The Echo

Glen Echo Park Report
The meeting formally started with a brief report from the National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca. Ranger staff are promoting off-site interpretive programs to interpret Clara Barton’s legacy in preparation for Women’s History Month in March, focusing on her experience during the Civil War.

The roof replacement, the initial phase of the rehabilitation of the Clara Barton project, is substantially complete, Mr. LaRocca said, and replacement of the roof over the Spanish Ballroom began in December. The second phase at the Clara Barton House, the rehab of the fire suppression system, is proceeding apace with the upgrading of the fire detection and alarm.

To counter drivers illegally routing their vehicles down the “Do Not Enter” exit from the upper parking area, various options, including the presence of park police and installation of a gate, are being discussed.

In other matters, a second draft of the cooperative agreement between the NPS and Montgomery County was sent to the County in early September for review. The NPS has yet to receive comments and edits from the County.

Mr. LaRocca sounded an ominous note concerning the ash trees that populate the park. The emerald ash borer is infecting every single ash tree with “devastating effects.” Within three years, an infected tree will die.

Town Ordinances
Following the exit of the NPS rep and approval of the minutes of the November 14 Council Meeting, discussion segued to the “comprehensive recodification” of the Town’s ordinances. Hopes expressed at the November meeting to review the code alterations by December were dashed, however, by the sheer volume of ordinances to be scrutinized and revised. Inasmuch as attempting to consider each section of the Town code at monthly council meetings will stall progress in actually making revisions, a suggestion was floated to discuss sections of the code that actually need updating at a series of special meetings over the next few weeks. The goal: to garner approval for the recodification at the January 9 Council meeting, then discuss and hopefully approve alterations and recommendations at the meeting in February.

After a free-wheeling discussion over the esoterica of language, the point was made that this effort needs to be accomplished in concert with applicable County ordinances.

(A few days later, a flier was distributed to every Town residence noting that, at the December Council meeting, “the Town Council introduced an ordinance to recodify and amend the Town of Glen Echo code. The ordinance would reaffirm the code in its entirety, with the deletion of Articles 4 (Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control), 7 (Fire Prevention), 15 (Public Safety), and 16 (Bicycle Registration) … [because] these subjects are adequately regulated by the County.” Among the other amendments: certain violations would no longer be punishable by imprison-
THE ECHO
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Next Deadline: January 20, 2017

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 Expenses
Almost one-third, or $8,000 of the $26,000 expended by the Town during November went to Royal Painting & Light Construction, LLC. Another $8,000 was just about evenly split between Dennis Alexander and Waste Management of Maryland. Some $2,600 went to SunTrust Bankcard, and $2,250 was paid to Lee’s Tree Service. $1,700 was paid to Charles Cooley Stonework.

BERNIE EDELMAN

Police Report
Traffic enforcement at the Oxford Road stop sign by off-duty Montgomery County police officers during six hours over two days yielded 17 warnings and 4 citations.

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Other Town Business
A discussion ensued about the crosswalk at the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Princeton Avenue. With increased traffic along MacArthur during rush hours, there is some impetus to install a traffic signal, a proposal certain to engender more than a spot of controversy.

Despite the nonfunctioning elevator in Town Hall, there was another successful holiday brunch on December 10 featuring the inimitable Mr. Omelette.

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BERNIE EDELMAN
There was a solid turnout at the December 10 Holiday Brunch at Town Hall. Residents enjoyed omelets and waffles from Mr. Omelette. Kids in attendance decorated some beautiful gingerbread houses, and after making them, some kids devoured them on the spot! Special thanks to Stacey Malmgren for organizing, to Alec Graham, Madeleine Carter, Dia Costello, and Matt Costello for assembling the houses, and to Téa Costello, who selected the candy, made the icing, and set up the table.
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GLEN ECHO

RICHARD LEGGIN
ARCHITECTS
Now is the time of year to think of things we would like to change or do differently. Thus we make a few New Year’s resolutions. This year I am focusing on how I want to improve my garden. Where are the areas that I know need attention? What plants do I absolutely love and need to plant? What pollinators and birds do I want to attract? Which trees need pruning? I came up with my list of gardening resolutions.

For 2017, I will plan to do the following:

■ Search my gardening catalogues for more fragrant plants, flavorful herbs, and heirloom vegetables.
■ Find good recipes for cooking; particularly using my nettles.
■ Cluster my plants that attract hummingbirds in a location where I can watch them from a window. These include pineapple sage (Salvia elegans), beebalm (Monarda didyma), cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis), trumpet honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens), and crossvine (Bignonia capreolata).
■ Limb up trees to provide light as needed in the garden.
■ Add compost to areas where soil improvement is needed.
■ Obtain or build a potting bench.
■ Integrate more sustainable features: harvest more rain water and even build a rain garden.
■ Select and plant more native plants; this will automatically increase the variety of pollinators that come to my garden. Most natives grow well here with minimal care.
■ Rip out all English ivy (Hedera helix). It takes over when left unchecked and is killing many trees throughout the Middle Atlantic region.
■ Stop all pesticide use in the garden since it is not necessary. Pesticides are created as intentionally toxic substances. Many of the chemicals that are commonly used by gardeners have been linked to birth defects, adverse reproductive effects, mutations, cancers, water contamination, and more.—HOLLY SHIMIZU

It’s a new year, so chances are you are cold and suffering post-holiday bloat. What better to inspire in the kitchen than some flavorful yet very simple soups.

Here’s a palate-cleansing, no, palate-thrilling super simple soup from one of my food mentors: Sauté lots of garlic in olive oil along with bread cubes until the bread is crouton-like. Scoop out the bread to add back at the end. Add chicken broth and water to the garlic. In a bowl stir together an egg and grated parmesan cheese, and then add to the hot broth, stirring to separate the strands of egg. For an Italian soup, add fresh basil and lemon. For a Mexican soup, add cilantro, red pepper flakes, and lime.

And from another great home cook I know: Sauté sliced onion, fennel, garlic, and fennel seeds in olive oil. Once soft, add in a can of diced tomatoes, a can of water, and a can of chicken stock. Simmer. This can be eaten as is, a comforting celebration of fennel, or it can be a base to which you add some seafood—fish or shellfish.

Hey, it’s chilly out there, so stick by the heat in the kitchen and raise a glass to your favorite cook! —EMILY PARSONS
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This is the first installment of a series of retrospective pieces by Nancy Long, Council Member and lifelong Glen Echo resident.

When I was a small child in the 1930s, our Town enjoyed a different setting. At the east side across Conduit Road (later renamed MacArthur Boulevard) lay the beautifully kept Bannockburn Golf Course, once identified by Life Magazine as one of the ten most difficult courses in the country. Beside it, flourished an even more beautiful natural forest of local trees, bushes, and wild flowers. The golf course became the Bannockburn community, and the forest was removed to make way for the Fairway Hills community and mini-shopping center.

At the west side of Town flowed the lovely but sometimes unpredictable Potomac River and its companion waterway, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. Both were enhanced by the natural growth of numerous tree and plant varieties. One access to the river and canal was the end of Cornell Avenue. Where the street paving ended, there was a steep and rugged path, well used by Town residents and local fishermen. There was no parking or any other road along the canal and river.

Glen Echo had its own grocery store—a DGS (District Grocery Stores, part of a Washington, DC, chain), which was located in a commercial building on the south side of Bryn Mawr Avenue, close to the street car right-of-way. There were also several house-to-house delivery options for comestibles and services:

1. The Milkman
Milk was delivered in glass bottles. Before homogenized milk was available, the bottle had a small bulbous section at the top that contained cream which could be poured off or shaken into the milk. When homogenized milk became available, customers had a choice. In later years, the milkman also delivered eggs and butter. The dairies were Chestnut Farms-Chevy Chase Dairy and Harvey Dairy.

2. The Bread Man
Holmes to Homes delivered a variety of breads, as well as buns, rolls plain or frosted, and several types of pies.

3. The Jewel Tea Man
They delivered specialty foods as well as tea. My family preferred tea as a hot or iced beverage, and ordered both black and green. Black tea came in a red package, green tea in a green package, and both had a handsome golden dragon pictured on the box front.

4. The Produce Man
He delivered farm-fresh lettuce, corn, cabbage, eggs (brown or white), broccoli—nearly anything that grew locally.

5. The Laundryman
The Old Colony laundry was my family’s choice for washing sheets, pillow cases, towels, tea towels, and table linens. —NANCY LONG
Carol Barton and Henry Barrow had been looking for a pre-made window to serve as a door for Glen Echo’s future Little Free Library when Carol came across the perfect specimen in a pile of old building materials at their farm. It’s a small cottage window, 9 over 1 lights, needing some work but in decent shape and fitting in perfectly with the Town’s historic vernacular. Even better, it has a provenance. It was salvaged from the 1970’s renovation of Glen Echo Park’s stone tower.

Carol has now renovated the window, filling all the holes and cracks, cutting new glass, replacing all the dirty and cracked panes, and carefully re-glazing each pane. Henry will next design and build the library cabinet once he finishes his current furniture commission. So start saving your favorite books to share with your neighbors. More to come as the library progresses.

This year, The Echo has benefitted from the invaluable work of a few new volunteers. Thanks to Martha Shannon and Dan Spealman, who joined our roster of reporters covering Town Council meetings. And special thanks to Maggie Corbett for joining the Echo as our new Editorial Intern. Her main task is to fact-check each issue, and she has already made some great corrections. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this publication possible.

One of our Echo volunteers, Phyllis Fordham, was not able to join us at the Echo holiday party this year due to a stroke she suffered in mid-December. Neighbors rallied immediately, including Heather Kraus, who accompanied Phyllis in the ambulance. There has been a steady stream of concerned friends and well-wishers ever since, at the hospital and now at her Princeton Avenue home. Phyllis is recovering rapidly and gets to enjoy the company of at least one of her five daughters at any given time into the new year.

Laura Beer, daughter of Debbie and Donald Beers of Wellesley Circle, and associate professor of history at American University, published her third book in October. *Red Ellen: The Life of Ellen Wilkinson, Socialist, Feminist, Internationalist* is a history of Britain’s second female cabinet minister. In December The Wall Street Journal reviewed the book, writing that Beers “draws a multifaceted portrait, capturing the woman herself as well as her remarkable political career.” Proud mother, Mayor Beers, reports that she “bought out the supply [of the WSJ] at the 7-11, Pharmacy & Market on the Blvd.”

Plunging temperatures in mid-December caused the fountain in Holly and Osamu Shimizu’s yard to freeze solid.
Our former newspaper delivery person, Agung Sucanyo, who was in a bad car accident last year, has returned to work but was not reassigned to Glen Echo. He asked for a smaller route. And here’s a tip about tipping our new deliveryman, Key Carreno: You can save a check and a stamp and charge your tip to your account on the Post’s website.

Wine and beer are back at Glen Echo Center’s 7-Eleven! Efforts to block the store’s liquor license by Talbert’s Ice and Beverage on River Road were defeated in December when the County’s Board of License Commissioners voted 4-1 to allow Girma Hailu, the franchise store owner, to begin selling alcohol again. This may not be the end though. The lawyer for Talbert’s said he would appeal the case in circuit court on behalf of his client, and Hailu said he would continue to fight for his license, if necessary. More than 900 people signed a petition in favor of alcohol sales at our local 7-Eleven.

Calling all civic-minded residents! The next Town election is May 1. The seats currently held by Steve Matney and Matt Stiglitz are open as is the Mayorship, long held by Debbie Beers. Rumors are flying about who may or may not be running for re-election, so if you’ve ever thought Town Council could be the place for you, throw your hat in the ring! Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the Town at least one year prior to the election and are at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens. (To register to vote for Town elections, contact the Clerk-Treasurer, or simply register on election day as you enter the polls. Proof of residency may be requested.)

Real Estate Report
The McGunnigle’s at 15 Vassar Circle is still on the market, now with a reduced asking price of $1,159,000. The newer listing at 6105 Bryn Mawr Avenue, with a list price of $700,000, is under contract.

They Say It’s Your Birthday!
January 12, Nolan Koonce, 10
January 15, Niklas Gillberg, 4
January 15, Reed Jensen, 4
January 23, Conrad Hirsch, 8
January 30, Elsa Vincent, 14

Glen Echo Park Events
January 8 3–5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom’s back room, $5

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Goldilocks! January 20–February 19

Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

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Nursery Care 9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

■ MUSIC AT REDEEMER
Sunday, January 15, at 5:00 p.m.
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