

The Glencannon

A Newsletter for the Glencannon Community

February 2013

**President: Gayle Abbott ♦♦ VP Common Area: Dennise Davis ♦♦ VP Architectural Review: Matthew Neuman ♦♦ Treasurer: Tom Bacigalupo ♦♦ Secretary: Erin Ferrier
♦♦ Ex-Officio/ Immediate Past President: Chris DeLacy**

Annual Meeting: March 19

The Glencannon Community Annual Meeting will be held on March 19th at 7 p.m. in the Flint Hill Elementary School cafeteria. Topics to be covered include: annual update on the community, annual election of officers for the next year, possible legal by-laws and covenants review given changes in legal trends, liability insurance and the architectural review process. We hope you'll put it on your calendar and make every effort to attend.

Architectural Review Survey

The neighborhood is in transition and there has been informal input on architectural review and standards. To address this we want your feedback. You will be sent a survey by e-mail in the next couple days addressing architecture review. Please look for it in your inbox and, if you don't see it there, in your spam folder. Please respond promptly so we can share the results with you at the annual meeting. Your input and getting as much community input as possible is really important. If you don't have computer access you may request a hard copy of the survey to complete and turn in by contacting Matt Neuman, VP Architectural Review.

Spring Clean-Up: March 9

The annual Spring Clean-Up will be held on March 9th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Given the weather trends we are doing it early to try and get it done before the poison ivy begins to grow and becomes a problem. Please

bring gloves, rakes, loppers, saws and other gardening tools. The coordination for the activities for the day will be done from within the Glencannon Community Park.

Dues Reminder

Invoices for the annual Glencannon Community Association dues were sent out in January. If you have not yet paid your dues please do so at this time.

Website

You can find the Glencannon Community website at www.glencannonhoa.com. You do not need a log in for the site itself although you will need a password for the Residents section. We did this so the general public did not have access to private information on the community such as the house blueprints which were posted many years ago. If you have lost the password just contact one of the board members or send an e-mail to glencannonhoa@gmail.com.

Community Directory

We will be updating the community directory in the few weeks. If you have any changes to your listing (that you haven't already submitted) please send them to glencannonhoa@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Friendly Reminders

Do your own Spring Clean-up. Make sure your fences are in good repair, lampposts kept on all night, and trees and shrubs are

cleared so they don't impede any part of the sidewalks.

Architectural Review

Please remember that if you are planning on making any changes to any exterior aspects of your home or yard you will need to have it reviewed by the Architectural Review Committee. You can find the application to submit for review on the website.

Common Area Updates

Some of you may have noticed that a couple azaleas at the front entrance to the park are dying. We have learned that this is due to male dogs urinating on them before they are mature enough. We will be looking into dealing with replacement plants this spring. Also, there are several broken fence sections along Lawyers Road and the park. Plans will be made to repair those this spring.

In addition to the grant work other work that was completed this past fall in the park was taking down a few dead trees along the path walkways so they didn't endanger anyone and cutting invasive ivy vines in the section to the right of the path as you walk it from the first entrance off Garrett Street. We learned that without killing these invasive vines that we were more likely to have even more hardwood trees die.

Grant Project Report Letter

Dear Neighbors,

As VP Common Area, I was asked by the board to bring you up to date on the Neighborhood Enhancement Program Grant project around the Glencannon Community Park Creek and Watershed. Briefly I would like to start from the beginning.

The Glencannon park area had been looked at by and was part of the Fairfax County Watershed Division master plan. It was brought to our attention they were considering building a 3.8 acre retention pond because something needed to be done to protect the creek bed, which is part of the Piney Branch section of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, from future erosion. With all options on the table it was agreed that our best choice was to apply for a NEPP Grant, call Fairfax County to come out and walk the area with us, and implement their suggestions. Input and guidance was received from Fairfax County Watershed Division, Virginia Department of Forestry and other research that was done by the board to make sure the project was carried out in the most effective and productive manner. The input from the various groups all reinforced and aligned with each other.

In brief they suggested planting more native vegetation including trees and shrubs, make a larger no mow zone, keep the dead wood in the creek bed where it did not block water flow and provided habitat for wildlife, cut some of the dead trees ready to fall and just leave the stump, remove invasive plants from areas near the creek and it's tributary and cut down the invasive vines growing on existing trees to protect them from being choked.

My first task was to hire someone to cut down the trees in question, and to remove the largest two areas of invasive vines choking out everything in their path. Then, I had the pleasure of working with a fellow neighbor, Chas Mater, who just graduated from college with a major in forestry (how lucky was I), and together we put a plan in place to get the community involved in planting naïve vegetation to complete the

first phase of the project. Fall was in the air but the weather cooperated, and we got a wonderful response from families eager to contribute. Also included were some students needing community service hours. Thank you to one and all who came out and helped. You made such a huge difference! Lots of hard work happened that weekend and as a community we got the 45+ seedlings planted in the very rocky ground. We all slept well that night!

We called upon the county again to come out and see what we had accomplished thus far. More suggestions were given. Using bio bark around the seedlings was a top recommendation. And in early December with very short notice, the bio-bark was ordered and the community asked to come out to put it around the seedlings. Thank you so much to those who came out at the last minute to make this project happen!

From there a team went out and researched getting a few larger trees as part of the plan and to maximize use of the grant money. A great nursery was found in Loudon County and we were able to get a large number of more mature trees which were planted in December.

The last thing that Fairfax County suggested that we are looking at doing is putting "live stakes" in one area of the bank of the actual bed of the creek where the erosion is the worst. The "live stakes" have been ordered and we'll be able to install them at the March Spring Clean Up.

This brings us into March. I am asking fellow neighbors to come out one more time to tie up the project. We will have to plant the live stakes and clean up a few areas we don't have money to hire someone to do. While the leaves are still off the trees and things haven't begun to grow we need to

remove the invasive vines, most of which are grape and honey suckle. I have penciled in March 9th as a community clean-up day for the park. As always I encourage every household to participate; especially households who haven't had the opportunity to come out and be a part of this great project. Come join and help those who have already worked so hard in assuring our park remains a beautiful place to stroll through.

Assuring the environmental integrity of the park and creek bed is an important and continuing project. I will keep a sharp eye on things over the next year and ask anyone who has a concern about the new seedlings or recently planted trees to feel free to contact me. I know we will lose a few seedlings but I hope most of them take this growing season. We have been blessed with a mild winter with lots of rain. It was the perfect year to implement such a project.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT!

Dennise Davis, VP Common Area