



THE GLENCANNON



A Newsletter for the Glencannon Community

December 2007

Acting President, Gene Donohue – Vice President, Jane Schmiedekamp – Treasurer, Dave Blankenship – Secretary, Katherine Brown – Member-at-Large, Libby Baylies – Ex-Officio, Charley Ferrara

Traffic Calming Update

A few weeks ago, members of our Traffic Calming group went door-to-door to petition Fairfax County to conduct a formal traffic calming study on Garrett Street. Response was great. Altogether, nearly all of the residents we talked to in our community and up on Garrett, Stryker, and Trott were in favor of a study. Special thanks to Ron Schmiedekamp, Tom Loftus, Janine Bruhn, Gene & Bettina Donohue, Simrun Gialleonardo, and Phil Dion for canvassing.

What's next? In the next few weeks, Fairfax County will be sending us detailed information on how to set up a "task force" committee. The committee will likely be two or three members from the petition area and possibly one member from the Murnane Street area. The County will instruct the committee on the available traffic calming options and the committee will identify which options are best suited for the community. If VDOT approves the recommended measures, voting ballots will be distributed to each household in the petition area. A 60% approval is required to implement any proposed plans.

During this process, we will seek input from the community to create a workable and effective plan.

Glencannon Board Member Change

Ron Schmiedekamp recently stepped down from the position of President of the Glencannon Board due to some health concerns. Ron has been an instrumental leader this year, and the board will certainly miss his drive and enthusiasm. Ron has worked tirelessly on many issues facing the community and we thank him for his dedicated service! This week at the monthly board meeting, Gene Donohue was elected to serve as Acting President, and Jane Schmiedekamp has volunteered to serve as Vice President until the new slate of directors comes on board in March. Thanks again, Ron!

Note Date Changed..... Community Annual Meeting – Mark your Calendars

Because of scheduling conflicts at Flint Hill Elementary, the date for the Annual Glencannon Homeowner Association meeting is now scheduled for 7:30 p.m., **March 26**, 2008 at the Flint Hill Elementary school cafeteria. The main agenda items for this meeting will be the election of new Association Board members and the approval of the Association budget for the coming year.

Minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting are posted on the website and are available for Homeowners' review prior to the upcoming meeting. Hard copies of those have been made

available for those who do not have e-mail. This will allow us to dispense with the reading of the minutes, but any questions or comments about the minutes can be addressed to the former Association President Charles Ferrara prior to the March meeting.

Ballots will be made available on the website three weeks prior to the Annual meeting along with the proposed budget and these documents will be made available in printed copy to those who do not have e-mail. Join your neighbors on **March 26th** for this once a year business meeting.

HELP WANTED: We Need You!!!!

We need two people to complete our Board Slate for next year. If you are interested in serving on the Association Board for 2008-2009 or want to nominate someone you feel would be willing and able to serve, please email or call a current Board member. We currently have three community members who are willing to serve on the Board for next year. We cannot go forward into an election unless we can get two more volunteers. Please consider serving a one year term.

Budget Planning for 2008-2009 A Survey is Coming in January

As this year's Glencannon Board prepares to pass the torch to a new Board in March, the 2008-2009 Association budget is under consideration. In January you will receive a survey to help the Board in this planning.

Association yearly dues are \$135 for each of the 74 homes in our community. The budget for the Association covers common ground maintenance, some social activities, directory printing costs, post office box rental, a donation to the Vienna fire department and other incidentals. The complete budget is on the Glencannon website and copies were also provided at last year's annual meeting. Of the \$9990 collected annually from homeowners, 85.6% is budgeted for care and maintenance of Glencannon's common grounds.

The "common grounds" of Glencannon include the park area as well as the entry on Lawyer's Road and the fenced area along Lawyer's Road. In those years when expenditures have been less than budgeted for other expenses, carryover funds have been added to funding for the common grounds or used for special projects. A common grounds committee has met this year to assess the near and long term items to be included in a budget to maintain and improve this important community resource. Some of the items proposed by the Common Grounds committee, if funded, may require an increase in dues or special assessments.

Because of the potential for additional funding requirements, the community will be asked to participate in a survey to express opinions about priorities for funding common ground maintenance and improvements. Any member of the Board will be happy to discuss the survey or other budget considerations with homeowners who have questions. You will receive an email and instructions about how to complete the survey, and the results will be reported back to the community. Those homeowners who do not have email will receive a paper survey. If you do not routinely make use of the common grounds, particularly the park area, you may want to take a stroll through the area to view the paths, the creek and the natural beauty of the park before you participate in this survey.

Committee Assesses Common Grounds Priorities and Costs

The Common Grounds Committee chaired by Noreen Linnemann has been working this fall to consider the ongoing needs of maintaining the park and common grounds areas in Glencannon. Tom Loftus invited a representative from the Fairfax Park Authority to walk the area with the committee and advise on how to preserve the creek and deal with the invasive vines and plants which have overtaken the area. The committee received advice about how to prevent erosion near the creek edges and what to do about trees which overhang and often fall into the creek. Major efforts to shore up the sides of the creek are costly, but the common grounds committee is considering less ambitious but prudent methods of caring for the creek.

Al Condes researched the bridge and paving history within the park and obtained costs for replacement of these items as well as the table and benches in the park. Libby Baylies and Jane Schmiedekamp worked with Noreen Linnemann and other committee members in the formulation of a budget document to present to the Board, outlining costs projected for the common grounds for yearly services and for long-term maintenance and replacement. This document will be helpful to the Board in their budget planning to assure that the care of this valuable community asset is given careful consideration. This information will also be used to solicit community input about priorities for the common grounds.

Fall Clean Up of the Park – Thank You to our Volunteers!

Many thanks to the homeowners who came out for the fall clean up of the park and common grounds November 3rd. A special thank you to Noreen Linnemann for her leadership during the clean up. The junipers along Lawyer's Road were trimmed back and dead branches were removed. This work made a huge difference in the look of the area near the entrance of Glencannon.

Out on a Limb Tree Service was contracted to provide a truck, chipper and three man crew to help with removal of debris. Three other men were hired through Prestige Landscaping to assist in the clean up this year, removing dead trees and limbs. These trees were chipped and the chips scattered in the park.

We are hiring these crews to assist with the kind of work that might be unsafe for volunteers to tackle. Dead trees near the pathways and those bordering homes are removed if they pose a safety hazard. An arborist has advised the Board on removing dead trees in the area and has suggested that many within the wooded area can be dropped and left in place on the ground.

This kind of clean up involving homeowners and paid helpers is done in the spring and fall primarily for the safety of homeowners near the park and for those who use the park. The removal of trash from the creek and surrounding areas is part of the stewardship of this beautiful property.

Prestige Landscaping

Many of you may be aware our community has used the services of Prestige Landscaping for many years to maintain our common grounds. Over 80% of our budget goes to common grounds

maintenance. To help offset our Association's costs Prestige has graciously offered to make a small donation for each new lawn maintenance client within Glencannon. You may contact Prestige at (703) 449-6026.



Winter Sidewalk Snow Removal

Wintertime is here again and so is the likelihood of snow. Please remember to be neighborly and clear snow off the sidewalk in front of your home so that all pedestrians, especially school children, may walk safely. If needed, many landscaping services, including Prestige, provide sidewalk snow removal services.

We All Love Dogs, but...

Homeowners with dogs should comply with the Fairfax County Leash Law even in the Glencannon Common Grounds areas. Dogs should be on a leash at all times and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Several people have expressed concern about seeing dogs off-leash and stepping in dog waste while walking through the park. Section 8 of Rules and Regulations of the Glencannon Association states as follows: "Pets shall be restrained and controlled as required by ordinances now or hereafter promulgated by Fairfax County."

Halloween Parade and Social

A large number of neighborhood ghosts and goblins came out for the Annual Halloween Parade on October 27th. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department helped kick off the festivities by leading the parade down Garrett Street. The parade was followed by a fried chicken and covered dish social with plenty of good food and drinks for all participants. A special thank you goes out to the Social Committee for coordinating this fun annual event, and to Mark Schraml and Janine Bruhn who hosted the party outside their home. We can't wait 'til next year!

New Directory to be Published in January

Please take a look at the current (light blue) Glencannon Directory and if you have any changes, please forward them to Carmody Bornemann at cgbornemann@cox.net or 703-281-1710



Baby News!!

Congratulations to Glencannon Board Treasurer Dave Blankenship and his wife, Kerry, on the birth of their daughter, Avery, who arrived November 24th!

On behalf of the Glencannon Board – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!