Town Council Notes

The Council met upstairs on September 9 anticipating a large turnout for the hot button issues on the agenda: glass recycling and the flag. But the turnout never materialized. The Mayor and full Council were present, as was Town Clerk Beth Boa, Town lawyer Ron Bolt, and Julie Sparacino, a records management specialist hired by the Town. There were about ten residents throughout the meeting, which began at 7 PM. The next two Council meetings will also begin at 7 PM to accommodate special guests addressing the Town. The October 14 meeting will feature our District’s new police commander Capt. Sean Gagen, so residents are encouraged to attend and bring any police or crime questions and concerns with them.

Town Archives
The Council considered the proposed records retention schedule for official Town records. Consultant Julie Sparacino has developed a plan that is in compliance with State of Maryland. All official Town documents are the property of the State and thus should be managed under an approved retention schedule. The Glen Echo Town records will be classified and reviewed on a regular schedule. Certain types of records will be eligible for destruction while others will be retained permanently. By law, permanent records will need to be transferred to the State Archives facility for safekeeping. The records retention plan must be reviewed and approved by the State before it is put in place. The Town archivist Sarah Hedlund has been a part of the small committee reviewing this plan. Others involved are Ms. Boa, resident Martha Shannon, and advisor to the Mayor Jean Sperling. Our Town attorney Mr. Bolt has reviewed and advised on this process as well. The proposed plan is consistent with those of other municipalities. Council asked that the Town consider digitizing records that are of importance such as the Town meeting minutes. This is being explored by the Mayor and Ms. Boa. Council voted to accept the schedule that was developed by Ms. Sparacino. Ms. Hedlund will be invited to the October Council meeting to discuss her work with Town files and her recommendations for the future.

Wild Bird Centers
As reported in the September issue, the Town has reached out to the owner of 7370 MacArthur Boulevard to produce evidence that the two parking spaces that occur in the right-of-way at the top of Bryn Mawr Avenue can be included in the sale of the building. In response, the owner, Mr. George Petrides, Sr. (also author of our “In Your Backyard” column), has submitted an agreement from 1992 that was signed by the Town with the former owners, the Garfields, allowing them to use some portion of those spots for a term of 99 years with an option to renew. The Town even paved it for them. In 1995, the Garfields asked for more room for parking there, but it’s unclear what space they were referring to, and that further request wasn’t formalized. Mr. Bolt and the Council decided to discuss this issue in a closed session at a later date. It was suggested that a new agreement needs to be drawn up; one that would be made official in land records to clear up future confusion like this. Mr. George Petrides, Jr., present at this
Council meeting said that he and his family have been in Glen Echo a long time and feel it is a very special place. They hope that an amicable agreement can be reached.

New County Zoning
Mr. Bolt briefed the Council on a relaxing of County zoning requirements for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) come January 1, 2020. Generally, this is a separate structure on a property that could be rented out. Mr. Bolt said that many small municipalities are passing their own zoning requirements for ADUs, essentially re-tightening the County’s loosening. These could include property size, setbacks, and number of parking spaces. Council Member Stiglitz said that Mr. Bolt should draft something like that for Glen Echo, which could then be presented to residents for discussion.

Resident Aaron Hirsch said that the demand for affordable housing in Montgomery County far outpaces supply and these zoning changes could possibly have a positive effect. Mr. Bolt said that the County’s new zoning requirements say nothing about the new units being affordable. The discussion begins!

Odds and Ends
Ms. Boa noted that the Town’s legal expenses have been high recently due to Vassar Circle development and the Wild Bird Centers issue. Other updates from Ms. Boa: The annual Halloween Party will be October 31 from 5:30–6:30 PM, with pizza and drinks before trick-or-treating begins. August saw water main breaks that affected lower Yale and lower Bryn Mawr. WSSC is still in the process of repairing those roads. Snow removal will again be handled by Rolling Acres and will include bringing the streets. Ms. Boa looked further into pricing for dog waste pick up, but the Council decided not to proceed at this time.

Council Member Costello said that she was the sole member of the Yale sledging hill committee, but resident Matt Polak volunteered to help put out cones or signs or whatever is determined best to make the lower part of that street off-limits to cars on snowy days. The Mayor reported that the Town’s funding request for a generator has been submitted to FEMA. It was noted that big trees are coming down in Glen Echo: two on Harvard, one at Clara Barton House, and one at the bottom of Bryn...
Mawr. And the Koonces on Columbia Avenue got a permit for a screened-in porch.

Joe Toomey submitted his Vassar Circle update (in writing) to the Council. Mr. Hirsch, the developer, said that they were hung up waiting for WSSC to replace a defective pipe. The underground utility work must be complete before road-widening can commence. The first house is ready for the County’s inspections of the framing and electrical before moving on to the drywall.

The Nancy Long Bee & Butterfly Garden is set for along the right-of-way by Town Hall. Holly Shimizu will be overseeing its creation. You can read her update in this month’s “Holly in the Ivy” on page 5.

Glass Recycling
The notice went out to residents on August 31: Glass will no longer be picked up for recycling. It should be thrown out in regular trash or taken to a recycling center in Gaithersburg. The Council and residents discussed this for a while, but were short on answers or specifics. This move away from recycling glass seems to be the trend, because it’s just not profitable anymore. Ms. Boa and Ms. Costello will be researching options, perhaps answering the perennial question, Why don’t we just use the County’s trash services? And also the bigger question, What can Glen Echo do to be the best steward for the environment?

Town Flag
And it can really be called that now.

Glen Echo has adopted a Town Flag! There was a lot of discussion over this, but it came to a vote and got yeas from Council Members Spealman, Wilson, and Costello. Council Member Stiglitz abstained.

Town Expenses
In September, the Town paid $4,000 to LSWG (audit), $2,910 to Goode Companies (trash), and $2,086 to Bolt Legal. —EMILY PARSONS
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4 October 2019
A new pollinator garden is being planned for the right-of-way by the Glen Echo Town Hall parking lot area above the retaining wall. It has been named the Nancy Long Bird & Butterfly Garden to honor the many years of amazing work that resident Nancy Long has done for the Town of Glen Echo as well as her commitment to the natural heritage of the area. The goal is to enhance the beauty and environmental benefits of our right-of-way. The Glen Echo Environmental Committee is leading the way for this project.

Native trees, shrubs, and perennials favored by bees, butterflies, and birds, along with some annuals for long summer color, will be set into a bed that is approximately sixty feet long and six feet wide. The plants will be a mix of those with delicious berries and seeds for birds, the best larval hosts or food plants for butterflies, and those rich in pollen and nectar for bees. Grasses will also be planted to provide shelter for wildlife. Many birds, amphibians, and other species survive by eating insects that favor native plants and, in fact, often have specific mutually beneficial relationships. Many of the plants and animals have evolved together and have developed relationships that are often essential for survival. Research has shown that non-native plant species, which include most of our common landscape plants, do not have the same essential relationships and benefits for wildlife.

Insects are an important part of any garden’s ecosystem. For this garden to thrive, no toxic chemicals or poisons will be used and only plants that have not been pre-treated with pesticides (such as neonicotinoids) will be purchased. Our goal is to create a naturalistic garden that will contribute to a healthy community of beneficial insects, birds, and pollinators. The end result will be a beautiful garden that benefits us all.

The proposed plant list is at left. Not all of these plants will be used. It will depend on availability and final design of the garden. Garden annuals will be added in spring to attract butterflies and birds. These will include Cleome, Zinnia, Lantana, and Tithonia.

—HOLLY SHIMIZU

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The Anderson family went to their regular stomping ground of Jackson Hole in August. (1) Five-year-old Mads did his first five mile, 1000 ft hike, so he and Durke could take their new sister Archer to Bradley and Taggart Lakes in the Grand Tetons.

The Kishore family spent a week in Hawaii circumventing the Big Island. (2) They walked on volcanoes, swam in a black sand beach, and ate tons of pineapple.

The Hirsch family skipped town for the hottest part of the summer, decamping to a tiny town in Cantabria in Northern Spain with friends and family. (3) They visited spectacular beaches and mountains, learned to surf, and fell easily into the local rhythm of long, leisurely lunches.

The five Vincents took an RV trip in California with 17 other family members. They visited Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Yosemite (4), Lassen Volcanic, Crater Lake, Redwoods, and even squeezed in a visit to a biodynamic winery.

Julie Rosenthal and her boys traveled to Provence (5) and Paris, where the boys’ favorite part was the “carnival” they had in the middle of the city, which was just like going to the Montgomery county fair.

The Valner/Flohr family, including their new five-month-old Australian labradoodle, (6) traveled to Corolla, Outer Banks NC, for a yummy week with their extended family.

The Shannon family visited Detroit and Ann Arbor to see museums and visit family. Pictured (7): Joe, Martha, and a cousin at Cranbrook Art Academy gardens

The Roddy family took a two-week vacation to Portugal and Southern Spain. Pictured (8) are Mark, Grace, Luke, and Kate in Sevilla, and (9) Kirsten with the kids in the white hill towns of Andalusia. A trip of a lifetime!

The Whites had a great time on Mackinac Island, Michigan, (10) where Eliza, Max, and Louisa especially loved biking around an island with no cars! (Bikes and horses only!)

The Springuels went to Nags Head, NC, to celebrate 40 years of marriage and had all but one of their six boys there with their families. They spent a week right on the beach over the 4th
of July week, watched the fireworks, built sandcastles, went swimming and body surfing, and did make it to Duck Donuts for a breakfast. (11) Here’s Mark with three of their grandsons.

The Spealman/Maasjo clan traveled up to Massachusetts to attend the Solid Sound festival and go camping with the Epanchins. The trip included their annual pilgrimage (12) to Fenway Park. Later in the summer, they spent a week in the Outer Banks, (13) frequently visiting Duck Donuts. Wonder if they bumped into the Springuels!
Please call Brad Kilnedinst
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If you’re one of many scrounging for a perfect pumpkin this fall, venture to one of the several surrounding farms opening their doors. Throughout October, Butler’s Orchard will be holding its annual Pumpkin Festival in Germantown or head to Homestead Farm in Poolesville to top off your day with a petting zoo and hayride to jump straight into the feeling of fall.

First weekend of October, German heritage comes to life with a plethora of Oktoberfest events. Starting off with the Germantown Oktoberfest on October 5 with foods, family–fun, and a parade kicking off at 10 AM. Continue your day at the Harvest Festival in Derwood where you can talk directly with historians and see firsthand the traditions of being on a farmstead at the Agricultural History Farm Park.

If you are in denial it’s getting colder, head to The Beach on October 6 to join the 6th annual PIKEtoberfest 2019 in North Bethesda for music and activities. For those not in denial, warm up to the first annual DC Mac + Cheese Festival next to Audi Field on October 26. Taste over 25 different kinds of mac and cheese served up by chefs, food trucks, and vendors from across the DMV.

Additional festivals coming up this month include Taste of Bethesda which brings back over 60 restaurants, rain or shine, in Woodmont Triangle October 5. The 38th Annual Takoma Park Street Festival will take place on Sunday, October 6. Over 200 artists will also be at display at the 22nd Bethesda Row Arts Festival on October 12. — Mona Kishore
The Glen Echo Fire Department’s annual bingo night at the Spanish Ballroom drew some residents, including one very lucky one: Alexis Feringa of Princeton Ave. She was the second winner in the 50-50 raffle. The first winner took half the pot, or about $280, and Alexis won a 55” TV. Since she had walked over, two members of the fire department kindly delivered it to her that night. Alexis reports that while she is very pleased with the win, she is primarily happy she got to support the GEFD. Save the date for next year’s bingo night: 9/11/2020.

Speaking of the GEFD, resident Gloria Levin has been re-elected as secretary of the board. She told The Echo that a big fundraising drive is coming, because the current building needs major repairs. Other updates: Three volunteers got trained to teach “stop the bleed” classes, and the board allotted money to buy training paraphernalia. Gloria asked that Glen Echo be one of the communities to be offered training. The department bought a new little vehicle that is towed to the canal and to the crescent trail. It has already made some dramatic rescues in rough terrain!

In early September, two towering old sycamore trees were taken down on Harvard Avenue. A very large crane was used to perform the task.

Renny and Edie Springuel’s oldest son Padraic was ordained a priest in May and now goes by the name Father Samuel Springuel DOM. He is pictured at right with his proud parents and grandfather.

Wondering what to do with items that don’t sell in the Town’s October 5 yard sale? Bring them over to the Bannockburn Clubhouse on October 23 and 24 for the annual rummage sale benefiting the Bannockburn Nursery School. The sale will be Saturday, October 26, from 9 AM to noon, with early bird entrance at 8:30 AM. It’s always a great mix of housewares, toys, and kid and adult clothing.

The AARP is hosting several talks at Little Falls Library this month as part of Active Aging Week. October 2 at 1 PM will cover tech in new cars; October 3 at 10:30 AM will explore how to choose a new computer; and October 4 at 12:15 PM
Glen Echo Town Hall Events

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

Oct. 5  9 AM–Noon, Town-wide Yard Sale, if raining, the sale will be in Town Hall

Oct. 31  5:30–6:30 PM, Halloween Party, all residents welcome for pizza pre-trick-or-treating

Local Events

Oct. 19  10 AM–2 PM, Suburban Nursery School’s annual Truck Touch

Oct. 20  11 AM–2 PM, Glen Echo Fire Department Open House, free activities for kids

Oct. 23  1 PM, Talk: Navigating Adult Family Dynamics, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Oct. 26  9 AM–12 PM, Bannockburn Nursery School rummage sale at the Bannockburn Clubhouse

Glen Echo Park Events

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25  11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

Oct. 12  2–5 PM, Hancock Civil War String Band performs at Clara Barton House followed by an open house

Oct. 26  1–4 PM, Fall Frolic, free family event with pumpkin carving and trick-or-treating

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

The Three Billy Goats Gruff, through October 6

Len Piper’s Pinocchio, October 11–November 22

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

Adventure Theater MTC

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

Elephant & Piggie’s “We Are In A Play!” through October 27

Real Estate Report

6106 Bryn Mawr Avenue closed last month at $985,000. And 6006 Cornell Avenue remains active with an asking price of $1,650,000. The listing says it has four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, and 2,800 square feet of finished living space.

A water main break August 13 on lower Bryn Mawr wreaked havoc on neighboring properties. Then on September 16 a sewer line break was discovered in the same location. After a lot of serious digging, WSSC completed all necessary repairs, but the street has yet to be repaved.

you can learn how to protect your information online.

A dventure Theatre has announced its 2019-2020 season. Look out for Elephant and Piggy, the Velveteen Rabbit, the Snowy Day, Lyle the Crocodile, and Madagascar, the Musical.

They Say it’s Your Birthday!

Oct. 17, Cléo Moreau, 9

Oct. 17, Manoé Moreau, 9

A new priest, Father Samuel Springuel (center)
Biodynamic Crainosacral Therapy Sessions Available!
Anyone can benefit from this treatment. It is extremely gentle and supportive for clients of all ages and conditions. Clients who may benefit most from this treatment are people who have suffered recent physical traumas specifically to the head, neck, and spine and are looking to promote their own healing.

This hands-on healing is done fully clothed to support the central nervous systems to re-regulate, reduce stress, improve immunity and improve overall well being.

Rest, Movement, Meditation and Community Support with Ashira Lavine
I’m always working to expand myself, improve my mood, energy, increase my health and reduce my stress, fatigue and suffering. I have found ending each day reconnecting with my mind-body has brought me greater self-acceptance and peace.

Cost: $30 Tue, Oct 1, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Supporting Pelvic Health in Pregnancy, Birth, & Postpartum with Jennifer L. Chu
Join us for an afternoon of learning and networking in a pelvic floor workshop for birth workers and parents.

Cost: $40 Sun, Oct 6, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Elemental Mandala With Kate Lanxner
The term “mandala” means “sacred circle.” When viewed on a wall, the symmetry helps us balance the two hemispheres of the brain: the active (yang) and the passive (yin). This workshop will be a combination of informal discussion, meditation and artwork (no experience necessary)

Cost: $38 for adults, $28 for teens, (includes $3 materials fee)
Mon, Oct 7, 8:00-9:30 PM

Yoga and Ayurveda Fusion Flow with Neva Ingalls
Ayurveda and Yoga are sister sciences which found their origins in the Vedas. In this class we will learn how their teachings weave together to support a life that achieves the primary goals of fulfilling one’s purpose, financial abundance, enjoyment, health and self realization.

Cost: $175.00 for the series Tue, Oct 15, 9:45 - 11:30 AM

AVATAR Yoga Day Camp with Neva Ingalls
Through applying simple daily principals and practices covered in the teachings gathered over 4 decades by master teacher Neva Ingalls learn to see what is no longer useful, determine what is useful and manifest your unique potential.

Cost: $135.00 Sat, Oct 26, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Cacao Ceremony with Christel Libiot & Jim Wert
An opportunity to connect with yourself and open your heart. we will gather with a very ancient ceremonial drink from Central America and we will celebrate an ancient Celtic holiday. The ceremony has no boundaries. We will take time to pause with intention and reverence, allowing the Sacred Cacao to open our hearts and to safely experience awakening, revelation and inner healing.

Cost: $35 Sat, Oct 26, 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Rest, Movement, Meditation and Community Support with Ashira Lavine
I’m always working to expand myself, improve my mood, energy, increase my health and reduce my stress, fatigue and suffering. I have found ending each day reconnecting with my mind-body has brought me greater self-acceptance and peace.

Cost: $30 Tue, Oct 29, 7:30 - 8:30 PM

The above events are not offered by the Journey Space, LLC. We are a rental facility for the Healing Arts and are not responsible for the content, registration or refunds of any events held at the Journey Space. 6130 Oberlin Avenue Glen Echo, MD Behind The Irish Inn
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