Council Members Long, Costello, and Matney were in attendance at the Town Council Meeting on April 10. After 25 years serving the Town, Mayor Beers unfortunately missed her last Council meeting. This meeting was also Mr. Matney’s last Council meeting. Ms. Long expressed appreciation for his 12 years of service by saying “how much he has contributed to the well-being of our town and I think we all owe him a great debt of gratitude and our endearing thanks really for being such a fine Council Member.”

**Glen Echo Park**

National Park Service representative Mr. Aaron LaRocca reported the first phase of the Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project, roof replacement, has been completed. The contractor for the second phase, the fire suppression system, is proceeding with upgrading the fire detection and alarm. Biweekly construction meetings have resumed and a WSSC permit issue has been resolved. Additionally, the Park is taking on two condition assessments: one on the existing heating system and one on the rest of the house.

In the upcoming weeks a hazardous tree removal project will begin on the Clara Barton Parkway. Due to the emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that targets ash tree species and the nearly 100% mortality rate, there will be a large visual impact to this work. In some areas of the park, ash can make up about 50% of all the trees. Trees are identified as hazardous if they meet two criteria; they have a target and they have a defect. The NPS removes hazardous trees in order to ensure the safety of visitors.

In early February, the NPS received a draft of the Cooperative Management Agreement from Montgomery County. Regional Office and Park staffs are reviewing the draft. The Park and the County will be working on an extension of the current agreement to allow for ongoing negotiations for the Cooperative Management Agreement. While this process is underway, the current agreement will be extended through June of 2018. The current agreement that expires in June 2017 allows for a possible extension of five years. The Superintendent is committed to some type of public involvement for the Cooperative Agreement.

Katey Boerner, Executive Director of the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPPAC), announced that this year’s Gala in the Park would be held on May 20. The theme of the Gala is, “Celebrate History in our Backyard,” and GEPPAC is honoring the Town of Glen Echo as “A Friend of the Park.” GEPPAC will also honor First Lady Yumi Hogan with a “Visionary Award” and Richard Cook as “Honorary Park Historian.” Mr. Cook will also present a lecture titled “Glen Echo Park: History Legends, and Myths” on May 6, which residents are invited to attend (free of charge). Ms. Boerner also announced that the carousel reopens for its 97th season on April 29 during “Carousel Day” which was previously called “Family Day.”

**Vassar Circle and Oberlin Avenue Land Swap**

The Council agreed that due to upcoming elections and without a quorum no decision regarding Aaron Hirsch’s recent land use proposal would be made. In
late March, Mr. Hirsch and his partners received a letter of intent from a church to purchase the building and property on Vassar Circle. The offer from the church, which has since been rescinded, spurred Mr. Hirsch to explore again the possibility of arranging a deal with the Town to give ownership of the Vassar Circle property in exchange for two Town-owned lots behind the Irish Inn (see opposite page). Mr. Hirsch was teleconferenced into the Council meeting and explained that due to subdivision delays and other unexpected development costs, the current plans, for four homes on Vassar Circle, are becoming more challenging. Mr. Matney explained several details of the land swap proposal that would need to be addressed before the Town could agree to such a proposal. Details include the impact to the current businesses on the south end of Town, the impact to the Irish Inn if the current Town leased overflow parking lot is removed, and potential church refurbishment or demolition costs to make the Vassar Circle property usable by the Town. The Council agreed that these issues should be addressed, but with elections coming, no one has been assigned to address them. A petition that encourages the Council to fully consider this offer is expected to be submitted to the Council during the May meeting.

Two residents also offered differing viewpoints on the pros and cons of the land swap offer. Mr. John Lynch has owned his house on Vassar Circle since 1981 and was in strong favor of the land swap to allow the circle to be turned into a park for the Town. He sees Glen Echo as a unique location, with many young families, and believes that a park would provide another attractive amenity in Town that could enhance property values. Mr. Dick Leggin, owner of Richard Leggin Architects on Oberlin Avenue, is opposed to the land swap proposal. Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Leggin stated that Glen Echo Park employees and patrons parking around Tulane and Oberlin Avenues make it difficult for customers of the four businesses and one resident, at that end of Town, to find parking. He asked why additional parking inside the Park near the old miniature golf course couldn’t be provided instead. Mr. Leggin was concerned that additional development in that area would further exacerbate parking problems.

Town Business
The Town has solicited bids to provide trash and recycling services. As part of the process, bidders have been invited to provide a small presentation and answer
questions at a Council meeting. Sam Evans and Miguel Saavedra from Unity Disposal and Recycling LLC of Laurel, MD, attended the meeting and discussed the services they provide. They have been in business for 20 years and currently provide services for Montgomery and Howard counties and to various townships across the area. The Village of Chevy Chase is one of those townships and provided a glowing reference for their services. Mr. Evans indicated they would plan to continue providing services on the same schedule as our current yard waste, recycling, trash, and bulk trash pickup schedules.

Waste Management, the Town's current provider, is also bidding for the work and is expected to present at next month's Council meeting.

Due to upcoming elections and without a quorum, the Council agreed to table the Town flag issue until after the May 1 Town election. The Council did agree to hold, as planned, the next Town Ordinance review meeting on April 24 from 7–9 PM in the Town Hall.

Town Expenses
During the month of March, the Town paid $8,389 to Waste Management of Maryland, $2,916 to Lee’s Tree Service, and $1,500 to Charles Cooley Stonework.—BILL VINCENT

About that Vassar Circle
The following letter was sent by Aaron Hirsch, Town resident and owner of the church in Vassar Circle, to the Town Council and was posted on the Town’s listserv on March 31. The church mentioned has since withdrawn, but this letter has launched a spirited discussion over the possibility of a swap of Vassar Circle for the two properties behind the Irish Inn owned by the Town. If you would like to learn more or have ideas to share, email aaron@aaronhirsch.com

We have received a Letter of Intent and are promised a contract from a church to purchase Vassar Circle at full price. This offer is a surprise to us, especially considering how long it has been marketed as a church. Now, we are faced with a decision: sell or forge ahead. Given unforeseen costs for our project, delays caused by M-NCPPC, possible additional delays from utilities, climbing interest rates, and other uncertainties, the investors are pressing for a sale now. Although I am the managing member of the partnership and the investors place a great deal of trust in me, I cannot prevent the investors from making decisions for the company.

As a town resident, I believe that there can be a better solution than to sell the property to a church. And I believe that we may have an opportunity to give the investors a satisfactory exit while improving the quality of life in Glen Echo.

Recently, several people suggested to me that we exchange the entire (unsubdivided) Vassar Circle property for the town owned lots behind the Irish Inn. I previously wrote off this idea as not feasible, but as I take a closer look, it appears that it could possibly work. I think it is at least worth exploring. It is clear that if there is interest on the part of the town, this idea needs to be urgently addressed, so I am reaching out to you now, even though I don’t have all of the information I need yet.

Vassar Circle would be a fantastic town-owned amenity. Ideas could include: open green space with/without a gazebo or other ornament, a dog run, a play park, a community garden and/or something that preserves the current structure for use as anything that could benefit the town. I believe that a daytime use for the building would have the least parking/traffic impact; perhaps shared office space whose rents could finance a beautiful renovation. In any case, this is a great opportunity for us to think cooperatively and creatively as a town.

In such an exchange, The Town of Glen Echo would retain title to valuable property while gaining from a much better location with benefits for many more people than where the town’s current lots are located.

If this is something that The Town of Glen Echo would consider, we need to act quickly, as there are many questions and details to resolve. If there is interest, I would suggest that the town appoint a negotiator with decision-making power who can represent the town’s interests and who can work with me on hammering out the details in a contract. Unfortunately, at the moment, I don’t know how long we have to act (I should be able to learn this in the next few days). I can say the sooner we act, the better.

I am at your disposal and am available to meet with you at any time.

THE NATIONAL CHAUTAUQUA OF GLEN ECHO HAD THIS PLAN FOR VASSAR CIRCLE
MAYORAL CANDIDATE
William Polak
6001 Princeton Avenue

Glen Echo is an amazing place, and my guiding principle as Mayor would be to preserve and protect our unique identity and culture, while advancing issues of importance to town residents.

I want to give back to Glen Echo. I have been working in both business and philanthropic capacities around the greater Washington area most of my life. Having recently sold my business, I have more time and would like to further improve the lives of my neighbors in Glen Echo.

A little bit about me personally: I have lived here for nearly 40 years. My wife, Cathie, and I raised three children and three dogs here. My son, Matt, and his family live at the corner of University and Harvard. I know what’s important to folks at all stages of life because I’ve been there. To the extent I’ve forgotten the challenges younger folks and parents experience, my kids and grandkids are always nearby to keep me in check.

Professionally, I have always focused on being productive. I have strong relationships with the National Park Service, state, local and the Federal Government, businesses, and members of the community. I started Potomac Riverboat Company (PRC) in 1983 and grew it into the largest water-taxi provider in the mid-Atlantic. Building PRC required a deep understanding of public-private partnerships, as well as building and maintaining a bevy of relationships.

In the late ‘90s, the National Park Service decided to close the Fort Dupont Ice Arena (FDIA), the only public indoor ice rink in Washington, DC. I joined a small group of parents whose children, including my son Matt, were fervent hockey players, and we convinced NPS to give the rink to us. We established a non-profit and secured funding to keep the rink open and cold. I’ve been honored to Chair the Friends of FDIA for nearly 20 years now. I created a program called Kids On Ice, matching Olympic skaters and other coaches with underprivileged kids to teach them important life-lessons while they learn to skate. Over 20,000 kids have gone through the Kids On Ice programs and each year we are oversubscribed. In 2005, I was named Washingtonian of the Year for the impact FDIA has made.

Since 2014, I have served as Chairman of the Alexandria Police Foundation. In this capacity, I was principally responsible for the fundraising effort to establish the Fallen Officers Memorial at the police headquarters in Alexandria, VA, and serve as the liaison between the Alexandria Police Department and the community. My team raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and successfully built a beautiful memorial that was dedicated in March 2015.

Thanks for taking the time to read about my experience and consider how it can be applied to improve Glen Echo.

MAYORAL CANDIDATE
Renny Springuel
21 Vassar Circle

As the mayor of the town I will govern the town in the long tradition of taking care of the town’s infrastructures and providing the town with social activities that unite us.

Over the next few years the town has some major infrastructure works which need to be addressed, the elevator in the town hall is not reliable, the streets and sidewalks need continuing maintenance. As an engineer, a past council member, and a 30+ years resident who has been attending the council meetings for the past four plus years I have both the technical background and the history of the town’s infrastructure to lead this work.

In the past many residents volunteered with the town to get things done. Over time fewer and fewer

SEE YOU AT THE POLLS

The election for the Mayorship and two Town Council seats is Monday, May 1. Cast your ballot at the Town Hall that day between 5 PM and 9 PM. You are qualified to vote in the Glen Echo election if you have been a resident for at least 30 days and are at least 18 years old by election day. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen. You can register to vote the day of the election, and may be asked to show proof of residency. Absentee ballots are available, but must be requested by April 27.

The two candidates for Mayor are Willem Polak and Renny Springuel, and the five candidates for Town Council are Blair Anderson, Shannon Kraus, Martha Shannon, Dan Spealman, and Matt Stiglitz, who is the incumbent. The two open seats belong to Matt and Steve Matney, who after 12 years of serving, will not be running. The seats are all for a four-year term.

Following are brief statements from the candidates.

Government
residents volunteered and in the end we saw the elected officials take on more and more of the duties as well as the town turning over some of the duties to the county. As mayor I would like to reverse the trend by opening the door to volunteers and working with them to restore and build that quaint small town feel where you are part of the community and you have a say in what is happening.

Recently the whole question of what to do with the Baptist church has resurfaced. Before the town makes a decision one way or another, many facets of the potential swap, the building of the houses and the economic viability of all the proposals needs to be understood and evaluated. At this time we do not have enough information to make a decision or take a stand.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Blair Anderson
6106 Harvard Avenue
With 13 years of public service experience, I hope to use my knowledge to help our small town identify opportunities and mechanisms to support the issues our town residents are concerned about. Most recently, I served as the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Transportation. Other positions have included Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Acting CFO. As a result, I have a thorough understanding of possible federal funding opportunities available to the town, but also a deep belief for how the government should be responsive to the ideas and concerns of its residents. I’ve been responsible for handing out millions of dollars to communities like ours and know how the rules are written. I believe these skills can be put to use, as a member of the Town Council, helping Glen Echo address our issues while keeping the County and the State accountable for their responsibilities.

On a more personal front, my family and I have lived in town now for almost 5 years. My wife grew up taking every art class available at Glen Echo Park. During that time, I’ve attended many council meetings and have developed ideas on how we can make them more engaging, efficient and constructive. For those of you who know me, I’m a friendly, easy-going person and I strongly believe my professional experience coupled with my personality will help bring a positive tone to the council that engages the rest of the town residents. I promise to listen to all voices equally, whether you are a new family who just moved into the neighborhood or someone who has lived in and shaped Glen Echo’s culture for decades. Thank you and it would be an honor to serve the town.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Shannon Kraus
6108 Princeton Avenue
Heather, Zachary, Aaron and I moved to Glen Echo in 2009. From the beginning, we were struck by the warm and friendly nature that has defined Glen Echo culture—which is in no small part due to the residents. We have always felt welcome here, and it was apparent this was “home” for us immediately.

As an Architect, my career is focused on community health and well-being. The nature of a place and how that place promotes sense of community are ideals that I strive for in both my practice and where I live—which is why I am fond of Glen Echo, its history, and its residents. As such, and with the matters now before us, I have decided now is the time for me to run for Town Council.

I feel that my background and expertise would allow me to contribute greatly to the challenges before the town as we deal with the pressures of growth and development, as well as undertake a comprehensive redo of our town zoning and ordinances. In terms of Vassar Circle, while we must carefully weigh the cost versus benefit and protect the town’s financial future, I do believe green space is the ideal terminus to our town’s main street—a terminus that would be in character with our Chautauqua town roots. While I was in favor of the residential development in general, we have a once in a generation opportunity to determine the future of our town and we owe it to each other to study our options fully, to make such a decision with facts in hand.

If elected, I believe my even-keeled temperament and experience will prove invaluable to our path ahead. I would be honored to have your vote.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Martha Morris
Shannon
26 Wellesley Circle
Dear Neighbors, Glen Echo is a special community. Our history is unique, our location is a treasure, and we all want to make this a great place to live and raise our families.
Since moving here with my husband Joe in 2013 I have been impressed with the level of commitment to our town by its residents. I know there are many challenges to maintaining a thriving community. I would be honored to make a contribution by serving on the Town Council.

I have lived in Montgomery County for most of my life, attended Somerset Elementary, Western Junior High and BCC High School. I have degrees from GWU and the University of Maryland. My career has been dedicated to cultural preservation and management of museums. I began my career at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and later worked at the Smithsonian’s Museum of American History in varying roles leading to the position of Deputy Director. I am currently a professor at George Washington University teaching courses in museum management and leadership. My research and writing focus on managing people and projects, leading change, building new museums, and strategic planning.

As a resident of Glen Echo I am an avid walker, aspiring artist, and lover of the Potomac River and C&O Canal. I currently sit on the board of the Glen Echo Park Partnership. The history of the town and the park are of special interest to me.
ages citizens to get more involved and pursue their own passions for enriching our town. I’d like to propose a re-invigoration of some of the Chautauqua practices Glen Echo was founded on. We could host a series of lectures and performances that highlight the talents, skills and expertise of our neighbors—getting to know each other better in the process.

4. You deserve to have your concerns and ideas heard, so my agenda will be based on your needs and aspirations. Whenever you feel there’s room for improving the services from the town, county, or state, I pledge to be your advocate.

I’m knocking on doors to introduce myself and learn more about issues that are important to you. But if we don’t connect, please reach out to me with your thoughts about how to make our town even better: ideas@spealman.net. I hope that’s what you’re looking for in a Council Member, and that you’ll vote for me on May 1.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Matt Stiglitz
7306 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
Dear Neighbors, My name is Matt Stiglitz, and I am running for reelection as a member of the Town Council. I grew up in Montgomery County, and my wife Susan, daughter Kate and I have lived in town for close to 9 years—in the brown house on the corner of Princeton and University.

I have served on the Council for 4 years. In addition to my responsibilities there, and given my interest and background in public safety, for the last 6 years I have also represented the town on the District II (Bethesda) Police Advisory Board.

When I ran four years ago, it was not on any particular issue, but on a promise to “actively seek input and ideas from the town’s citizens and to vote after careful consideration of all sides of an issue, and in a fiscally prudent manner.” Since then, we have been confronted with some of the most significant and complicated issues in the town’s recent history—among them the arrival of natural gas and possible development on Vassar Circle. Throughout that time, I believe that I’ve lived up to my promise, and have done so in a respectful, thoughtful and transparent manner—you will always know the rationale behind my vote. As before, I am not running on any particular issue. Important matters will continue to be raised. I don’t yet know how I’ll vote on them. Before I do, though, I renew my promise to consider all options and opinions carefully, and to work to strike the right balance that preserves the town as the unique place that it is.

I hope I can count on your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.
Rhein Tutoring

LESSONS FOR FRENCH AND PIANO

$40/hour

References can be provided

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

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)

GREN CLEANERS
GLEN ECHO

NEW PRICES

Pants $6.95 • Sweaters $7.95

We use non-hazardous, non-toxic liquid silicones to gently wash your clothes without harming the environment or your skin. For us, nothing is more important than putting forward the best quality service with the utmost pride in our craft.

total services 301-320-4000

7309 MacArthur Blvd • Bethesda, MD 20816
www.glenechocare.com • www.greenearthcleaning.com
Mon–Fri 7:30 to 6:30 • Sat 8:00 to 5:00

10% Off
Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Expires May 31

10% Off
Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Expires May 31

SUNOCO

KENWOOD SUNOCO CENTER
(formerly Kenwood Mobil)
5201 RIVER ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816
PH: (301) 652-9527 • FAX: (301) 652-1138

James Spicer
OWNER
AUTO REPAIR • FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC
FACTORY SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

James Spicer III
SERVICE MANAGER

GLEN ECHO PHARMACY

CARe

7311 MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20816
www.glenechocare.com

phone: (301) 229-5656
fax: (301) 229-3036
glenecho1@earthlink.net

Joy of Spirit Jewelry

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT
TEL 301-233-1305
www.joyofspiritjewelry.com

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)

Green cleaners
Glen echo

new Prices

Pants $6.95 • Sweaters $7.95

We use non-hazardous, non-toxic liquid silicones to gently wash your clothes without harming the environment or your skin. For us, nothing is more important than putting forward the best quality service with the utmost pride in our craft.

total services 301-320-4000

7309 MacArthur Blvd • Bethesda, MD 20816
www.glenechocleaners.com • www.greenearthcleaning.com
Mon–Fri 7:30 to 6:30 • Sat 8:00 to 5:00

10% Off
Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Expires May 31

10% Off
Dry Cleaning & Laundry
Expires May 31

Petsitting by Patricia

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

• Cat care
• Midday dog walks
• Overnight housesitting

Petsitting by Patricia
301-229-4774
www.petsittingbypatricia.com

We use non-hazardous, non-toxic liquid silicones to gently wash your clothes without harming the environment or your skin. For us, nothing is more important than putting forward the best quality service with the utmost pride in our craft.
On my recent tour of gardens throughout Japan, I couldn’t help wondering why the large majority of species in our Eastern gardens are native to Japan. Some examples are flowering cherries, azaleas, camellias, pachysandra, pieris, Japanese maples, kousa dogwoods, star magnolias, Japanese holly, wisteria, chrysanthemums, aucubas, and hydrangeas—all of which can be traced back to Japanese gardens. The climates are similar and as a result plants from Japan tend to grow extremely well here.

Eastern North America and Eastern Asia have striking climatic and ecological similarities and plants on both continents are surprisingly similar. Scientists believe that the glaciers of the Pleistocene Period split species which then evolved separately. Many Japanese species have American counterparts. Examples include: the American native pieris (Pieris floribunda) and the Japanese pieris (Pieris japonica); the American dogwood (Cornus florida) and the Japanese dogwood (Cornus kousa); and the American pachysandra (Pachysandra procumbens) and the Japanese pachysandra (Pachysandra terminalis).

Long before Japanese plants were exported to the U.S. for cultivation, the Japanese had been selecting and cultivating plants in their gardens. The early Japanese gardens can be traced back to the eighth century and are inextricably linked to Shintoism (“the way of the gods”), which is the indigenous faith of the Japanese people and is based on a reverence for nature. During Japan’s period of isolation from 1639 to 1853, gardening thrived and the classic Japanese garden style was highly developed. Commodore Matthew Perry and the U.S. Navy negotiated a treaty that opened Japanese ports and thereby ended Japan’s isolation period. Soon after, seeds and plants were shipped from Japan to the U.S. The leading exporter of Japanese plants, seeds, and bulbs was the Yokohama Nursery. Azaleas, magnolias, and camellias began to flood the American market and thus began the American love affair with these familiar Japanese plants.

Unfortunately, along with the wonderful plants came some invasive species such as the Japanese honeysuckle, which has colonized and has been spread by birds who love the fruit. Kudzu, a vine, is known to literally devour sites and take over buildings. When grown in the U.S., these plants often do not have the same level of competition and they are able to “take over” as pioneer species. When considering plant choices for my garden, I do not include invasive plants. If there is an American species that suits my needs, it will always be my first choice.

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

HOLLY IN THE IVY

1913–14 catalog of the Yokohama Nursery Co.

Japanese honeysuckle

1913–14 catalog of the Yokohama Nursery Co.

1853, gardening thrived and the classic Japanese garden style was highly developed. Commodore Matthew Perry and the U.S. Navy negotiated a treaty that opened Japanese ports and thereby ended Japan’s isolation period. Soon after, seeds and plants were shipped from Japan to the U.S. The leading exporter of Japanese plants, seeds, and bulbs was the Yokohama Nursery. Azaleas, magnolias, and camellias began to flood the American market and thus began the American love affair with these familiar Japanese plants.

Unfortunately, along with the wonderful plants came some invasive species such as the Japanese honeysuckle, which has colonized and has been spread by birds who love the fruit. Kudzu, a vine, is known to literally devour sites and take over buildings. When grown in the U.S., these plants often do not have the same level of competition and they are able to “take over” as pioneer species. When considering plant choices for my garden, I do not include invasive plants. If there is an American species that suits my needs, it will always be my first choice.

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

GLEN ECHO
HARDWARE
7303 MacArthur Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-229-3700

Authorized Distributor of
Makita ● Paslode ● Fein ● Benjamin Moore Paints

MICKIE SIMPSON
Associate Broker | Green Realtor
Real estate professional and Glen Echo neighbor

msimpson@ttrsir.com
202.906.9865 mobile
linkedin.com/in/mickiesimpson

Friendship Heights office
301.967.3344
www.ttrsir.com

Real estate professional and Glen Echo neighbor

The Echo 9
WE HAVE NO FOOD!” bellows my 14-year-old at least twice a week, while peering into the packed fridge. My family can scarf down a case of man-goes, dozens of single-serve bags of popcorn, whole loaves of bread, and giant containers of cottage cheese in a few days’ time—and those are just the snacks. It’s no wonder I’ve gone looking for ways to make grocery shopping less painful—or at least less frequent.

Our usual routine is a big shop at Giant once a week, a bigger shop at Costco once a month or so, and lots of little fill-in-the gap shops in between. As routines go, it’s pretty punishing. I put out a call to Facebook friends to see if anyone has found a better way.

The first category of services I looked into is grocery delivery. I tried Amazon Fresh—a favorite of several neighbors—and found it had a great selection and good prices. You pay a $15 month membership, which covers shipping for all orders over $45. It is intuitively organized and makes it easy to add your usual stuff to the cart. I was put off by the packaging—the bags and insulation can be returned, but they’re bulky to store between deliveries. Also, every little thing is bagged separately inside the insulated bags—a bummer for us reusable bag types.

There are a lot of options for grocery deliveries, and seem to be more every day. I tried Peapod, but was sent some rock-hard lemons and never went back. My friend Susan recommended Jet.com, which sells everything (including groceries) and promises that prices “drop as you shop.” Susan complimented the amazing packaging materials, which she saves to use later, but adds, “I have no illusions that this is a profitable business model for them so I plan to enjoy them until they go out of business.”

The second category I investigated was meal kits or “semi-homemade” options. Anyone who’s ever listened to a podcast knows about Blue Apron, which has a huge advertising budget and delivers all the ingredients you need to make several meals. Many of my friends have tried it, but no one seems to really like it once the novelty wears off. Several folks complimented the fact that there was no waste, since you get only as much of whatever veggie as you need for a particular recipe.

The lesson is: One size does not fit all. The list of meal kit services is growing—my friends have tried Hello Fresh, Sun Basket, Purple Carrot, and Plated; all offer a generous discount for new customers. Personally, I know the kit option isn’t for me; having ingredients for dinner doesn’t keep me from having to shop for break-
Dad introduced me to the C&O Canal and the great Potomac River. (I call the river “My Mother”). I started fishing on Momma Potomac when I was seven years old. I’m 84 now, so that was before the pollution and snake heads! Fifteen years after “seven,” I was a discharged Navy medic back from serving in the Korean War. My first job didn’t pay much, and we lived in a tiny apartment over a store in Georgetown. Oh Georgetown! I could walk to “Momma,” so we ate a lot of fish, mostly catfish—delish. I couldn’t afford a fishing rod, so a hand line was fine with a sinker and worms on two hooks, with leaders. I spun the line to catapult the cast. I caught something almost every time.

From the very earliest days of my wonderful years at the Smithsonian, I had many fishing pals—anglers, some liked to be called. We went after everything. Shad and rockfish, the salt water visitors, but mainly the wonderful natives: bluegills, catfish, and our main targets, the bass. Large-mouth and smallmouth, the latter was our main hope. A great fighter and acrobatic jumper, yielding good fillets.

Mostly, we used ultra-light spinning rigs and lures. In the old days, pre-plastic, most of them were made of wood and were cheap. We didn’t reject the old cranking reels, and even once in a while, a fly rod. We used minnows and worms for bait as well. We fished from Key Bridge to Harpers Ferry.

Martha and I lived off Seven Locks Road for years, and together we ran on the canal and canoed the river and fished. Now we live in Glen Echo, and our neighbor is Lock 7.

Joe Shannon and bass, circa early 60s

At least twice a month, I would wade in there with tennis shoes and shorts and catch fish. (No life jacket! Though that changed when I had a couple of close calls.) The site was and is one of my favorite places on Earth. Where’s my fishing rod? Or let’s go for a walk on the C&O! —JOE SHANNON

RICHARD LEGGIN
ARCHITECTS
301-320-0107
R L A r c h s . c o m

Way Back When

They say it’s your Birthday!

May 1, Aoife Corbett, 9
May 8, Eliza White, 8
May 9, Sophie Polak, 6
May 12, Aran Bragan, 5
May 23, Alice Parsons Amdor, 2
May 23, Emelia Bohi, 14
May 27, Téa Costello, 14
You are invited!

In March, I received an email from Kevin Marvel, a DC astronomer who had come across *The Echo* while researching Glen Echo as he and his wife house hunt in the area. He’s very interested in our charming burg, so much so that he’s offered to come host an evening of stargazing at the field between Oxford Road and the Glen Echo Park parking lot on May 5. Sunset is 8:05 PM, so please join us in the field from 8–10 PM on Cinco de Mayo (rain date will be May 12). Byo Mexican beer and chairs or blanket and Kevin will bring along a copy of his book *Astronomy Made Simple* as well as some eclipse-viewing glasses for children to use for the solar eclipse coming in August.

A little more about our host … Kevin Marvel is the Executive Officer of the American Astronomical Society, and a research astronomer himself. After a long day at the office, Kevin likes to stay in touch with his astronomical roots by showing people the night sky through his telescope and giving talks and slide shows about the latest and greatest astronomical discoveries. (He can even explain why Pluto is no longer a planet!)

His wife, Jennifer Kerns, is a doctor with the Washington, DC Veterans Affairs Medical center. She grew up in the area and has fond memories of coming to Glen Echo Park during lunch breaks from Westland Elementary with her dad. Kevin and Jen met in Alexandria and got married in 2015. With the arrival of their son Graham in December, they’ve decided to return to Jen’s home turf and put down some roots, and Glen Echo is at the top of their list.

I’ll send this out on the listserv as well. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend. —Emily Parsons
The winner of the flag competition was announced on April 1: It was the green and white sycamore leaf flag designed by Mary Parsons, the Echo’s art editor. It garnered 37 out of 62 votes. The runner up with 16 votes was the green and blue flag with the three circles. The new Town Council still must decide if they want to make the chosen design the official Town flag of Glen Echo.

J. Brown’s Bakery on MacArthur Boulevard in Cabin John has closed. The owners, who also own Captain’s Market in the same shopping strip, could provide no information other than it is "permanently closed."

Bring your unwanted documents to “The Grateful Shred,” where you can watch an industrial-size shredder reduce your papers to confetti, safe from fraud and identity theft. Be at the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard in Cabin John, on Saturday, May 13, between 9 AM and noon. For each of your one-cubic-foot bundles of paper make a $5 donation to the Friends of Clara Barton Community Center—sponsors of the event.

Real Estate Report
As mentioned on page 12, 7314 University Avenue is under contract. 5806 Oxford Road is still on the market with an asking price of $949,000. Look out for another For Sale sign coming at 41 Wellesley Circle, home of Tom and Debra Burton, in mid-May. After 8 years in Glen Echo, and more than 40 in the DC area, the Burtons are moving back home to Omaha, Nebraska, where they have extended family and where their daughter Annie will be attending college in the fall.

Glen Echo Town Hall Events
FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 8 – 10:30 PM, free to Town residents

Local Events
May 3, 4, 5 Bannockburn Spring Show at the clubhouse; tickets at https://bannockburnspringshow.ticketleap.com/
May 6 9 AM–12 PM, garlic mustard pull at Swains Lock; if interested contact gmc@candocanal.org
May 12 5–8 PM, May Fair celebration at Bannockburn Elementary School: food, games, and rides

Glen Echo Park Events
Dentzel Carousel
$1.25 a ride, May–August: Weds.–Fri. 10 AM–2 PM; Sat.–Sun. 12–6 PM (Carousel also open during concerts and other events.)
May 5 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park, First Friday of each month through September, open studios and artist demonstrations throughout the Park
May 6 4–6 PM, Glen Echo Park: History, Legends, and Myths, an illustrated talk by historian Richard Cook in the back room of the Spanish Ballroom, $5 (free for members)
May 14 3–5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom’s back room, $5
May 3 and 17 11AM–12 PM, animal story time at the aquarium for ages 2–5
May 20 10–11:30 AM, meeting of the Gills Club at the Aquarium, for ages 5–12
May 20 6 PM–12 AM, Celebrate History Gala in the Park, dinner and dancing in the Spanish Ballroom

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Cinderella May 4–June 11
Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

Adventure Theater MTC www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270
Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp through May 21
Indulge your Inner Gourmet and Satisfy your Inner Green!
Serving the Community since 1975

Bethesda Co-op
Natural Food Market

Enjoy the Finest in Organic Local & Gourmet Products
Introducing Fine Wines & MicroBrews Organic Local Kosher, too!
Fresh Produce, Pastries & Artisan Breads Daily
Imported & Domestic Cheeses & Delicacies
Veggie, Vegan, Macro & Gluten-free Specialties
Vitamins, Supplements and Herbal Remedies
Unique Gifts, Cards, Clothing, Books, CDs and more...

www.bethesdacoop.org • 301-320-2530
Mon–Sat 8am–9pm • Sun 8am–8pm
6500 Seven Locks Road • Cabin John, MD 20818

Celebrating our 22nd year in Glen Echo!

Alec Graham
REALTOR
Licensed in MD/DC
301.320.7719
alec@alecgrahamrealtor.com
www.alecgrahamrealtor.com

MacArthur Plaza
MacArthur Boulevard at Seven Locks Road

OFFICES AVAILABLE
Single Rooms to Large Suites
Floor plans online

KMI
Commercial Real Estate

Please call
Brad KilnedInst
301-656-7252
www.garrett-smith.com

Glen Echo Exxon
6729 Goldsboro Road

Joe Testa
Service Manager
A.S.E. Certified MD Inspector
(301) 229-8666
FAX: (301) 229-0131

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
Bethesda, Maryland

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, May 7, at 5:00 p.m.
The Shepherd Trio in Concert
Sunday, May 21, 5:00 p.m.
Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert

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

6201 Dunnrobin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20816
301-229-3770 • office@redeemerbethesda.org
www.redeemerbethesda.org