The May 8 Town Council meeting was the first for new Mayor Willem Polak, and it began with his swearing in of new Council Member Dan Spealman and returning Council Member Matt Stiglitz. Council Members Nancy Long and Dia Costello were in attendance, along with five residents and the Town Clerk Stacey Malmgren.

Glen Echo Park
National Park Service representative Aaron LaRocca reported that we should expect Saturday closures from 10 AM to 3 PM on the Clara Barton Parkway for the next few weeks, weather permitting, for hazardous tree cuttings. The main target will be ash trees, which are highly vulnerable to ash borer disease. Although ashes can be inoculated against the pest, the treatment is expensive and must be done over ten years, while not being 100 percent effective.

The NPS Visitor Services is planning improvements in their interpretive programs: (1) mobile, temporary exhibits for the Clara Barton House; (2) audio visual presentations at the Park’s Arcade; and (3) a film, possibly full length, on the Park’s history with the civil rights movement.

There has been discussion at recent meetings of the basketball hoop that appeared on Oxford Road where it intersects with University Avenue. At this point, it is considered “abandoned” property. Although it stands on Park Service property, it was mutually agreed that the Mayor will ask the owner to remove it. [Update: The hoop has been removed.] Also at that spot, the chain fence bordering the Park, which is now being marked with a yellow caution tape, remains a tripping hazard, said Ms. Costello. Possible suggestions included painting the metal or raising it for better visibility.

Describing this as a modern communication tool, he felt it could replace and improve upon the Town’s informal yahoo listserv. [Update: Mailers inviting residents to join Nextdoor were sent out in May.]

Mr. Stiglitz also suggested that our district’s commander, David Falcinelli, be pubished since 1948 for the town of Glen Echo, Maryland ≈ chartered in 1904 ≈ June 2017

Police Report
Mr. Stiglitz reported on the Police Advisory Board meeting held May 4. He recommended that the Town add itself to the County’s free community bulletin board, called Nextdoor.
invited to make a safety presentation to the Town. The Council agreed it should be scheduled for the fall, since many are out of town during the summer. A few cautions: Be aware of a rise in thefts of women’s purses while shopping. And although burglary statistics are down now, they are expected to increase in the summer. There could also be increased solicitations in Town as summer approaches, especially from children who are transported here by a van and instructed to solicit, door to door. Mention was made of an aggressive solicitor in town recently.

Our police district agreed to temporarily locate its one available mobile electronic traffic sign ahead of the pedestrian cross walk at MacArthur Boulevard and Princeton Avenue. Noting that traffic along MacArthur is soon to increase with the addition of thousands more workers at the Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda, Mr. Stiglitz noted that this sign is not a long-term solution to the problem. Mentioned as a possible solution is the MacArthur crossing set up in the Palisades, DC area, near the Safeway, which has a push button and a 30-second cycle to allow pedestrian crossing.

**Town Business**

Town Clerk Stacey Malmgren said that our website contractor is working on a soft relaunch of a new Town website. Among the design changes will be new fonts, condensed content, and easier navigation. Resident Renny Springuel suggested that the website include a standard search box at the top. Moving res-
ervations of the Town Hall online is also in the works.

The budget hearing was set for May 24 at 7 PM. The Council will have a short meeting immediately after to vote on the proposed and amended budget. Suggestions for budget items are requested. Mr. Stiglitz recommended $1,500 to replace the carpeting in the meeting room and $1,750 for a sign with solar powered, flashing LED lights at the stop sign on Oxford Road.

Other dates set: The summer picnic will be July 16 from 5-7 PM at the Town Hall; and the next re-codification of ordinances meeting will be August 8 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

After serving twenty years as the Town’s Elections Supervisor, Susan Grigsby tendered her resignation to the Mayor. Volunteers to fill this position should contact the Mayor.

In response to a May 6 informal work session, where former Mayor Debbie Beers briefed the new Mayor on many details of the job and the new Mayor spoke with the Council and attending residents about his ideas for the Town, Mr. Spealman has prepared a list of Responsibilities and Initiatives, which will be distributed to the Mayor and Council. (See box above right for more details about the May 6 meeting.)

**Town Flag**

There was no vote to determine if the Council should adopt the flag competition winner as an official Town flag at the meeting. The Mayor said the Council would take up the flag issue at its August meeting. [When contacted later, the Mayor said that his main concern was that many residents may not have been aware of the original online survey determining interest in the flag or of the flag design competition. As a first step, the Mayor asked to see the official results from those two surveys.]

**Airplane Noise**

Glen Echo has been invited to name two townspeople to represent the Town at the community organization Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition, which advocates for changes in the noise rules for air traffic over this area. Ms. Costello suggested that resident Kirsten Roddy be asked to be one of the Town’s representatives, because she is the most recent point person on this issue and has been sharing information about the initiative on the Town’s Yahoo listserv. Mr. Stiglitz raised a few cautions about joining the advocacy organization. First, although no money has been required from communities to date, this may change. And second, is there any possible exposure if litigation were to occur? The Mayor will ask the Town attorney, Ron Bolt, for experience-based advice if any of his municipal clients (in the flight path) have formally joined the organization. Residents may wish to independently sign onto the group’s anti-aircraft noise petition.

**Town Expenses**

In April, the Town paid $4,197 to Waste Management of Maryland, $2,760 to Bolt Legal, $2,567 to Chapel Valley Landscaping, $2,300 to Lee’s Tree Service, and $2,000 to GEPPAC.

—GLORIA LEVIN

Ms. Long’s property at 31 Wellesley has been sold. The Mayor spoke with the new owner, who said he hoped to have obtained necessary County permits for demolishing the abandoned house there within two weeks.

On May 6, two days before its first meeting, our Town Council held a working meeting to orient new members with outstanding issues and to discuss the priorities of our new Mayor, Willem Polak. Residents were welcome to attend and add to the list of suggestions for Town priorities. During the first half of the meeting, former Mayor Debbie Beers brought the Council up to speed and addressed issues like moving leaf pick-ups to Mondays, her desire to remain the Town delegate to the Park, her feeling that tax money should never (continued next page)
be spent to send the Town’s elected officials to social events, like the Park’s Gala, and that the Town may have state money to use to update the playground at Glen Echo Park. Mayor Polak thanked her for her service and Ms. Beers made her exit.

Mayor Polak then talked about assigning Council Members to twenty houses apiece to get more personal feedback and engagement from Town residents. Also, along those lines: increasing volunteerism by making sure we are “staffing” our spots on all local boards and organizations, like with the Fire Department and Police Advisory Board. Another concern of the Mayor’s is the safety of the Town’s children. He mentioned restricting evening traffic on Harvard Avenue, where many of the neighborhood children play, and addressing safety issues with regards to the unstable property at 31 Wellesley and the unoccupied church in Vassar Circle.

Residents raised issues including creating a Town Directory, renovating Town Hall, building a bridge to the C&O Canal, solving parking congestion on Oberlin Avenue, forming a committee to investigate how the Town could acquire 2 Vassar Circle, having a point person in Town who could meet with contractors during the day, and posting building permit and tree removal requests on our Town’s website.

Council Member Speelman has created a list of Responsibilities and Initiatives as a starting point based on the May 6 meeting, the May 8 Council meeting, and discussions with the Mayor.

Responsibilities
- Park
- Fire
- Police
- Municipal League
- Animal Control
- Town Hall Scheduling
- Town Hall Maintenance
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Social Events

Initiatives
- Vassar Circle
- Constituent outreach
  (NextDoor, individual assignments, etc.)
- Constituent engagement
  (citizen committees)
- Website functionality improvement
- Improving crosswalks and speedbumps
- Improving sidewalks and storm drains
- Improving parking/traffic
- Right of way usage
  (legalizing leases and possible recreational use?)
- Use of national/state/foundation funds to improve town (especially Open Space playground funds)
- Ordinance review
- Town Hall renovations/usage
- Chautauqua and/or other social events
Our new neighbors at 7314 University Avenue, Mona and Ayan Kishore, increase both the international diversity and technical skills of Glen Echo. Although her immediate family was living in California at the time, Mona’s birth was planned to occur in Alexandria, Egypt, where she would be surrounded and spoiled by her mother’s large family. And while Ayan was born in India, he was raised in Oman.

After finishing high school near Houston, Mona earned her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry with a minor in public policy at the University of Texas, Austin in 2006. During college, she held three internships, with the National Science Foundation, the UN, and the U.S. Department of State.

Ayan moved to the States and got his undergraduate degree in computer engineering from Georgia Tech. Over the years, he’s done many volunteer projects abroad. In the early 2000’s, he volunteered in a Himalayan village in India, building rock walls, planting trees to prevent rain water run-off, and engineering a solution for providing a reliable supply of drinking water for the community.

Mona and Ayan met in graduate school at Carnegie Mellon University where she completed a dual degree, an MBA/MS in social innovation, and he received a master’s in Human-Computer Interaction. They were accepted into an incubator program for new entrepreneurs. They reverse engineered a recruiting technology that was designed for staff-seeking employers into a site (careerimp.com) that directly served job seekers. They grew the company to eight staff members and then sold it to a professional diversity outfit, where Ayan was executive vice president.

Their business partnership eventually morphed into a romantic partnership. Afterwards, while they lived in Chicago, she worked for the travel technology company Orbitz, which was eventually bought by Expedia. She is currently Director of Global Partner Solutions for Expedia, working from home but also traveling internationally for her work.

They moved in 2014 to Washington, DC, for Ayan’s new job with Creative Associates International where he is now Director of Technology for Development. They lived in an 1100 square foot, 2-bedroom condo in Columbia Heights. Mona was president of the condo association and founded a nonprofit that ran a dog park across the street.

After 3 years in DC, they yearned for more space, yet also wanted to replicate the community feel they experienced in DC. Although they knew of Cabin John, they had never heard of Glen Echo when it was recommended by their real estate agent. At the time, no properties were on sale in Glen Echo. However, after visiting the town and Glen Echo Park, they fell in love, eagerly monitoring new listings to come on the market.

The Haverfield house at 7314 University came on the market on April 1, and the Kishore’s made an offer. By April 27 they had moved in to their new home. Having a toddler and a dog to care for, they just threw all their belongings into boxes—without culling or sorting—so they are now negotiating their way through it all, including Ayan’s many acquisitions of art and antiques. (Mona says that Ayan’s field, at heart, is design. “His career in technology is just an application of his passion for visual design.”)

Fifteen-month-old Riya (pronounced REE-ya) was born at nearby Sibley Hospital. She attends a Montessori program in Chevy Chase, DC, near Ayan’s workplace. Mona is pregnant, due in October, so the Kishores would love to learn of local babysitters. Also, because of their busy work schedules, they are keen to hire dog walkers and an occasional dog sitter for Nala, their Pointer/Terrier/Rhodesian Ridgeback, etc. Share your suggestions for baby and dog care with monaandayan@gmail.com

Their hopes for finding neighborliness in Glen Echo have been more than fulfilled. “Everyone has been lovely and welcoming,” said Mona, citing deliveries of cookies and invitations to dinner. In their short time in town, they have already envisioned volunteer roles for themselves. Mona has offered to write for The Echo, and Ayan recognizes that his technical skills could help with upgrading our Town website. —GLORIA LEVIN
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There are a lot of fun ways to motivate children to become active gardeners. Gardening should not be viewed as a chore but rather as a creative and exciting project. Here are several proven ways to get your kids involved in making a purposeful garden this summer.

Take a field trip to the herb and vegetable section of a garden nursery. Let the child choose the plants—with some input from you, of course. Children often pick plants familiar to them like strawberries and pumpkins. I suggest trying a theme garden. How about a pizza garden? Make it in a large container and plant it with tomatoes, oregano, basil, and other Italian herbs. Also, fragrant plants appeal to children, so I suggest chocolate- or rose-scented geraniums, lemon verbena, and lavender. All these plants can be harvested and used fresh or dried for their fragrance or flavor. Plants with interesting texture are often fascinating to kids. Try lamb’s ears, also known as “bandaid plant” (Stachys byzantina). The children will love the soft, furry leaves that feel like bunny ears and which can be wrapped around a small cut to stop bleeding!

Try making a mini-farm by using a flat container with drainage filled with potting soil. Level the soil and make small rows, place the seeds in your rows and cover lightly. Keep the soil moist but not wet. Soon the seedlings will emerge much to the child’s delight. It’s a good idea to use vegetables that the child likes to eat such as carrots and lettuce. Some plants, other than the lettuce, will get too large and eventually need to be planted in another container or in the ground. Not surprisingly, a child might be willing to try eating some unusual or new vegetables if you try this project.

If you have a cat, be sure to grow catnip plants! Catnip (Nepeta cataria) is easy to grow as long as it has nutritious soil and full sun. I suggest you grow some of the more beautiful varieties of catnip such as “Walker’s Low” which is a gorgeous perennial. The leaves and stems of catnip contain a compound which stimulates special receptors that detect pheromones. To a cat, these produce a sense of euphoria so you might find your cat lounging ecstatically among the catnip plants. The leaves of catnip can be cut and dried and then used to make catnip-stuffed toys for your pet.

An easy and rewarding project for the whole family is creating a butterfly cafe in your garden. Find a location with full sun and good drainage. For immediate results, I recommend using long blooming annuals. Butterflies love nectar-producing flowers, especially those with red, yellow, orange, pink, or purple blossoms. The following list would be excellent choices for your butterfly garden: Blue salvia (mealycup sage) (Salvia farinacea); Lantana (Lantana camara); Sunflower (Helianthus annuus); Cosmos (Cosmos bipinnatus); Pentas (Pentas spp.); Spider flower (Cleome spp.); Mexican sunflower (Tithonia rotundifolia); and Zinnia (Zinnia elegans) I guarantee that if you plant a garden or container with a few of these long bloomers, you will have an abundance of butterflies throughout the summer!

—HOLLY SHIMIZU
A Batch of Murals
Aquatic wonders abound at the Glen Echo Aquarium, even in the bathroom! Ask to use the facilities there and you will get to see these playful murals in beautiful color. The artist is Martha Wilson of Virginia Beach.

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A sign of a terrific dinner party? The invention of a new cocktail. Mix up a shaker and pass out a round and the next thing you know everyone is guessing the ingredients and giving the new fizz a name. (And if the next day, you have forgotten about the potent new concoction completely, but are reminded of it when one of the previous night’s guests asks you for the recipe and calls it by name, then success is truly yours.)

Here it is, introducing the Va Va Voom:

Combine 3 parts gin, 1 part lemonade, 1 part soda water, heavy dashes of grapefruit bitters. It’s light and refreshing, haunting … effective.

—EMILY PARSONS

We’ve been busy planting the crops for the mini farm stand this summer. We’re adding a few new varieties of tomatoes, including Paul Robeson, along with our favorite Cherokees and Brandywines. We’ve been using a system called the Florida weave to stake the tomatoes whereby we put in posts every third plant, and as they grow we weave garden string in and out through the posts and plants to keep them airy and upright. We’re also growing lots of sweet peppers of many colors, along with beets, leeks, and squash. Last fall, Henry built a beautiful small greenhouse out of old doors, so our plants were started early and tended by our tenant, Jodi, who is a plant pathologist for the Department of Agriculture. We have high hopes for a great year of delicious, chemical-free produce.

Also, if anyone is interested in a bundle of rhubarb ($3.50), send me an email at cbarton@ mindspring.com, and I’ll let you know when it’s available. Rhubarb not only is wonderful in strawberry-rhubarb pies and crumbles, but also can be added to savory stews. Search the web for some interesting recipes. —CAROL BARTON

**FARM STAND UPDATE**

The rhubarb patch

The new greenhouse

**Drink Me**

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The Town election held May 1 had a turn out surpassing those in recent memory—146 voters. In part, there were a lot of candidates for Council (5) and it was also the first mayoral election in 24 years that didn’t include Debbie Beers! Willem Polak was elected Mayor, and newcomer Dan Spealman and incumbent Matt Stiglitz were elected to Town Council. All posts are for four years, and the seats of Council Members Nancy Long and Dia Costello will be up in 2019. The election judges this year were Patty Sieber, Matt Costello, Thom Amdur, and our Supervisor of Elections, Susan Grigsby. Susan has since submitted her letter of resignation, so interested candidates should contact our new Mayor.

On May 20, the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture hosted its annual Gala. This year’s theme was celebrating history in our backyard. The honorees were First Lady of Maryland Yumi Hogan, Park historian Richard Cook, and the Town of Glen Echo. Former Mayor Debbie Beers and Council Member Nancy Long accepted the award for the Town.

A series of footraces for children hosted by Healthy Kids Running in Cabin John has been gaining in Town participation. This is the third round of races, coordinated by former Glen Echoan Kathleen Wolf, and this year kids named Amdur, Bragan, Epanchin, Hirsch, Hooper, McFarland, and Spealman participated.

Here’s an idea: We’ve never known what to call “the other side of town,” “over by the Inn,” “the part of town on the other side of the Park,” etc. At a re-

CLASS OF 2017

We wish all Glen Echo graduating seniors the best of luck in their next endeavors! Annie Burton will be attending Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, starting fall 2017.

Rex Carter-Graham will be attending the University of Maryland in College Park.

Hannes Kogelnik will be going to Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, next year. He’s interested in physics and math, and will also be playing on the basketball team. Hannes is a three-point specialist, and Grinnell leads the NCAA in three-pointers per game, so it’s a perfect match, and it will be a lot of fun. Go Pioneers!

Zach Zeidenberg will be attending Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is interested in political science, international studies, and film.

Have You Heard?

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cent Town Council meeting, Richard Leggin, who has his office on Oberlin Avenue, mentioned “East Glen Echo” which could be the solution to an awkward problem. Shall we try it?

As May winds down, the Little Falls Library still hasn’t opened. At press time, the library materials had all been delivered and full staff was returning to unpack and organize it. We are counting the days … until we know how many days until it opens, that is.

Real Estate Report
Our active market doesn’t seem to be slowing. Richard Leggin’s commercial property at 6110 Oberlin Avenue is listed for $1,999,995. 7314 University Avenue has sold for $1,050,000 (see New to Town on page 5). The Burton’s home at 41 Wellesley is already under contract; the list price is $975,000. 5806 Oxford Road has dropped its asking price to $899,000. And the Feldbaum/ Fraser home at 5808 Oxford Road available in June has been rented. The details of the sale of 31 Wellesley Circle are not yet available.

Glen Echo Town Hall Events
FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 8 – 10:30 PM, free to Town residents
June 25 12–6 PM, Royal Scottish Country Dance Group presented by Potomac Valley Scottish Fiddle Club, free

Local Events
June 10 11 AM–3 PM, Strawberry Festival at the Church of the Redeemer

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.)
June 2 6–9 PM, Art Walk in the Park, First Friday of each month through September, open studios and artist demonstrations throughout the Park
June 3 and 4 12–7 PM, Washington Folk Festival, free event featuring music, dance, and craft from the area
June 7 and 21 11 AM–12 PM, animal story time at the aquarium for ages 2–5
June 11 3–5 PM, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents a Family Dance in the Spanish Ballroom’s back room, $5
June 24 12–4 PM, Heritage Days, tour the Spanish Ballroom or enjoy barbershop quartet-style singing at 1:30, 2:15, and 3 PM as part of this celebration of MoCo history

Summer Concert Series
Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the bumper car pavilion, free
June 15 U.S. Marine Band—Latin Jazz Ensemble
June 22 David Cole & Main Street Blues
June 29 Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition

The Puppet Co. www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Cinderella through June 11
The Wizard of Oz June 16–July 23
Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10 AM

Adventure Theater MTC www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270
Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook June 23–August 14
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

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL JUNE 10TH!

MUSIC AT REDEEMER
Sunday, June 4, at 5:00 p.m.
Evensong for the Feast of Pentecost

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

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