AUGUST TOWN COUNCIL NOTES
By Sophie Keefer

Ordinance Amended to Clarify
Town Responsibilities

At the August 8, 2011 Council meeting, Mayor Beers asked for approval of an amendment to Article 9 of the Glen Echo Code listing provisions in the County Ordinances that would not apply in the Town. Maryland and Montgomery County Law provides that municipalities may exempt themselves from some or all of a County’s laws. Mayor Beers said the purpose of the ordinance is to provide updates, letting Montgomery County know which provisions the Town believes are and are not applicable to it, and then to establish a memorandum of understanding with the County so that everyone understands which County provisions should be enforced in the Town, e.g., removal of abandoned vehicles. The provisions that would not apply were identified by the Town’s attorney and circulated to Town residents last month.

Matt Stiglitz asked why the categories of “Ethics; Finance; Financial Disclosure; and Streets and Sidewalks” would not apply to the Town. Mayor Beers responded that Town employees and elected officials were exempted from the County’s financial disclosure requirements, and that the Town has its own standards on streets and road construction. Diana Hudson-Taylor asked about the provisions on solid waste and setbacks. Mayor Beers responded that the Town attorney advised that the Town did not need the solid waste provisions.  

CONTINUED on Page 3
Councilmember Matney responded that by excluding the County’s set back provisions, the Town was actually exempting itself from the County’s special exceptions. Glen Echo previously adopted its own, more limited, setback exemptions. The amendment ordinance was approved by the Council.

**Glen Echo Baptist Church**

Councilmember Long reported that the Glen Echo Baptist Church is trying to find an appropriate group to use the property. One suggestion is the National Community Church (NCC) would operate a daily for-profit coffee house for the general public to raise money for community outreach programs. The NCC operates a coffee house in Capitol Hill called Ebeneezer’s. The Town plans to invite the minister of the NCC to the next meeting to discuss the idea and get more information on the status of the church’s plans. Tom Meeks, in an email prior to this Council meeting, told The Echo that the church will remain a place of worship no matter what any other use might be.

**Water Leak on Wellesley**

Councilmember Matney observed that the WSSC drilled several holes on Wellesley Avenue to find a water leak, and that these need to be fixed before winter.

**Glen Echo Park Report**

Polly Angelakis, site manager of the Park, reported on the Labor Day Art Show (Sept. 2-5), Ranger-Led programs, and a revised Park brochure. She advised that an open meeting would be held in September to discuss the bike path plans.

Mayor Beers noted that there have been some complaints regarding cars running the stop sign on Oxford, and one child was endangered. This was a problem in the afternoons during pick up for the camps at the Park. She said the Town is considering whether flashing red lights (like those at the crosswalk on MacArthur Blvd. near the Safeway in Palisades) would help.

Councilmember Long advised Ms. Angelakis that a Town resident had reported that a child had broken an arm in the playground. Ms. Angelakis was not aware of this, although injuries typically come to the Park’s attention because an ambulance is called. She said the Park was doing an annual inspection of the playground and would share the report with the Council.

CONTINUED on Page 4
Town Wide Yard Sale

Diana Hudson-Taylor asked the Council for permission to hold a Town wide yard sale as in previous years, and the Council agreed. The sale will be held Oct. 1. The Town Hall will be reserved as a rain location. The cost to participate will be $5.00, to cover advertisements. Additional information can be found in this issue of The Echo.

Memorial Bench for the Briggs

Sue Grigsby and Dia Costello reported that lifetime Glen Echo resident Betty Briggs recently died. They proposed that the Town install a memorial bench or chairs in memory of Betty and her husband Billy Briggs. Billy was a former council member who died last year. The bench would be purchased with donations. One suggested location is under the tree in front of Town Hall which would reflect Betty and Billy’s 80 some years of involvement with the town of Glen Echo.

New Pathway to Health

A holistic approach to health and FOOD!

It is not a diet!

Call for a free consultation.

Contact: Wendy Martens
301.602.9286
wendy.martens@newpathwaytohealth.com

Police Report

Norman Hudson-Taylor reported that at Dunrobbin and MacArthur Blvd. a bicyclist was spat on and run off the road on Aug. 11.
with lots of ribbons. We then ventured up to the 4-H exhibits that recognized people for their various talents. The one area of interest that intrigued me was the number of entries there were in the home canning area. As a canner myself I was amazed that much of the judging was done on appearance. Only a few of the containers had been opened. Although there were lots of entries, most were from a select number of people. While impressed, I left the building thinking….maybe next year I’ll compete for a ribbon or two, myself.

Night Meeting

This article, contributed by Beth Rockwell, provides a glimpse into one of the reasons we enjoy living in Glen Echo. The Echo welcomes articles that residents might like to contribute regarding the Town or a special interest one might have.

Just before Jim and I moved to Glen Echo, I developed an interest in birds. Our home sat on a large lot on Wilson Lane where we installed numerous feeders which provided our cats with hours of Cat TV through the dining room window. When we moved into our Glen Echo home, we put up the feeders and added a hummingbird station. I began to keep a log of bird visitors to our yard. We’ve had flickers, hawks, towhees, an oriole, and hundreds more common species.

The most unusual bird

CONTINUED next column
I’ve seen was not in the yard but, while on a walk with Jane Stevenson, along the towpath. We thought we had come across an escapee from the bird house at the zoo or a character straight from the pages of Dr. Seuss. It was a juvenile black crowned night-heron sporting an incredibly long, white feather sprouting from the center of its head. It was more than a little exciting! Just like the town’s recent, baby vultures – so ugly and yet, so adorable.

Night Meeting

One night earlier this summer, as I walked along the bike path, I experienced a close encounter with a Great Horned Owl. Our dog, Wylie, and I were headed toward the one lane bridge, just past Cornell Avenue, where the right-of-way lies a few feet below the path. Gliding toward and below us was a bird with an enormous wingspan. The creature was backlit by a single street light, peeking through the trees. With just a little flick of the wing, silently and smoothly, it flew past us and up into a pine on the corner of Cornell and Wellesley Circle. I dragged Wylie back and around the corner where I stood and searched the upper branches but couldn’t see the bird. As my eyes followed the line of the trunk down to the base, I thought, with disappointment, that I’d missed seeing something spectacular. And then, just about eight feet directly in front of me, on the lowest branch, sat the owl, intent and perhaps a little bored. He sat; I stared; Wylie yawned and scratched for maybe five minutes. I didn’t want to break the spell but eventually the owl did – he flew a few feet up onto the telephone wire for another minute and then moved on into the night.

I was honored to have had that experience. Years ago, we hosted a tiny, Crossed-eyed Barn Owl that flew into my father’s car one snowy Christmas

CONTINUED on Page 8
AROUND TOWN

Speaking of the County Fair, (see Jan Shout’s column), Eleanor Balaban was awarded The Blue Ribbon for a pieced quilt she entered in the Fair contest. Her winning quilt was a combination of dotted fabric and Kaffe Fawsett bright prints. She also won two second place ribbons in other categories and a third place as well. Eleanor has been entering quilts in the Fair for six years.

.............................

Michael Levenson, son of Marc Levenson and Jo Anne Murray, graduated from Boston College, BS Biology, and has been accepted to University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School in the fall. Michael has worked with animals of all sizes at Alpine Veterinary Clinic on MacArthur Blvd and at Second Chance Wildlife Center in Gaithersburg. During his senior year at Boston College he worked as a surgical vet tech at Veterinary Emergency Treatment and Specialties (VETS) hospital, an affiliate of Tufts University in Boston.
and picked it up, fearing that its crossed eyes led it into the windshield. That little guy fit in the palm of my hand. How different my Glen Echo owl was.

I think the big owl spends some nights around the Clara Barton House. Jim has heard him during the night and Jane saw him flying low along Oxford Avenue, one night, as we sat on my unfinished deck. Now, I look and listen for him every night when we walk the dogs. He may want to look me up again and bring back memories of another bird, another time.
September at Glen Echo Park

Summer Concert Series: The Crimestoppers
September 1

This free concert features the Crimestoppers, a local rock n' roll and blues band that covers such diverse groups and artists as Stevie Ray Vaughan, Los Lobos, the Allman Brothers, Eric Clapton, and Jimi Hendrix. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m., rain or shine. The Carousel will be open from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

41st Annual Labor Day Art Show
September 2 - 5

The 41st Annual Labor Day Art Show features the work of more than 150 artists from the mid-Atlantic region. Works will include photography, painting, ceramics, jewelry, glass, textiles, and more. Most of the work is for sale. Opening Reception, Friday, 7 – 9 p.m. Saturday, Sunday & Monday, 12 – 6 p.m.

Open House
September 3

Visit Glen Echo Park for an Open House and explore the many classes and programs offered at the Park. See artists at work in their studios, participate in a free workshop, meet instructors, and try something new! Participate in a scavenger hunt to explore the Park and receive benefits towards Fall class registration. Noon to 4 p.m.

Irish Music & Dance Showcase
September 3-5

In conjunction with Glen Echo Park’s 41st Annual Labor Day Art Show, the Glen Echo Park Partnership and the Irish Inn at Glen Echo present a weekend of Irish music and dancing, featuring a wide variety of the area’s finest performers.

Goodbye Summer,
Hello Fall!
In Remembrance ….

Betty Briggs, a long time resident of Glen Echo, recently died. She is survived by her son, William E. Briggs III, (Buddy), daughter-in-law Barbie, and three grandchildren. Mrs. Briggs’ husband, Billy, died last December. Neighbors are planning a Celebration of Life at a Lasagna Dinner to be held in Town Hall on September 9th at 6pm. In honor of the Briggs, two memorial chairs will be donated to the Town for placement on the lawn in front of Town Hall. Both Briggs were born in Glen Echo. Buddy and Barbie Briggs and their children are expected to attend the celebration. For planning purposes and to make donations for the memorial chairs, or contributions of food for the event, please call Susan Grigsby at 301-229-7735.

Two couples who lived close to the Briggs have written remembrances of Betty, who will be missed by her family and her community.

Our Thoughts about Betty

Cris and I (Julie) and especially our dog, Cherry, always loved Betty for her kind heart and generous nature. We loved seeing her smiling face sitting out on the front porch and visiting with her in the evenings.

Betty always had great stories to tell about growing up in Glen Echo as well as stories about all of the neighborhood kids growing up here. If you wanted to hear a good story, she was definitely the person to sit next to during birthday parties and cookouts.

Billy and Betty were like a second set of grandparents in the neighborhood. They were always looking out for us and letting us know the happenings of the day. It was great to see a couple of warm smiles when coming home for the day. Betty and Billy were great neighbors and friends and we will miss them.

Cris and Julie Lull

CONTINUED next column

Our Favorite Memories of Betty

My favorite memory of Betty is sitting on the porch on nice days catching up with the neighborhood. I spent at least a few days every week of my pregnancy sitting with Billy and Betty and hearing endless stories of Glen Echo and their life together.

Betty always volunteered to host dinners at her house with her neighbors and generously offered to organize baby showers, including my own.

Once I told Betty I was pregnant, she was anxious to meet my daughter. Later we spent hours at her house and my daughter Samia’s face would light up at the sight of Betty’s smile. We were always welcome in her home and she often called to check in on us.

Billy and Betty spent their entire lives in Glen Echo and were proud of their roots here. They never wanted to live anywhere else and really made us feel how special the community is and that we were part of it.

Holly and George Atallah