Program".)

Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak noted that the town had only been given until Sept. 29 to join the program.

Ms. Fordham said residents who might have opposed the council's resolution, if they had known about the issue in advance, were denied a timely opportunity to argue their case. She also objected that the agenda for the Sept. 11 meeting had not been distributed to residents until that same day. Ms. Fordham said she opposed joining the program because it might affect the cost or availability of mortgages for residential property, particularly for those who decline to purchase the insurance. Her position was partly supported by resident Betsy Carpenter, who said she had talked to insurance agents, real estate agents, and her own mortgage lender in an attempt to weigh the costs and benefits of the program for herself.

Ms. Carpenter said the only benefit she found was

—continued on page 3

### NEW CONGREGATION TO WORSHIP IN GLEN ECHO

By Rex Rhein

The 63-person congregation of the First Agape A.M.E. Zion Church on Seven Locks Road will be worshipping at the Baptist Church annex on Harvard and University Aves. for the next year or so.

Tom Meeks, one of the deacons at Glen Echo Baptist Church, informed the Glen Echo Town Hall at its Sept. 11 meeting that the church wanted to allow the members of the 107-year-old A.M.E. church to be able to use its annex because the old church had burned down in 2004. It previously has been using a synagogue for its services. He said the intention was to make the building available for as long as it takes "to get their church back."

Also at the meeting were the A.M.E. church's pastor, Reverend Edgar Bankhead, a retired Navy chaplain, and his wife, Rev. Judy Bankhead. The pastor said fewer than 20 cars would be involved at its events, and that the Glen Echo Baptist Church -- which has an even smaller congregation than the A.M.E. church -- would allow them to use its parking lot.

Mr Meeks said that another group -- an Hispanic congregation -- wished to rent the larger church building on Vassar Circle "perhaps in the afternoons." He was enthusiastic about the A.M.E. congregation but expressed some reservations about the impact that the other group might have on the town.

—continued on page 2

## THE ECHO

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**EDITOR** Carlotta Anderson 301-229-3748  
email: Carlotta.ra@verizon.net

**ASST. EDITOR** Diana Hudson-Taylor

**REPORTERS** Rex Rhein

**DISTRIBUTION** Brockie and Jane Stevenson

Charlie Wells

Maire Hewitt

Isabelle Umpleby

Leland Schwartz

**CIRCULATION** Susan Grigsby

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♻️ Printed on recycled paper

## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO MARYLAND

20812

**Town Office:** 301-320-4041

**Town Office Fax:** 301-320-3639

**E-Mail:** [townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org)

**Office:** 6106 Harvard Avenue; mailing address: Box 598, Glen Echo, MD

20812

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-3:30  
or by appointment

### MAYOR

Debbie Beers 301-229-7308

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eve Arber 301-263-0016

Steve Matney 301-320-2059

Dan Macy 301-229-2122

Nancy Long 301-332-3823

### CLERK-TREASURER

Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

### TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.glenecho.org>

## NEW CONGREGATION (FROM PAGE 1)

Mayor Beers said "we don't really have any right to stop you from using that building for religious purposes, in terms of zoning or anything else," but thanked them for informing the council.

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## RESIDENTS OBJECT (FROM PAGE 1)

cheaper rates for those who wanted flood insurance. If the town declined to join the program, the annual cost for flood insurance for its residents would be approximately \$2,000, but it would be cheaper if the town joined.

The downside to joining the program was also dealt with at the August council meeting by resident (and Realtor) Eleanor Balaban. She had questioned whether the town's participation in the federal program would make it more difficult for residents to secure mortgages. Mayor Beers had said then that it was not likely because not a single house in Glen Echo lies on the flood plain. At the September meeting, Ms. Balaban supported the Council's decision to join the federal program.

Ms. Carpenter said she was not reassured that the council's investigation had been thorough. She questioned Councilman Dan Macy's statements that it was possible to purchase flood insurance without the town's participation in the federal program. Mr. Macy told her he had gotten his information from his own insurance carrier, Fireman's Fund. But some other insurance companies do offer the policies, at the higher price, Ms. Carpenter insisted.

A heated argument arose between Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Macy about whether residents of non-participating towns really can buy flood insurance, and whether mortgages would be more expensive to obtain for property owners who decline to buy the insurance when the town has participated in the federal program. Councilman Macy said that virtually all other towns in Montgomery County participate in the program, along with Montgomery County itself (for unincorporated communities).

He said mortgage lenders looked at whether the specific property itself was in a flood plain, not whether the property was in a town participating in the federal program. "It's down to the property level, it's not based on ZIPs," he said. But Ms. Carpenter said that some lenders "don't do it fine-grained," that "joining the program might raise residents' exposure, which could affect town property values."

Ms Fordham agreed. Being in a town listed as in a flood plain "could affect lending underwriting", she said. "It could affect the amount of your mortgage interest." But Mr. Macy, who said he has worked for a mortgage lender, interjected several times that "that's absolutely false!" Ms. Fordham continued that interest rates "can be affected by so many things, including property title." In commercial real estate, she said, if there is "any hint that there could be some problem with the land underneath the property, property values would definitely be less." She said she feared that people looking into buying Glen Echo property might assume that the entire town was in a flood plain, although only a very small part is.

No change in the August resolution on joining the federal flood program was adopted at the September meeting. However, Councilman Macy said the Council should address the issue of notifying and providing information to residents in a more timely manner. Publishing the meeting agenda on the

## GLEN ECHO ONE OF LAST TOWNS JOINING NAT'L FLOOD PROGRAM

If Glen Echo had not joined the National Flood Program it would have been practically a lone exception in Maryland.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) listing of all the towns and counties in Maryland participating in the National Flood Program found 122 jurisdictions in the program (not including Glen Echo) and only two which were not at the time of the listing.

Maryland's Flood Hazard Mitigation Program makes flood insurance available to property owners in participating communities. In return, local governments must adopt ordinances to manage development within 100-year floodplains to prevent increased flooding and minimize future flood damage.

Floodway and Flood Insurance Rate Maps published by FEMA are used to delineate the 100-year floodplain and identify regulated land. Local watershed plans should address the location of 100-year floodplains or floodway zones, and the impacts of storm water management on 100-year floodplain elevation levels.

The National Flood Insurance Program administrator in Maryland, John Joyce, told Mayor Beers that among the Maryland jurisdictions that have joined the program there has been no discernable impact on property values that he was aware of, even though most people in jurisdictions that have joined the program do not buy flood insurance.

website on the Thursday before the Monday meeting, with "full acknowledgement that it's subject to change," would be appropriate, he said. Another suggestion -- publishing the meeting minutes shortly after each meeting -- was not feasible because the minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting, he said.

*Ed. Note: Councilman Macy subsequently learned from Mr. Joyce that the town needs to participate in the NFIP to make flood insurance available to anyone who wants it in the town. In the past, people have been able to get flood insurance in towns through Montgomery County's participation, but FEMA is now requiring that each town join individually.*

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## AROUND TOWN

Town Councilwoman **Nancy Long** was pictured in the September issue of *Next Door News* at last month's Glen Echo Park art show, where she arranged all the art work for display. It mentioned that she has volunteered at the park since its inception.

The wedding of **Rachel Brintnall** and **Seth Harrington** will take place at the Woodend Audubon Sanctuary on Saturday, Oct. 28. Both bride and groom recently graduated from Georgetown University with law degrees, and will begin working for law firms in Boston after their marriage. Rachel is the daughter of Mike and Isabel Brintnall of Wellesley Circle.

### TWO HALLOWEEN PARTIES THIS MONTH

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 5:30—Party for kids and adults  
Saturday, Oct. 28m 7:39—Adult party and classic horror film with live accompaniment.

## PRINCETON RESIDENTS DON'T WANT SIDEWALKS RAISED

By Rex Rhein

Residents of upper Princeton Ave. objected to the council's suggestion that sidewalks could be raised to channel storm water runoff from MacArthur Blvd. at a Sept. 11 meeting.

Resident Phyllis Fordham said it had been agreed at previous meetings that an engineer should first look at the situation. "If we start doing patchwork, and all of us as neophytes sitting around deciding what the design should be, we are just asking for trouble," she said. Councilmember Nancy Long said three County employees --including an engineer, a storm-water management expert, and the deputy director of their division-- would meet informally with the Council at 4:00 pm on Sept. 27 to walk around town and "discuss with them what the problems are." There will then be a "full meeting" with the county team, she said.

At Ms. Fordham's suggestion, Mayor Beers said the town would try to hire its own expert to look at Princeton Ave. and perhaps join the walkthrough. "I think we need to get the county involved because a lot of the water that came in from Princeton was running down from MacArthur, down the top of Princeton, into the right-of-way and other areas," Mayor Beers said. "The County should take some steps to redirect that part."

Joining Ms. Fordham in her objection to raising the sidewalks were Maryse and Rex Rhein and Betsy Carpenter.

### GLEN ECHO PROPERTY FOR SALE

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 7300 University Ave. (Under contract)       | \$759,000 |
| 5906 Oxford Rd. (under contingent contract) | \$849,000 |
| 6105 Yale Ave.                              | \$795,000 |



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Mon.-Sat. 9-9, Sun. 9-7

## HISTORY BOOKS SELLING WELL; SECOND PRINTING UNDERWAY

There are only about 20 copies remaining of "Glen Echo: The Remarkable Saga of a Very Small Town," which was published by the town in June in a run of 200 copies. The book is selling well at the town hall, Glen Echo Park, the Montgomery County Historical Society, and other locations at the price of \$15.

Because of the brisk sales, the town is ordering another 200 copies to be printed.

Glen Echo residents are entitled to one copy free per household. Yet residents at more than half the town addresses have not yet picked up a copy. It is available at the town hall during regular office hours (see p.2) or at town events. Town residents may buy extra copies for \$10 each, a reduction from the regular sales price.

In addition there are still a number of residents who have not yet picked up their free copy of "A Walking Tour of Glen Echo." There are now fewer than 20 copies of this booklet remaining, and the town is considering a second printing of this publication as well. It sells for \$10 to the general public.

*Paid Advertisement*



## Glen Echo Baptist Church

*Serving Glen Echo families since 1939*

*Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor*

## Bringing God's Truth to Life

Sunday School .....9:30 am

Sunday Services.....11:00 am

Wednesday Activities .....7:00 pm

Mid-Week Bible Study.... Vassar Circle

## LADIES OF GLEN ECHO

*You are invited to a Ladies Night*

*at Cathie Polak's  
6001 Princeton Ave.*

*Tuesday, October 24, 8:00 p.m.*

*Please RSVP 301-229-6042*

## CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT LOCAL CHURCH OCTOBER 8

Inscape chamber music project will present a concert on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 5:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive, Bethesda Maryland, 20816.

The concert features William Walton's quirky "Facade Entertainments," a work for two narrators and chamber ensemble. Music Director Richard Scerbo will also lead the group in J.S. Bach's Orchestral Suite no. 1, and a short piece by Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas.

Reception to follow.

Suggested donation is \$16, student / seniors/ military \$10. More information about this concert and other upcoming concerts is available at [www.inscapechambermusicproject.org](http://www.inscapechambermusicproject.org).

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## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

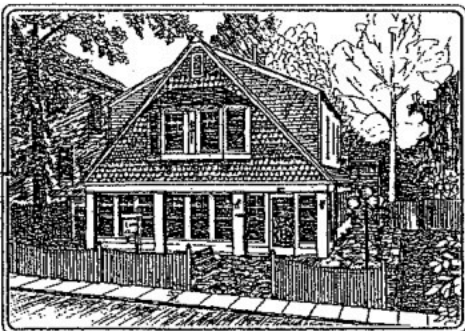
September 11

At the request of Councilmember Nancy Long, Town Resident (and artist) **Raya Bodnarchuk** described her latest commission from the Montgomery County Arts & Humanities Council. She showed photographs of styrofoam models of 11 animal sculptures, ranging from snakes to rabbits, which will be cast in bronze and placed on masonry pilasters on the Forest Glen pedestrian bridge on Georgia Avenue at the Beltway. They are to be installed by the end of November...

Kym Elder, the site manager for Glen Echo Park introduced the new **Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway**, David Vela. While he values the decisions his predecessors have made, Mr Vela said he was "not necessarily bound by them." Councilmember Nancy Long asked whether there was any way to amend the current 15-year agreement between the National Park Service, Montgomery County and the Partnership. Mr Vela said if the current agreement does not meet the needs of the partners, "when it comes time for renewal we're going to take a look at it." Mayor Beers noted that there were 10 years remaining on the original agreement...

--Rex Rhein

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*Heather Cottage*

*Financial Planning*

## RESIDENTS SEE CAROUSEL FILM AT TOWN HALL

"Carousel of Memories," a documentary about Glen Echo Park's historic Dentzel carousel, was screened at the town hall on Sunday, Sept. 17. Filmmaker Cintia Cabib was present to discuss the film and answer questions about the carousel.

The film features Glen Echo Town Councilwoman Nancy Long, who led the efforts to keep the carousel at Glen Echo Park after the amusement park closed; restoration artist Rosa Ragan, who restored and re-painted all the carousel animals to their original colors, and Julia, Allegra, and Bram Wilson of University Ave., who recalled their enjoyment of the carousel. It also had in-depth interviews with the mother-and-son team of Irene and Max Hurley, who have been running the carousel for many years, and Maryland State Senator Gwendolyn Britt, who was one of the protesters of the park's segregation policy in 1960.

Some of those present recalled that the carousel used to boast a gold (brass) ring, which would entitle its holder to a free ride. However, most of the rings were steel, which were then thrown into a container by the unlucky riders.

The film also showed Max Hurley making one of the rolls of music for the carousel's antique Wurlitzer organ by punching out the holes individually. CDs are never used for the Glen Echo carousel, he said.

A question as to who carved the carousel's animals was answered by visitor Richard Cook, who said the artists were Italian and German woodcarvers in the United States.

Those who were unable to attend the town hall showing may see the film every Saturday and Sunday from noon-6:00 p.m. in the park's Arcade building.

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## 18 PIECES EQUIPMENT FOR USE AT "NEVER CROWDED" WEIGHT ROOM

The Cabin John Community Center offers a wonderful opportunity for local residents to exercise on more than 18 pieces of heavy-duty work-out equipment, including a new step machine, in a room that is almost like one's own private weight room. In addition to the new large equipment, there are balance balls, free weights, elastic bands and a mat, plus TV, radio, and air-conditioning.

The weight room is open five days a week. Newcomers can try it out free the first time; thereafter it is \$135/yr., \$80 for six months, or \$55 for three months.

For hours or further information, call 301-229-0010. The Center is located at 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John.

### MEETING PLACE AVAILABLE TO ALL AT CABIN JOHN COMMUNITY CENTER

Any group of people can hold meeting without charge at the Cabin John Community Center at 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. All is necessary is to call 301-229-0010 to inquire about availability.

### TRASH/RECYCLING COLLECTION TIMES

Tuesday & Friday--all trash, except heavyweight objects.

Tuesday--recyclables, including plastic, metal and glass. Newspapers tied or in paper grocery bags.

Wednesday--garden refuse, cut into four-foot lengths and tied, placed in compostable leaf/grass bags, or in a large trash container labeled "Recycling" and used only for yard waste.

Last Friday of the month--heavy or large quantity of discardables.

If you have any trash or recycling pick up problems call Waste Management directly at 301-340-0774 and ask for Dispatch.

## EVENTS AT CLARA BARTON COMMUNITY CENTER

**Clara Barton Homework Club**—All 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join this after school club, which takes place on Tuesdays and Thursday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. from Oct. 11-Dec. 15. In addition to homework assistance by an onsite teacher, there will be recreation, games, and arts & crafts upon completion of study time. Tutoring is anticipated in all subjects, especially math, reading, and English.

The cost is \$80 for 20 sessions, payable to the Montgomery County Recreation Dept., and \$45 to the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center for supplies, snacks, etc.

**MacArthur Blvd. Café**—Friday night fun on the second Friday of each month from Oct. 14-May 12 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Membership is open to anyone in grades 3-6. Activities may include billiards, bingo, DJ dances, games, ping-pong, crafts, etc. The annual fee is \$20. Sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Dept.

**Family Fun Nights**—Friday, Oct. 20, 6:00-8:30 p.m. DJ, dancing, games, billiards, prizes, refreshments. \$10 for kids 10 and under, \$15 for adults. Sponsored by Montgomery County Recreation Dept.

### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 9—8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall  
Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

### Alicia's

### Stretch & Tone Yoga

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# Worship at Redeemer

## CIVIL RIGHTS BOOK CLUB AT CLARA BARTON OCT. 21

The National Capital Region Civil Rights book club will be meeting at the Clara Barton NHS on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 7:00-9:00pm. The book to be discussed is "Galveston and the 1900 Storm," by Patricia Bellis Bixel.

Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Clara Barton NHS. The book discusses the Red Cross' actions to help the Galveston African-American population on an equal basis in the face of patterns of segregation and discrimination prevalent at that time.

For more information, please call Susan Finta at 301-320-1410.

### FREE HALL EVENTS FOR GLEN ECHO RESIDENTS

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

**Monday, October 9, 8:00 p.m.—TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Saturday, October 28, 7:30 p.m.—ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY AND GLEN ECHO FILM FESTIVAL**

**Tuesday, October 31, 5:30 p.m.—TOWN HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**Every Wednesday, 8:00-10:30 p.m. English Country Dance.** Live music. No experience or partner needed. Sponsored by Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

#### ■ SUNDAY

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| The Holy Eucharist | 8:00 am  |
| Adult Education    | 9:15 am  |
| Sunday School      | 10:15 am |
| Choral Eucharist   | 10:30 am |

#### ■ MONDAY

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Taizé Service                    | 7:30 pm |
| <i>First Monday</i>              |         |
| Contemplative Wisdom Group       | 7:30 pm |
| <i>Second and Fourth Mondays</i> |         |
| Contemplative Eucharist          | 7:30 pm |
| <i>Third Monday</i>              |         |

#### ■ WEDNESDAY

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Morning Prayer & Breakfast | 8:30 am  |
| The Holy Eucharist         | 10:30 am |

*"Worship the Lord in the  
beauty of holiness."*

-Psalm 96:9

## The Church of the Redeemer

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*Photo by Eleanor Balaban*

The newly-constructed canal boat, the Charles F. Mercer, made her maiden voyage last month along the C&O Canal at Great Falls, Maryland, and through Lock 20 in front of Great Falls Tavern. This replica of a 19th century packet boat is now offering tours for the first time in three years, when the last passenger boat there was damaged beyond repair.

Hour-long canal rides will be available this month on Wednesdays through Sundays at 11:00 and 3:00 for \$2 for all ages.

The boat cost \$540,000 which was contributed through a fund-raising project organized by the third-graders of Seven Locks Elementary School, and private, state and county donations raised by the Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BANISH HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER & SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE.** Call Melanie Patt-Corner at "A Place for Everything." Household Organizing Service. 301-263-9482. Member National Association of Professional Organizers.

*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.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2006

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chapel Valley (landscaping) | \$1,697.67 |
| Charles Cooley Stonework    | \$1,400.00 |
| Knopf & Brown (legal)       | \$3,676.25 |
| Allied Printing (Echo)      | \$169.90   |

# GLEN ECHO PARK ACTIVITIES

## EVENTS AT THE PARK

### DANCES HELD WEEKLY IN THE RENOVATED SPANISH BALLROOM:

**Friday Night Dances**—contras, square and country mixers. Beginners welcome. \$7. 8:30-11:30

**Saturday Night Dances**—swing, cajun/zydeco, salsa. \$12. 9:00-midnight

**Sunday Afternoon Tea Dances**—waltzes, swing, cajun/zydeco. \$7 or \$10. 3:30-6:00

**Sunday Night Dances**—contra, square, folk. Forexperienced dancers. 7:30-10. \$9

## ADVENTURE THEATRE

**Miss Nelson is Missing**  
**Through October 8**  
 Weekends at 1:30 and 3:30  
 Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-5331

## THE PUPPET THEATRE

**The Velveteen Rabbit**  
**Through October 15**  
**Hansel and Gretel**  
**October 18-November 17**  
 Wednesday through Friday, 10:00 & 11:30  
 Saturdays & Sundays, 11:30 & 1:00  
 Tickets: \$7.00 Call 301-320-6668

## YELLOW BARN STUDIO & GALLERY

Individual and group art exhibits can be viewed every Saturday and Sunday from noon-5:00 p.m.

Exhibits change weekly.

*(The Gallery is temporarily located on the third floor of the main arcade building.)*

## FALL FROLIC AT PARK SATURDAY, OCT. 28

The park's annual Halloween festival with activities for children and families will take place on Oct. 28. There will be pumpkin painting, treats and a parade! Please call 301-634-2226 for more information.

## PLEASE KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR

Residents are asked to keep trash cans and recycling bins on their own property whenever possible so as not to impede use of sidewalks. Where this is not possible, it is requested that cans and bins be put on sidewalks only on pickup days and removed as soon as possible.

## GLASS FESTIVAL FEATURED AT PARK IN OCTOBER

An Art Glass Festival organized by the National Capital Art Glass Guild will take place at Glen Echo Park on Sunday, October 15, from noon-5:00 p.m. in the Bumper Car Pavilion. More than 25 glass artists from the metropolitan Washington area will be demonstrating techniques in stained glass, kilnformed glass, cast glass, glass blowing, glass tile making, sink making, architectural glass, glass lighting, and other forms of glass art. Glass art will also be for sale.

For the month of October, the resident artists of the Art Glass Consortium at Glen Echo will be presenting their latest glass artwork in a new exhibit, "New Progressions In Glass." It will take place in the Consortium's Arcade Glass Gallery in the Arcade at Glen Echo National Park. The Gallery will be open Fridays through Sundays, from noon to 4 pm and artwork will be for sale.