Glen Echo Park Report
Aaron LaRocca of the National Park Service (NPS) updated the Council on upcoming events surrounding the NPS’ centennial. There will be a day of celebration at Glen Echo Park on August 27. That evening, there will be additional events at Great Falls Park to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Great Falls becoming a National Park Service site.

The first phase of the Clara Barton House rehabilitation project, the roof replacement, is scheduled to be completed shortly. Contractors continue to make good progress but need to complete painting of the metal roof. The second phase, the fire suppression system, will start after the roof work is complete. The NPS is still working on obtaining permits from WSSC for the fire suppression work. The contractor for the work has been onsite and construction will begin once the appropriate permits are in place. Because of the staggered work schedule the construction staging area will have a relatively small footprint. Clara Barton National Historic Site closed on October 3, 2015, and will remain closed for approximately one year.

The Trail Supervisor has tentatively scheduled the Union Arch Trail restoration project for this summer/fall. Mayor Beers told Mr. LaRocca that nothing has been done on the trail (by the one-lane bridge), and he said he’d get an update.

The Mayor also asked how Praline Bakery was doing at the Park. Mr. LaRocca did not know and an extensive discussion by the Council followed regarding food selections, prices, and alcohol sales. The Mayor noted that the Town would like to see Praline succeed, but both the Mayor and Council Member Long were skeptical that it would unless it is able to adapt to the needs of the Park visitors.

Town Flag
The Mayor introduced the topic of a Town Flag, since an unexpected and unauthorized flag waved from the Post Office’s flag pole and appeared at the Town Picnic to the surprise of the Mayor, Council Members, and many residents. When asked by the Echo reporter about the geneses of the flag, resident Aaron Hirsch said he had the idea after watching an inspirational TED Talk about flags and community spirit. He enlisted Mary Parsons, Art Editor of The Echo to design a flag. To further the flag unfurling, he had bumper stickers made and put them in residents’ mailboxes. Residents had no idea what they were or why the stickers were provided.

The Mayor and some of the Council Members were unsettled by the sudden appearance of the flag, of which they had no prior knowledge. At the meeting, Mayor Beers brought up objections, such as care and maintenance of the flag.
flag hanging responsibilities and adoption of a design without citizen input. Mr. Hirsch promised complete flag management since he lives a few houses from Town Hall. He apologized for his initiative which, he said, was born out of affection for the Town. He also said he probably had done some “dumb things” to get the flag project off the ground.

No official actions were taken although a design contest was mentioned. The flag will be discussed again at the next Town Council Meeting. Input from residents could be helpful in moving this forward at this time. We were not sure if this chapter should be labelled “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “No Good Deed Goes Unpunished,” or “To Be or Not To Be.”

Town Business
The postmistress of the Glen Echo post office is retiring again in October. She retired once but returned to continue filling the job after her retirement. Mayor Beers will send a letter to her.

Requests for use of Town Hall were discussed. The Mayor asked that The Echo publish a notice informing Town residents that they must attend an event if it is being held as one of the resident’s free rentals each year, which number three per resident.

And here’s some Finished Business: The parking lot for Town Hall has been repaved.

Police Report
During the period from July 4 to August 1, off-duty police officers worked two morning camp drop-off times at the Park. They issued 12 warnings and 3 citations for failure to stop at the Oxford Road stop sign. The Town paid $400 for this service.

Town Expenses
In July, the Town paid $3,648 to Ron Bolt, attorney, $3,358 to Chapel Valley Landscaping, and $2,300 to Lee’s Tree Service. —PHYLIS FORDHAM

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John and Peggy Lynch recently moved into the two-apartment, vintage-1936 house at 3 Vassar Circle that they have owned since 1981. After raising three children at their residence of 25 years in Bethesda, the Lynches significantly downsized for this move to Glen Echo. The upstairs two-bedroom apartment now houses John, Peggy, their youngest child, Tricia, and family dogs Bella and Murphy. “A cozy fit,” they say.

The Lynches love Glen Echo’s atmosphere and their all-stone house, especially the screened-in porch that offers an optimum view of the entrance to the Town from MacArthur at Cornell. They have been meeting their neighbors and have attended two recent Town events.

John is a Bethesda native, was raised in the Edgemoor community, and was a frequent visitor to the Glen Echo amusement park as a kid. He graduated from Lafayette College. After graduating from law school in Texas, he rented the downstairs apartment at 3 Vassar Circle in 1979. The stone house was built by the Deebos of 1 Vassar as two apartments, intending each to be occupied by their adult children. Both apartments are licensed by the County as accessory apartments.

John bought the house from the Deebos in 1981 and lived there for six years before he met Peggy, his future wife, and moved to her house in McLean, Virginia. He rented the two apartments to a succession of tenants, several of whom stayed for many years. “We had no problem renting both apartments over the years,” he said.

Before entering the legal profession, John served as vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and then executive director of the American Running & Fitness Association. He eventually bought the law firm in which his father had been a named partner, Macleay, Lynch & Lapidus, P.C. He is the firm’s managing partner; they specialize in insurance defense litigation.

Before retiring in 2014, Peggy was a sales executive at Xerox Corporation for 41 years, managing increasingly larger corporate client relationships. A Hollins University graduate, she had been based out of various Xerox offices in the U.S. and transferred to the DC area in 1986. Both had been married before, and Peggy brought a son, Matt Stone, to the marriage. The family subsequently grew with the addition of two children, Carter and Tricia, now adults.

Matt Stone is married to Erica Tokar. While completing graduate school, they too lived at 3 Vassar, and she was a volunteer copy editor for The Echo. They now live in the Palisades neighborhood of DC, where Matt works in educational technology at the Lab School of Washington. Carter lives in New York City where he appears as a music theater professional and is increasingly playing lead roles, including in touring companies that visited DC’s National Theater. Tricia is a Holy Child alum who works with kids.

For 18 years John has run an annual golf tournament, the “Brave Dave Open” in Olney to raise funds for a foundation devoted to auto-immune disorders. The eponymous “Dave” is his longtime friend and law school roommate who has been disabled by multiple sclerosis. Meanwhile, John, who loves his work, imagines that he will one day join Peggy in retirement so they can travel more extensively and have more time to enjoy their view of Glen Echo from their aerie-like screened-in porch. —Gloria Levin
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GLEN ECHO EXON

6729 Goldsboro Road

Joe Testa
Service Manager
A.S.E. Certified
MD Inspector
(301) 229-8666
FAX: (301) 229-0131
My annual summer road trip with the kids has been epic this year. Glen Echo > Pittsburgh > Northern Michigan (highlights: caught up with Julie McFarland and kids!, Mackinac Island, and a giant zucchini slingshot) > Ontario (we visited a Donkey Retreat) > Niagara Falls > Vermont. Love my summers on the road! —ANNA WHITE

Joe and I went to Italy in June. We visited favorite museums in Rome and Florence and explored Milan where I gave a talk at the International Council of Museums conference. —MARTHA SHANNON

It’s been a traveling summer for Paul and me ... New Hampshire, Amherst, Rochester, Rehoboth, and Boothbay, Maine. —DEBBIE LANGE

We visited low-humidity locales in July. First, the Parsons family farm in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, where every sip at the wine tasting is delightful and it’s cool enough in the evening for a bonfire. Then a week on Martha’s Vineyard and a week in Niantic, Connecticut, where we ate our weight in lobster rolls and drank our yearly quota of gin and tonics. —EMILY PARSONS

We spent a week on Cape Cod, in Chatham. A nice week of visiting three or four different beaches, riding the waves, bike rides, crab hunting, walking around parts of Martha’s Vineyard, and seeing (as Grace puts it) the underwhelming Plymouth Rock. —MARK RODDY

I spent three great weeks with my daughters in Ireland, traveling throughout the Republic. One highlight was in Sligo: W.B. Yeats’ gravesite with the well known epitaph (Cast a cold eye / On life, on death / Horseman pass by) etched on the gravestone. —PHYLLIS FORDHAM

We found this sign at Lake Coeur D’Alene, Idaho. My maiden name is Thompson—so we thought this was amazing. The two lakes sit right next to each other and are connected by a one lane bridge. We also went to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. We had a fabulous trip! —TISHA ANDERSON

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Editor’s Note: The Let’s Get Physical column is changing to reflect all the cool things—physical as well as recreational more generally—coming up in the next month that are on Angela’s radar. Enjoy!

It would be nice to say the summer has been full of outdoor active fun. But August’s record string of 100 degree days and sticky evenings were best suited to binge-watching Stranger Things, walking the dog as briefly and as slowly as he would tolerate, and lurking, gator-like, in the pool, submerged to nostril level. I’m ready to get moving again, whether for health or for entertainment! Luckily, September is the best month, and the weather only gets better as we head toward fall.

On September 17, Glen Echo hopheads (I know you’re out there) should head to Yards Park near Nationals Stadium for the Snallygaster Beastly Beer Jamboree. Now in its fifth year, the event will feature 350 craft beers and ciders from across the region. Look for my friends from Commonwealth Brewery, former government types who moved from DC to the beach a few years ago and are now brewing beer for a living. Talk about living the dream! The event will also feature food trucks and live music, as well as an area for kids to have fun while their parents sample the offerings.

If a beer festival doesn’t say “active lifestyle” to you, I’ll mention a couple of the many running events that abound in the fall. The Healthy Kids Running Series returns September 18 to Cabin John Park, just across the one-lane bridge. The five-week running program for kids from Pre-K to 8th grade offers running events from the 50-yard dash to the one mile run. One of the program’s coordinators is Kathleen Wolf, who lived at 6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue from 2003 to 2013.

Grown-up runners with a few running friends have time to register (and train) for the Rock the Creek Relay on September 25. The 30-mile course begins and ends at Lake Needwood, the northernmost point in Rock Creek Park. Teams of six runners complete legs ranging from four to six miles in the shaded, car-free park.

The Bannockburn Clubhouse will host several great events in September. The weekend of September 24 will mark the community’s 70th anniversary as well as the annual music festival. Walk up to connect with former neighbors and enjoy the talents of the neighborhood’s ample offerings of dad rock, tween heartthrobs-in-training, and other talented amateur musicians. September 23 is Bannockburn Nursery School’s annual family movie night, open to the whole community. No word on titles yet, but there will be food trucks, a bake sale, and entertainment for all.

One of our family’s favorites, the Maker Faire, returns to Silver Spring on September 25. Full disclosure: It’s a complete and total madhouse. But the activities are incredible. This year, you can try out a 3D printer, build a giant marble run, experiment with robotics, and make your own computer game, among many other activities. It’s sponsored by the KID museum at the Bethesda library, which offers various science and engineering activities in a much more manageable scale every weekend. —Angela Hirsch
Drink Me

There are many things that make a gin and tonic the perfect summer drink, but what I like is how simple it is and yet how each varies so dramatically. This summer I had one with a lemon gin that tasted like Sprite and another with a gin with a hint of vanilla that was really haunting. But my typical G&T is Bombay Sapphire, Schweppes tonic (The Best), and a lot of lime, including around the rim of the glass.

You may not know this but the gin and tonic is the favorite drink of another local: the restauranteur Jose Andres. His “usual” pushes the envelope on “simple,” but, oh boy, does it work. It arrives at Jaleo looking much like a painter’s still life. A large globe of ice fills the bowl of a tall wine glass; it’s nearly submerged in Hendrick’s gin. Like nude poops lolling by the pool, a round of lime, a ribbon of lemon peel, a couple of juniper berries, a bay leaf, and a mint leaf frolic. A bottle of Fever-Tree tonic stands to the side like a chaperone. What can I say, it’s a stunning presentation, and, ah! it tastes like that most marvelous of concoctions that it is. That is what I call an original G&T!

Emily Parsons

Holly in the Ivy

Years ago when I was working on a farm in Belgium, we grew shiitake mushrooms on oak logs that we leaned up against the base of trees. Periodically, we would harvest the mature mushrooms. I was amazed how easy it was to grow these delicious mushrooms. I was also amazed by the rich flavor and unique texture of these mushrooms as compared to ones purchased at the market. So, I have decided to try growing them again.

Mushrooms are fungi that are made up of small tubelike interconnected structures called mycelium. In order to grow well, they need plenty of food (organic matter) and plenty of moisture. Find a place for the logs that is moist and mostly shady. Leaning them on the east side of a shed, a tree, a wall, or building is best. Water them well. In dry weather, water the logs about every two weeks. Generally, it takes 6 to 12 months for mushrooms to start developing and they prefer temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. It is likely that they will emerge in spring and fall. They often produce sporadically for four or five years. When you get ready to harvest your crop, be certain the mushrooms are shiitake—only eat a mushroom if you know what variety it is!

Shiitake mushrooms have great nutritional value including high levels of proteins, essential amino acids, potassium, niacin, B vitamins, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and more. It is also being studied for a variety of medicinal uses as it is known to boost the body’s immune system. Shiitake mushrooms can be dried and reconstituted with water.

For you do-it-yourself types, the first step is to locate some freshly cut hardwood logs. They should be 4 feet long and 4-6 inches in diameter. Shiitake prefer oak, hornbeam, ash, beech, hickory, alder, sweet-gum, or maple. After your logs are cut, wait approximately two weeks before inserting the plug spawn. Spawn is the term used for spores carried in a substrate such as a wooden dowel or sawdust. Drill four or five 1½ inch holes approximately 4 inches apart using an electric drill with a 5/16th inch drill bit (it needs to match the size of the inoculated dowels). Then insert or hammer with a rubber mallet the plugs into the holes.

Use a paint brush to seal the area around each hole with melted bees wax or a soy based wax (e.g. cheese wax). Waxing helps to keep in water and prevents parasites or competitive fungi from growing.

However, the easiest way to get started is to buy one of the starter kits online. The best sources for kits and further information are listed below:

Mushrooms are fascinating. Try more varieties as there are many tasty choices—some even glow in the dark!

Holly Shimizu

Resources

Fungi Perfecti
www.fungi.com 800-780-9126

“Six Ways Mushrooms Can Save the World,” a TED talk by Paul Stamets (owner of Fungi Perfecti) www.ted.com/talks

Mushroom Mountain
www.mushroommountain.com 864-855-2469

The Mushroom Patch
www.themushroompatch.com 567-287-0037
The Town Council would like to remind residents that if you reserve the Town Hall for an event, you must be there for the event. Residents can reserve the Town Hall for up to three events a year, free of charge, though there is a $150 deposit, which is returned upon inspection. If you would like to reserve the space for an upcoming event, contact Nancy Long at 301-332-3823.

A clarification for any readers of the August issue who wondered who the Martha Morris was who was mentioned as a new board member of GEEPAC or as host of August’s ladies night: It’s the very same Martha Shannon who is a reporter for The Echo. She uses Morris professionally. Sorry for any confusion!

After 4 years as Slate’s Washington bureau chief, Will Dobson of University Avenue is now the chief international editor at NPR. He is charged with directing NPR’s international coverage and overseeing its 18 foreign bureaus. He is especially happy to get to sit this election season out.

There’s a charming new fence at the corner University and Bryn Mawr. Dan Macy says, “We’ve wanted a white picket fence for as long as we can remember and finally moved it to the top of our priority list, although it still needs to be painted.”

It’s a mystery! In early August, the farm table Carol Barton had set up on University Avenue for the Town to enjoy went missing. Sascha and Eden Haverfield in whose yard the farm table has been established offered a little wooden table that Carol could use. Two weeks later that table, too, went missing. Giving the table-taker the benefit of the doubt, there was no produce on it at the time and the farm table sign was not on top of it. Best case, someone thought the table had been put out for the trash and thought they were saving it. This was, of course, not the case. If you have any information that could lead to the return of one or both of these tables, please contact cbarton@mindspring.com

Alexander Beers Black, 7lbs, 3oz, was born to Laura Beers and Lawrence Black in York, England, on August 23. Laura Beers is the daughter of Don and Debbie Beers of 29 Wellesley Circle. Don and Debbie traveled to England for Alexander’s birth. Mother and baby are doing well. Welcome Alexander!

You can help preserve the history of Glen Echo by recording your personal history. Resident Norman Hudson-Taylor is an experienced recorder of oral histories and is interested in meeting with any neighbor looking to share. He provides subjects with a recording of the conversation and does this free of charge. Says Norman, “I believe in the importance of families preserving their history and I enjoy hearing people’s stories.” For more information, call him at 301-229-2163.

Jan Tievsky, founder in 1977 of Glen Echo Dance Theater, is back as studio manager of a new dance program at Glen Echo Park. The Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company, (DTSBDC), will run a one-
of-a-kind program of dance classes in a newly renovated studio. This contemporary modern dance company will be offering dance classes to teens and adults in the many styles of dance that are incorporated into Mr. Burgess’ unique style of movement. Classes starting in September are for the 15-week, fall/early winter semester, which runs from September 12 to December 23. Questions about classes can be sent to jtievsky@dtsbdc.org

Former Echo editor Phyllis Fordham is seeking residents performing volunteering work to let us know about their experiences for an upcoming article. If you would like to contribute, please contact Phyllis at phyllisfordham@comcast.net by September 10. She will follow up with you, and the interview should only take ten minutes. You may be able to help others by encouraging volunteerism of all types.

Glen Echo Town Hall Events
FSGW English Country Dance Wednesdays,
Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents
Sept. 24 2:30–6 PM, NaadRang Indian classical music concert, free and open to the public

Local Events
Sept. 10 6 PM, Michelle Brafman (of Oxford Road) will be reading from and signing copies of her new book Bertrand Court at Politics & Prose Bookstore
Sept. 15 6:30–9:30 PM, Meeting with FAA at Westland Middle School to discuss DCA flight path changes

Glen Echo Park Events
Dentzel Carousel $1.25 a ride, Sat.–Sun. 12–6 PM
Sept. 2 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park, open studios and artist demonstrations
Sept. 2 7–9 PM, and Sept. 3–5 12–6 PM, 46th Annual Labor Day Art Show in the Spanish Ballroom
Sept. 5 1–5 PM, Irish Music and Dance Showcase in the Bumper Car Pavilion
Sept. 11 3–5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom’s back room, $5

Sept. 24–25 Christine Lashley & Students Art Exhibit at Yellow Barn Studio Gallery
Sept. 25 11 AM–4 PM, Then & Wow! Celebrate the last day of the Park’s 96th summer season

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Rapunzel Sept. 16–Oct. 9
Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10 AM

Adventure Theater MTC
www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270
Knuffle Bunny Sept. 23–Oct. 23

They say it’s your Birthday!
Sept. 1, Mads Anderson, 3
Sept. 18, Hayes Polak, 3
Sept. 23, Alexander Vincent, 10
Sept. 21, Liam Dobson, 6
Sept. 28, PG Parsons Amdur, 3

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GOINGS ON
SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

- Holy Eucharist, Rite II 8:00 a.m.
- Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.
- Nursery Care 9:15 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- Homecoming Sunday—September 11th, Open House at 11:45 a.m.
- Sunday School begins September 18th at 10:30 a.m.
- The Barclay Brass, September 18th, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Service recordings are available on our website!
www.redeemerbethesda.org

6201 Dunrobin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
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