May Town Council Meeting
By Ellen Leary

The first order of business was for mayor Debbie Beers to swear in recently elected Council Members: Steve Matney, who served a prior term, and Matt Stiglitz who joined as a Council Member for the first time. Stiglitz is known to many in Town for his other services to the community. The Council thanked Eve Arbor for her service and the Mayor said she hoped Ms. Arbor will rejoin sometime in the future.

Buildings in Town

Owner Aaron Hirsch and Architect Jeff Broadhurst on the Baptist Annex on University Boulevard:
There will be a full renovation of the building, with the understanding that the envelope of the building will not be expanded. The original Sanctuary space will remain, recreating the trusses and removing the hanging ceiling. To create living spaces below, the lower level will be modified. The lower level will be excavated to create higher ceilings for the bedrooms on that level. The official mailing address will be on University Avenue, the formal address on Harvard Avenue. The everyday use entrance will be on University.

The Council stated that that they wanted to maintain the historic feel to the building with materials and colors. The square footage will not change, nor the height, and there is no change to the footprint.

Owners Steve and Wendy Carpenter-Israel on 44 Wellesley Circle: The Carpenter-Israels, who purchased the National Register property formerly owned by the Brintnalls on Wellesley Circle, said they have checked with the Montgomery County Historical Commission regarding the changes they may want to make to the house. The roof needs to
THE ECHO

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Next Deadline: June 20, 2013

Letters to the Editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about The Echo to the Editor, the Mayor, or any councilmember. Volunteer reporters are always needed.

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Next Town Council Meeting
June 10, 2013, at 8 pm

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TREASURER’S REPORT

Peyton’s Tree Service                  $10,370
Chapel Valley                           $1,246

CONTINUED from page 1

be replaced; they want to add on to the kitchen, and
are going to make two penetrations into the 1990
additions to the house to vent a new stove. Noth-
ing on the outside is going to change, including the
windows. All the demolition has been done, and all
the ductwork is completed. They are using reclaimed
pine floors and some existing structural pieces. They
will keep the shutters and will not paint the stone.
Council Member Long asked if they planned to live
there. Steve replied “we plan to renovate it and move
into it in a few years.”

Dog Urine

Resident Ellen Leary said she was making her bi-
annual complaint about dog urine on her lawn. She
stated that apparently the length of her property, at
32 Wellesley Circle, is exactly the distance that a
dog with a full bladder needs to release its contents,
and because her property is unfenced, it is a prime
place to do so. She entreated residents not to allow
this since she can’t even grow back urine-resistant
ground cover in parts of her yard without recondi-
tioning the soil. She said she respects her neighbors’
homes and asked that they respect hers.

Update on Gas Lines

The earlier estimate for a permit needed by Wash-
ington Gas (WG) has increased. The Town allocated
up to $25,000 for a survey required by the Army
Corps of Engineers before they will issue a permit
to provide access across MacArthur Boulevard from
existing gas lines. Washington Gas now estimates
that the cost will be $32,500, which will be expended
for the feasibility survey. The Council stated that this
is very discouraging, since WG has underestimated
the cost at every turn.

Matt Stiglitz stated, “I know right now the previ-
ous Council has authorized up to $25,000 for the
survey. I would say from the beginning the whole ex-
ercise is wrong. At every instance they’ve been asked
to quote a figure, it’s been wrong and it is an increase.
They haven’t struck me as competent, trustworthy.”

Mayor Beers responded: “The only good thing is
the cost of the survey is credited to the overall cost.”
She has contacted the Town Attorney to ask the
Maryland Public Service Commission to put pressure
on Washington Gas to keep costs within the origi-
nal estimate and to complete the process in a timely
manner. If the Town does not move forward with the
gas project, or if the Army Corp of Engineers will
not grant a permit, the Town does not get a rebate
of the survey fee. Washington Gas is the contracting
party for the survey that would be conducted by a
third party engineering organization.

There was a brief discussion regarding the few
communities south of Glen Echo that also border
MacArthur Blvd. and how they worked out the avail-
ability of gas to their communities.

Police Report/Community Report

The district has acquired six new officers, in part,
due to the increased size of the district. Denise Gill,
community service officer, is retiring in June. An-
other officer has been named.

The nice weather has people out in their yards,
which can cause an uptick in residential burglaries.

CONTINUED on Page 4
Police suggest that it is good to keep a key in your pocket and your door locked. There have been a string of commercial burglaries in Bethesda in the Central Business District (CBD).

Upcoming enforcement efforts will be focused on “click it or ticket,” during a three week period, starting soon. Residents are reminded to take the campaign seriously since our police commander won an award last year for issuing 1,600 tickets.

C&O Canal

As soon as the Sequester period is over, the C&O Canal National Park will be considered for additional funding. Council Member Long reminded the Council of the historical significance of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas’s event in 1954, leading conservationists on a hike up the C&O Canal, along with two editors of the Washington Post. Ms. Long mentioned that we should all remember to preserve our historical roots, as well as our environmental and conservation responsibilities.

Bamboo Cutback on Oxford Road

The Town will have the bamboo growing along the top of Oxford Road and MacArthur Boulevard cut back in response to a National Park Service (NPS) request. NPS believes the bamboo creates sight line problems as traffic enters and exits Oxford Road.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca’s detail as acting site manager will end on May 18, 2013. Nevertheless, he will continue work to address all site manager responsibilities until a successor is named. Management has yet to make a decision on how to fill the position. The position can be filled permanently, with another four month detail or with a not-to-exceed one year detail. Mr. LaRocca was thanked for his kind and understanding help during this downsizing time.

Bike Path Project: There has been no reaction since the April Town Council meeting; the decision document is still at the NPS Regional Office. However, NPS is working on a draft construction permit for the County. This document contains conditions under which the construction must be completed. These conditions include, but are not limited to, working around busy seasons and special events at Glen Echo Park (GEP), restricted hours (8 am–dark), and no holiday construction. Conditions can still be changed to reflect other concerns. Glen Echo Park Partnership (GEPPAC) will also be reviewing conditions.

Junior Ranger Camps: Clara Barton National Historic Site, through its partner Eastern National (operator of the NPS Book Stores), was able to secure transportation for all four Junior Ranger Camps. The theme of this year’s camps is “Civil War to Civil Rights.” Each camp will travel into Washington, DC, to see the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum as well as the Lincoln and Martin Luther King Memorials.

Family Day: Family Day was quite successful. Beautiful weather brought about 4,000 visitors to the site. Parking early in the day was an issue. Once the lots were full, they were closed. NPS and GEPPAC will work to identify alternatives to turning visitors away.

Washington Folklife Festival: The acting site manager notified the GEPPAC facility manager and the festival lead volunteer that the Town requested a letter for use of the Town’s property near the Potomac Palisades tent. NPS and festival volunteers will be setting up tents the weekend before the event. A planning meeting is being set up. NPS is concerned about current staffing levels and its ability to assist to the same levels of previous years. GEPPAC, NPS, and the festival are recruiting volunteers who will help in all aspects of event.

Volunteers: An NPS biologist will be onsite Saturday morning to remove bamboo from GEP. The bamboo is in the Living Classroom area and growing toward the pottery yurts. Depending on bamboo test results, Glen Echo bamboo may be donated to the National Zoo to feed the pandas. Volunteers have planted native plants in the landscaped areas around the park.
**LADIES OF GLEN ECHO**

**Ladies Night**

on Wednesday,

June 19, at 8 pm

At the home of

Phyllis Daen

6000 Harvard Ave.

RSVP: 301-675-1741

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**June 2013 at REDEEMER**

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

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

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

- 40th Annual Strawberry Festival & Silent Auction
  Saturday, June 8, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Summer Music Camp 2013
  Monday, August 5 – Friday, August 9, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please visit our website.

**The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**

6201 Dunrobin Drive • Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.3770 • office.redeemer@verizon.net
www.redeemerbethesda.org
Town Election Results

Debbie Beers was elected to serve another four year term as Mayor on May 6, 2013. She ran unopposed and received 89 votes. Two Council seats were open to three candidates. Those candidates were Stephen Hathaway, Steve Matney, and Matt Stiglitz. Stiglitz received 86 votes and incumbent Steve Matney garnered 50 votes. Hathaway came close, receiving 45 votes.

Board of Elections Supervisor Susan Grigsby recruited two judges to assure that the voting went smoothly and efficiently. They were Jane Stevenson and Matt Costello. Town Clerk Nicole Fraser was on hand in an official capacity. A highlight of the voting was when Allegra Wilson cast her first ballot in a Town election. She is the granddaughter of Carlotta and Jim Anderson and daughter of Julia and Speke Wilson, therefore a third generation Glen Echo resident.

Eve Arbor was the incumbent Council Member who did not run for another term. The new Council was sworn in at the May 13 Council meeting and began serving immediately.

A number of residents expressed their appreciation to those who were willing to run for office and for Ms. Arbor’s past service on the Council.

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Real Estate Report

11 Vassar Circle $430,000 Sold!

Police Report

Two police officers spent 21 hours monitoring traffic and stop sign compliance on Oxford Road from April 9 to May 13, 2013. They issued 56 warnings and 11 citations.
Town To Raise Real Estate Tax To 14.13¢ Per $100 Of Assessed Value

By Rex Rhein

For the second year in a row, the Town Council has approved a higher tax rate—an increase of 0.7¢ per $100 of assessed value, or 14.13¢/ $100—to maintain a “constant yield” in real estate tax revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mayor Debbie Beers explained in the Notice of Budget Hearing that: “This is because Town assessments have fallen again by over $3 million, and I believe that it is important to retain a constant yield from Town taxes, particularly now when we can expect to receive less money from the State of Maryland and Montgomery County.”

Last year, the Council approved an increase of 0.4¢/ $100 because the assessed value of homes in Glen Echo also had dropped by about $3 million. Real estate tax revenue had been expected to be less than $83,000 this year, however, the Town has already accumulated more than $84,500 in real estate taxes.

The new tax rate is expected to produce $85,456 for the Town next year, according to calculations presented to the Council on May 22 by Clerk–Treasurer Nicole Fraser. The other major sources of income next fiscal year will be Glen Echo’s share of state income tax revenue ($67,000) and county revenue sharing ($20,000), both of which are predicted to be slightly less in 2014 than were expected for this year. The Town also anticipates receiving $27,900 from the office rental for the Glen Echo Post Office, which is a little higher than last year’s estimate because of a step-up in the lease agreement, and $9,772 as its share of the state highway fund, which is significantly higher than last year. However, Councilman Steve Matney said the highway fund number is highly problematic, so it should not be considered as firm.

The budget anticipates an additional $21,440 from a variety of other sources, including public utilities’ property taxes ($7,500), rental of parking space at The Irish Inn ($3,600), rental of the Town Hall ($2,500), and franchise income from Comcast and Verizon ($3,000). Total revenue expected for 2014 is $231,568, or $4,227 more than was anticipated for the current fiscal year. (As of May 6, actual revenue received by the Town was $210,255, although more is coming, according to Ms. Fraser.)

Even with this increased revenue, the approved budget deficit for next year is $232,645, which will be far larger than this year’s $75,174 deficit, primarily because of the significant expense of bringing gas service into Glen Echo.

At the May 22 meeting, the Council approved a budget figure of $185,000—or 40% of the Town’s overall budget expenditures of $464,213—for the gas project that has been under discussion. Washington Gas has informed Mayor Beers that it would cost the Town $209,877 to bring gas to the Town. If fewer homes than 73 actually sign up for the service, Washington Gas’s charges to the Town may be far higher, so the budgeted amount may not be adequate, suggested Councilman Matney. Newly

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Create a New You. Do something fun for yourself this year. Drop in for belly dance classes every Wed., 7:00 pm–8:00 pm, at the Clara Barton Community Center in Cabin John. $10/hr. For more info: email dawnoftheflower@yahoo.com.


Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents and $1 per line for non-residents. Display ads are $4 per vertical inch. Email Gloria Levin at EchoBusinessMgr@gmail.com to set up your ad. Deadline for ads is the 15th of each month.
C&O Canal Events
Nature Walk, Violette’s Lock
Saturday, June 8, 10 am to 1 pm
Paddle Trip, Violette’s Lock
Saturday, June 15, Reservations (202-801-0963)
Heritage Montgomery Tour
Seneca Aqueduct and Lock 24
Saturday, June 29
See www.candocanal.org/calendar.

Redeemer Church
40th Annual Strawberry Fest and Silent Auction
Saturday, June 8, 11 am to 3 pm

GLEN ECHO TOWN HALL EVENTS

The Following Events Are Free to All Town Residents

FSGW English Country Dance
every Wednesday, 8–10:30 pm

Town Council Meeting
Monday, June 10, 8 pm

elected Councilman Matt Stiglitz pointed out, however, that “approving the budget does not approve the actual expenditures” for the gas project. “That’s a vote for another day,” he said.

The council considered adding $25,000 to the fiscal 2014 budget to fund the necessary permit required by the Army Corps of Engineers for stretching gas lines across MacArthur Boulevard, but the Council decided instead to pay for the feasibility study before the end of this fiscal year. Mayor Beers noted that the Council had already voted to spend the $25,000 for the survey at its February meeting.

Assuming the entire gas project takes place and is paid for by the Town at or below the $185,000 budgeted, the resulting deficit would consequently reduce the Town’s account balance from $407,520 to $174,875. Councilman Matney felt this diminished surplus would be inadequate to meet contingencies, such as street repairs that might be necessary after Washington Gas finished its work. “They may patch the street, but it won’t last,” he predicted. Mayor Beers noted that the Town never spends all the money that it budgets, so it is unlikely that the account balance would fall below $200,000. “It goes up about $60,000 every year,” she said. In the Notice of Budget Hearing letter, she said “past experience indicates that it is likely to be restored to its present level within a maximum of four years.”

To assure that the Town had enough money to pay for the gas project, Town Resident Aaron Hirsch suggested that the Council consider a special assessment to property owners who say they want the service, to make sure they signed contracts when the time came to do so. The money—perhaps $1,000 per resident asking for the service—would be put into an escrow account. It would be paid to Washington Gas if the project went forward but would be returned to the resident if it did not. The justification for this was that a house’s property value would be increased by having gas service, and those who signed up first would be getting a better deal from the gas company than residents who opted in afterwards. No action was taken on the suggestion at this meeting.

One problem for the Council in deciding how much it would cost to bring gas to Glen Echo is that Washington Gas has not specified exactly what the $209,877 would cover, nor whether its figure was incumbent on 73 houses ordering the service. “Given their track record so far, it would increase my comfort level if Washington Gas came to explain,” said Councilman Stiglitz. A representative of the utility had been invited to the May 22 meeting but had not been able to attend, according to Mayor Beers. Before proceeding further, it will be necessary for a
utility representative to attend a special meeting of the Council, which is tentatively scheduled for June 3, she said.

The Mayor indicated that she is a strong supporter of bringing gas to Glen Echo. In past years, the Corps of Engineers’ reluctance to allow a gas line to be brought under MacArthur Boulevard had been a major impediment, but the Corps is now “melting” on this issue, she said. Also, estimates for bringing the service to the Town are lower than they had been in the past, and “people are more willing to spend money” to get gas service, especially with the future cost of gas for heating possibly running at 50% that of oil.

Expenditures

Besides $185,000 for the gas project, which on the Town’s budget documents is designated as other capital improvements, the largest single expense will be for refuse collection and recycling ($60,000), the same amount as for this year. Nor is there an increase budgeted for next year for legal expenses ($30,000), auditing and accounting ($7,500), or funds to pay for required insurance and bonds (both the mayor and clerk–treasurer are bonded). There will, however, be a 4% increase in payroll expenditures ($28,298), the line item that provides the clerk–treasurer’s financial compensation. No money has been set aside for other professional services next year, since the $5,000 earmarked for this item in 2013 was not spent. The $15,000 budgeted for administration in 2013 has been reduced to $12,000; only about $11,000 was spent on police enforcement of Town ordinances this year related to traffic on Oxford Road.

Fixed operating expenses in the 2014 budget include $1,000 for electricity, $3,500 for heat, $400 for water, and $2,600 for telephone/Internet services at the Town Hall. The total is $1,700 less than budgeted for this year. Recreation expenses—primarily for Town parties and picnic—are again budgeted at $6,000 for 2014. The Town’s newspaper, The Echo, is expected to cost $3,200, the same amount budgeted for this year. (In fact, only $2,268 was spent on the publication as of May 6, and this expense was offset by advertising and subscription income of $1,695.)

Streetlights, another major line item for 2014, are projected to cost the Town $10,000, which is $2,000 less than budgeted for this year. Landscaping is again earmarked for $20,000, as is street paving (primarily to replace the speed bump on Oxford Road). Town Hall maintenance is budgeted at $9,000, street sweeping at $5,000, and other maintenance at $5,000, the same levels as this year. Snow plow removal, which cost $1,120 this year out of $3,000 budgeted, is earmarked for $2,500.

Sidewalk improvements are again budgeted for $15,000. Town Hall improvements are expected to cost $5,000 less next year than the $10,000 budgeted for 2013 ($4,139 was spent as of May 6). Signage, which includes money for deteriorating stop signs and street signs, is budgeted for $10,000, compared with zero for this year. The Town Hall parking lot’s budget is increased from $2,000 to $5,000 (nothing was spent this year).

There is no money budgeted for surveys next year, since the $25,000 for the gas survey is coming out of this year’s budget. Funds set aside for contingencies, which were budgeted at $3,000 this year, are being increased to $10,000 in 2014.

The amount budgeted for community contributions will fall from $4,000 to $3,000. In a letter to the Council prior to the meeting, Town resident Phyllis Fordham said she saw “no reason for the Town to donate money to Glen Echo Park or to the Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture.” For one thing, she said, the “practice of one government’s taxpayers donating funds to another governmental entity or to a public–private partnership that does not operate directly for the benefit of Glen Echo’s residents is puzzling. The Park’s goals are not to serve the Town, but people from the entire region,” and “some of the Partnership’s goals are not in the best interests of Glen Echo residents, for instance, that goal to increase visitors and traffic.” [Full disclosure: Ms. Fordham is Editor of The Echo.] Mayor Beers said it was valuable to the Town that it had a representative on the park’s board of directors, and there was some question as to whether this would continue if the Town ended its financial contributions.
Animal Problems

According to notes from the May 13, 2013 Town Council meeting, The Echo editor agreed to write a serious article about animal nuisances and also to write something every month! The Editor has been known to get carried away in the spirit of helping out and in her enthusiasm, sometimes over commits. However, the following article is serious. For future monthly articles, we are looking to our many contributors. If monthly articles will help, we want to do our share to resolve this vexing problem. Send articles to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com—Please.

Yet another complaint regarding animal waste was lodged at the Town Council Meeting on May 13, 2013. The Council expressed frustration at not being able to control the situation. Neighbors are disgusted and outraged at other neighbors’ inconsiderate animal management practices. A few months back, one town resident wrote a tongue in cheek article about dog waste for The Echo. Most residents expressed approval of the article. Only one objection was registered and that had to do with the space The Echo devoted to the essay. The resident who believed the article was too long said dogs do not come down her street (Wellesley Circle) or, at least do not create a problem. We need to learn and use whatever methods she is using to keep pests away—I’m speaking of owners, not necessarily animals.

Many residents place the blame squarely on Bannockburn and Fairway Hills citizens, assuming their own Glen Echo neighbors would not act so thoughtlessly. Others believe they know the culprits and are on the look out for owners with unleashed pets or hands empty of plastic bags while walking dogs. Observers note that offenders walk early in the morning or late at night in the belief they will not be seen as they break County laws. Montgomery County Code, Chapter 5, applies to Glen Echo.

At one time, we had an animal control officer in Town and I am told that she was so effective that the “animals turned themselves into her.” There seems to be no interest by the Mayor and Council to renew that post and no one has asked the County to provide pro-active enforcement. Neither has the County offered any animal control services. So we are on our own. Shall we have a neighborhood animal watch? Implement stakeouts at the Town entrances along MacArthur Boulevard? The Mayor did suggest that she would contact the newsletter editor in Bannockburn to ask that notice be given to their readers. In case the offenders are not all from the other side of MacArthur Boulevard, we need to capture offending animal owners at the site of the crime. Perhaps we should keep cameras at the ready to snap photos of the scofflaws. Cats are on the hook, too, since the complainant at the Council meeting was also distressed about cats urinating on flowers, therefore, destroying her garden. But the county laws are more lenient on cats, so cameras may not work there. Let’s continue to ask our neighbors to be responsible, thoughtful and considerate. No one likes animal waste in his yard or on his sidewalk. Not even the perpetrators. Cats notwithstanding, anyone who isn’t picking up after his or her animal is breaking the law. Knock it off!

AROUND TOWN

Studio E Partners sponsored a well-attended show of Brockie Stevenson’s work on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at the artist’s former studio on Yale Avenue. Jane Stevenson showed guests through the collections while Studio E Partners’ Edith Graves and Elizabeth Hayes managed the event, including marketing, signage, advertising, and lemonade and cookies served on the porch. The relaxed scene was exactly the atmosphere that Jane Stevenson wanted to display her beloved husband’s works. “Brockie enjoyed having people in his studio and showing them what he was working on and how he worked” she said. For more information about owning Brockie’s prints or paintings, please contact Jane at 301-229-3578 or Studio E at www.studioepartners.com.
### Glen Echo Park Activities

| The Puppet Co.  
**Bathtub Pirates**  
June 13–June 30 | Adventure Theatre MTC  
**Dr. Seuss’s Cat in the Hat Adventure**  
June 21–September 2  
See [www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org](http://www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org)  
or call 301-634-2270 |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| **Tiny Tots**  
On select Wednesdays, Saturdays,  
and Sundays at 10 am  
See [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org)  
or call 301-634-5380 | **Art Walk in the Park**  
June 14, 6:00 pm–8:00 pm  
See [www.glenechopark.org/art-walk-park](http://www.glenechopark.org/art-walk-park) |

### Watch for Next Meeting on Gas Lines

The Mayor announced, at the budget hearing, that she will schedule a meeting with Washington Gas to get clarification on certain costs associated with installing gas lines. The Washington Gas representative has been invited to meet with the Council twice, but was unable to attend either of those meetings, one of which was the annual budget meeting. Members of the Council expressed concern about the ambiguities regarding cost of the permit and installation of the lines. The Mayor said she was going to schedule another meeting with Washington Gas, which will be open to the public. A tentative date of June 3 was mentioned, but cannot be scheduled until Washington Gas agrees to attend the event, since most questions must be answered by them. According to Town Clerk, Nicole Fraser, a flyer will be sent to residents once the date is set.

If citizens have questions, it may be useful to send them to Town Hall via email prior to the meeting. If questions are received ahead of time, the Mayor and Council can pose them in a systematic way in order to get the most out of the meeting. This would not preclude citizens from asking questions from the floor as is the usual custom in Glen Echo. Send emails to TownHall@GlenEcho.org.

### Preventing Wildlife Damage

*by Melinda Myers*

They’re cute, they’re furry and they love to eat—your landscape that is. If you are battling with rabbits, deer, groundhogs or other wildlife, don't give up.

A wireless deer fence is effective for deer. Scare tactics such as motion sensitive sprinklers, blow up owls, clanging pans and rubber snakes strategically placed around a garden may help scare away small critters. Move and alternate the scare tactics for more effective control. The animals won't be afraid of an owl that hasn't moved in two weeks.

Homemade and commercial repellents also work. These are best applied before the animals start feeding. It is easier to prevent damage than break old feeding patterns. Look for natural products like those found in Messina Wildlife’s Animal Stopper line. They are made of herbs and smell good, so they repel animals without repelling you.

The key to success is variety, persistence, and adaptability.

More tips are at [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).