COUNCIL APPROVES $450,000 FOR STREET REPAIRS THIS YEAR

At its May 20th meeting, the Town Council budgeted $450,000 for street paving during the fiscal year that begins July 1st, compared to $400,000 that was approved (but unspent) for this purpose in fiscal 2008-2009. Mayor Debbie Beers said the plans and specifications for the road repair project have been bid out, using Montgomery County’s website, and she expects to receive the proposals shortly. The budget also includes $15,000 for sidewalk repairs, the same amount included (but unspent) last year.

Total expenditures for the year will be $726,399, an increase of about 7% over last year’s figure. Besides street paving, the largest increase in the budget is $45,000 for engineering surveys, which was underfunded last year by $11,000 ($10,000 was budgeted; $21,000 was spent).

Another underfunded project last year was Town Hall improvements, which ran nearly $34,000 over budget ($10,000 was budgeted; $43,986 was spent). This year, Town Hall improvements are slated to cost $20,000, principally spent for a sound control system, Mayor Beers said.

Balancing out some of the increases, money for several items are being reduced this year, including Town Hall and “other” maintenance, which will receive $21,000 compared to $45,000 in last year’s budget (because only about half was actually spent). Also, landscaping will come to $25,000 vs $30,000 last year. Legal expenses are budgeted at $15,000 this year vs. $20,000 last year. And “fixed operation expenses” — i.e., electrical, heat, telephone and water — is expected to cost $8,600 vs $10,500.

In the 2008-2009 budget, $10,000 was approved for a stone entrance to the town, but it was not spent; this year the project is being eliminated altogether because “everybody was against it,” Mayor Beers said.

See BUDGET on page 5
THE ECHO

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Any comments about The Echo may be addressed to the Editor, the Mayor or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor at 301-229-4294 or 202-409-5146.

Join the Glen Echo Group on Yahoo!

Just a reminder to keep your email address updated and how to post to the group.

Below are the email addresses to use for the group.

If you want to Post message to the Glen Echo Group:
GlenEcho@yahoogroups.com

If you want to Subscribe to the Glen Echo Group: GlenEcho-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If you want to Unsubscribe to the Glen Echo Group:
GlenEcho-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Glen Echo Group is closed so that only residents of Glen Echo can be members. By keeping the group closed we protect our members from getting spam emails. We encourage all of you to send emails about what's going on in town.

If you have any questions please send an email to dan@macy.net.  

---Dan Macy
Glen Echo Park Notes

Glen Echo Park has received money for replacement playground equipment, according to the park’s site manager Polly Angelakis.

The old equipment, which was installed in 2000, had to be taken out for safety reasons, she said.

Angelakis told the council it is not clear if the new selection fits the budget or the footprint available.

Money has been approved to repair the parlor at the Clara Barton House, which was damaged by water when a pipe broke.

Glen Echo Park Site Manager Polly Angelakis says funding has also been approved for relocating the bathroom at Clara Barton House.

Carousel hours are: Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 12-6 p.m.

The slowdown in the economy doesn’t appear to be hurting Glen Echo Park so far, according to Dottie Marshall of the National Park Service.

She says registrations for events at the park remain constant, and she hopes that will continue.

Glen Echo Park is going to Plan B in its effort to find funding for its geothermal project.

Dottie Marshall of the National Park Service says it wasn’t one of the projects to be helped by money from the economic recovery program.

But the project does have design money.

So Marshall says she’ll look for other funding possibilities once the design is complete.

She says an answer on funding could be known late this year.

The park service could be open to transferring ownership of Oxford Road to the town.

Dottie Marshall says she has asked the park service’s solicitor to look into the possibility of a quit claim to give the town ownership.

Right now the park service owns the land but the town has the rights to the road.

Marshall says there would have to be some strings attached should the town be given ownership.

The park service would want to have the right to put utilities under the road and it would need to have perpetual rights to access the Clara Barton house.

—Jerry Bodlander

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GLEN ECHO ELECTION RESULTS

On May 4, 2009, the Glen Echo citizens elected the following candidates for the positions of Mayor and Town Council seats. There were 77 voters who came to the polls, and 7 absentee ballots. One vote had to be voided because too many candidates were selected.

Deborah Beers was reelected by 66 votes as Mayor. She ran unopposed.

For the two four-year town council seats, the incumbents won: Eve Arber with 64 votes, and Steve Matney with 47 votes. Mark McCaffrey followed closely with 46 votes.

For the two-year town council position (which was the former seat of Robin Kogelnick), Dan Macy won with 53 votes to Jun McGunigle’s 31 votes.

There were 77 voters who came to the polls, and 7 absentee ballots.

Thank you to Chris Hewitt, Jocelyn Khalifa, and Matt Costello, the other election judges, who helped me register voters, keep the records, and tally the votes. Thank you to Cathie Polak for her support.

A special thank you to all who took the time to vote. In this somewhat tight election, one vote did make a difference.

—Susan Grigsby, Chief Election Judge

THE GRATEFUL SHRED II

It’s another shredding party, organized by the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center. Avoid fraud or identity theft—and clean out your files. Bring those no-longer needed bills, statements, letters—anything with private, confidential, or sensitive information that you want to get rid of—securely.

Like last year, Frederick’s ALL-SHRED is providing a mobile shredding truck. Inside the truck is a cross-cut shredder that cuts your pages—while you watch—into tiny paper chips, which are then baled and sent to paper plants for recycling. Materials can also be dropped off starting at 8 a.m.

The following can be shredded along with office paper: staples, paper clips, rubber bands, folders, binder clips, hanging folders (even with metal strips), and labels. No newspapers, 3-ring binders, cardboard, heavy plastic, heavy metals, boxes, trash, floppy disks, or CDs will be accepted.

Requested donations are: $5 per box of paper (a one-cubic-foot storage box or the equivalent); $3 for a half-box or the equivalent; or a quarter-box for $2. Paper bags are suitable containers.

All proceeds go to support activities at the Clara Barton Community Center, which is a facility of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

The Grateful Shred II will take place on Saturday, June 13 from 9-12 a.m. at the Clara Barton Community Center.

Police Advisory Committee Meeting Report

The Montgomery County Police Community Advisory meeting was held on May 11. Since the area including Glen Echo (known as E1) has had more thefts from autos than other area in the Bethesda District, police will be increasing attention to town.

Officers emphasized how important it is to not leave any valuable items visible.

Due to budget cuts, the Bethesda Police Station will be closed to the public between 1 am and 6 am every day starting July 1.

Two civilian positions will be cut from the Bethesda District, but those positions will be cut through attrition; one of the long-time civilian employees is retiring. No police officers positions are being cut.

—Norman Hudson-Taylor
**Budget**

Page 1

**Town Revenues Are Decreasing**

Revenues this year should come to $248,962, a decrease 3.6% from last year’s budgeted income of $258,118. As in previous years, the major sources of income will be from Town Hall estate taxes ($78,194, based on 13 cents per $100 of assessed property value, versus $71,300 budgeted for last year); Maryland state income tax revenue sharing ($78,000, the same as last year); Post Office space rental ($31,680, also the same); and Montgomery county revenue sharing ($20,000, the same).

Lower interest paid on Town’s capital surplus could, by itself, account for the expected 3.6% decrease in revenues. For the year, the $15,000 expected from this source was “way off,” commented Clerk-Treasurer Cathie Polak, who noted that by April 15th the Town had collected just $9,936 in interest on its capital surplus. This year, the Town expects to collect just $5,000 in interest.

Other expected revenue decreases include $3,600 less in personal property taxes ($7,400 vs $11,000) and $2,618 from highway revenue sharing ($18,000 vs $20,618, and on the number of vehicles registered in Glen Echo). Highway revenue sharing had been slated to be reduced by 10% but wound up being cut by only 10%, Mayor Beers said.

Total current assets of the Town amount to $667,587. Summing street paving actually takes place during the new fiscal year (the project has been budgeted but the money isn’t for the past several years) and all other revenue and expenditure assumptions are realistic, the Town’s assets will be by $487,437, to $180,150, by next June 1st.

At a Council meeting immediately following the budget hearing, the four Council members voted unanimously to approve the budget, then adjourned.

—Rex Rhein

**Birth Announcement**

Wellesley Circle residents Debbie and Donald Beers welcomed their first grandson on May 5, 2009.

Owen Michael Beers is the son of Michael Beers and Norah Comstock. Owen was born at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21 inches.

The family is doing well and is expecting to relocate to Bethesda.

**Margaret (Marge) Deebo**

1919-2009

Former long-time Glen Echo resident, Margaret (Marge) Deebo, passed away on May 15, 2009.

Margaret Waian Deebo was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on January 10, 1919. She was the fifth child in a family of ten. Her family moved to Los Angeles, California where she met and married Edward Deebo on February 23, 1946.

They moved to Glen Echo, Maryland with Edward’s father, Joseph Deebo. There they raised two children, the late Janet Deebo Hufnagel and Joseph Samuel Deebo.

Joseph Deebo owned several properties in town, leaving the house at 1 Vassar Circle to Edward and Marge Deebo, his son and daughter-in-law, when he passed away in 1968.

Edward Deebo owned several rides at Glen Echo Park, including The Whip. He passed away in 1987. Margaret lived on Vassar Circle until 2000 when she moved to Poolesville, Maryland and later to Selbyville, Delaware.

Renny Springuel, former Vassar Circle neighbor, said, "Marge was a special friend for those of us who have been in town for a few years. For years she welcomed all new comers to town and always had a few kind words to say."

University Avenue resident Gloria Levin noted, "[Marge was] always around town, sweeping the sidewalk on Vassar Circle." She added, the Deebo’s "backyard swimming pool was used all summer long by neighborhood children."

She contributed many pictures and historical artifacts to the town of Glen Echo.

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MAY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Debbie Beers swore in recently elected Council members Eve Arber, Dan Macy and Steve Matney.

Mayor Beers took her oath of office earlier in the day by County Clerk at the Rockville court house.

(For more information about the recent election, see ECHO ELECTION RESULTS on page 4).

***

Town officials are concerned about the passing lane on MacArthur Boulevard on the town side of the one-bridge. It means cars turning left onto Wilson Lane won’t up traffic.

But Council member Steve Matney fears it’s an accident ing to happen.

He says a pedestrian coming down Wilson could cross side of the road, and while the car waiting to turn should hat person in the crosswalk, a car speeding past in the far lane might not.

He says better signs are needed.

Compounding the situation, Mayor Debbie Beers says n John apparently asked the light on the Glen Echo side rttened.

The aim was apparently to avoid traffic backups on the ern side of the bridge. But council members now fear will occur on the town side of the bridge.

The town plans to ask the county why this was done out notifying the town.

***

Save the date—the town picnic will be held Sunday 28th at 5 p.m.

Mayor Debbie Beers says the council is hoping to use vent to honor Carlotta Anderson for the 35 years she d as editor of The Echo.

Carlotta recently stepped down as editor because of poor h.

—Jerry Bolander

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

day, June 8, 8 p.m.
Echo Town Hall
act the clerk-treasurer to add an item to the agenda

Glen Echo Baptist Church
Serving Glen Echo families since 1939
Dr. Ed Curtis, Th.D., Pastor
Bringing God’s Truth to Life

Sunday School ............ 9:30 am
Sunday Services ............11:00 am
Wednesday Activities ..... 7:00 pm
Mid-Week Bible Study .... Vassar Circle
AROUND TOWN

On May 3rd, six-year-old, Renz Johnson (the son of D.J. Johnson and Alex Ferlinga of 6009 Princeton Avenue) participated in the 19th Annual Make-A-Wish Kids' Triathlon. More than 100 children competed in this wonderful event to raise funds and awareness for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic, Inc.

Founded in 1983, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic has fulfilled the wishes of over 6,000 children fighting life-threatening medical conditions.

***

Tom Helf, Oxford Road resident and drummer for the eclectic roots rock band, Cravin' Dogs will be performing on Thursday June 4th at Bangkok Blues in Falls Church, Va. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and there will be a modest cover charge. For more information visit www.cravindogs.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

Small family daycare in Cabin John near the Bethesda Co-op has full-time and part-time openings. Licensed by Maryland State Department of Education since January 1991, CPR and First Aid certified. References available. Interested please call Siew at (301)320-4280

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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 5 Vassar Circle, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Make checks payable to: Town of Glen Echo. Deadline: 24th of each month.

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THE HISTORY OF GLEN ECHO FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Glen Echo Fire Department was organized in 1930 when a residential fire in the Town of Glen Echo took the lives of five people—a mother and her four children. A Fire Station was established on Vassar Circle, equipment acquired and volunteer personnel trained to perform basic fire fighting functions.

1933 saw the establishment of The Conduit Road Fire Board, incorporated by the Maryland State Legislature. The Conduit Road Fire Board was created as a citizen-constituted body and was given authority to establish and oversee one or more fire departments, including Glen Echo. Operational responsibility is vested in the Fire Chief who reports to the Board of Directors.

In 1935 a new Fire Station, which was constructed with WPA funds, was occupied on Vassar Circle. Glen Echo. During World War II, the Fire Department had the job of the local civil defense program as well as quarters for military personnel responsible for protection of the Washington Aqueduct. The Korean conflict saw the building used as barracks for a local anti-aircraft battery located on Seven Locks Road. When the Vassar Circle building was vacated it became the home of the Glen Echo Baptist Church. In 1948 the Department employed its first paid firefighter.

Population expansion within the area mandated a relocation of the Glen Echo Station to a more central location to render a higher level of service. The Maryland Ration Bureau was requested to survey our area of responsibility and make recommendations to improve the fire defenses of the community. At this time, the Rating Bureau set the fire insurance rates for the area.

The survey was done and some recommendations—including that the fire station be in a more central location—were implemented. The Department occupied the present station on Massachusetts Avenue on August 7, 1954 after dedication of the building by The Honorable Theodore R. McKeldin, the Governor of Maryland. In addition, two maple trees were dedicated to the memory of two of our volunteer personnel: Harry Dean, who died in the service of our country in World War II and Sonny Bolton, a casualty of the Korean conflict. Both of these trees still stand on the station site.

Occupation of the new station resulted in the acquisition of additional equipment and a program of expansion of the career staff.

The Conduit Road Fire Board continued to meet the requirements for improved fire defenses for the area. In 1963 the Board requested a resurvey of the Department’s capabilities. The Department was awarded a “B” rating making it one of three departments holding this fire insurance rating in the entire state, and resulting in a lower insurance cost for our citizens. This was a significant achievement envied by other departments, and was accomplished through the efforts of the Board of Directors, volunteer, and career personnel.

The Department continues to meet its obligation of providing fire protection of a highly professional quality. This accomplishment is possible through the high level of cooperation that exists between the Board of Directors, career personnel, and the high spirit of “volunteerism” exhibited by the many talented volunteer members.

—Compiled by Mark McCaffrey

June 2009 at REDEEMER

- Sunday Morning Schedule
  The Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
  Adult Education Forum 9:15 a.m.
  Choral Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
  Church School & Nursery Care 10:30 a.m.

Strawberry Festival
Saturday, June 13
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Shortcakes, sundaes, silent auction, games, moonbounce, lunch from the grill, musical performances, and more!

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