DON’T MISS THE TOWN ELECTION

On Monday, May 4, between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m., Glen Echo residents will vote to fill three Town Council seats and the position of Mayor. The election will be held in the council chambers of the Town Hall.

Two of the Town Council seats, currently held by Eve Arber and Steve Matney, will be for the full four-year term. The third will be for a two-year term, replacing Robin Kogelnik with a term beginning in May. The position of Mayor, currently held by the Deborah Beers, is a four-year position.

According to the town’s Bylaws, any person who wishes to become a candidate for the open Mayor or Council seats must file a “declaration of candidacy” at least twenty days before the election with the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections. Therefore, a candidate must notify Susan Grigsby in writing by April 14th.

If you have not voted in a previous town election, you must register with the Town Clerk-Treasurer during regular office hours [Monday 12-2 and Thurs. 12:30-3] or the Supervisor of Elections at least two weeks before the election, i.e. April 20.

The Town Council serves a major role in our community as a voice for the town within the Montgomery County Government and as an important liaison with Glen Echo Park. There will be no fax or email voting for reasons of confidentiality. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer or the chair of the Board of Supervisors, but must be returned by 4:00 on election day. Monday, May 4 is the election day in the Town Hall council chambers and will take place between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Susan Grigsby
Supervisor of the Board of Elections. 301-229-7735

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 9. 8:00 p.m.
Glen Echo Town Hall
Contact the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda
THE ECHO

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Nancy Long 301-332-3823
Steve Matney 301-320-2059

CLERK-TREASURER
Cathie Polak 301-320-4041

TOWN WEBSITE ADDRESS:
http://www.glenecho.org

NEW, FREE EXERCISE PROGRAM FOR SENIORS AT CLARA BARTON

A new “Silver Sneaker” exercise program for seniors interested in a cardiovascular and resistance training regimen for health improvement has began at the Clara Barton Center in Cabin John. It is sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Dept. All you need to do be over 55 years of age and apply for a free Silver Sneaker membership card that you display at the center.

Previously all users of the weight room and exercise machines had to pay a fee, regardless of age.

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LADIES OF GLEN ECHO
You are invited to a Ladies Night
at
Debbie Beers's
29 Wellesley Circle
Thursday, March 19, 8:00 p.m.
Please RSVP 301-229-7308

PROPANE TANKS MOVED TO SOLVE VIEW PROBLEM
By Sophie Keefer

The propane fuel tanks for the Clara Barton House have been moved into the nearby bamboo area and should not impede the view of the Clara Barton House any more. Maria Capozzi, Acting Site Manager of Glen Echo Park told the town council last month. They are about 25 feet back, framed, and sit on a pad with gravel. No digging was needed and there was no need to remove trees.

This change was made to satisfy the town and town residents who complained that the previously designated placing restricted their view of the Clara Barton house.

Ms. Capozzi also reported that construction in the park was moving along, and the Crystal Facade had been painted. Council member Long asked about some tree company equipment she had seen. Ms. Capozzi said that a diseased sycamore tree had been taken down on the retaining wall near the caretaker’s cottage. She also said that a new glassblower “Paul,” an apprentice to the old glassblower “Rick,” would be using the caretaker’s cottage.

In other park-related news, Ms. Capozzi said that the space next to Adventure Theatre will be used by the Washington Music Conservatory.

March 2009 at REDEEMER

■ Sunday Morning Schedule
  Holy Eucharist 8:00 am
  Adult Education 9:15 am
  Choral Eucharist 10:30 am
  Church School & Nursery Care 10:30 am

■ Special Events
  Choral Evensong & Organ Recital: Thomas Smith
    Sunday, March 1, at 5:00 p.m. Reception to follow.
  Lenten Tasté Service of Prayer & Contemplation
    Each Monday in Lent, at 7:30 p.m. (March 2, April 6)

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ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS CAN APPLY
TO PARTICIPATE IN CITIZEN ACADEMY

The Montgomery County Police Department is currently accepting applications for future sessions of the Citizen Academy. The program is free, but participants must be 18 years of age or older and either live or work in Montgomery County.

Participants who are selected for the program are required to attend 14 of the 18 classes to be eligible for graduation. Some of the topics covered include: Maryland Traffic Law, investigations of major crimes, drug identification, scams and fraud, firearm safety, a canine demonstration, DUI/underage drinking, and the procedures of the Emergency Response Team. Academy members have the option of touring the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg, participating in a ride-along with a police officer, and attending Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes.

The spring session of the Citizen Academy is scheduled to begin the first week of March 2009. Those interested in learning more about the Citizen Academy and applying for future sessions may contact Officer Michele Smith at Michele.Smith@montgomerycountymd.gov, or at 301-840-2771. More information about the program and an application that can be downloaded are available on the Montgomery County Police website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police on the “Training and Education Division” homepage under the Management Services Division of “Divisions and Stations”.

DON'T MISS
THE ANNUAL TOWN
ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 AT
TOWN HALL

Our devoted past resident Kate Horwitz has not forgotten us. She is offering once again to organize a genuine Irish St. Patrick’s Day dinner and party on Saturday, March 21.

The event will begin 5:00 to encourage parents to bring their children. There will be a fiddler, a limerick contest, and some children’s activities.

Dinner will feature corned beef and libations provided by the town. Guests are requested to bring cabbage, green beans, potatoes, bread, or a dessert.

Because it is necessary to buy the corned beef and do the planning in advance, Kate is urging all who wish to attend to notify her by the Friday a week before the party, i.e. March 13. The absolute deadline for signing up for the event is Friday, March 20!!
AROUND TOWN

*Education Week* magazine recently ranked Maryland’s public school system #1 in the United States.

Adventures Theatre in Glen Echo Park has been nominated for three Helen Hayes Awards. They are Outstanding Choreography, Resident Production, Good Night Moon; Outstanding Director, Resident Musical, Good Night Moon; and Outstanding Ensemble, Resident Musical, Good Night Moon.

The Helen Hayes Awards celebrate professional theatre in the Washington metropolitan area by recognizing outstanding productions and performances each year. Michael Bobbitt, artistic director of Adventures Theatre, is a resident of Wellesley Circle.

As the *Washington Post* first reported on January 26, Montgomery County delayed for at least six months the release of a report showing a precipitous decline in water quality. The report findings are particularly disturbing because they show that even in the county’s most strictly protected watersheds (known as ‘Special Protection Areas’) water quality is rapidly declining, likely due to surrounding development. County representatives say that the report was withheld to allow the county time to develop an appropriate response. Local water quality groups, including Potomac Conservancy, are working with the county to address the problems highlighted by this report.

January was one of the coldest in a decade, *The Washington Post* reported. The average temperature was 31.6 degrees, more than three degrees colder than last January, and on only two days did the mercury remain above the freezing mark.

COUNCIL ACCEPTS PROPOSAL FOR NOISE-PROOFING OF TOWN HALL
By Sophie Keefer

Case Handyman Division has provided a proposal to dampen noise in the town hall, clerk-treasurer Cathie Polak told the town council last month. Acoustic tiles would be attached to the ceiling in sections. The fixtures and fan would be lowered, and crown molding would be put around the edge.

Mayor Beers advised the town to accept the proposal, and noted that it will more difficult to deal with the walls, which are not addressed by this proposal. She made a motion to accept the proposal for $3,600, excluding scaffolding and electrical work to accommodate the projector. Council member Matney suggested accepting the proposal with a cap of $4,000. All members were in favor.

FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES AT CHURCH

Glen Echo Baptist Church has organized an ongoing Food Drive. Donations of canned goods can be placed in the covered container next to the door on the parking lot level on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. In case of precipitation or freezing weather, the container will be on the other side of the unlocked door immediately inside the church.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Anne Curtis at 301-277-1672, or Susan Draize at 301-229-2220.

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www.cabinjohnorganizing.com

"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." William Morris

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FORUM SCHEDULED FOR SENIORS “IN AN UNCERTAIN TIME”

A forum on “Security for Seniors in an Uncertain Time” will be held on Friday, Mar. 6, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Anastasia Room of the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad at 5020 Battery Lane in Bethesda.

Organized by Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner, the forum will feature guest speakers Sen. Ben Cardin, Stan Hinden, former Washington Post financial writer and author of “How to Retire Happy,” and Commander Russ Hamill of the Montgomery County Police Dept. They will discuss financial, personal, and home security.

Admission is free. Call 240-777-7828 for more information.

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

February 9

Clerk-treasurer Polak said that the speed bumps on Oxford Avenue had been ripped out by a snow plow plowing for the park during the recent snow. The town had them put back in. The town also got red reflectors to put on each side of the speed bumps.

Mayor Beers announced that Council member Nancy Long would be an honoree at the Glen Echo Park Gala in May. The other honorees are Chris Van Holle and the Spanish Ambassador. It will be a Spanish-themed even held in the Spanish Ballroom. Mayor Beers said she thought the Town should sponsor a table (for $1750, 10 seats). She proposed that the seats could be offered on a first come first served basis to town residents. Clerk-treasurer Cathie Polak suggested that Nancy Long invite guests rather than offering seats to town residents, but Council member Long objected to the town purchasing a table at all, and said she thought as an honoree she might have a free table. She asked that the issue be tabled until next month.

Town resident Pam Mason, an audiologist, alerted the council that May is better hearing month, and she wondered if the town would like to have an event on May 2 at the Town Hall. She could not do hearing screenings because of the acoustics, she said, but could bring DVDs, adult education materials, children’s activities, and experts to answer questions.

Ms. Mason asked whether the town would be willing to write a resolution and issue a proclamation. Mayor Beers responded that the town has not done this before and was concerned that everybody would want one, so the answer was no. Ms. Mason said she would consider how big she wanted the event to be and get back to the council.

—Sophie Keefer
GREEN NEIGHBORS GROUP
PROMOTING REUSABLE BAGS

Spurred by their recent very successful collection of discarded metals, a group of citizens from Cabin John, Carderock and Brookmont have formed a Green Neighbors group initially focusing on reducing the proliferation of petroleum-based plastics which are collecting in local waterways, rivers, and oceans.

As reported in the March Village News, the group has decided to look into the possibility of purchasing 1000-20000 custom, reusable bags made of recycled plastic, which may be distributed to residents for a donation, or possibly for a charge. These bags would be part of the Bring Your Own Bag program, which would encourage residents to bring their own bags when shopping with the goal of reducing the local communities' waste stream.

For more information or to help in the project, contact Tom Rojas at 301-229-7803.

(Ed. Comment: With all its surrounding communities involved in this ecologically sound program, it seems Glen Echo should jump on the bandwagon.)

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Are you looking for a way to get your dog exercised while you're busy working? I would love to walk your dog! I work from home in Glen Echo (21 Wellesley Circle) so my hours are flexible. My rate for a single dog on a 30 minute walk is: $15. Or, we can work out whatever arrangement suits your needs – group walk, etc. Please contact me, Lyndi Scott-Strite, via email: lyndicss@gmail.com or via phone: #301-229-2589.

Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: $75 per line of 50 characters or fewer. Display ads: $4 per column inch. Ads may be left with or mailed to the editor at 38 Wellesley Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

CONCERTS AT TOWN HALL

Thursday March 19, 2009 at 8:00 PM

Two Peppery Old Salts and One Salty Pepper-Upper

Bob Zentz and Kendall Morse sing contemporary, traditional and original maritime songs on guitar, banjo, hammered dulcimer, harmonic and concertina.

Ken Hicks is known for his humorous songs and is the author of the folk classic, "All the Good People."

Sunday April 5, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Ed Trickett is one of the well-known troubadours and song sharers. In his tenor voice he sings ballads, sea songs, and songs of love and protest. He's also a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Both concerts FREE for residents of the Town of Glen Echo.
GOOD TIME TO PICK UP
FREE MULCH FROM COUNTY

This is a good time to get free mulch from a local Neighborhood Mulch Preserve. It is now largely composed of recycled Christmas trees, meaning it is both high-quality and fragrant. The woody material has been shredded into two to four-inch long pieces.

This is excellent material to use on woody plants, as a cover material where you wish to control vegetation, or as a carbon-rich addition to home compost piles. However, this is “green” mulch and must be aged for at least 6-9 months before it can be used for flowers, vegetables, or other plants with tender or shallow root systems. It may also contain allergens, poison ivy, termites, and/or carpenter ants, although composting/curing may eliminate most of these problems.

The most convenient mulch preserve location is probably Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Dr. (off Rte. 355). The pile is past the front of the school on the dead-end road on right.

SNOW REMINDER

Residents are asked to shovel the snow off the sidewalks alongside their properties as soon as possible so that pedestrians can walk in safety. This should be done promptly because unshoveled snow often freezes and remains on the ground for days.

It is essential that snow is shoveled all the way to the next resident’s property line so that no swath of ice remains for pedestrians to either slip on or have to walk in the street to avoid.

Under Maryland state common law a property owner has the duty to keep walkways shoveled to avoid a hazardous condition.

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