Town Council Notes

All Council Members and the Mayor were present at the February 13 Town Council Meeting. A half dozen residents were present for a relatively short meeting, in part because the National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca was absent.

Town Business

Council Member Stiglitz said that the next police board meeting would be in March, so there was nothing to report.

There was a lengthy discussion about the upcoming open Council meetings to rework the Town ordinances. The current ordinances are available on the Town website, and residents are encouraged to attend the meetings, the first of which is scheduled for March 27 from 8–9:30 PM at Town Hall. In all the discussion about how to make the meetings as efficient as possible, no mention was made of the offer of cookies and cheese and fruit as possible lures suggested at the January Council meeting. We'll see if those treats appear on March 27. Residents interested in attending and participating should read the ordinances that will be covered on a given night and come prepared with input.

Up for discussion at the first meeting will be Article 2 (animal control), Article 5 (environmental health), Article 6 (anti-litter), Article 9 (applicability of County legislation), and Article 11 (licenses and occupations).

Council Member Long reported that there has been an uptick in Town Hall usage by residents, mostly for parties for small children. And Mr. Stiglitz floated the idea of keeping a calendar of scheduled Town Hall usage on the Town website, so residents can see if a day is available before calling Ms. Long to book the space. Debate ensued about whether it was worth the extra effort of keeping said calendar up to date. Resident Gloria Levin volunteered to manage it, but Ms. Long and others remained skeptical it would solve any problems with the current system, which at this point consists of one instance of a double booking. Town Clerk Stacey Malmgren will discuss feasibility of a calendar with our Town's new webmaster (a co-worker of hers at Norwood School).

The project to replace cracked sidewalks around Town has been completed. All told, Charles Cooley Stonework replaced about 50 squares, or about enough for half the Town to scratch their initials in cement right in front of their houses.

Council Member Costello and Mr. Stiglitz raised the possibility of getting bids for the Town's trash ser-
While people aren’t across-the-board unhappy with Waste Management of Maryland, it is considered more expensive and less responsive than some competitors. The reason residents aren’t notified about holiday pick-up schedules is that the Town hasn’t gotten one from the company. The Council will reach out to a couple of other service providers for bids.

**Town Flag**

As reported in the last *Echo*, the committee to oversee a competition to select a Town flag (aka the flag committee), made up of Aaron Hirsch, Renny Springuel, and Pete Epanchin, has come up with rules for submitting flag designs and for conducting a Town vote on those designs. Despite moving forward with outlining a process at the behest of the Town Council, Members were unwilling to give it official sanction. Council Member Matney was the only Member willing to proceed and accept that an official Town flag would be the outcome. Mr. Stiglitz thought that the process should be a “community” affair, but that enthusiasm from Town residents (in the form of wide participation in a flag contest) could sway him to make a flag official at a later date. Ms. Long was adamantly against an official Town flag, saying that the Maryland flag should be enough and suggesting that Mr. Hirsh is the only resident interested in a Town flag—an assertion belied by the Town poll in which 72 percent of respondents supported the idea of a Town flag. Ms. Costello was silent during this discussion, and the Mayor was ready to adjourn the meeting. It was left that the flag committee should decide whether to proceed.

**Town Expenses**

In January, the Town paid $4,173 to Waste Management of Maryland, $3,490 to Lee’s Tree Service, and $1,152 to Bolt Legal. —EMILY PARSONS

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**MICKIE SIMPSON**

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A town election for the seats of two Town Council Members, currently held by Steve Matney and Matt Stiglitz, and the Mayorship, currently held by Debbie Beers, will be Monday, May 1, 2017, from 5 PM to 9 PM at the Town Hall. All seats will be for a four-year term.

Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the Town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens.

Anyone who would like to run for these offices must file a written declaration of candidacy no later than 20 days prior to the election, which is April 11, 2017. Candidacy letters should be delivered to Susan Grigsby, Supervisor; Board of Elections, 7325 University Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Absentee ballots will be provided to those requesting them, in writing, prior to the election, likewise through the Supervisor of the Board of Elections.

The Echo would like to offer space in the April issue for statements from any candidates running, but the deadline for those statements to be delivered to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com (or in writing to 6001 Bryn Mawr Avenue) is March 20. If you are planning on running, please let The Echo know as soon as possible!

Letters to the Editor

I received two letters in response to a photo we ran in the February issue. The photo shows a resident carrying a sign with explicit language in the Women’s March in January. Ali and Patrick Hooper said it wasn’t appropriate for our younger readers and the publication should be “family friendly.” Rex Rhein equated the publication of the photo with the “boorishness” of our new Commander in Chief. He also wrote that our readers “are evidently not expected to be shocked by [profane language] either in public or in the pages of The Echo.”

To the Hoopers and Mr. Rhein and any other people in Town who thought the photo was over the line, I apologize. We certainly mean to put out a publication that parents feel comfortable letting their kids read, and we will be more careful in the future. I’d respond to Mr. Rhein that thought was put into whether or not to run the photo, and the language on the sign was expected to elicit an emotional reaction, if not shock itself, both at the march and in the pages of The Echo. That’s the beauty and power of language, and it was a big part of that day of protest. Editing the photo or omitting it just didn’t feel like a more appropriate way to handle it. And in fact, I received positive feedback about the photo spread from several residents.

In retrospect, my main qualm about running it stems from the fact that the resident in the photo—Angela Hirsch—wasn’t the person who sent it to me and probably doesn’t appreciate being part of an inadvertent campaign to corrupt our Town’s children! I also offer my apology to her. —EMILY PARSONS

Letters to the Editor
Eleanor Balaban
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‘Doggone Dependable Since 1898’
In our climate, March is the most important month to go outside and work in the garden. Your labor will result in a beautiful garden. Those 31 days of March are the perfect time for cutting back, dividing, transplanting, improving your soil, and mulching. If you complete these critical gardening tasks in March, your garden will be set to thrive, bloom, and expand. You can relax and enjoy the benefits of your timely efforts!

Cutting back the old growth on your perennials will clean things up and makes it easier to move plants around. You will also need to divide perennials that have grown too large or grown so they interfere with other plants. I also suggest you either get rid of or shrink the size of any plants that have become invasive and are choking out their neighbors. Most perennials benefit from being divided every four or five years. Simply keep the vigorous parts of the crown or growing point and toss the older, weaker parts into your compost pile. Prior to replanting, add compost to build the soil structure and nutrient level. Be very careful not to step on or damage any new emerging growth.

Moving your plants around provides an excellent chance to refresh the soil with compost or composted manure. The addition of compost will result in a vigorous garden.

The type of mulch you decide to use is situational. For example, if you have a naturalistic garden, you might wish to use pine needles. For a rock garden you might use gravel. On a slope, you would probably choose shredded hardwood bark as it will hold the soil. For a refined look, you might try fine pine chips. And lastly, if you like the smell of chocolate, you might choose cocoa hulls (not good to use if you have dogs since chocolate can be poisonous for dogs). This year you might want to try my particular favorite: a 50-50 blend of shredded hardwood bark and fine pine chips. It looks beautiful while also holding well on a slope and can last up to one year.

Do not over mulch! For example, placing huge amounts of mulch up close to the trunk of a tree slowly kills them. Sadly, over mulching is commonly done by landscaping companies. If you see this has been done around any of your trees, pull the mulch away from the trunk. Taper the mulch down as it gets close to the tree trunk. Too much mulch can cause rotting as it holds excess water which will result in oxygen starvation and lead to disease. A mulch layer should be approximately 2 inches thick, never mounded, and always applied evenly.

The time is here to Get Busy in your garden!

—I Holly Shimizu
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I f the number of blooms I see as I write this in mid-February are any indication, we’re in for an early spring. I’ll ignore the implications for melting icecaps and environmental collapse, and focus instead on fun spring activities (lalalala! Has anyone seen my rose-colored sunglasses?).

The first notable event in March actually sounds like the opposite of fun, but may be a smart thing to endure if you need to make kids’ summer plans. Washington Parent magazine will sponsor a summer camp expo at Lakeforest Mall March 4–5. You can talk to various camp program folks, and there will be activities for kids.

Strathmore is presenting family jazz Saturdays every other week through the spring and summer. Each performance showcases a different tradition or region. March 4 features jazz from the Middle East, and March 18 highlights jazz influences from India. All performances are at the Strathmore Mansion at 11 AM.

I hope you’ve been saving your outgrown board games and nearly-new camping gear and will donate it to the Bannockburn Nursery School spring rummage sale. The sale is March 11, and donations are accepted at the school for a couple days before then. Don’t miss the breakfast bake sale and the opportunities to buy your neighbors’ outgrown board games and camping gear.

The following weekend, March 18, is Bannockburn Elementary School’s annual fun run, a one-mile sprint, walk, or jog through the neighborhood, depending on your level of youthful exuberance. It’s followed by treats, raffle, and mayhem on the playground. All are welcome.

You have until March 19 to see Ella Enchanted at Adventure Theater at Glen Echo. The beloved book about a girl who struggles with the “gift” of obedience has been adapted into a totally charming musical. Its feminist message feels particularly fresh and relevant these days. We loved it.

Walt Whitman High School’s annual, incredible talent show is March 30 through April 1. Don’t miss an evening of music, comedy, and special effects featuring the talents of more than 100 Whitman students. Tickets go on sale March 5 at whitmandrama.com.

If you like massive crowds, the National Cherry Blossom Festival kicks off at the end of the month. One of the best events, the kite festival, will fill the skies around the Washington Monument on April 1. It’s a great chance to see next-level kites, kite competitions, and fly your own kite. If crowds aren’t your thing, I’ll see you on the Glen Echo field. —ANGELA HIRSCH

Out and About

Lately, I’ve been craving a dish that is impossible-to-mess-up simple with a lot of flavor and a nod to summer to keep up our winter spirits. It’s a pasta dish with garlic, bacon, and cherry tomatoes. It ends up like a light carbonara, and as I stand over the stove, the aroma takes me back to a wonderful Italian restaurant I once worked at.

Start with four slices of thick cut bacon, diced, in a wide-bottomed pan over medium heat. Sauté until it’s just beginning to brown and then toss in four large cloves of garlic, minced. Sauté a minute more before adding two pints of cherry tomatoes. Whole or halved will work, because after they simmer a few minutes, work them over with a potato masher, so they disappear into the sauce. This only cooks 5 to 10 minutes on low heat before the cooked spaghetti is added into the pan. Toss it with the sauce, add some grated parmesan and black pepper, and serve.

Open a nice Italian red if you are feeling cozy or a chilled white if you are imagining warmer days are here. This pasta pairs nicely with anything off the grill. —EMILY PARSONS

The Dish
Inside a concrete castle, two eels glide silently back and forth in a dimly lit pool. Under the boulevard, there are two enormous pipes, through which dedicated men and women must walk for miles in the darkness. On the bridge, masons from centuries ago have carved their mysterious symbols into the rocks. There are squat, unexplained towers along the street near the turn up Sangamore Road; strange metal devices jutting up from the center of the traffic circle near the park; and sudden rushes of water down Minnehaha Creek on clear days.

It can all be explained by the inner workings of the Washington Aqueduct—a massive public work that runs right through Glen Echo and delivers 155 million gallons of high-quality water a day to approximately a million customers in Washington and Virginia. Congress commissioned the aqueduct in 1852 to deal with a growing population and a series of fires that had burned down many historic buildings, including the Library of Congress on two separate occasions.

The designer and developer, Lt. Montgomery C. Meigs, had a name that could only belong to the 1800s and the soaring rhetoric of the time to match. In justifying the expense of building an engineering marvel that could serve the city of centuries to come, Meigs wrote, “Let our aqueduct be worthy of the Nation. Let us show that the rulers chosen by the people are not less careful of the safety, health, and beauty of their capital than the emperors [of Rome].”

The aqueduct begins way up at Lock 20 at Great Falls, where it draws its water from the Potomac. And if you’re wondering why Meigs would make it so difficult on himself, why he would make the intake so far away from downtown when the river just continues on into Washington anyway, the answer is gravity. Since Great Falls is at a higher elevation than DC, gravity can do most of the work in getting the water through the system. It’s a big part of why the aqueduct is still used today: Gravity is much cheaper to use and more reliable than any pump.

From Great Falls, two 9-foot tall parallel pipes carry the water 12 miles to the district. The road built to access the buried conduits was aptly named Conduit Road until it was changed to MacArthur Boulevard in the 1940s. The Army Corps still owns the road today, and has.
to work with the County to ensure that it's maintained.

At Cabin John Creek, the Corps was met with the engineering challenge of getting the water and the access road across the valley, so they went ahead and built what was, at the time, the world's longest single-span stone arch bridge. They flooded the valley so they could float the massive pieces of granite and sandstone up from the Potomac. Those mysterious symbols that you can make out if you look hard enough, were in essence the stone-cutters' initials, a brand so they would be properly reimbursed for each piece they carved. Though water does still run through the Union Arch Bridge today, only one of the pipes makes it across that way. The other pipe, which was added in the 1920s, takes a different route across the valley, since another bridge wasn't deemed necessary. It actually ducks down under the parkway and then back up on the other side via a siphon—an engineering feat that would have been much more difficult in the 1800s.

Further along the road in Glen Echo, those strange devices sticking up in the middle of the traffic circle at Goldsboro Road are valves to transfer the water from one conduit to another and shut off the flow in a section so that aqueduct staff can walk through and inspect the old brick and mortar and stone from the inside. Last month, townsfolk reported an impressive rush of water down Minnehaha Creek and it turns out that was runoff from a regularly scheduled inspection. The Corps was emptying out the pipes and sending the water back to the river from whence it came so that the inspectors could get inside.

Continuing to follow MacArthur and the accompanying aqueduct towards the District, you'll pass the Little Dalecarlia treatment plant and Georgetown pumping station.
Falls Pumping station, with its imposing concrete façade, its arched bridge across the canal, and its intriguing Art Deco-style lettering. It was built in the 1950s to increase capacity and serve as a back-up to draw water from the river whenever the conduits aren’t operational. That little hexagonal brick tower near Wapakoneta Road lets air escape from the pipes so the water can flow more smoothly; and the wider concrete tower at the corner of Sanga-more houses a valve that can direct water back to the river if pressure gets too great.

It’s not far from there to the Dalecarlia Reservoir and treatment plant, which is where the water is readied for people to drink. Outside, the quickly moving water is slowed down in massive basins so that sediment can settle out. Inside the elegant brick buildings from the 1930s, the water rests in hundreds of pools in a massive room, slowly filtering down through charcoal and sand to emerge cleanly from the bottom. There are processes for coagulation and flocculation and disinfection that I won’t get into, but the end result is water that exceeds the EPA’s highest standards.

A little bit further is the Georgetown Reservoir, which acts to distribute the water to various locations throughout the city. When it needed a pumping station, an architect whose name is lost to history had the whimsical idea to fashion the building in the shape of the castle on the Corps’ emblem. That’s why there’s an odd little castle in Georgetown, and that’s where the pair of eels lives. Somehow, eels occasionally get caught in the intake at Great Falls and make it all the way down into the pool of water at that pumping station in Georgetown. That’s as far as
they can get, though, so they live out their lives contentedly in their castle, like tiny dragons guarding a moat.

From here, the water goes off into the District and across into Virginia, into various reservoirs and facilities across the area. Surprisingly, although the water passes right under our town, it does not actually come back to Glen Echo after it’s been treated just up the road. Instead, the water from our taps is drawn from the river at WSSC’s Potomac Water Treatment Plant located up past Lock 21.

The Army Corps of Engineers has continued to manage the aqueduct for more than a century and a half. Although the Corps works on many projects throughout the country, dams and levees and the like, this is the only municipal utility that they run—a quirk of history that no one is motivated to change, given how well the Corps does it job. Thomas Jacobus, the General Manager at the aqueduct, described his staff as a “great group of people, working hard to get the public what it needs.”

He likened the job to the ducks that frequent the reservoirs: Above the water, everything looks calm when a duck is floating about, but below, its little legs are paddling away like crazy. Similarly, it takes 150 committed civil servants working round the clock to make sure that tunnels from the 1850s, and control panels from the 1930s, and computers from the 2010s all work together seamlessly and ceaselessly through storms and floods and other disasters. Because of their efforts, the citizens of Washington don’t even have to think about all that must happen behind the scenes so that when they turn on their tap, clean water comes pouring out every single time.

—Dan Spealman
In February, the 2017 Helen Hayes Awards were announced, and Glen Echo Park’s Adventure Theater received nine nominations, including *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Jumanji* receiving the nomination for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences. The Helen Hayes Awards recognizes and celebrates excellence in professional theatre throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Be sure to see their latest production of *Ella, Enchanted*, possible 2018 nominee? 

The committee organized to oversee a flag design competition distributed the details and guidelines for entries and the voting process to residents in mid-February. Residents received notices in their mail boxes and an electronic appeal went to the listserv as well. The main points are that residents can submit one design and they are due by March 13. Voting will take place March 20–31. Residents 16 or older are eligible to vote, and voting will take place online, though paper ballots will be available upon request. The designers of the flags will be anonymous at the time of voting, with the winning design and designer to be revealed on April 1. The Town Council will then consider whether or not to adopt the winning design as the Official Town Flag. The Glen Echo Flag Committee is comprised of Pete Epanchin, Aaron Hirsch, and Renny Springuel. Questions can be directed to Aaron at aaron@aaronhirsch.com or 202-255-8313.

The update is out on the reopening of the Little Falls Library: Look for a mid-May opening. Closed last year for a refresh that should have been completed in January, the library reopening was delayed due to a water main break in December. A refresh of the Bethesda Library slated to begin when the one at Little Falls is completed has likewise been delayed to May. In the nearer term, DC’s Palisades Library will be closing March 4 for renovations, expected to reopen in spring 2018.

The reopening of MedGen, the urgent care facility in the Glen Echo Center, is also facing more delays. Says the owner, Clelia Waters, “We are still wanting to reopen on weekends this winter, but we are struggling with staffing at this point. So for right now we are on hold until we can get the right team in place.”

Things are ramping up at the Glen Echo Park Aquarium. Starting in March, they will be offering an animal story time the first and third Wednesdays of each month. A staffer will read an animal-themed book and then the kids can explore the aquarium. The normal entry fees apply. The aquarium is also starting a Gills Club with its first meeting on March 18. Gills Club is a STEM-based initiative dedicated to connecting girls with female scientists from around the world, sharing knowledge, and inspiring shark and ocean conservation. Various interactive activities, experiments, a live shark, and a talk led by the aquarium’s very own female shark researcher will help to expand your child’s knowledge about sharks and help them to see beyond the current negative perceptions about sharks. There is no fee to join the club, but space is limited, so pre-registration...
is required. You can do that here: https://form.jotform.com/70235612796156, and the club is open to boys as well as girls, ages 5 to 12. Finally, there is a member event March 10 at 6 PM. Aquarium director Andrew Wilson will be discussing rays. This is a good time to put in a plug for a membership at the aquarium. It’s a wonderful resource, but it needs the support of its Glen Echo community to really succeed. Consider joining your fellow residents who have already become members. It’s a cool thing to have your one-year-old ask specifically if they can touch a horseshoe crab!

**Real Estate Report**
The sale on the McGunnigle’s former home at 15 Vassar Circle closed at $1,129,000, so look for new neighbors there. While there’s nothing officially on the market right now, there are two properties “Coming Soon.” Melinda Henninger and Bill Turque will be putting their house at 5806 Oxford Road up for sale in March. And look for Sascha and Eden Haverfield’s home at 7314 University Avenue to go on the market in the coming months. No word yet on where they are moving, as they are still deciding!

**CLASSIFIEDS**
**Pet-sitter needed.** Looking for responsible student or adult with good communication skills for occasional care of fish, etc (no cats, no dogs). Please call between 4:30 and 7:00 pm weeknights to discuss details. Marc 301-320-6183

**GOINGS ON**

**Glen Echo Town Hall Events**
FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, **March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** 8–10:30 PM, free to Town residents

**March 27** 8 PM, Glen Echo Town Council meeting to review Town ordinances. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate

**Local Events**
**March 4** 9 AM–2 PM, Church of the Little Flower Rummage Sale

**March 10** 7–9 PM, Family Bingo Night at the Clara Barton Center; $5 cards and food for sale to benefit the community center

**March 11** 9 AM-12 PM, Bannockburn Nursery School Rummage Sale at the Bannockburn Clubhouse

**Goings On**

**Glen Echo Park Activities**

**March 1 and 15** 11 AM-12 PM, animal story time at the Aquarium, for ages 2-5

**March 12** 3–5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom’s back room, $5

**March 18** 10–11:30 AM, Gills Club meeting at the Aquarium, come learn about sharks, for kids 5-12, free, but preregistration required

**The Puppet Co.** www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

**Jack and the Beanstalk** February 23–March 26

**The Three Billy Goats Gruff** March 30–April 30

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

**Adventure Theater MTC** www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270

**Ella Enchanted** through March 19
**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

- Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m.
- Adult Forum: 9:15 a.m.
- Nursery Care: 9:15 a.m.
- Choral Eucharist & Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays: Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.; Eucharist at Noon

**MUSIC AT REDEEMER**

- Sunday, March 12, at 5:00 p.m.
- The District Eight in Concert
- Sunday, April 2, 15 5:00 p.m.
- Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

Sunday Services are available on our website!
http://www.redeemerbethesda.org/worship/service-recordings/

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