Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca, the representative of the National Park Service, provided his report on park-related news. First up was a report on the Montgomery County Shared Use Path. The NPS conducted a walkthrough in mid-December, and a few issues came up. There were problems with some of the woodwork and support structures for the paved path. Blueprint specifications were not followed, leading to potential safety issues. (However, the trolley trestle looks fantastic.)

Peter McCallum, George Washington Memorial Parkway right of way ranger, shared the Park’s concerns with the Montgomery County project leader. The NPS is working with the county to resolve the issues on the paved path. As part of the walkthrough, NPS discussed the Town’s concerns about the delineators along MacArthur Boulevard, but has yet to hear a response from the county. Since the delineators are not on NPS property, Mr. LaRocca does not expect the county to be very responsive to the NPS on this issue and suggested an official letter from the Town might help. The Town will also address upper parking lot issues in this letter.

Regarding the Clara Barton rehabilitation project, the last day of operations will be January 18, 2015, with the house scheduled to be closed for up to two years. This rehabilitation project will replace the failing roof structure and fire detection and suppression system. NPS is working with a contractor to develop an environmental assessment, and the compliance process is scheduled to be completed this winter. Construction will not commence until the compliance process is complete.

Mr. LaRocca reported that job announcements have closed for Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff (Assistant Superintendent), and District Ranger positions. Mr. LaRocca, acting North District Ranger, will continue to serve as liaison to the Council at least until these positions are filled. He has applied and been interviewed for Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff, and we wish him luck.

There was a discussion about the NPS proposal to raise the fees at Great Falls Park in Virginia from $5 to $15 per car, extend the length of stay from three to seven days, and end its reciprocal agreement with the C&O Canal. (In other words, your receipt from the Maryland side will no longer get you into Great Falls Park on the Virginia side.) There will be a public meeting called by the C&O Canal superintendent on February 5 at our Town Hall from 7–8:30 PM to discuss the proposal to charge fees to use any portion of the C&O Canal path outside the District.

On a personal note, the LaRoccas are expecting a new baby, due January 19. The Council extended their warmest congratulations.

Other Town Business

Stacey Malmgren’s minutes from the previous Town Council meeting were ap-
The Echo

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EDITOR Emily Parsons (TheEchoEditor@gmail.com)
ART EDITOR Mary Parsons
COPY EDITORS Maire Hewitt, Debbie Lange, Erica Tokar
ADVERTISING Patty Sieber (EchoAdRep@gmail.com)
DISTRIBUTION Jane Stevenson, Jan Shaut, Sally Law, Raya Bodnarchuk, Maire Hewitt
CIRCULATION Susan Grigsby

Next Deadline: February 20, 2015

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 council member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.

proved with minor changes. Regarding the upcoming Glen Echo Park Partnership donation, the council determined, after some discussion, to donate $1,800.

Council Member Stiglitz, the Council’s police liaison, reported there are no significant crime trends right now. Overall, the statistics are down for most crimes. In our area, the number one crime is thefts from automobiles. Mr. Stiglitz reiterated his advice to lock your car and try not to leave any bait within view. Also, due to a bump in thefts in the upper lot at the Park, the Police Commander advised Mr. Stiglitz that there will be

Dear Neighbors

You’ll notice a few changes in your copy of The Echo this month. I’ve tried to bring in some new voices and features, and art editor Mary Parsons has given us a fresh look. The vibe I’m going for is Total Town Participation. If you have news for the We Heard column or an Announcement, like a birth, a graduation, a retirement or anything in between, please send it to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com. If you have an idea for an article or a column you’d like to write, likewise tell me about it.

In this issue, you’ll find new columns by Holly Shimizu on gardening and Angela Hirsch on fitness, and my own (self-indulgent) feature on food and drink. We’ve also included a piece by out-going editor Phyllis Fordham covering the memorial for Carlotta Anderson, decades-long editor of The Echo. We did get to meet Carlotta for the newcomer piece she wrote about us this past summer. It was, of course, a very lively conversation, and she and I continued to email throughout the fall. Her last email at the end of October was a congratulations on my new editorship. She wrote, “It is an important job and will keep you involved with the town and your neighbors in a very pleasant way.” I hope we can maintain her spirit of interest in the world around us in these pages.

Many thanks to Phyllis and Debbie Lange for all of their guidance during this transition. I can’t tell you how much fun Mary and I had putting together our first issue. I hope it is also enjoyable to read. Let us know! —Emily Parsons

Carlotta Anderson 1929–2014
increased police presence at the Park, and the officers will swing through the Town occasionally.

The status of the Town Hall elevator was discussed. A sporadic malfunctioning of the top floor door is the issue, which is still happening despite having been checked and receiving a clean bill of health. Stacey will keep Mayor Beers apprised on the issue.

Ms. Long brought up the issue that mail sent from the Glen Echo Post Office to a Glen Echo address is no longer being processed and sorted here. Apparently, in their wisdom, the Post Office is now sending local-to-local mail to some central sorting entity, and then sending it back here. Her concern is the possibility of losing our zip code, since we no longer have a cancellation stamp. She will pursue this further, since it could be the precursor to losing our Post Office, which has been an institution in the Town for generations. Mayor Beers mentioned that this might become a possibility when the lease on the Post Office runs out in about two years.

Regarding snow removal with our new contractor Rasevic, Council Member Matney mentioned that it is unclear in the contract how ice events will be handled and perhaps that should be clarified. He also suggested that they pay particular attention to the access points to MacArthur Boulevard.

The Police Report

In late November, a frantic scramble ensued among a number of local municipalities, all loyal and long-standing clients of Mark Peyton, when he announced his retirement, due to his diagnosis of and treatment for lung cancer. Most snow removal contracts are signed in the spring, so we were fortunate that we were not visited by snow or ice until we had a new contract in place. Thanks to the hard work of Mayor Debbie Beers in soliciting proposals from willing companies (up to a few hours before leaving for England) and the detailed comparative analysis of the three contenders provided by Council Member Steve Matny, a time and materials contract was signed on December 22, before our first snowfall, on January 6. (This included a brief delay for the town’s attorney to review the contract proposal and for the vendor to make necessary revisions.)

The new contractor, Rasevic Snow Services, Inc., is headquartered off of River Road, behind McDonald’s. The contract provides for plowing, as conditions dictate, when predictions exceed two inches and then every two to four inches thereafter. Glen Echo includes four acres of roads, and a driver can plow one acre per hour; the contract has a two-hour minimum. Provision is made for clearing or sanding target areas for snow or ice accumulation of lesser amounts, as needed. (The streets were sanded on January 14 when a dusting of snow was accompanied by icing.) Adjustments will be made as the town and the contractor gain experience with each other, but so far, so good.

Get well cards for Mark can be mailed to 7601 Brickyard Road, Potomac, Maryland 20854. — GLORIA LEVIN

View the contract proposal and for the vendor to make necessary revisions.)
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Bethesda, Maryland

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Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum and Bible Study 9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care 10:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages 10:30 a.m.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Sunday, February 8, at 5:00 p.m.
A Night at the Movies: Silent Films with Jonathan Ortloff, organ

Sunday, February 22, at 5:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

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A memorial gathering, conducted by the family of Carlotta Anderson, was attended by more than 120 friends, relatives, and townspeople at Glen Echo Town Hall on January 18, 2015. Her two sons, Chris and Eric, and daughter Julia hosted the event and spoke fondly of their mother and the life they had growing up, filled with parents who challenged their children to think seriously and express themselves clearly. Carlotta was described as being a taskmaster yet an adventurous supportive parent as she imparted to her children the practice of good manners, thoughtful civil discourse, and life-long curiosity.

She often used Gustave Flaubert’s quote to instruct children and grandchildren, “Be regular and ordinary in your life so you can be violent and original in your work.”

Family friends and neighbors spoke of her generosity to them and to the world around her. Ten grandchildren, including Daniel, Erin, Jody, Isabel and Olivia Anderson, Allegra, Bram and Miles Wilson, and Elliot and Charlotte Anderson were present at the gathering as well, and were mentioned often as recipients of Carlotta’s counsel and love. Bram and Allegra participated by reading accolades sent by Glen Echo Mayor Debbie Beers and a friend from Michigan who wrote of the political views and actions of Carlotta’s grandfather. Son-in-law Speke Wilson remembered Carlotta’s relationship with her husband, Jim, as one filled with pleasure and devotion. He also spoke of her generous bequests to charities concerned with justice and comfort for people and animals here and abroad.

Chris Anderson spoke of Carlotta’s interesting lineage. She was the child of a Swiss engineer and inventor who made his mark in Hollywood. Her maternal grandfather was an avowed anarchist, Joseph Labadie, about whom Carlotta wrote a memoir titled All-American Anarchist: Joseph A. Labadie and the Labor Movement. Her children credited this diverse lineage as contributing to her personality.

Carlotta and Jim Anderson moved to Glen Echo in 1969 after meeting in Berlin in the time known as the Cold War. She had graduated from Berkeley and was the woman’s editor for the Overseas Weekly, where she and Jim met. They married and started their family in London, living there for ten years. Back in the United States, the family lived briefly in Marin County, California, before settling in Glen Echo. Her son Eric noted the fact that she chose to be a “stay-at-home” mother although many women were then merging careers and motherhood.

Carlotta was an avid promoter of the town and soon revived the town newsletter, The Echo. She was the editor in chief of the monthly publication until 2009. Even after she retired as editor, she contributed columns on newcomers to town, interviewing the participants and delivering to each a copy of A Walking Tour of Glen Echo, which she compiled and authored. The book was published in 2004. Carlotta provided newcomer articles to The Echo until just a few weeks before her death in November, 2014. Her son Chris reported that she also completed her memoirs in the last few months of her life.

While her accomplishments included writing and editing, it was clear that Carlotta saw her life’s work as her role as mother to her children and mentor and guide to her grandchildren and to the many young people who came to know and be influenced by her.

—PHYLIS FORDHAM
Holly in the Ivy

The cold of winter is a great time to review catalogues and start reimagining your garden with the acquisition of some interesting plants and welcome additions to bare spaces. I always like to try curious new plants and for that I turn to Plant Delights Nursery, located in Raleigh, North Carolina. They have a funny catalogue filled with unusual plants and exciting new selections that are otherwise hard to find. For example, I love our native butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa), and if you want a yellow flowering form you might consider Hello Yellow flowering form you tuberosa), and if you want a 

Asclepias butterfly weed (example, I love our native 

unusual plants and exciting new selections that are otherwise hard to find. For example, I love our native butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa), and if you want a yellow flowering form you might consider Hello Yel-

low. Or if you would like to try growing orchids in your outdoor garden, you will be surprised at the selection of various Lady Slipper orchids.

My other preferred catalogue is from Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I like to grow camellias because they have gorgeous evergreen foliage, thrive in shady gardens, and some have fragrant flowers. Camellia Forest specializes in great camellias and will guide you on the hardiest ones for our climate—my favorites are the fragrant fall blooming varieties. This is also the nursery where I buy my winter blooming Japanese Flowering Plum (Prunus mume), whose fragrant flowers appear through the winter snow in February.

I will be growing a large number of herbs, vegetables, and annuals from seed under lights in my basement to get a head start before planting in May. My favorite source for seed is Southern Exposure Seed Exchange in Mineral, Virginia. They offer interesting seed such as papalo or papaloquelite (Porophyllum ruderale) with its distinctive, unique flavor, as well as a host of great heirloom varieties. My other source for herb and vegetable seed is Richters Herbs in Ontario, Canada. It is always thrilling to try some of their really exotic herbs from around the world. For years they have been providing a huge range of interesting and hard to find herb seed.

— Holly Shimizu

Let's Get Physical

Full disclosure: I did miss a few days of the streak. But I ran 50 miles when I would otherwise have been eating cookies.

The challenge was simple and a little bit silly: Starting on Thanksgiving day, run at least one mile every day—outside—until January 1. We weren’t training for anything. Most of us don’t live near each other. About half of us knew each other from a Ragnar race we ran a couple of years back, but many others have never even met. Yet twelve of us committed and logged 805 miles through the busiest, darkest, and coldest period of the year. It was The Streak.

I’m no exercise fiend. Normally I’m quick to declare a day too busy, too cold, too rainy, for a run. But the streak brought accountability and a bit of good-natured competition to what is ordinarily a solitary activity. Each of us reported our daily run’s distance and time via an email to the group. One member was the self-appointed chair of the rules committee, doling out a dizzying (and possibly arbitrary) system of points for injuries, illnesses, pregnancy, travel, and other hindrances to running. Another streaker maintained a spreadsheet to track everyone’s distance and time. Some messages were a quick status report, but the best ones told the story of the streak.

Day 3, Neil: “Neil is in at 1.27 miles, at 9.49 minutes per mile. Yes, that is under a 10-minute mile, a speed once thought impossible for human beings.”

Day 5, Angela: “I did one mile in 10:35. I don’t know if this merits extra points or a penalty but I procrastinated through an entire beautiful, unseasonably warm day and ended up running in strong wind and cold rain in the dark. Dummy.”

Day 10, Jen: “6.06 miles in 58:47. Rain and puddles so deep that I had to catch a ferry across one of them … don’t worry, I ran in place while on the ferry.”

Day 12, Erin: “So I’m at a conference in Brunswick, ME with some coworkers to whom I just had to explain that I would meet them for drinks in 20 min because I had to go run a mile. Just always gotta be the weird kid …”
Day 12, Ingrid: “desperate to get a mile in so as not to break the streak, I ran two huge loops around the parking lot of the Chicken Lounge at 9:25 pm. I looked like a total weirdo and I had ballet flats on. I’m almost positive it was as close to a mile as you can get.”

So what was the point of all this? Shuffling a mile (from the Town Hall just past the Irish Inn and back or partway across the Cabin John Bridge) isn’t a good substitute for strength training or a long yoga class. But the streak did a lot of things. It made exercise fun, for one. It got us all out of our various ruts (some of which were deeper than others) and served as a reminder that most of us can do some kind of exercise on most days and usually feel better for having done so.

********

This column, which I hope will be a regular feature of The Echo, will offer suggestions for all of us to start, change, or reenergize an exercise routine, or insert more wellness into our lives. We’ll help you find options to burn off some toddler energy, find a great gym, or add some variety to your walking/biking/running route. If you’ve accomplished a fitness goal or gone on a great active vacation, I want to hear about it. Suggestions and guest posts are always welcome, or if you are interested in getting a Glen Echo Streak started, write to TheEchoActive@gmail.com.

And if it’s not the holiday season and you see me running through town in the rain at 9 PM, please stop to offer help—chances are I’m being chased.

—Angela Hirsch

THE DISH

I was reminded recently of just how perfect a pot of soup can be for guests on a wintery day. You can make it ahead—in fact it improves with time—it can sit around on the back burner until you are ready for it, and it makes your home smell wonderfully inviting.

Here is a simple recipe for a Spicy Portuguese Chorizo and Greens Soup adapted from the Joy of Cooking: All About Soups and Stews. In a soup pot, sauté in vegetable oil a chopped onion and some minced garlic until tender; then add 6 cups chicken stock and 2 cups water, several sliced potatoes, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil and then simmer 20 minutes. When the potatoes are cooked through give the soup a once over with a potato masher. In a pan over medium-high heat, brown 3 chorizo sausages out of their casings. Add the meat to the soup pot and then add a couple of ladles of the broth to the hot pan scraping up the browned bits before returning it to the soup. Simmer 5 minutes before stirring in a bunch of shredded kale (other greens will also do). Simmer 5 more minutes and then stir in the juice from half a lemon. Serve.

The result is spicy and heart-warming, hearty and healthy.

—Emily Parsons

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Due to some recent break-ins of cars in Glen Echo Park’s parking lot, I thought it would be useful to relay the following information, should people be the victim of a theft from their car.

If the car that is broken into is located within the county (but not on USPS or Metro property), the theft is not in progress, and there are no suspects, the owner should file a police report online at the Montgomery County Police website: http://www.mymcpnews.com/resources/how-to/file-a-report-online-2/. The owner can also call the non-emergency police numbers—either 240-773-6700 for the Bethesda station, or county-wide at 301-279-8000. While it is unlikely that the property will be recovered, particularly if it is generic, use of investigative and surveillance resources are dictated in large part by where the crimes are occurring, so filing a report is essential. The police have had success recently in catching thieves in the act in areas in which prior thefts were reported. Strangers acting suspiciously should also be reported, as the police will respond to the area to speak to them if possible.

For thefts from cars parked on Glen Echo Park property, the U.S. Park Police should be called—either at their main dispatch number at 202-610-7500 or the District 2 station at 703-285-1000. Unlike the county, you need to call and wait for an officer to respond if you want to file a report, as you can’t do it online. That said, I would still encourage people to file reports (or at least alert a park ranger on site) so that some sort of incident is noted. As stated above, police resources go where the crime is.

As for preventing thefts from cars, the only two rules one needs to know are:

1) Lock your car (75+% of thefts from cars involved unlocked cars);

2) Don’t leave anything of value in plain sight.

—Matt Stiglitz
The owners of 6000 Bryn Mawr, Dan Spealman and Kristi Maasjo, visited their home this January to inspect the completed renovation. They currently live in Kenya with their children Corrina, 6, and Declan, 4, where their international development posts have been extended another year. So, instead of moving into their Glen Echo home this summer, they will be renting it until they return in the summer of 2016. If you know someone interested in a 12–18 month rental in Glen Echo, they can call Danny Boitel of Executive Housing in Bethesda at 301-951-4111.

Our National Park Service representative and Town Council Notes regular, Aaron LaRocca and his wife welcomed baby Hazel Francis on January 16. Many congratulations!

Mayor Debbie Beers has been laid up most of January with a broken ankle. She’s doing much better now, getting around with a boot and a cane, but remains housebound since the afflicted bone is her driving ankle. We wish the Mayor a speedy recovery.

Eleanor Balaban is selling her Glen Echo home at 6003 Bryn Mawr after 36 years. She’s moving February 6 to her new condo-plus-quilting studio at Grosvenor Place in North Bethesda. Eleanor reports that since she is staying in the area, she’ll remain active in the real estate business, including two Cabin John properties coming up very soon. At press time, the settlement on the house, which was never officially on the market, was scheduled for February 10. Best of luck, Eleanor!

Real Estate Report
Currently, 6107 Princeton Ave. is under contract until January 29th. In 2014, the following Glen Echo properties sold: 7315 University Ave. ($975,000), 7316 University Ave. ($1,100,000), 6001 Bryn Mawr Ave. ($1,133,000), 44 Wellesley Circle ($1,475,000), 7311 University Ave. ($987,000), and 6001 Bryn Mawr Ave. ($1,100,000).

Yahoo for Glen Echo!
The Yahoo group, glenecho@yahoo.com is the Town’s listserv to help us stay in touch with each other. The listserv can be used to post information that may be of interest to your neighbors, such as a lost cat, a housekeeper with a free day, or an item to give away or sell. When you or a neighbor post an email to the group, it goes to everyone who has signed up. People can then either respond to the poster directly or to the entire group.

There are two ways to join. To subscribe, insert the following address in your computer browser: www.groups.yahoo.com. Then in the search window type “Town of Glen Echo” and select Search Groups. The Town’s group will appear at the top of the list; click it and then once the site appears, click “Join Group.” If you don’t have an account with Yahoo, you can sign-up. Once you submit the request, I will contact you to verify you live in the town and add you to the group.

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Real estate professional and Glen Echo neighbor

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only thirteen weeks ’til the carousel reopens!
The other way is to send an email to me at dan@macy.net and simply ask to be added to the listserv. Include your full name and address, so I know you live in town.

A few things to keep in mind:
- You don’t have to have a Yahoo account to be part of the listserv.
- The email invitation I send you upon your request may go into your spam folder, so look for it there.
- You can sign up to have the emails come to you as they are posted or get them bundled if you want to receive just one email. If you get them bundled, however, you receive them the next day, so some posts, like about power outages or car break-ins which might be helpful in real time, will be out of date.
- When you respond to someone’s post, reply to the poster rather than to the listserv. That way your email will go to just that person and not to the entire group.

Please join the listserv! It is an important way for our community to communicate.
— DAN MACY

**They Say It’s Your Birthday**

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<tr>
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<td>Nolan Koonce</td>
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<td>Jan. 15</td>
<td>Reed Jensen</td>
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<td>Conrad Hirsch</td>
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<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Elsa Vincent</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
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If you would like your child’s birthday [up to age 14] included in our monthly round-up, send name(s) and birthdate(s) to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

**Classified Ads**

**Glen Echo Town Hall Events**

FSGW English Country Dance
**Wednesdays,**
**February 4, 11, 18, 25**
8–10:30 PM; free to town residents

**February 5**
A public meeting to discuss the proposed entrance fees for the C&O Canal will be at 7 PM at the Glen Echo Town Hall.

**Local Events**

**February 27** Bingo Night for kids and adults from 7–9 PM at the Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd. Bingo cards cost $5 and there will be prizes for all kids.

**Glen Echo Park Activities**

**THE PUPPET CO.**
www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
**Circus,** thru February 15
**Aladdin,** February 19–March 15
**Tiny Tots,** select Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 10AM

**ADVENTURE THEATER MTC**
www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270
**Petite Rouge, A Cajun Red Riding Hood**
January 30–March 8

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