

# The Washington Post

## In Glen Echo, minding the store

Saturday, December 5, 2009

I was saddened to read of former White House press secretary Ron Nessen's negative response to the possibility of a grocery store opening in his Glen Echo neighborhood ["In neighborhood beefs, they bring the muscle," front page, Dec. 3].

Lawyers, of which I am one, are often blamed for our litigious society. Individuals who lack the courage to speak directly with the person with whom they have a grievance are the greater contributing factor. I am assuming from the information provided in the article that Mr. Nessen did not communicate with his neighbor before threatening "long, nasty and expensive" litigation. Further, litigation does not have to be nasty, even if long and expensive.

The knee-jerk "I'll get my lawyer to sue you and it will be nasty and expensive" response is a mark of a lack of civility in our society. My advice: First, ask nicely, put your ideas forth. If that does not work to achieve a mutually acceptable goal, fall back, regroup and prepare to fight your way in on foot (if you feel that is the only path left).

*Christina Smith,  
Alexandria*

--

The Post has confused the issues regarding the proposed development of the Sycamore Store site. Nancy Schwartz Bloom and her husband, the prospective developers, solicited comment from neighbors about their plans, but the Post's reporter chose to call one of the neighbors who responded -- a "bigwig" who used a "bigfoot tone" to threaten with hardball tactics. This property is in an entirely residential neighborhood and is now and has always been zoned for residential, not commercial, use. The building itself is protected as a historic structure, and Montgomery County has held a full round of hearings on the history and use of this property that resulted in a set of restrictions on any nonresidential uses, covering safety issues, signage, lighting, parking and hours of use, among other matters.

The Post ran a picture prominently showing the Sycamore Store sign on the building, but left unsaid was the fact that the store at this property was just a small room at the

Advertisement

**TARGET WEB COUPON**
**EXPIRES 2/27/10**

## 25¢ each

**with purchase of twenty-five  
4x6" Kodak instant prints**

This coupon is intended for use by the original recipient only and is void if copied, scanned, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. Limit one offer per transaction. GiftCards and tax will not be included in determining purchase total. No cash value. Offer available at Target One Hour Photo Labs. Go to [Target.com/photo](http://Target.com/photo) for the location nearest you. One Hour service limited to machine capacity.




9856-0113-1882-4674-0306-4005-84




[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/04/AR2009120404174\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/04/AR2009120404174_pf.html)

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# The Washington Post

## In Glen Echo, minding the store

front of a residence, that the store ceased regular operation in 1976 and that there has been no commercial activity on the property at all since 1986. It was a disservice to Post readers to give such prominent coverage to a local controversy in a story with so much name-calling and so few facts about the issues at stake.

*Peter Winch, Bethesda*

--

I was saddened to read about Ron Nessen's threat to block Nancy Schwartz Bloom's efforts to open a market at the Sycamore Store on MacArthur Boulevard.

My husband and I live adjacent to the store and have been watching with increasing disgust the county's interminable deliberations about its fate. We support Ms. Bloom's proposal, just as we supported an earlier effort to turn the decrepit old house into an architect's office.

What's wrong with establishing a business on this particular stretch of MacArthur Boulevard? More specifically, what's wrong with having a neighborhood store that could serve residents, canal tourists and commuters alike?

Like Mr. Nessen, I'm finishing a book and caring for my elderly mother in my home, but I have a different vision of the effects that a small store might have on our

community. Here's my fantasy: The store gets built, I wander down my driveway with my mother to buy some bread and cheese, and we meet Ron Nessen's mother and other neighbors at the coffee counter and start talking. Think of that! It's almost beyond imagining.

*Margaret Hindle Hazen, Bethesda*

Advertisement

The advertisement is a rectangular graphic with a light gray background. It features a grid of six coupon categories, each with a small icon and a label. In the top left corner, there is a large red starburst graphic with the text 'Free Coupons' in white. At the bottom center, the website name 'MyCouponValues.com' is displayed in red text.

<b>Free Coupons</b>	<b>Grocery Coupons</b>	<b>Free Samples</b>
<b>Baby Coupons</b>	<b>Pet Coupons</b>	<b>Free Stuff</b>

**MyCouponValues.com**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/04/AR2009120404174\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/04/AR2009120404174_pf.html)

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™