The rehabilitation project at the Clara Barton house has been approved and is now being put up for bidding contracts. Chief of Staff Aaron LaRocca says he expects the renovations to start in the fall. The house hasn’t closed yet but will soon.

The visitor service staff at the park has worked with the National Child Research Center to develop and print a Junior Ranger book targeted at three-to-six-year-olds. The book will be available to visitors at the park.

Under the Sea, an outdoor education organization will be the new tenant in the Stable space at Glen Echo Park. The space will be called Glen Echo Park Aquarium. There is no current official opening date, but they hope to offer weekend hours and summer camps.

The park’s biologist, Erik Oberg, is working with Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture to develop a native pollinator garden in and around the stable area of Glen Echo Park. The garden will be low maintenance, self-sustaining, and replace non-native species. Visitor services will be developing interpretive materials to educate the public of the importance of the watershed and non-native plants.

Ranger Zackary Gardner will be leaving the National Park Service. His last day is Friday, June 12. Jennifer Ep-olito will fill the vacant spot. She will start in late June or early July. Art Williams has been brought on to fill a position in the maintenance division. Art is a seasonal employee.

Resident Aaron Hirsch asked whether the Town has ever considered pedestrian access to the towpath via a bridge over the Clara Barton Parkway. He suggested access from the edge of the Park parking lot. Council Member Long said the issue was discussed long ago and the idea discarded because access would bring people who would normally park at other access sites to Glen Echo. Hirsch said he was asking to gauge interest; none of the Council members present expressed interest. Mayor Beers did say she would like to see the footpath which enters by the one-lane bridge better maintained. Aaron LaRocca said he would check to see which park authority has jurisdiction over that path.

Residents Kelly Bohi and Matt McFarland raised the question of the status of the right of way that is the continuation of Wellesley Circle and runs behind Bohi’s property on Bryn Mawr and Vassar Circle, which was on the market. (It is currently off the market and McFarland is the potential new owner.) The right of way also abuts the property of 5 Cornell Avenue. The abut-
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MARYLAND 20812
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Website: www.glenecho.org
Office: 6106 Harvard Ave.
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 5 PM to 7 PM

MAYOR
Debbie Beers (301-229-7308)

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Matt Stiglitz (301-229-0926)
Nancy Long (301-332-3823)
Dia Costello (301-538-7784)
Steve Matney (301-320-2059)

CLERK-TREASURER
Stacey Malmgren (301-320-4041)

Next Town Council Meeting: July 13, 2015, 8 PM

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.

Town business
The Town picnic will be held Sunday, July 12 from 5-7 PM, rain or shine. Dinner will be provided by the Town, and residents are asked to bring desserts and beverages.

After finishing the extensive work on MacArthur Boulevard, the County planted flowers at the each town entrance. However, those plantings are not being maintained by the County and Mayor Beers expressed dismay that they are already starting to look bedraggled. The Council suggested instead having landscapers Chapel Valley plant drought-resistant, native plantings. Several residents suggested that Town residents could “adopt” and maintain the areas. If you are interested in maintaining a small garden at one of the entrances to town, please contact Julia Wilson at julia.wilson@me.com.

The Town is planning to have the yellow lines on the sidewalks repainted and the Town Hall parking lot repaved. Treasurer Stacey Malmgren is currently accepting bids for the work.

Police Report
Between May 5 and June 5, off-duty police officers issued 61 warnings and 18 citations for not stopping at the stop sign on Oxford Road. The Town coordinated for extra coverage during the Folk Festival on the weekend of May 30 and 31. On those days, the officer stopped 56 vehicles. He observed no parking violations during the festival. The Town paid $800 for these services.

Town Expenses
In April, the Town paid $4,429 to Waste Management of Maryland, $4,048 to Rasevic Snow Services, and $1,258 to Chapel Valley Landscaping. In May, the Town paid $8,516 to Waste Management of Maryland, $2,517 to Chapel Valley Landscaping, and $2,300 to Lee’s Tree Service.

—JULIA WILSON
With all the recent power outages in town, the question again arises about Pepco’s ability to supply us with reliable power. Pepco’s reliability was long among the lowest-ranked utilities. In 2011, Maryland cracked down on Pepco, forcing it to institute aggressive management of vegetation, at which point, Pepco undertook long-ignored maintenance. This is a double edged sword, however, as some residents claim that Pepco (via its contractor, Asplundt) trims trees too aggressively. Pepco counters that this is necessary to prevent power outages caused by vegetation falling on power lines, especially in storms. Pepco contracts with Davey’s for 17 arborists who recommend what vegetation should be cut, and a Pepco forester makes the determination in concert with Asplundt.

Until the most recent occurrences, we had seen fewer and shorter power outages since Pepco was forced to step up its tree trimming. But now that the plan is underway for Pepco to merge with (or be subsumed by) the larger (and more distant) corporation, Exelon, even more concerns arise about our utility preventing power outages while not unnecessarily butchering trees.

This concern is foremost in older communities with lush tree canopies, like Glen Echo, many of which are located in the lower county and are represented by County Councilmember, Roger Berliner. He (an environmental attorney) chairs the Council’s Transportation and Environment committee and (a vocal critic of Pepco) leads the Coalition for Utility Reform, a group that is intervening in the merger discussion, concerned that the County Executive, Ike Leggett, is “all in” with the current agreements. As Drew Morrison, Berliner’s legislative aide explained to me, despite the efforts of local representatives, “the state’s Public Service Commission retains jurisdiction over vegetation management.” Recently, Pepco did form a working group to see how it can improve communications with the community prior to tree trimming. Berliner urges greater use of alternative energy sources and new technologies which will result in less damage to our tree canopy.

A group of Potomac residents has been especially vocal in protesting Pepco’s denuding of their properties, usually without adequate communication with owners. Although the area in question is along Pepco’s transmission corridor, allowing Pepco to invoke existing easements, a Pepco Vice President, after meeting with residents, halted further tree cutting, at least temporarily. In other areas, like our town, Pepco cannot take down a tree without owner permission. However, frequently, owners are not aware of the property lines abutting streets, which vary around the County.

By the way, do not plant trees under or near power lines, especially tulip poplars, cited as the worst offender, even when healthy. For more information search for “Tree Trimming 101” at www.pepco.com. —GLORIA LEVIN
Glen Echo’s fiscal year 2016 budget forecasts $305,729 in expenditures (an increase of $1,553) and $273,392 of income (an additional $17,346), compared to expenditures and income in the current fiscal year’s budget. If realized, the expected shortfall, although less than anticipated for fiscal 2015, would reduce the Town’s “surplus”—$314,117 on April 30—to $284,780 when fiscal 2015 ends on June 30.

The majority of the current surplus—$184,519, or 59%—is invested in a Sun Trust money market account, which is expected to earn about $300 in interest next year, according to budget figures approved by the Town Council on May 21. Another 16% is in a Sun Trust cash-checking account. And the balance—25%—is currently in a Maryland local government investment pool.

According to Council Member Matney, the Town is restricted by law from making riskier investments with its surplus funds. It is important, he said, to have a healthy surplus available for possible expensive contingencies, such as a major lawsuit against the Town, or unanticipated repairs to the Town Hall, or simply to save for major outlays in a future year, such as when Glen Echo resurfaces its streets.

At the meeting, Town resident Renny Springuel suggested that there should be a five- or ten-year budgetary plan to help explain what the money is intended to be used for eventually. In response, Mr. Matney noted that this suggestion has been raised at every budget meeting for the past several years (see The Echo, July 2014). But he said it is difficult to predict when major expenditures will need to be made, so it is better to simply have enough to meet expensive contingencies, whatever they are. Nevertheless, he would look into the possibility of long-term capital planning.

One possible use for the money is to give it back to Town residents in the form of lower taxes. But Mayor Beers informed the Council that she is not proposing to take this step. Next year, as in past years, the existing real property tax rate will continue to be 14¢ per $100 of assessed value, and the existing personal property tax rate will continue to be 80¢ per $100, she said. These tax rates are expected to raise $100,639 and $11,200, respectively, in fiscal 2016, or, combined, about $8,700 more than in the current fiscal year.

Besides tax revenues, the largest sources of income next year are expected to be the Town’s share of Maryland state income tax payments ($93,000), the Post Office’s rental of the Town Hall ($29,100), County revenue sharing ($20,000), and revenue sharing from the federal highway fund ($8,313). Mayor Beers commented that the $20,000 from Montgomery County is recompense for the Town’s taking on the county’s responsibility for trash collection, which actually cost the Town much more than that.

On April 30, the Town had paid out $35,379 for refuse and recycling services out of an approved budget of $62,000. For fiscal 2016, the Council approved $65,000 for these services. Mayor Beers noted, however, that in Glen Echo, refuse is collected twice weekly compared to just once a week when the county does it.

Mayor Beers said there is still a chance that the Postal Service will decide to close its post office in the Glen Echo Town Hall, although that facility has been making a profit recently, unlike many other post offices. There was also some discussion about payments by the Irish Inn at Glen Echo for lease of its parking spaces.

In her May 6 notice of the May 21 hearing, Mayor Beers said she wanted to repave the Town Hall parking lot in its entirety next year. The Council approved $10,000 for this. The Mayor also said she also wants to move the Oxford Road speed bump to the site originally recommended by engineer consultants, and the budget includes $10,000 for street paving that could be used for this purpose. However, Council Member Stiglitz, noting that “Washington Gas owes us a speed bump on Bryn Mawr,” suggested that the company could be asked to install a speed bump on Oxford Road instead, and the Town would pay the cost of removing the existing one. Finally, Mayor
Beers said she wanted to effect major repairs to, if not replace, the Town Hall elevator. Although $20,000 had been included in the fiscal 2015 budget for this purpose, nothing had been spent as of April 30. The Council approved $10,000 in the 2016 budget for Town Hall improvements.

Every fiscal year’s budget includes funds for sidewalk repairs, and next year’s budget is no exception (although the $10,000 allocated in the fiscal 2015 budget had not been touched as of April 30). Next year, sidewalk repair is budgeted for $20,000. For 2015, only $5,000 had been allocated for snow removal, whereas $29,123 had to be spent because of the harsh winter. Consequently, the Council approved $15,000 for snowplowing for fiscal 2016.

The Council made only two changes to the budget proposed by Mayor Beers. Heat for the Town Hall originally had been budgeted at $4,000 for fiscal 2016, as it had for fiscal 2015. But the total heating bill as of April 30 was $2,656, which was attributed to the lower price of gas heat over oil. Consequently, the Council reduced the heating budget to $3,000. Also, the allocation for “other maintenance” of Town property was increased from $1,000 to $5,000 so the Town could maintain the old trolley right-of-way, which the Town owns, and planting at the entrance to the Town, which it does not. “The right-of-way is in dire need,” according to Renny Springuel. Mayor Beers worried that the planting at the Town entrance would die without watering and weeds would take over, hurting the Town’s image.

Other significant expenses approved for next fiscal year include $15,000 for “administration,” the same as in fiscal 2015. This includes expenses for temporary workers for the Town and also for police hired to ticket cars that fail to stop at the corner of Oxford Road and University Avenue. Payroll increases—from $29,426 to $29,979—correspond to 2% inflation. Legal charges next year are expected to reach $25,000, since they amounted to just $18,305 as of April 30. They had been budgeted at $40,000 for fiscal 2015. Auditing and accounting cost $8,224 as of April 30, or $724 more than budgeted for fiscal 2015, so the Council allocated $10,000 for them next year. No changes were made for insurance and bonds ($5,000) and for other professional services ($5,000). Recreation will receive $7,000 (up $1,000).

Last but not least, The Echo will receive $3,200 for its expenses, the same as this year, even though its advertising revenue fell to just $370 as of April 30, or $1,130 less than anticipated for fiscal 2015. —Rex Rhein

The Dish

Do you find cooking ribs intimidating? Have you ever grilled chicken legs to pink and black perfection? If not, then you are a grill master indeed! But if yes, then you, like me, could find the “boil brine” before hitting the grill an absolute revelation.

According to Martha Stewart, to whom I always defer in food matters, this technique works for chicken legs and beef or pork ribs. In a stockpot, boil 6 quarts of water, adding to it a cup of sugar, a cup of salt, a smashed, unpeeled head of garlic, and your meat. (Voila, the boiling brine.) Boil 20 minutes for chicken legs, 30 for pork ribs, and 40 for beef ribs. After boiling, let the meat sit 5 minutes, then rub with olive oil, salt, and pepper before toasting it on your hot grill. Cook 5 to 10 minutes, turning a few times and brushing with barbecue sauce. (I’ve also used this technique with boneless chicken thighs, which post-boil can be cut into cubes and skewered for kabobs.)

The result is beautiful, tender chicken or ribs in about an hour. You can even do the brine boil a day in advance, so your meat is dinner party ready in just a few minutes. I revel in the brilliance of this shortcut every week now—we all carry a dazed look and the trademark sauce under our nails. And while I do not claim to be a master of my grill, I now stride up to the grocery display of ribs, hungry and unafraid. —Emily Parsons

July 2015 5
“Let’s talk about real estate along MacArthur Blvd.”

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Did you know that chickadees rear their young on caterpillars? The males and females gather a caterpillar every three to four minutes for their young. The parents bring back 17 species of caterpillars gathered mostly from native trees—plants with which these caterpillars have developed a specialized relationship. Essentially, the birds remove large quantities of caterpillars from the trees (too many on the tree would damage it), and the caterpillars are required feeding for raising their young. A pair of chickadees brings over 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to their nest for their growing fledglings.

A host of other birds will be foraging in our trees as well. For example, hummingbirds need to eat insects and spiders. Insects contain more protein than beef and 96% of North American land birds feed their young with them.

But, it does matter which tree. A native oak tree can supply over 500 caterpillars for these hungry young birds, whereas a gingko tree (imported from Asia) would only supply around 4 caterpillars. If the baby birds do not get enough food, they die. Mature birds can eat nuts in the winter, but nuts and seeds are not the food necessary for the young birds.

Approximately 230 species of birds are at risk of extinction in North America. Our parks, natural areas, and preserves are not big enough to supply for the needs of birds. We can help by planting native plants that have developed long evolutionary relationships that are mutually beneficial. These relationships are a win-win to the survival of the birds as well as the plants.

In suburbia, only 10 percent of what is needed to support wildlife is available primarily because 92% of that land is lawn. Imagine if Americans planted their lawns with native plants. Twenty million acres would be shared with birds and other wildlife.

As examples, some of the best plants to support butterfly and moth species in the mid-Atlantic necessary for our birds are:

- **Native oak** - 500 species
- **Black cherry tree** - 456
- **Willow** - 455
- **Goldenrod** - 115
- **Asters** - 112
- **Sunflowers** - 73

In my own Glen Echo garden, I plan to begin reducing the number of Asian plants, planting instead native trees and perennials. When I plant a native oak tree, I know that it will be enjoyed by my children and their children as well as being a caterpillar buffet for the birds I love! — **Holly Shimizu**

**FURTHER READING**

*Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* by Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy


For a list of what to plant go to: [www.bringingnaturehome.net](http://www.bringingnaturehome.net)

The National Wildlife Foundation is also an excellent resource: [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

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**THEY SAY IT’S YOUR BIRTHDAY!**

**July 7, Louisa White, 1**

**July 22, Prince George of Cambridge, 2**

Send your children’s names and birth dates (up to age 14) to [TheEchoEditor@gmail.com](mailto:TheEchoEditor@gmail.com).
Look out for our favorite former Town Clerk Nicole Fraser visiting Glen Echo the last week of July. She, Maddox, and Nora are back from Geneva for a short visit, so the kids can attend day camp with their friends. Welcome home!

Andrew Beers, son of Don and Debbie Beers of Wellesley Circle, graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island on May 23, 2015. All of his family were in attendance. Andrew was honored by the Environmental Studies department with a prize for “best research project,” and also received the 2015 Library Innovation Prize for his project “Grand Banks Iceberg Mapper.” Andrew will be in Minnesota over the summer on an internship at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve funded by the National Science Foundation.

The Echo’s own Holly Shimizu (oh, and former director of the U.S. Botanical Garden) received an award of Honorary Lifetime Achievement in Public Horticulture from the American Public Garden Association on June 25. She’s been working in the garden so to speak for nearly 40 years.

The fundraiser for Nepal earthquake relief held at the Town Hall on May 24 was a big success. Organized by Cabin John resident Linda Reinisch, the benefit concert featured some Nepalese acts, as well as food and crafts from that country. About 80 people attended and many more donated, raising more than $6,000. Reinisch thanks Glen Echoans for their support, but adds that the situation in Nepal remains dire especially now in monsoon season. If you are interested in donating, visit www.krmef.org/village-to-village.

Residents have until July 15 to cut back any vegetation growing over any Town sidewalk adjoining their property. After the deadline, a landscaping crew hired by the Town will take care of any unfinished work without homeowner input. Please, clear the way for your strolling neighbors!

Real Estate Report
After two months on the market, 37 Wellesley Circle has had a $120,000 price reduction and is listed now at $1,649,000. And look out for a new listing across the street when Carlotta Anderson’s house at 38 Wellesley Circle goes on the market. The McFarland house, 6005 Princeton Avenue, listed at $899,000, is under contract, but not to worry, the McFarlands are not planning on leaving Glen Echo. They are
Glen Echo Town Hall Events
FSGW English Country Dance
Wednesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8–10:30 PM free to town residents
July 12 5–7 PM Annual Summer Picnic for Glen Echo residents. The Town will provide fajitas, quesadillas, and soft drinks. Bring a dessert to share, and your own beer or wine if desired, and a picnic blanket. Join your neighbors, everyone welcome!

Local Events
July 27–July 31 9 AM–2:30 PM, Summer music camp for kids 7–14 at the Church of the Redeemer. Register by July 16 at music.redeemer@verizon.net

Glen Echo Park Activities
Free Summer Concerts
Thursdays, June 18–August 27, 7:30 PM in the Bumper Car Pavilion
July 2 Flutes on the Brink
July 9 QuinTango
July 16 Lilt, traditional Irish dance music
July 23 Only Lonesome, bluegrass
July 30 Seth Kibel Quartet
Free Art Walk in the Park July 3, 6–8 PM, open studios, artist demonstrations, and refreshments
Family Jazz Day July 19, 3–7 PM in the bumper car pavilion

The Puppet Co.
www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380
Snow White and the 7 Dwarves June 25–August 9
Tiny Tots, select Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 10 AM

Garfield, the Musical with Cattitude.
June 19–August 23

The likely buyers of 1 Vassar Circle. Also, new to the market is Jim Ford and Beth Rockwell’s house at 7300 University Avenue with an asking price of $1,139,000.
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O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

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

- **WEEKDAY WORSHIP**
  First Monday of the month (October – June), 7:30 p.m.
  Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé
  Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.
  Morning Prayer
  Wednesday, 12 noon
  Holy Eucharist

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