The Mayor and all four Council Members were present at the September 10 Council meeting. Also in attendance were consultant to the Mayor Jean Sperling, the new Town Manager Nicole Ventura, and five residents.

**Town Business**

Ms. Ventura kicked it off with the latest budget, with corrections and more detailed breakdowns, that she has updated since coming on board in July. Then Ms. Sperling, speaking for Martha Shannon, the resident leading the task of archiving the Town records, said that it was time to take the first step in the process. That is, the master plan: beginning with an inventory of what we have and a retention schedule (how long various documents legally need to be kept). Ms. Shannon has identified a staffer at the Montgomery County Historical Society who can take this on for $25 an hour. The Council voted to spend the $2,500 currently budgeted for archiving, with an agreement that this project will cost more than that, to hire the outside archivist. Council Member Long noted that she personally would like to keep any papers deemed not-necessary-to-retain by the Town.

**Town Permitting**

The agenda now includes details on any permits approved by the Mayor since the last meeting, as well as any pending permitting issues. At the meeting, a permit for the installation of a fence at 7311 University Avenue was deemed to have no issues. But a permit requested by Pepco to move two telephone poles at Vassar Circle, which was approved by the Mayor, proved more complicated.

In anticipation for the road-widening around Vassar Circle, Pepco will need to move a couple of poles, but the plan, as explained by resident/developer Aaron Hirsch, is to keep the poles within the circle. The work had not yet been requested by Mr. Hirsch, nor had the workers been hired, so it was a surprise when they showed up in early September to cut down a tree in the Springuels’ yard to make room for a new pole. The tree didn’t come down and the work has been put on hold until this confusion can be straightened out. The Council said it would void the permit that it had initially approved. It also agreed that in the future if a utility asks for a permit to enter and alter private property, the owners will be notified.

The first of the outstanding building permits got a lot of attention. First discussed at the July 9 Council meeting, the hurried enclosure of the screened porch and expanded kitchen at 7315 University Avenue without permitting continues to be an issue. Council Member Stiglitz, the Mayor, and Ms. Sperling all reached out to the County for intervention in this case, but no action was taken. The Mayor and Town lawyer Ron Bolt then issued a stop-work order from the Town.

The owner, who plans to rent the property, is also the developer. He now needs to get a variance from the County and a notice for the hearing will be posted on the property once it is set. Mr. Stiglitz and others at the meeting felt strongly that the owner is acting in bad faith, knowingly avoiding the necessary permitting process. The Council will need to decide how to weigh in once the hearing
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.

National Park Service Update
Aaron La Rocca will no longer be the NPS liaison with the Town. His replacement is Josh Nadas, now acting chief of staff, formerly the community planner for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Mr. Nadas reports that Alex Romero, formerly the superintendent for GWMP, has not yet been replaced. Also, a portion of the Clara Barton House may be open in the near future, and he’s looking into the long-promised boulders along Oxford Road.

Odds and Ends
The next Council meeting has been moved from Monday, October 8 (Columbus Day) to Tuesday, October 9. The fall leaf collection dates are still pending and will be announced when set. The Town-wide yard sale will be on October 20 from 9 AM–1 PM. And the new weathervane is in the Town Hall office awaiting installation. (The old weathervane can be found in Ms. Long’s living room!)

Finally, with approaching hurricanes on people’s minds, the Mayor mentioned that we have an application pending with FEMA for a generator for Town Hall. In the event of a lengthy power outage, residents would then have a refuge.

Town Expenses
In July and August, the Town paid $8,775 to Lee’s Tree Service, $7,158 to Bolt Legal, and $6,200 to Elegant Refuse & Recycling. —Emily Parsons
If Glen Echo already feels like one big family to Nina and Fargo Thompson, who recently moved into 7308 University Avenue, it’s for good reason. Nina’s sister, Holly Shimizu, is just two blocks up the street. Their daughter Holly Sheldon and granddaughters Willo and Noey are even closer—just one house away. (Their son, Harmar, lives with his family a full two miles away, in Brookmont.)

Nina and Fargo met in 1963 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where both were members of the U.S. Pan American Games team. Fargo was rowing in the number seven seat of an eight-oared boat. Nina competed in the 100-meter backstroke (and won a gold medal). At the time, she was a high school senior from Philadelphia and he was a senior at the University of Pennsylvania. Fargo grew up in Marietta, Ohio, and “the lucky guy spent every summer barefoot on Nantucket Island,” according to his wife.

As athletes, both had many opportunities to represent the United States internationally for their respective sports. Fargo rowed at the U.K.’s famed Henley Royal Regatta twice, traveled throughout Eastern Europe on a State Department sponsored tour, and competed in several World Championship Masters rowing regattas. Nina swam in the Olympic Games twice—in Rome in 1960 and in Tokyo in 1964—and competed throughout Europe and the United States. She has also enjoyed playing and coaching swimming, soccer, tennis, and platform tennis.

After graduating from Penn, Fargo taught high school math, then went on to get an MBA at Wharton and became a management consultant. Nina received her degree from the University of Maryland in English literature; her most recent employer was a small company that does the photographic and historic research for the U.S. Postal Service stamp development program.

Nina and Fargo moved to Glen Echo from Chevy Chase and like to garden, read, spend time with their kids and grandkids, hike, and play tennis and golf. They enjoy relaxing on the front porch of their new home and they invite neighbors to say hello—their chocolate lab, Puck, will greet you with a couple friendly barks.

—ANGELA HIRSCH
The right-of-way, which parallels MacArthur Boulevard and extends the entire length from the Glen Echo Park to the Cabin John Bridge, is currently owned by the Town. We are so fortunate to have this land as part of our Glen Echo neighborhood. It provides a natural barrier between our houses and MacArthur Boulevard and gives us a pleasant, natural screen from the road, a habitat for birds, and an important sense of enclosure.

In 1891, the space was used for street cars that connected Glen Echo with the Tennally Town and Rockville Railroad in Friendship Heights. In 1896, the line was expanded to Cabin John and renamed the Washington & Glen Echo railroad. The line was referred to as the “Cabin John Trolley.” Remnants of the trestles are still visible over the Minnehaha Branch on the northwest side of Glen Echo Park.

The Glen Echo Environmental Committee has been discussing ways to enhance the right-of-way by adding some naturalistic planting that would be low maintenance, while also adding in features that would make the land a rainscape. The most important aspect of a rainscape is its unique ability to reduce and clean storm water runoff, which will result in healthier streams. The goal is to keep rainwater on site so that it soaks into the ground. In heavy rains, pollutants come from the road and other paved surfaces. A proper rainscape provides a way for the water to be cleaned by plant roots and soil before it goes into nearby streams and eventually the Potomac River. Moreover, a rainscape can lessen the risk of flooding in neighborhood basements and gardens.

Our Town and the Glen...
Echo Park have experienced major rain disasters due to massive amounts of water gushing from paved surfaces. The antiquated underground systems are not able to handle intense rain storms. I remember back in 1989 when the Glen Echo Park parking lot flooded and caused a portion of it to cave in. Several cars were washed down into the creek bed and the Potomac River. In the 1990s, due to flooding waters, a Glen Echo backyard developed a huge crack in the earth.

The right-of-way is already serving as a kind of rainscape. Heavy rains cause puddles and waterlogged soil. A typical rainscape is often a depression formed on a natural slope which is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. These plants can hold and absorb rainwater from nearby impervious surfaces such as driveways, roads, walkways, parking lots, or compacted lawn areas. Rainscape designs vary depending on the drainage situation, location, surroundings, etc.

By creating a rainscape in our right-of-way, our hope is to improve its drainage capability, as well as adding more appropriate plantings that would thrive in the existing conditions. This improved right-of-way would not significantly change its existing character. The space would be more diverse in its planting, lusher, and yet it would continue to be a key green space for Glen Echo residents and act as a bio-corridor for birds and wildlife.

Hopefully, if Town residents are interested in this right-of-way enhancement project, we will apply for grants and seek private financial support in order to move forward.

If you have questions or concerns please contact me at: Hollyshimizu@gmail.com —HOLLY SHIMIZU

After summer, what to do with your nest boxes?

The first thing to do is clean out old nesting materials. On most nest boxes, you can access the interior by swinging open a front or side panel. If that isn’t possible, your house may have a bottom panel that can be unscrewed. When all else fails, take a bent coat-hanger, hook the old nesting material and drag it out through the entry hole. Also, make sure all drainage holes are unplugged (another good use for your trusty coat hanger). Then check for any squirrel or other damage around the entry hole. If the hole has been enlarged, you might check with your local wild bird specialty store for special metal plates that can be put around the hole to prevent further damage. You can then hose out the box and let dry. Rehang your nest box so your birds have all winter to get comfortable with it or even use it as a roosting box since a number of species are known to huddle together in nest boxes for warmth. —THE WILD BIRD CENTERS
The White family went to the Pinball Hall of Fame (1) in Ashbury Park, New Jersey; and (2) that’s Eliza, Max, and Lulu chilling out at Deep Creek, Maryland.

(3) The Parsons-Amdur family did a little kayaking while staying at a lake house near Soloman’s Island in southern Maryland.

(4) Claire Kelly and her son Ryan Chitwood hit up Arches National Park in Utah. They also had a rafting/camping trip in Cataract Canyon on the Colorado River.

(5) The Roddy family did a road trip through Germany and Austria over the summer. Pictured are Grace, Luke, and Kate in Rothenberg ob der Tauber on the Romantic Road.

(6) Patty Sieber and family hiked Rabbit Ears at an elevation over 10,000 feet outside of Steamboat, Colorado.

(7) The Epanchin family stopped by Mt. Hood on their Pacific Northwest summer road trip.

(8) The Hirsch family stayed at a friend’s house near Steamboat Springs and spent a glorious week relaxing, hiking, tubing, and getting to know the alpacas at the farm next door.

One big trip wasn’t enough for the Spealman-Maasjo family. They went to (9) Glacier National Park, Montana, in July, and then (10) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August.
Rhein Tutoring

LESSONS
FOR FRENCH AND PIANO

References
Can be provided

Contact Stephanie Rhein at
240-543-3301 or stephrhein@aol.com

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If September’s rainy weather got you down and kept you indoors, here are a few things to get you out of your hobbit hole. For one, it’s shockingly not too late to make it to the H Street Festival following its postponement to October 13. But you’ll have to pick and choose your festivities because that’s the same day as Bethesda Row Arts Festival.

Taste of Bethesda comes around this year October 6 for a full day of food and music in Woodmont Triangle. Followed by Taste of DC, not to be out-shined with two full days October 26 and 27. On October 7, head to the city for two new ways to discover our nation’s capital. First, in the morning, join fellow professionals (and some kids, I presume) in a one of a kind Scavenger Hunt at the National Zoo. Then head to Farragut West for a haunted walking tour of the White House and its surrounding area.

For those who can’t seem to get away from policy discussions, mix it with music at the annual HillFest on October 6 in Garfield Park. The event promises to bring artists from around the DC area to highlight concerns originating from the performing arts community.

And if your kiddo is looking to dress up as a cop (or robber) this Halloween, give her/him an immersive first-hand experience with the upcoming grand opening of the National Law Enforcement museum on October 13.

For those wanting to jump into full fall celebrations, head to Mount Vernon on October 20 and 21 for their Fall Harvest Family Days to be transported back to the 18th century. But you won’t be fully transported as temperatures in present day are likely to still be a little toasty. — MONA KISHORE
The 48th Annual Labor Day Art Show was held at Glen Echo Park’s historic Spanish Ballroom from Saturday, September 1 through Monday, September 3. The exhibition featured the work of more than 280 artists from the region with work ranging from sculpture, painting and drawing, ceramics, and jewelry, to photography, furniture and works on paper. Town residents whose work appeared in the show were Carol Barton, Ayan Kishore, Susan Thon, and Martha Shannon. The show was primarily curated by volunteer and Town of Glen Echo resident Nancy Long, whose imprint has been on the show since its founding 48 years ago. This was the second year the Labor Day Art Show awards—with a cash prize—were presented to outstanding works in two- and three-dimensional categories. The Park View Artist Award offers the recipient a solo show in the Park View Gallery in January 2019.

The Park Partnership has launched a new series of early childhood arts-enriched classes for children ages 1 to 5 with their parents or caregivers. PAGE classes include specialty arts content along with preschool readiness skills. On Mondays and Wednesdays, families explore music with the Washington Conservatory of Music and movement with Metropolitan Ballet Theatre. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they focus on visual art and nature programs with Glen Echo Park Aquarium. Classes are designed for ages 1 to 2 and 3 to 4, and the program is great for accommodating different-aged siblings. On Fridays, classes delve into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) with experiments, tactile activities, and specialty content. Friday programs serve two age ranges: 10 months to 2 years, and ages 3 to 5 years.

The first six-week session of programs began September 10 and reached capacity with most classes. The next fall session begins the week of October 22 and a winter session begins the week of January 7. See gle-nechopark.org/pageprogram for more information.

Join the fun on Saturday, October 27, from 1 to 4 PM. through hands-on crafts, Halloween activities, and visiting artist studios. Participants can pick a pumpkin from the Pumpkin Patch and decorate it at one of our craft tables. There will be face painting and other activities—and, of course, trick-or-treating! The celebration concludes with a costume parade through the Park at 3:30 PM (weather-permitting).

It is always rewarding to celebrate the history of the Park. This summer the Park Partnership board was surprised to receive an unusual gift. A totem pole that was once part of the amusement park ride Jungle Land (1964) was donated to the Park by its current owner, Anthony Hyatt, who grew up in Bannockburn and loved the Park. The unusual story of this artifact’s journey includes its rescue by historian Richard Cook and auction by the Park Foundation (1997) to a resident of Bannockburn who eventually bequeathed it to Mr. Hyatt. This is the kind of story we love to hear about, and we suspect there are many other treasures from our early history that have yet to be discovered! —Martha Shannon

The Echo 11

Our Town Park

Fall Frolic is the Glen Echo Park Partnership’s annual Halloween-themed family event. Visitors of all ages are invited to the Park to explore the arts and celebrate the history of the Park. This summer the Park Partnership board was surprised to receive an unusual gift. A totem pole that was once part of the amusement park ride Jungle Land (1964) was donated to the Park by its current owner, Anthony Hyatt, who grew up in Bannockburn and loved the Park. The unusual story of this artifact’s journey includes its rescue by historian Richard Cook and auction by the Park Foundation (1997) to a resident of Bannockburn who eventually bequeathed it to Mr. Hyatt. This is the kind of story we love to hear about, and we suspect there are many other treasures from our early history that have yet to be discovered! —Martha Shannon

Mike Zangwill (center) and Anthony Hyatt (right) present a totem pole to Katey Boerner of the Glen Echo Park Partnership.

Culture Beat

The book Blueberries For Sal by Robert McCloskey was a favorite when I was little. It is a very short story, so I wondered how it would be turned into a full-length play. At Adventure Theatre, the plot is extended by adding extra personality traits as well as events. In the play, the baby bear is more scared of humans than it is in the book, and Sal is much more talkative. The actors are very funny, so I think kids like me will enjoy this play. —CORRINA SPEALMAN, Glen Echo fourth grader

The Echo 11
Glen Echo native Laura Beers, daughter of Debbie and Don Beers, is back in Town for the fall with her two sons, Gabriel (6) and Alex (2). Laura is a professor of British history based in the United Kingdom, but has returned to her childhood home to spend time with her family while teaching at American University.

There are some October events in Town that could use some volunteers. The **Town-wide yard sale and donation drive** will be held October 20 from 9 AM–1 PM. The Town handles getting the word out, and all residents are invited to participate. This year the sale will be concentrated along Harvard and University Avenues, as those streets have historically gotten the most foot traffic. Carol Barton is organizing a donation drive, in which your unsold items (or any other goods) can be given to charity. If you plan to participate or could help with putting up signs, contact Raya (rayabodnarchuk@gmail.com) or Carol (cbarton@mindspring.com). The second event is the annual **Halloween pizza party** at Town Hall on October 31 from 5:30–6:30 PM. If you can help with set up or clean up, please email Nicole at townhall@glenecho.org.

Fun for the whole family at the **Glen Echo Fire Department’s Open House**, Sunday, October 21, 11 AM–2 PM. Kids get to tour the vehicles, and in the very popular “junior firefighter training” simulation, kids operate a real fire hose on a simulated house fire. Other offerings, all free, are food (hot dogs, etc.), a moon bounce and stop, drop and roll clinics. This annual event is a great opportunity to learn about careers or volunteer roles for firefighters, EMTs, and rescue workers. Also remember the GEFD’s ongoing raffle ($100/ticket) of a Chevrolet Tahoe vehicle (or equivalent cash), ending October 21 (or earlier, when 1,000 sold). Details found at https://raffle.gefd.org/

Despite heavy rain, this year’s annual bingo event at Glen Echo Park broke prior records, attracting about 260 participants and raising over $7,000.

Trash collection always seems to be a fraught topic, but here’s some straight up good news: Every Friday pick-up is now large item pick-up!

On the night of September 21, vandals pulled off the door of Glen Echo’s Little Free Library and threw some of the books around. Happily, by the next day, the damage had been repaired.

The numbers are in, Glen Echo is part of the area with the fourth highest **life expectancy** in the country. Average life expectancy here? 93.6 years. For this reason *The
Echo will be pleased to run an article by resident Gloria Levin in an upcoming issue about the village movement options in the area. The village movement has grown from a Beacon Hill (Boston neighborhood) program to help older residents age in place. And speaking of Glen Echoans in their 90s, Council Member Nancy Long will be turning 90 on October 17. Happy Birthday, Nancy!

The Journey Space, which has opened in Richard Leggin’s former property on Oberlin Avenue, is not a straight yoga studio. Billed as a “Healing Arts Center,” it offers biodynamic craniosacral training, mediation, cacao ceremonies, healing herbs, and something called “heart- and soul-based experimental bodywork training” to recover from trauma. Oh, it has some yoga classes too!

Real Estate Report
6001 Yale Avenue has had a $45K price reduction to $1,050,000. It is joined on the active market by 30 Wellesley Avenue, formerly the home of Michael Bobbitt and Craig Hanna, with an asking price of $1,089,000. 6110 Oberlin Avenue, a commercial property, sold this summer for $1,760,000. The four prospective homes (or lots) at Vassar Circle are still on the market starting at $1,399,000 (or $599,000). Vassar Circle developer and Glen Echo resident Aaron Hirsch told the Council at the September meeting that because none of the properties have sold, he and his partners will go ahead and build the first house in the next few months.

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A Unique Opportunity

Four distinct custom homes are now available for pre-purchase on Vassar Circle in Glen Echo. Get in early to reserve a lot and customize as much as you’d like. We have fully developed drawings ready for permit with options. The base model is $1,399,000 for 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and 3,100 square feet of living space. We also offer options for a den and a third story with a 5th bedroom, bath, and bonus loft. We can work with buyers to develop a completely custom design. For those interested in going their own way, lots may be purchased for $599,000.

Reserve your slice of Glen Echo today. This offering will not last! Contact: Aaron Hirsch 202-255-8313 aaron@aaronhirsch.com

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