TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The April 8 meeting was significant as the last of this current grouping of Council Members. Before the next meeting there will be an election—on May 6—and new members will be sworn in on May 13. Council Member Long is retiring after fifty years, and Council Member Costello is running for reelection. On this evening, only Council Member Spealman was absent. Town lawyer Ron Bolt, Town manager Nicole Ventura, Town engineer Joe Toomey, and five residents also attended.

Vassar Circle Permitting
This discussion revolved primarily around the details to be considered and clarified in issuing the permit to widen the street at Vassar Circle, including six ramps at the intersections and new curbs. Mr. Bolt spoke on the major issues, and then the Council discussed them with input from resident and developer Aaron Hirsch.

The first concern was whether the street improvements needed to be completed before the construction of the first house could commence. It was decided that the County and Fire Marshal did not require this, so the Council allowed that the building of the first house could begin before or in tandem with the roadway. However, the permit for occupancy on the first house will not be issued until the road work has been done, excepting the final topcoat, which will happen when all four homes are complete. The Council allowed that if Mr. Hirsch had a buyer for the second home before the first is completed, this stipulation could be reconsidered.

The issue of a performance bond was then discussed. The County has one already, but the Council determined that the Town should have one of its own. The cost of $2,500 for a $100,000 bond would be covered by Mr. Hirsch’s building fee for the second house.

At presstime, the bond had been acquired, Pepco had moved two poles within the Circle, and the property had been staked in preparation for earthmoving.

Insurance was the last big part of this puzzle. The developers and the builders have limited liability insurance, which covers non-employee injury, but the lawyer recommended that the Town require more than there currently is. The Mayor and Council agreed, saying they wanted more coverage for residents.

With these three issues hashed out, the Council approved the permit. They then quickly approved the permit for the construction of 4 Vassar Circle—the first house of four.

Approved!
The Council stepped up the pace after the lengthy Vassar Circle discussion. They approved: a new auditor; a company to refinish and clean Town Hall floors; a $2,000 donation to GEP-PAC; Hughes Landscaping to clean up and repair the drain on the trolley right-of-way section between Cornell and Bryn Mawr Avenues; a resolution for next year’s property tax rate (unchanged); an ordinance to adopt next year’s budget at the May meeting (for more on that, see page 11); and resolutions pertaining to the Town’s bank account signatories, because Town manager Nicole Ventura will be leaving her position in April.

Police Report
Council Member Stiglitz updated the Council on the last Police Advisory Com-
The Echo
Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: $12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of The Echo are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at www.glenecho.org. Total circulation: 190.

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Next Deadline: May 20, 2019
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.

Parting Words
Council Member Nancy Long retires this year after a service commencing in 1969. She took a few moments at the end of the meeting to reflect on her tenure. She touched on highlights and beloved colleagues, but she also eloquently made the point that it’s fine and good to love and appreciate this area—our home—but sometimes you have to get active and fight to keep it great. Stay engaged Glen Echoans! And you can start by voting in our Town election on May 6 (see details on page 7). Maybe YOU will hear Ms. Long’s call to service.

Town Expenses
In March, the Town paid $3,844 to Bolt Legal, $3,325 to Rolling Acres Landscaping (snow removal), $3,162 to Goode Companies, $1,698 to Montgomery County Government (salt), and $1,238 to Blue Crab Contracting (Wayne Fowler).

—EMILY PARSONS

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Charlie Trowbridge and Kaitlin Rumberger are Glen Echo’s newest residents and soon-to-be newlyweds. They will marry on May 11 in Pennsylvania, where Kaitlin grew up and where both sets of their parents now live.

The couple met for the first time with their families on a cruise—Charlie’s cousin’s family is close friends with Kaitlin and her family. At the time, Charlie was in college and Kaitlin in high school, and sparks did not fly—in fact, they barely spoke to each other. But several years later, at that same cousin’s wedding, the two met again and instantly connected. Charlie got Kaitlin’s number, and sparks ensued. And, yes, the cousin will be in the wedding party.

When they reconnected, Kaitlin was living in South Carolina and Charlie in Arlington. After starting out long distance, Kaitlin made the move to the DC area. Her finance job is in Silver Spring; Charlie works in Tysons Corner, specializing in employment law. When they first looked for a home to purchase, location—splitting the long swath of beltway between their workplaces—was a big consideration. After seeing 30 Wellesley, they began to learn more about Glen Echo—Charlie learned that his dad used to come to the park in the 1960s. Soon enough, they knew this was the right place to begin their married life.

The nearby Billy Goat Trail was already a favorite hiking spot for the couple, and they are discovering the many outdoor possibilities of the river and the C&O Canal. Charlie is an avid road biker and hopes to soon join one of the many cycling groups that traverse MacArthur Boulevard on weekend mornings.

After months consumed with buying and moving into a new house and planning a wedding, Charlie and Kaitlin are eager for some less- hecti c time to settle into their new home and get to know others in town. But first, they are looking forward to honeymooning in Jamaica. When they return to Glen Echo, they will be known as Charlie and Kaitlin Trowbridge. —ANGELA HIRSCH

---

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Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Strawberry Festival 2019
Saturday, June 8th
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Upcoming Concert Events
Saturday, May 11th, 5:00 PM
Carmina & Illuminare: Music of the 1600s
Friday, May 31st, 7:00 PM
Brian Giebler, Tenor: “When I was One and Twenty”
Get tickets at musicatredeemer.org

Sunday Services
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 am

Wednesday Services
Morning Prayer at 9:00 am; Holy Eucharist at Noon
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THE ECHO 3
Springtime is no time to take down your feeders! Contrary to opinions of some, filling backyard feeders is at least as important in the springtime as during colder months. Think about it for a moment: during the fall and early winter, natural supplies of seeds and berries become available as food sources. By spring, most of these foods have been eaten, and new crops of natural foods are still months from maturity. Spring feeding is important to our feeder regulars—permanent residents, such as goldfinches, chickadees, and others that have been using our feeders all winter. It also helps our migrants and birds who arrive early on their breeding grounds. Even those birds who feed primarily on insects may stop by if they see other bird activity in your yard.

By late spring, most birds have settled in and begun to nest. They may need extra energy as the males define territories and the females build nests and produce eggs. Later in the season, the parents will bring their fledglings to your feeders, and you can watch awkward youngsters as they beg for food and learn to feed themselves. With the continued support of your feeders, your birds will bring motion, sound, color, and family entertainment to your yard throughout the year. —THE WILD BIRD CENTERS
The Glen Echo Plant Swap is a perfect time to find some new and interesting plants to try in your garden. Last year one of our residents saw some little seedlings of Mexican sunflower (Tithonia rotundifolia), had no idea what the plants would look like, and was thrilled when they grew tall and bright orange and were covered with monarch butterflies! As you may know, the monarchs need our help as the populations are drastically declining. In addition, seedlings of vegetables, garden annuals, including zinnias and Mexican sunflowers, and herbs such as calendula, borage, dill, cilantro, and more. Many of your neighbors will bring divisions from their own gardens and often include the following:

- Variegated fragrant Solomon’s seal (Polygonatum odoratum ‘Variegata’), which is a stunning plant for Glen Echo gardens. These plants have gracefully arching stems adorned with white streaked leaves that will develop lovely pendulous flowers. This plant loves shade and will thrive in a woodland or naturalized setting.

- Hellebores of various types will be available. They are perfect for dry shade, are low maintenance, and bloom early. This plant is a hugely popular perennial with many species and hybrids to choose from.

- The strawberry saxifrage (Saxifraga stolonifera) is a low growing, shade ground cover that spreads by stolons. It is also known as “mother of thousands” because of the way it spreads its plantlets. The rounded, veined leaves are unusually beautiful as their undersides are a rich red color. These plants will bring you lovely, wispy white flowers in late spring.

- Sun-loving perennials will include a sampling of euphorbias (also called spurge). These are low maintenance plants that withstand drought and heat. Although the flowers can be beautiful, most euphorbias are grown for their lovely foliage. A bonus is that deer do not like to eat them.

- Flowering native columbine will also be available. These plants have red, nodding flowers with long spurs and yellow stamens. This wildflower is short-lived and seedlings pop up here and there resulting in a wonderful spring show. Butterflies love this plant.

- Some garden grasses will be included such as the variegated sedge (Carex sp.). These tufted plants are mostly evergreen, shade plants that are easy to grow and have a wonderful textural quality.

Please be thinking about what you will bring to the plant swap—it promises to be a fun event with plenty of horticultural treasures to exchange. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

This spring’s plant and seed exchange is on Saturday, May 4, from 9:30 AM to 4 PM at the site of the mini farm stand on University Avenue between Harvard and Yale Avenues. If you are bringing plants or seeds to swap, come anytime. If you do not have anything to contribute, you can still come after 1 PM to take what you’d like. Organizers Holly Shimizu and Carol Barton will put out extra pots and markers on the Friday before.
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COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Dia Costello
6100 HARVARD
I have had the honor of serving on the Town Council since May of 2015. I take the position to heart and am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the wonderful place I have called home for the last 21 years.

I helped to establish the Little Library, co-led the project to renew the Town's ordinances, was one of the founding members of the Environmental committee, and am currently the lead for the sledding hill project. I support the Farm Stand and have hopes to offer composting services for residents at a reduced rate in the future. I have attended many outside community meetings on airplane noise, neighboring community concerns regarding overdevelopment, and 5G cell tower issues as well as participated in Montgomery County Municipal League conferences.

When there is conflict on issues, I have tried to listen to all sides of the dilemma and respond respectfully. Even in turning down a request, I believe I have been even and fair. I also strongly believe in community feedback. There have been numerous times when I have requested the Town Council ask for feedback from the community before making decisions.

Glen Echo continues to be a town filled with interesting and passionate people who care about their community and their neighbors. I believe in keeping Glen Echo the warm and unique place it has always been and encouraging positive, new ideas for our growth.

COUNCIL CANDIDATE
Julia Wilson
7309 UNIVERSITY
I have lived here most of my life. My family moved to Wellesley Circle when I was five, and I attended Bannockburn, Pyle, and Whitman. After college my husband, Speke, and I moved to Bryn Mawr Avenue, and then, as our family grew, to University Avenue where we’ve lived ever since.

I love Glen Echo and couldn’t imagine living anywhere else. I think the compact size of the town and lots engenders the unique atmosphere of civil camaraderie which every Glen Echoan knows well.

For many years I have volunteered for Glen Echo activities. I have reported for The Echo, helped organize events, and raised money for the playground at the Park. I am the current chair of the new Livable Community Committee which has organized kids’ movie nights and Founders Day Game Day and will continue coordinating fun events to bring us all together. I am also a member of the Environmental Committee. I have filled in numerous times as a substitute Clerk-Treasurer over the years and am familiar with many of the issues that come before the Town Council.

I want to serve Glen Echo residents, and help ensure that our town remains a place where civil discourse is respected and encouraged and the town government exists to address the needs of the residents. I welcome any thoughts or feedback and look forward to discussing town issues that are important to you.

Glen Echo’s election for two Council seats will be held at Town Hall on May 6 from 5 to 9 PM. All residents aged 18 and older may participate. If needed, you can register at the time you come to vote. New residents may be asked to provide proof of residency.
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If you’re one for endurance, then you’ll be overwhelmed with options to choose from this month. There’s a race to match every training level. Starting with the **Potomac River Marathon** (on the C&O Canal tow path) and the **National Women’s Half Marathon**, both on May 5, continuing with the **White House 10K** on May 12, and on to the **Georgetown 5K** on May 26. And that’s just a few of the May options. For something a bit more slow-paced but also for a cause, **March for Moms** will be convening on the National Mall on May 11, bringing much needed awareness on the topic of maternal health.

This year, paddle up the Anacostia River to join in the celebration of the 10th annual **Kingman Island Bluegrass Festival**—voted best music festival in the DC area. On May 4, from noon to 8 PM, bands from all over the country will be performing across the natural preserve. Now grown to have something for everyone, you can come to enjoy the long list of activities and vendors of local goods and foods, too.

On May 11, you should either avoid U Street NW all together or come prepared to join in on the eclectic **DC Funk Parade**. The festival takes place from 1 PM to midnight with the iconic parade procession running 5 to 6 PM.

On May 4, join the **DC Chocolate Festival** at the Embassy of France for all things chocolatey and educational workshops. However ill advised, the event is posed to be child-friendly with no fee for kids under 12.

If you love antiques, head to the **DC Big Flea** on May 4 and 5 at the Dulles Expo Center for the largest indoor flea market in the region. For the last 20 years, this event has continued to grow with everything from furniture to clothes and jewelry, and, of course, collectibles of all kinds.

If the rain holds off, head to Takoma Park on May 11 or Hillcrest in Southeast DC for neighborhood porch festivals open to the public. Both will have makeshift stages peppered across residential porches and storefronts promising to have music of all genres on display.

On May 18 and 19, don’t miss the regalia of this year’s **Dragon Boat Festival** whizzing by off Thompson Boat Center in Georgetown. This is the 18th annual display celebrating this beautiful and aquatic form of Taiwanese culture on the Potomac River.

This Memorial Day (actually, May 26) make tribute to our nation’s heroes through music at the annual **Choral Festival** in the Kennedy Center. Performing some of our country’s most quintessential anthems, the United States Air Force Orchestra will be accompanied by a 200-person chorus. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance. —**Mona Kishore**

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Tisha and Blair Anderson of Harvard Avenue welcomed Archer Taryn Anderson on her due date of April 4 at Sibley Hospital—at a healthy 9 pounds 7 ounces and 21.5 inches long. Tisha writes: “Archer’s brothers Mads (5) and Durke (8) love holding her. My mom Lea Thompson made the banner—which we pulled down before it started to rain! My parents bought us a cherry tree because she was born the same day as this year’s peak bloom. Archer is a name we’ve always loved and Taryn is my middle name—which my husband says he has always really loved.”

Lucy Bermudez of Wellesley Circle has been baking and delivering delicious breads and pastries since she and her family moved in last year. Her fans will be happy to know that in May (date pending), she plans to open a storefront nearby at 7607 MacArthur Boulevard, which is next to the liquor store in Cabin John. There is a lot of work to do as the former tenants took everything—even the sinks! To help with the construction and remodeling costs, Lucy has a Kickstarter campaign set up that interested neighbors can support. Search there for Akarui Fusion Bakery and help keep the tasty baked goods close to home!

After a year on the job, Town manager Nicole Ventura is moving on. She thanks the Town for the opportunity and leaves with this thought: Though the upcoming construction of Vassar Circle will be an inconvenience at times, the end result—nice homes, new neighbors, a wider street—will be well worth it.

On May 11 at 10 AM, you can come hear a talk by archeologist and historian Dr. Alexandra Jones at the site of the historic African American church at Gibson Grove and the Moses Hall Cemetery. Dr. Jones wrote that the research done at this site has given “a voice to the previously silenced African American community in Cabin John, thus illuminating their contributions to the development of Cabin John.” After the talk, volunteers (aged 12 and older) will help in cleaning up the cemetery per proper preservation methods outlined by Dr. Jones. Wear work clothes and gloves, and bring tools for cutting back bamboo if you have them. Email Charlotte Troup Leighton to RSVP or to request additional information at troupleighton@gmail.com

After 12 years as artistic director of Adventure Theatre, former Glen Echo resident Michael Bobbitt is stepping down. His next gig at New Repertory Theatre in Watertown, MA, will take him away from Maryland, but before that he will be assisting in the search for ATMTC’s next artistic director. His shoes will be big ones to fill.

Bryn Mawr Avenue resident Debra Battista died April 19. She moved to Glen Echo seven years ago, and in 2015, she endured a large electrical fire at her house and the subsequent restoration. Our thoughts are with her family.

Real Estate Report
No updates in the sale market, but the recently controversial property at 7315 University Avenue has been rented at $4,500 a month. Look for new neighbors this month!
**MONEY MATTERS**

The Town of Glen Echo is projecting to finish its 2019 Fiscal Year with a net revenue of $34,473. This exceeds the projected FY-2019 net by nearly $23,000. Overall, the Town’s projected revenues for the fiscal year were down nearly $17,000, with the biggest shortfall coming from state income taxes. Mayor Polak reported in his memo with the budget that “approximately 20 residents have not filed their 2017 taxes, so the Town’s tax income is down significantly from last year.” Presumably, the Town will eventually capture this revenue when the late filers complete their 2017 returns.

The decreased revenues were offset by nearly $40,000 in reduced expenses over the FY-2019 budget. The savings came primarily from Street Expenses (-$24,000), Landscape (-$5,000), Refuse/Recycling (-$10,000), and Town Hall Expenses (-$18,250). Several expense line items significantly exceeded budgeted amounts including Town Office Expenses ($5,500), Town Trees ($15,600), and Community Events ($8,600).

The Mayor’s FY-2020 proposed budget projects $364,904 in revenue on $353,550 in expenses with a resulting net-income of $11,354. The budget proposes to increase the Town’s payroll by $12,300 (23%). Professional services would also see an $8,750 increase (13%). Administrative expenses would decline by $4,000 (-50%), and Town Hall expenses by $19,250 (-22%). Notably, the line item for elevator replacement ($35,000), which was not spent last year has been removed from this year’s proposed budget. The Mayor is proposing to retain the current tax rates.

The Town will receive public comments on the budget in advance of the May 13 Town Council Meeting. The Mayor also observed in his budget memo that “there are several ongoing projects dealing with water run-off that are being investigated and have not been sufficiently addressed as of this date to warrant being included in the budget.” The full budget can be found on the Town’s website. —THOM AMDUR

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**GOINGS ON**

**Glen Echo Town Hall Events**

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

May 6 5–9 PM, Glen Echo Town Council election

**Local Events**

May 4 9:30 AM–4 PM, Plant Swap (details on page 5)

May 5 10 AM–5 PM, Landon School’s Azalea Festival, food, shopping, rides, spring!

May 9 1:30 PM, Penny Catteral discusses downsizing, Little Falls Library, for seniors

May 10 5–8 PM, Bannockburn’s Elementary School’s Mayday, food, games, rides

May 11 9–Noon, Annual Grateful Shred event at Clara Barton Community Center

May 22 1:30 PM, Victor Rezmovic discusses alternatives to cable TV, Little Falls Library, for seniors

**Glen Echo Park Events**

May 5 6–8 PM, Art Walk in the Park

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

May 12 3–5 PM, Family Dance in the Ballroom Back Room, $5

May 18 6 PM–Midnight, The Partnership’s annual fundraising Gala in the Park, Spanish Ballroom, $250

**The Puppet Co.** www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

Jack and the Beanstalk, through May 5

Cinderella, May 9–June 23

Tiny Tots select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

**Adventure Theater MTC**

www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270

Winnie the Pooh, through May 26

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They Say it’s Your Birthday!

May 8, Eliza White, 10
May 9, Sophie Polak, 8
May 12, Aran Bragan, 7
May 23, Alice Parsons Amdur, 4

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**LADIES NIGHT**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, AT 8:00 PM

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Sat, May 04 2019 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Restorative Workshop Series Yoga Nidra with Ashira Lavine
Sun, May 05 2019 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

AVATAR with Neva Ingalls
Tue, May 07 2019 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

An Evening Yoga Practice with Ashira Lavine
Tue, May 07 2019 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Shamanic Self - Awareness with Christel Libiot
Fri, May 10 2019 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Healing Through Your Akashic Records with Bill Sanda
Sat, May 11 2019 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Create Your Power Animal Mandala with Kate Lanxner
Sun May 12 2019 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Boost Your Energy with Mindful Movement with Seth Dellinger Sat , May 18 2019 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Spring Yoga & Organ Cleansing Qigong Workshop with Yong In Kim and Cheri Moran
Sun, May 19 2019 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Circle of Compassion with Lourdes Billingsley
Sun, May 19 2019 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM

Grief Ritual with Cate Gaffney
Sat, May 25 2019 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

ONGOING CLASSES

AVATAR with Neva Ingalls
Tuesdays May 07 2019 - Jun 04 2019
9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

An Evening Yoga Practice with Ashira Lavine
Tuesdays Apr 23 2019 - Dec 17 2019
7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

Restorative Workshop Series: Yoga Nidra with Ashira Lavine & Margarita Reyes
Sundays May 05, Jun 09, Sept 8, Oct 27
1:00-5:00 PM

FUND RAISER

The Power of Union with Neva Ingalls
Sat, Jun 08 2019 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Over the past 12 years, Yoga Gives Back has funded over 1,200 mothers and children in India with micro loans and education funds, each with a five-year commitment. Suggested donation $25

FREE LECTURE SERIES

Flower Essences for Emotional Balance
Fri, Jun 14 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Summer Solstice Celebration
Fri, Jun 21 2019 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM