The March 9 Council meeting was a relatively short and small affair. Mayor Polak, Town Clerk Beth Boa, three Council Members—Council Member Wilson was absent—and three residents were in attendance.

**Fiscal Budget**
Mayor Polak and Ms. Boa put together a budget for the coming fiscal year. The Council Members got to weigh in at this meeting with any suggestions. The Mayor’s office will send out the proposed budget to residents prior to the April 13 meeting for any feedback. The Council will introduce the budget at that April meeting and plan to adopt it at the May meeting scheduled for May 11. The budget hearing will take place at the May 11 meeting.

Discussed at this meeting were a new color printer and updated AV equipment for Town Hall, possible financial incentives for residents who sign up for a composting service, increasing funds for streetlight infrastructure, and skipping a donation to the Glen Echo Fire Department this year. The Council mulled other upgrades to Town Hall, like a kitchen refresh or hanging new drywall, but the discussion stalled on whether increasing rental space desirability is really cost effective for the Town. That is, do we want to upgrade the space and market it and increase rentals, or do we like it as it is, with a few regular rentals but primarily used by residents? Council Member Speelman also wondered if the Council was ready to create a long-term infrastructure plan for Glen Echo—e.g., the sidewalks are repaired or replaced every x-number of years. No answers to these bigger questions were reached at this meeting.

**Waste and Recycling**
There was good news and a step forward on the trash front. Ms. Boa has secured a new deal with Key Sanitation, a subsidiary of Montgomery County Sanitation, that is just $100 more per month than we are currently paying and includes dual-stream recycling. That means that as of April 1, our glass will once again be picked up for recycling. You can find a summary of the details on page 11.

**Town Business**
Ms. Boa reported that the Town spent 14% of its budget for snow and ice this month.
year. Also, Wider Circle is now scheduled to pick up donations from Glen Echo homes on June 16. A list of what they accept will be distributed by Ms. Boa prior.

Updating the Town’s street signs was discussed again. There’s a bare bones package for materials and installation for $6,200, but there are still design questions, like font and color that need to be determined. Council Member Costello was interested in seeing options for the brackets that hold the signs – currently we have custom scrolled-metal brackets that would cost $6,000 alone to replicate. The Council asked Beth to see if there were any charming brackets already being produced that we could use. An idea for a sign with a silhouette of the carousel has also been discussed, but the $6,000 estimate for just those custom signs, moved the Council in a different direction. Mr. Speelman said his sense was that people would be sadder to see the scrollwork go than they would be happy to see a new graphic appear. Ms. Boa is going to research other sign companies and see what non-custom brackets are available.

Town Land
As mentioned in his letter in the December 2019 Echo, Mayor Polak has been thinking about selling the Town properties over on Oberlin and Tulane. At this meeting, he reported that he worked with resident Patty Sieber to assess the land (somewhere around $550K-650K each) and thinks the simplest route may be to put the properties as they are now (rather than converting them to commercial) on multiple listings and see what offers we get – let the market tell us what they are worth right now.

This got a swift reaction from Council Member Stiglitz who argued that he could see a scenario where an offer is made, the Council has to scramble to make a decision, the prop-
ELECTION UPDATE

T
he Maryland April Primary Election has been rescheduled to June 2 from 7 AM–8 PM. In Governor Hogan’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency rescheduling the primary, he directed the Maryland Board of Elections to come up with a plan for the election no later than April 3. There may or may not be early voting due to health concerns. Voters who prefer to vote from home can request an absentee ballot. Submit a request online by visiting https://www.elections.maryland.gov and click on “Request a Ballot.” If you haven’t registered to vote, go to the same website and click on “Register to Vote.” —BONNIE WHYTE

terities are sold, the Town has a windfall, and the money gets spent. He said that there should be stringent safeguards in place, which would dictate what that money could be used for—IF the Council decides to proceed with selling the land. He warned that residents might question high property taxes (oh, there is a one-cent increase in this year’s budget) or push for the Town to buy one of the Vassar Circle parcels if there was a sudden, large influx of cash. The Mayor agreed to a work session to discuss further before proceeding.

Town Expenses
In March, the Town paid $3,100 to Goode Companies and $1,373 to Joseph Toomey Associates. —EMILY PARSONS

Note: As some events get cancelled, some become virtual: Call-in information for the Council meeting on April 13 at 8 PM will be provided prior by Town Hall. Also, details will come about how to participate in the April 26 Founder’s Day celebration.

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Church Without Walls
Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are unable to announce services at this time.

5:00pm/ The FIVE
This service is being live streamed. See our website for more information.

Concerts through May are postponed.

Services for Holy Week and Easter will be announced via our website, Facebook page, and e-mail.

www.redeemerbethesda.org
www. MusicatRedeemer.org

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
The Rev. Cricket Park, Rector
Geoffrey Silver, Director of Music Ministries
6201 Dunrobin Drive 301-229-3770
office@redeemerbethesda.org

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Residents of Glen Echo should consider creating rain gardens, because they would significantly reduce the Town’s water problems. When rainwater gushes down from MacArthur Boulevard and the hills above, it often results in flooding and wet basements. A multi-pronged approach can effectively help with this serious problem. The use of gardens to capture some of this excess water could make a big difference, especially if many Glen Echo residents are willing to create one.

The purpose of a rain garden is to keep as much rainwater as possible on site thus reducing street flooding and the overflow of storm drains. Rain gardens will collect storm water runoff from impervious surfaces such as streets, roofs, driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Another huge benefit is that these gardens will reduce pollution and erosion in nearby streams, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

A rain garden absorbs 30% more water than a lawn of the same size, and they filter runoff and pollutants through the soil and plants. Yes, a rain garden is functional, but it can also be a beautiful addition to your outdoor space. Picture it as a concave shape with a ponding depth of around 6-12 inches. The creation of this depressed area allows a drain for excess rainwater and a planting area that is both aesthetically pleasing and low in maintenance. Creating a swale, a rock filled ditch, or an underground perforated pipe surrounded by small rocks or large pebbles (also called a French drain), will control the flow of water.

First, during and after a rain, go outside and observe the path of the rainwater. Where is the water moving, especially water from downspouts, roofs, roads, and driveways? The slope near the foundation should be moving the water away from the house.

Select an area with good drainage that is free from large tree roots or utilities and is at least 10 feet away from the foundation. First, it is necessary to do a penetration test to ensure that the potential site drains. Using a post hole digger, dig a hole about 2 feet deep and fill it with water from your garden hose. Once that drains, fill the hole again with water and make sure it drains within 48 hours. If it does not drain, you will need to select another site. A second option is to remove one foot of the clay under the depressed area where you want to situate the rain garden and replace it with a
soil mix of two-parts large sand, one-part topsoil (no clay), and one-part compost. Lay out the shape of your rain garden using a hose or a long rope. Then start digging and use the excess soil to either build up the sides of the swale or to regrade levels in the garden. Splash rocks are needed to hold the soil in place near the downspouts or swales where the water enters the rain garden. Sides of the garden should be gradually sloped. Plants suited to a rain garden are those that can tolerate both excess moisture and also dry periods. A blend of native ferns, grasses, perennials, shrubs, and even a few small trees (depending on the size of the rain garden) would be ideal. After planting, water the plants well and add a leaf mulch to keep weeds down and build the soil. The garden must be watered frequently until it is established. At that point, it should not need watering or fertilizing.

So consider creating a rain garden. They add beauty while also providing essential habitat and food for pollinators, birds, and beneficial insects. Keeping rainwater on site helps to recharge the ground water while also allowing the water to be cleaned by the soil and the plants. A rain garden will not be a habitat for mosquitoes because it is not a site with standing water. Check out the site: https://www.montgomerycoun ty.md.gov/water/rainscapes/rebates.html

The Glen Echo Environmental Committee is offering free one-hour sessions to Glen Echo residents to advise on rain gardens. If interested email: hollyshimizu579@gmail.com — HOLLY SHIMIZU

**Rhein Tutoring**

**LESSONS FOR FRENCH AND PIANO**

References can be provided

Contact Stephanie Rhein at 240-644-3722 (text) or stephrhein@aol.com

** Favorite Plants for Rain Gardens **

**FERNS**

CINNAMON FERN (Osmunda cinnamomea), tolerates shade, gets around 4 feet tall

SENSITIVE FERN (Osmunda regalis), tolerates shade, gets around 4 feet tall

**PERENNIALS**

SWEET FLAG (Acorus americanus), likes wet soil so plant at base of rain garden, grows 2–3 feet tall

SWAMP MILKWEED (Asclepias incarnata), likes sun and grows 3–4 feet tall

NEW YORK ASTER (Aster novi-belgii), likes sun and grows 1–3 feet tall

JOE-PYE WEEED (Eupatorium dubium)

NEW YORK IRONWEED (Vernonia noveboracensis), likes sun and grows 2–4 feet tall

**GRASSES**

SWITCH GRASS (Panicum virgatum)

TUSSOCK SEDGE (Carex stricta)

**SHRUBS**

BLACK CHOEKBERRY (Aronia melanocarpa)

BUTTONBUSH (Cephalanthus occidentalis)

SWEET PEPPERBUSH (Clethra alnifolia)

RED OISER DOGWOOD (Cornus sericea)

WINTERBERRY (Ilex verticillata)

SPICEBUSH (Lindera benzoin)

ARROWWOOD (Viburnum dentatum)

**TREES**

SWEET BAY MAGNOLIA (Magnolia virginiana)

RIVER BIRCH (Betula nigra)
W\hile museums will hopefully re-open again, and festivals will likely be rescheduled, the question of the day is how we each fill the many hours ahead of us. To keep it fresh. To let us escape from routines that would otherwise have us feeling we are in a perpetual Groundhog Day—the Bill Murray classic of the early 90s.

For those cooped up with kids, this question may be even more dire. And the answer, more prone to be filled with screens and toys. As an alternative to watching animation or furry friends, start following your favorite artists on Instagram. Since the middle of March, many have been performing free live-streaming concerts on YouTube in the evening, as a way to stay connected to fans. With most concerts cancelled, now is the time to not forget about all the artists you love and figure out how to support them (especially by buying merchandise).

Make it a dinner and a concert with a meal delivery service or takeout from one of DC’s top restaurants. Some of which include coveted spots normally near-impossible to book a table, like Rose’s Luxury in Blagden Alley. A tip to all—most restaurants now are streamlining service and offering new takeout-only menus, so check what specials are available before ordering.

Health experts also recommend getting outside for exercise, to break the cabin fever (but not the other kind of fever!). Consider a long leisurely walk around Glen Echo Park or the towpath, keeping a safe distance from other amblers.

Finally as days blur, it’s definitely 5 o’clock somewhere. And whether you have a cocktail, homebrew kombucha, or a fizzy water, don’t skip connecting with family and friends. Organize a virtual meetup or happy hour. For instance, the March Ladies Night (hosted by me!) took place virtually using Zoom. It got a decent turnout, and was certainly a first in Glen Echo history! Schedules are shockingly open these days, so no better time than the present to feel thankful for the advances in technology to help connect us with loved ones.

And, above all, stay safe and healthy! —MONA KISHORE
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‘Doggone Dependable Since 1898’
As we all seek to socially distance ourselves—we are all socially distancing, right?—the usual options might start to go stale: We can only play so many board games, organize so many file drawers, and rock in so many dark corners in a fetal position (kidding! I’m ok!). Here’s a curated list of some of the truly inspiring options the Internet has to offer to connect, distract, and substitute.

For adventurers: Austin Adventures, an adventure travel company, is launching and hosting virtual adventures for kids, 45-minute Facebook Live sessions just for children (while giving parents a break!). Upcoming tours include Yellowstone National Park and a zoo visit.

For distraction-seekers: The Daily, The New York Times’s essential morning podcast, is adding weekend episodes to distract and inspire during the coronavirus pandemic. Episodes have included favorite snippets of poetry and prose from Times journalists, an audio version of the Tom Hanks profile that ran in the Times, and an audio tour of the life-affirming ways people are using the Internet to stay connected while remaining in isolation. New episodes drop on Friday evening and Sunday morning.

For culture vultures: The Metropolitan Opera is streaming a different encore presentation from the company’s Live in HD series every day for free, beginning at 7:30 PM. Each performance is available for 23 hours.

For newly-minted home-schoolers: There are almost too many options—which is not good news if you’re looking to engage kids now.

For STEM time: Khan Academy is always free, but its offerings are particularly relevant now. Your child can select math, coding, and humanities. For something different, Khan is offering “Imagineering in a Box,” which incorporates storytelling and design to develop the theme park of the future.

For art class: Artist Wendy MacNaughton @wendy-mac is doing a drawing class every day on Instagram at 1 PM. The videos stay up on Instastories for 24 hours.

For foreign language time: Rosetta Stone is making its student programs available for free for the next three months.

For current events: All Things Considered host Ari Shapiro has launched “Shapiro School,” a current events–focused YouTube channel for kids while schools are closed.

Take a field trip: On thechinaguide.com, you can tour the Great Wall of China right from your living room. Check out panoramic video of some of the most famous sections of the wall and imagine what it would be like to visit. Or, NASA’s free Space Center Houston app lets people explore virtual reality experiences, take astronaut selfies, and follow along through an audio tour of its educational space center.

For the screen-weary: Even with so many great educational apps and websites, many of us are blanching at our kids’ sudden jump in screen time. One non-screen option: audible.com has made its children’s audiobook collection available for free while schools are closed. The collection includes books in six languages.

—ANGELA HIRSCH
In challenging times like these, it becomes that much clearer what a special community we live in. The early weeks of pandemic have seen neighbors come out for each other to walk dogs or pick up groceries or medicine for those in need, residents commiserating (at a safe distance) over picket fences, and a rush by both residents and Town Hall to share any helpful information. In our ever-expanding quarantine time, I’d offer that writing itself is a fulfilling (and often time-consuming) endeavor. Have you lived in Glen Echo for decades; would you like to share a story with neighbors from your personal archive; have you often thought you’d write something for The Echo sometime? Perhaps now is the time. Email TheEchoEditor@gmail.com. Short pieces also welcome, like the ones that follow by resident Carol Barton.

Attention Glen Echo teens: The Glen Echo Park Partnership is seeking part-time after-camp counselors to lead and assist with summer programs. The ideal candidate will have experience creating curriculum and supervising or working with children in a camp or class setting. Lead counselors must be at least 18, and assistant counselors must be at least 16. Can’t beat that commute! Full descriptions can be found at the Park’s website.

Welcome to our new postal carrier, Dorian Stewart, who has both a lovely smile and a friendly disposition. She was born and raised in Prince George’s County and has been with the U.S. Postal Service for the past eight years. She’s been meeting many of the people in Town as she delivers our mail and says her favorite part of the job is talking with her customers. Though she doesn’t like winter weather much, she’s learned to deal with whatever weather comes along. Some days she is pulled from her job here to perform supervisory duties, but Glen Echo is her permanent route. “I am a very happy person and love what I do. If any of my customers need anything and don’t see me, they can leave a note in the mailbox for me, and I will take care of it.” —CAROL BARTON

Time for a Quaran-tini? Make with your favorite gin or vodka and a Emergen-C vitamin C packet. Serve with a twist of lemon peel!

Our Town Park

Glen Echo Park closed to all classes, events, and programs on March 16. For now, the closure due to Covid-19 extends through April 24. We are taking our lead from Montgomery County. Essential services are in place to assure that the facility is monitored. GEPPAC staff are working from home. Working with the County, our board and staff are considering various options for managing operations with a view to reopening. Of concern are financial impacts on our programs, our staff, and resident arts presenters.

On a brighter note, the Dentzel Carousel work is nearly completed. The roof has been beautifully repainted, and the exterior tent is coming down. More work is required to reinstall the band organ. The National Park Service is in charge of this project and GEPPAC is grateful for their fine oversight of this work. The Park is open to anyone wanting to walk through and enjoy the grounds and buildings. Check both Twitter and Facebook to stay in touch with Park arts programs and the aquarium. Please be sure to check the website to learn of any updates or changes. www.glenechopark.org

—MARTHA SHANNON

The Glen Echo Plant Exchange will be held Saturday, May 2, 9:30 AM to 3 PM, and we’ll have more information in the May Echo. However, we wanted give advance notice in case you want to start some seeds now for the event. Holly Shimizu suggests starting zinnias (great for butterflies), cypress vine (Ipomoea quamoclit), cosmos, sunflowers, cleome, and Italian basil. As usual, this is a free exchange: Neighbors drop off any plants or seeds they want to give away and pick up what they want to add to their gardens. —C.B.
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They Say it’s Your Birthday!
April 4, Archer Anderson, 1
April 5, Diana Chused, 5
April 12, Durke Anderson, 10
April 19, Adeline Bohi, 13
April 20, Colby Epanchin, 9
April 27, Max White, 9
Coming Soon!

4 VASSAR CIRCLE, the first of four custom homes in Glen Echo, is nearing completion.

Look for a new listing and open house dates. Every design detail has been painstakingly considered, from the house number and door bell to room layouts and more. Excellent workmanship is backed by a warranty.

4 Vassar offers luxury living in a flexible, manageable space.

And Glen Echo has it all: a fantastic community of neighbors you want to know, convenient access to Bethesda, DC and Virginia, and top public schools.

- Luminous living spaces throughout
- Thermidor appliances in a welcoming open kitchen
- One-car garage and off-street parking with Pinterest-worthy mudroom entrance
- Spacious master suite with marble double shower, double walk-in closets, and treetop views
- Two additional upper bedrooms and second floor laundry room
- Light-filled lower level rec room, bedroom and bath
- Bonus room for storage, home office, or gym

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SALES: Kingman Development. Aaron Hirsch, Principal. An award-winning developer and Glen Echo resident with 20 years of experience in residential property development, design, and construction management.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Welty Homes, Inc., builders of more than 300 new homes in the greater Bethesda area since 1983.

ARCHITECTURE: Claude C. Lapp Architects, an award-winning firm with more than 35 years in the business.

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