Town Council Notes

The Town Council meeting on September 12 was called to order by Council Member Long, presiding in the absence of Mayor Beers. All other Council Members were in attendance along with the Town clerk, several Town residents, and NPS representative Aaron LaRocca.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca reported that the Clara Barton house roof replacement is nearing completion. Work on the installation of the interior fire suppression system has begun. NPS still needs to obtain permits from WSSC.

The Partnership Agreement between Montgomery County and the NPS has been sent to the County for review as of early September. The NPS Superintendent is committed to public involvement in the review process. The agreement, in part, outlines the operational roles and responsibility of the County and the NPS.

The NPS celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service was held August 27. The event included a fashion show of ranger uniforms and other programming in celebration of the history of the Park Service. Ms. Long suggested that the Town should formally recognize this anniversary. Several possibilities were explored. The NPS would welcome a youth volunteer event that might be held at Glen Echo Park. The Town has minutes of meetings that contain the history of the preservation of the park, which it could donate. Oral histories were also suggested. Council will consider options and plan an appropriate gesture.

Repairs to the Union Arch Trail by the one-lane bridge have not been completed. There are several pressing projects in the park system using the services of the Student Conservation Association. NPS will follow up on when this can be scheduled.

Mr. LaRocca also mentioned that a funding request is in for upgrading the playgrounds along the parkway, including the Glen Echo equipment.

Town Maintenance

Sidewalk repairs around Town are ongoing. Three proposals for the repainting of the Town Hall and front iron fence were reviewed. A selection was made based on the detail of the proposal and the price. Council will select a paint color to match the current. They also discussed the replacement of the weathervane on the cupola and repair of the light on the Town sign.

Police Report

Council Member Stiglitz attended a recent police update meeting. Trends are down in the County for many crimes except for car thefts and drugs. Police now require that we call the non-emergency line for minor issues. There is a new station under construction in Bethesda and it will be completed in one year. Of concern to Glen Echo is the recent rash of thefts from unlocked autos in Town. Mr. Stiglitz reminded everyone to please lock their vehicles. We do not want to encourage thieves to return.

Other Town Business

Resident Gloria Levin brought up three outstanding issues from prior meetings: 1) What is the status of the right-of-way access at the end of Wellesley Circle now that a new fence has been erected? The Council will follow up on the review of the agreement with the landowners.
2) Can the handicapped space behind the Town Hall be moved so that drivers do not step into a drain hole? Stacey Malmgren answered that this is not possible.

3) Have the chicken coops been removed? Council Member Matney said that the County is now following up on the zoning issue.

Regarding the issue of a Town flag, Council Members were open to inviting Town residents to submit proposals, but Mr. Stiglitz said that guidelines for developing a flag would be helpful. Residents Aaron Hirsch and Raya Bodnarchuk both encouraged the Council to review a Ted Talk given by Roman Mars (of the 99% Invisible podcast) on the subject of municipal flags. You can find it on YouTube. Council will follow up on this after viewing the video.

Gloria Levin asked about the status of updating Town ordinances. Mr. Matney is working on a comprehensive re-codification with the help of our attorney Gloria offered to be of help in the review process.

Ms. Long reported that this year’s Holiday Party at Town Hall will be on will be Saturday, December 10, from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. Other bookings include Folklore Society concerts on September 29 and October 13, and the backup for the Town yard sale, which is October 22.

**Town Expenses**

During the month of August, the Town paid $6,413 to Stanley Asphalt, $4,152 to Waste Management of Maryland, and $2,300 to Lee’s Tree Service. —**MAR ThA MORRIS SHAnNON**
The new residents at 6000 Bryn Mawr Avenue are Kristi Maasjo, Dan Spealman and their two children. Kristi and Dan met twenty years ago as students at George Washington University, where Kristi earned a degree in international business and Dan got an MBA in international affairs. After ten years of dating, they married in 2004 and lived on Capitol Hill. Kristi worked for a series of marketing agencies for ten years, ending as a Senior Manager at the National Geographic Society. Dan worked for an international nonprofit (Pact) for 11 years in DC and traveled the world on short-term assignments.

Kristi wanted to transition her career to social causes, and Dan was itching to work overseas on lengthier field assignments. So, in 2008, he accepted an overseas position as Pact’s Nigeria Country Director. At the time, they were planning to start a family, but Kristi learned she was pregnant right after Dan accepted the Nigeria position. She stayed in the U.S. for the birth of their first child, Corrina. They were pleased to find that child care was affordable and readily available in Nigeria, and the culture encourages a positive work/life balance. However, when Kristi again became pregnant, she returned to the U.S.’s modern obstetrics to deliver their son, Declan.

The original plan was to live overseas for two years. However, they came to love their ex-pat lives, so Dan extended his Pact employment for another year and a half, then joined USAID in 2011 as a Senior Technical Advisor; and then, in 2013, they extended for three more years when he joined the Aga Khan Development Network as the East Africa Regional Director, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Upon arrival in Nigeria, Kristi first worked for the Clinton Foundation and then, upon the family’s move to Kenya, she became Executive Director of the Africa Capacity Alliance for three years. For their final 19 months in Kenya, she joined Dan’s organization (Aga Khan), as its Deputy Director. Now back stateside, Kristi is looking for work, while settling the family in their new home. Neighborly job leads are appreciated. While in Africa, the family had many adventures, including “adopting” a baby elephant by donating to an animal orphanage. Although Glen Echo lacks safaris and wild animals, the local public libraries are exciting to these avid readers. Corrina just celebrated her eighth birthday and is a second grader at Bannockburn Elementary School, where Declan is enrolled in kindergarten. Declan, who turned six in September, wowed me by writing a full sentence, and both children serenaded me with a Swahili song. Corrina is exploring opportunities for kids’ activities at Glen Echo Park and has joined a soccer club.

The family visited 6000 Bryn Mawr frequently when it was owned by their college friends Mark and Kathleen Wolf, and stayed there during their home visits. When the Wolves decided to sell the single-story bungalo in 2013, Dan and Kristi jumped at the opportunity even though they were still in Nairobi.

After the house’s purchase, they contracted for its restoration, a process which took over a year. Faced with a property line setback issue in front of the house, they instead added on at the back. Friends regularly monitored the construction, and Dan and Kristi visited periodically. Once the construction was completed, they rented the house in April 2015 to Leslie Anderson until their arrival in early September.

Having originally contemplated just two years overseas, they had stored the family car in North Dakota with Kristi’s parents where it mostly sat for eight years. Their return to the U.S. started in North Dakota, where they visited Kristi’s family and retrieved the car. The car trip to Glen Echo took four days. Dan rented a bicycle to commute to his office on 18th and K; he is testing out different commuting routes. Most of their household belongings are en route by ship, and the family is tracking the ship’s route and progress online. After the ship anchors in Baltimore in early October, the family’s most precious cargo (the children’s toys) will arrive, along with furniture, bicycles, etc.

"Karibuni kijiji kwetu!!" Swahili for “welcome to our village!” —Gloria Levin
**HANDYMAN**
**LIVING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

- Electrical • Painting • Carpentry • Plumbing
- Decks • Roofs • Gutters • Drywall • Tiling
- Masonry • Power Washing & Sealing

**Bathroom, Kitchen and Basement Remodeling**

*References from your Neighbors*

**Hemy**

- Insured: 973-432-2287 (c)
- Free Estimates: 301-633-1620 (h)

---

**SUNOCO**

**KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER**
(formerly Kenwood Mobil)
5201 River Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

PH: (301) 652-9527 • FAX: (301) 652-1138

James Spicer
OWNER

James Spicer III
SERVICE MANAGER

- AUTO REPAIR
- FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
- FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

---

**Steve’s Pet Care**

- 202-320-2559
- Adawehis@aol.com

- In-home Care and Daily Walks
- Reasonable Rates • Excellent References
- Glen Echo Resident
- Lab School Graduate 2004

---

**Digital Handyman**

- Maintenance, upgrades and repair
- Home office set-up and support
- Networking

*Glen Echo resident with over 20 yrs experience*

www.dhandyman.com

- 240-447-6535
- support@dhandyman.com

---

**Rhein Tutoring**

**LESSONS**
**FOR FRENCH AND PIANO**

$40/hour

References can be provided

Contact Stephanie Rhein at
240-543-3301 or stephrhein@aol.com

---

**Petsitting by Patricia**

- Serving NW DC and Bethesda for over 18 years
- Bonded and Insured • Excellent References

- Cat care
- Midday dog walks
- Overnight housesitting

- 301-229-4774
- petsbypatricia@gmail.com
- www.petsittingbypatricia.com

---

**Eleanor Balaban**

*MacArthur Blvd. Corridor Specialist*

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
Main: 301-907-7600 • Direct: 301-215-6875
www.EleanorBalaban.com

*“Let’s talk about real estate along MacArthur Blvd.”*
Two years ago, Debra Battista went on a drive with the goal of finding a new home. As she turned down Bryn Mawr Avenue, she saw her real estate agent putting up a sign in front of the charming Chautauqua house at 6102. She pulled over, took a walk through, and pulled up the sign. It was just what she was looking for.

But her path took a surprising turn when in March 2015, about six months after she had moved to Glen Echo, an electrical fire destroyed her home and nearly all of her possessions. Debra and her two dogs were unharmed, but what followed was a year and a half full of new challenges. The first contractor didn’t deliver and, in fact, the house was left open to the elements for a year adding a new wave of damage to the original floors, radiators, pipes, etc., and this was on top of not just the fire and smoke damage, but the destruction that comes from having more than 85 firefighters crash through to fight a blaze.

To say the reconstruction was a huge challenge is an understatement, especially since Debra was committed to restoring her historic 100-year-old home just as it was. Then she found Claudio Martin at Beaver Land, a Rockville contracting company. Debra says he was quite simply “the best,” and his team worked seven days a week this summer to get her house and yard just as she wanted it. Unfortunately, little of the original house could be saved, but they were able to retain the original wooden shutters in the the front room. Everything else is reproduced as near to the original as possible.

Debra is settling back into her home, already completely furnished thanks to Capital Consignment in Bethesda. She is philosophical about her recent struggles and grateful to all those who helped her along the way. She hopes to find a time in the next months to invite Town residents to come admire what she has built from the ashes. —EMILY PARSONS
Walking along University Avenue, many Glen Echoans have inquired about a noteworthy plant called the paperbush shrub (Edgeworthia chrysantha). It can be viewed along the white fence in the Shimizu garden (corner of Bryn Mawr). Of particular interest is the emergence of the silvery pendulous flower buds that appear in December after the leaves have fallen. These sparkling, silky flower buds are an amazing sight in the midst of winter and are followed by intoxicating fragrant yellow flowers in February/March. The small tubular flowers are compacted into dense rounded flower heads that look like miniature suns.

The natural habitat of paperbush shrubs is central and southern China as well as the Himalayas. It grows around 4 to 6 feet tall and wide, prefers a good soil, and needs a sunny or partially sunny place in order to thrive. As the leaves begin to emerge, they show silky white hairs followed by rather large and tropical looking blue-green foliage. I consider the plant to be beautiful in every season. The Japanese name for paperbush is mitsumata, meaning “triple branching,” which refers to the unusual branching pattern of the plant. Its bark is papery, cinnamon-colored and is used to make high-quality paper. The paper made from mitsumata is called mitsumataishi and, due to its strength, long fibers, and natural resistance to insects, is used for making Japanese currency. In order to make this unique paper, two-year old stems are harvested and the leaves are removed. The stems are then steamed until the bark can be removed. Next, the bark is boiled with soda ash for two hours at which point the softer bark fibers are beaten with mallets and blended until smooth. The resulting paper has a rich texture and is cream in color.

The two cultivars of paperbush are:

**Holly in the Ivy**

for those who want to go on to compete. We’ve heard it’s great fun.

Martial arts are another athletic option with a low barrier to entry. We’ve heard recommendations for Kicks Karate in Sangamore and Taekuk Martial Arts near the Trader Joe’s in Bethesda. The latter offers family classes as well as classes for kids of all ages and experience levels.

Lacrosse mainly falls into the category of sports-you-must-start-in-preschool-to-excel-around-here, but Bethesda Lacrosse offers a nice option for brand new players through eighth grade. After completing a beginners clinic over the course of several weekends, you can join a team with other new and newish players, and compete against other local club teams. The level of play might not be that great (I remember my alarmed daughter being bundled in goalie pads at her first lacrosse game ever) but it’s a fun team environment, the coaches are great, and kids learn a lot.

Our family is enjoying the various tennis lessons offered at Montgomery Parks’ Pauline Betz Addie tennis center at Cabin John Regional Park. Little
beginners and their parents can start with family tennis, where adults serve as assistant coaches and partners to their kids. Older and more independent kids can take advantage of quality, fun and affordable group lessons. The only trick is staying up until midnight to register for the next session on the Active Montgomery website: Classes are fairly small, and the slots fill quickly.

A second tip for playing tennis with kids—buy some kid-specific tennis balls, which are bigger and less firm than adult ones. They bounce less, which means not every shot ends up over the fence. It makes it a lot more fun for all parties involved.

Finally, I’ve yet to meet a kid who doesn’t love summer swim team and dive team through the local pools. B Meets are a great democratizer and motivator for newer swimmers, and offer a taste of team spirit and competition. If your summer swimmer wants to keep going after Labor Day, check out local clubs like Sea Devils Swimming. Various programs accommodate different ages and levels of interest, and periodic swim meets and social events keep it fun. —ANGELA HIRSCH

Looking into Jane Stevenson’s garden, across from the Post Office, you’ll see the magnificent dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) that towers above her house (not to be confused with the California redwood Sequoia sempervirens). In the early 1990s, Brockie and Jane wanted a screen to block construction and to give a sense of enclosure to their garden. Brockie wanted something that would grow “tall and fast” and it has certainly done that. It now stands as one of Glen Echo’s tallest trees. Jane adores her dawn redwood and declared, “I love the bright green leaves, the feathery texture, and the golden bronze color in autumn.” Dawn redwood is an ancient tree dating back over 65 million years. It was thought to be extinct until 1941 when it was described from fossil records. Then the species was found growing in China. Since then it has made its way into American gardens and is beloved for its distinctive character including ferny textured leaves and an attractive conical shape. Deciduous conifers are a small group of conifers that lose their leaves in winter (most conifers hold their needles as evergreens). In the case of dawn redwood, its golden color should not be missed in autumn, so take a neighborhood walk and enjoy the stunning beauty of this living fossil. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

The annual Town Yard Sale is Saturday, Oct. 22. This is a great opportunity to socialize with friends, clear some space in your home (that you may fill with goods from your neighbors’ sales!), and make a few dollars. Basically, anyone who wants to participate can set up their yard sale in their yard or at one of the public parks on University, and the Town will handle the promotion of the town-wide yard sale. The hours will be advertised as 9 AM–2 PM, and in the event of rain, the Town Hall will be used. One lesson we learned last year: Don’t put your yard sale stuff out on Friday, aka trash day, before Saturday’s sale, because it might end up at the dump! Bonnie Whyte is looking for volunteers to help put up signs. If you can help or if you want to be on a map of participating yards, send a note to bonniewhyte@yahoo.com.
Start asking who in this Town performs some sort of volunteer service and you’ll find that nearly everyone donates their time to a worthy cause. Phyllis Fordham set out to interview some of our neighbors about their experiences as volunteers and it turns out there isn’t enough space in a single issue to cover them all. So, this will be a series of profiles over the next few issues. We hope you will find their stories inspirational, either to volunteer yourself or to share your story of volunteerism with Phyllis at phyllisfordham@comcast.net.

There is a pattern among the Glen Echo volunteers. They start early and continue for a long time. Some started back with the Peace Corps and that experience seems to have influenced them to volunteer later in life. One thing is sure, there are volunteer opportunities for any interest, which you can see in the diversity of organizations inspiring Town residents to donate their time.

Glen Echo Volunteers

Dinner and a Show
Sally McGunnigle loves the theatre, but her husband Jim, not so much. Sally gets her fix by volunteering at the theatre at Arena Stage where she ushers once a month or once for each show. The volunteer ushers’ labor saves Arena the cost of hiring ushers. It’s a popular gig, says Sally, so if you are interested it might be a while before you can serve (www.arenastage.org). While her theatre experience is lots of fun, Sally also has a serious side. That’s why she has worked at Meals on Wheels, BCC for 11 years. She has been a driver and now keeps the meals coming by acting as dispatcher each Friday. The organization is a local non-profit serving the needs of shut-ins who are charged a small fee of $50 per week but can apply to Montgomery County for financial aid if needed. Everyone involved is a volunteer and most of the volunteers are seniors. Drivers deliver two meals each day, lunch and dinner, five days a week to between seven and ten clients. Volunteers are always needed, particularly drivers. Sally is one of those returned Peace Corp volunteers. She and Jim married and flew off to the Philippines for their service.

Speaking About the Peace Corps
Gloria Levin not only earned her volunteer stripes during her Peace Corps service, she still is active in it. Gloria is the longtime president of the returned Peace Corps Volunteers alumni association for those who served in Bolivia and Peru where she was a community organizer in a squatter settlement. She now also mentors returning Peace Corps volunteers as they search for jobs. Gloria describes herself as a “freelancer” who often volunteers on shorter term projects as she is requested or she creates an activity where she sees a need. Gloria is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery, which organizes many community service projects. Recently, she volunteered for a Back to School event for homeless families where her Spanish facility was useful. She also donates her time to her professional organization of Community Psychology: She has long written a column for the profession’s publication and heads the groups mentoring program for graduate students and early careerists. On the home front, Gloria writes for The Echo and has served two terms on the Town Council. — Phyllis Fordham (Phyllis is a Friend of the Kennedy Center, where she works at the Washington National Opera studio in Takoma Park, and she volunteers at The National Building Museum where you will find her on Friday afternoons at the Museum Shop. She is also a former editor and now contributor to The Echo!)
You might have noticed that this year’s presidential election is a pretty big deal. If you have not yet registered to vote you must do it by October 18. You can register or request an absentee ballot at vote.org. Our polling place is Bannockburn Elementary School, but you can vote early from October 27 to November 3. Our closest early voting location is the Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center in Chevy Chase, but there are locations throughout Montgomery County. Election day is November 8, so if your voting age college student needs an absentee ballot, help them out!

University Avenue resident Aoife Corbett, 8, had recently grown into her big brother’s orange and black Trek bike when it was the casualty of a hit-and-run here in Town. Aoife had parked it near the dead end of Yale Avenue on the afternoon of September 1 during a game of hide-and-seek. She then found a great hiding spot in the green between our Town and MacArthur Boulevard. After being found by her brother, Dessie Corbett, 10, she returned to Yale Avenue to start a new game and saw a black SUV driving off. Then she noticed her poor bike flat on the ground! According to eye witness Dessie, “It was a pancake.” Aoife is hoping the person who ran it over was in a very big rush and didn’t realize what had happened. Her mom, Erin Duffy, recommends that all Glen Echo children refrain from parking bikes in front of cars in the future. She is relieved that this was not her daughter’s hiding spot!

Recent newcomers Natalie and Oskare Gillberg welcomed baby girl Sandra on August 25. She was born at GW Hospital, weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces. Sandra joins big brother Niklas and big sister Stella at their lovely new home on Wellesley Circle.

After six years at 32 Wellesley Circle, Ellen Leary and Bernie Edelman are movin’ on up … to 21 Wellesley Circle. They are thrilled to be renting Forest Yang’s house while she’s posted at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. It’s a bigger space than they had, but still in Glen Echo, which they wouldn’t have considered leaving: We love the community, the characters, and the commute to work too much, they said.

Thanks to everyone who has been helping Karim Khalifa build the spider body for one of the spookiest houses in Town on Halloween. But there is still work to be done. Karim expects the construction will continue into October, so neighbors can come help October 2 and 9 at 3 PM. Once the spider and its web are up, residents are invited to create (continued on page 10)
HAVE YOU HEARD?  
(continued from page 9)  
baby spiders to hang at the Kalifas’ at 7308 University Avenue. Last year, there were more than twenty babies and other creepy offerings.  

Though they only lived in Glen Echo 11 years, Sally and Jim McGunnigle have never lived anywhere for as long. That’s what life is like in the foreign service. But in that time, they have become Town stalwarts—regular party attendees, Town election officials, editors of the Echo. So stunned neighbors flocked to their home at 15 Vassar Circle for September’s Ladies Night after hearing that they would be moving very soon to Sumner Village, a community of apartments behind the Shops at Sumner Place on Sangamore Road. They hadn’t really been looking to move, Sally told the Echo, but they went to look at one apartment there and were charmed. Good news if you missed Sally’s Ladies Night, she’s already secured an invite to all future ladies nights from the Mayor as an honorary Glen Echoan.

In August, County workers arrived at Nancy Long’s property at 31 Wellesley Circle and clearcut all the plants, revealing just how damaged the structure has become. The County official cited neighbor complaints for the action. Nancy, who has retained a lawyer, has been counseled not to discuss the details other than to say that she is not happy.

Yvonne Harrison, our Postmaster for the past twenty years, is retiring on October 28. She has loved working in Glen Echo, and has especially enjoyed watching the little kids grow up. The kindness in the community has been a hallmark for her. She recently recalled one winter when the Dworksy’s offered to let her spend the night during a huge snow storm, the continual thoughtfulness of Raya Bodnarchuk and Nancy Long, and how many residents she has grown to know and appreciate over the years. Yvonne has much to look forward to with a two-week post-retirement vacation planned with her husband, and her first grandchild due in January. Her next venture will be a notary business. Thank you, Yvonne, for all your work and best of luck!

On September 15, the FAA held a public meeting to discuss recent changes to the DCA flight paths. The new routes, which follow a narrower flight path directly over the Potomac River, were implemented in 2015. Other changes include larger planes and both earlier morning and later evening flights. Community concern about the increase in noise pollution has been growing, culminating in letters from Congressman Van Hollen, County Executive Ike Leggett, and Council Member Roger Berliner this past summer. Mayor Beers is writing a letter to the FAA about this issue, supporting
Van Hollen’s perspective and highlighting the failure to engage our community directly as we are clearly impacted by the changes. There is a 30-day comment period, which began on September 16. To contribute a comment, you may go online to faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/dc or email them directly at 9-aso-dca-fltpcrdars@faa.gov.

The 46th Annual Labor Day Art Show in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park featured 590 artworks from more than 200 artists. Of those, 157 pieces sold, with 70 percent of the profits going to the artists and 30 percent going to the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture to cover costs of presenting the show; as well as to fund various arts and cultural programs at the Park. There were no Glen Echo residents in the art show this year; but Nancy Long is the curator and has been since GEPPAC was founded in 2002. She particularly enjoys the art of hanging the works—the correct balance of color and form—which she has learned over her 45, now 46, years of volunteering for the art show.

If you’ve got an operational recycling bin, you probably haven’t been following the saga of the missing bin wheels. But if you have been dragging your bin out wheelless for the last year, here’s some good news. There are now official recycling bins with wheels behind the Town Hall available for new residents or anyone who doesn’t have one. (Please, one per household.) And speaking of recycling, a reminder that no plastic bags of any kind should ever go in the bins and anything you do wish to recycle should be clean and dry.

Real Estate Report
Sally and Jim McGunnigle are moving as reported here this month. At press time, their house at 15 Vassar Circle is not yet on the market, but it will be soon with an asking price of $1,199,000.
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.

And Sunday School

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 p.m.—Blessing of the Animals
Monday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m.—Taize & Healing Service
Sunday, October 9 at 5:00 p.m.—Inscape Chamber Orchestra

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