



www.glenfarms.org

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GLEN FARMS & TARA NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the January General Membership meeting the budget for 2011 was approved. To obtain a copy, please contact treasurer, Sherri Haller at slsprout@comcast.net. Up for re-election were Director Tobi Ackerman and Secretary Amy Kovach. Please join me in welcoming Amy Kovach to serve another two years. Elected as Director was Ron Ohrel of 24 East Parkway. Ron moved into Glen Farms last year and we are happy to have him aboard. Tobi will stay on as the chair of Neighborhood Watch. The contact information for all officers can always be found on the left-hand side of all newsletters as well as on our website, glenfarms.org. Please note that Dave Larason, Vice President, now has a new email address: 4snailmail@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Glen Farms, Tara and the surrounding area is a great place to live. The GFCA plays an important role in helping to ensure this continues to be the case. Membership dues for the fiscal year beginning February 1, 2011 are now due. As a result of inflation, a desire to better serve the community, and to maintain our community property, dues have been raised to \$25 per household. This reflects the first increase since approximately 1995. Membership allows for use of our community property (Lake George and Brinton Park), permits participation in community events (picnic, fishing derby, and ice cream social) and supports collective activities representing the community to other organizations – including monitoring developments which could impact our property values and/or our quality of residential life. In addition, it is our responsibility to address the life of Lake George and the upkeep of tennis/basketball court at Brinton Park. Without the cooperation of all of you, we are unable to provide the activities listed above.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Whatever you enjoy—a little or a lot, we want your help! We have many committees that would welcome you. You might help deliver a newsletter, participate in the neighborhood watch by patrolling our roads to keep our community safe, welcome new neighbors to our community, plan and coordinate the ice cream social, community picnic, or fishing derby, or help cleanup and maintain the community property. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and get to know Glen Farms/Tara and the surrounding community. Don't be afraid that you won't know what to do, you will be provided with enough information so don't be shy. The current committees are listed on the dues notice along with the 2011 dates to better help you plan. Simply choose the areas where you feel most comfortable and check that box. You will be contacted by one of the officers to put you in touch with others.

KUDOS AND RECAPS OF 2010



- Thanks to those of you who came out for the Ice Cream Social. Although it was a dreary day a fun time was had by those who attended. Thanks to Steve Moje, Jennifer Muldoon, Valerie Swift, Rob Fischer, Sonja Larason, Russ and Margaret Holland and many others who helped make this event possible.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 2/12 Lake George Committee Meeting
- 4/17 Earth Day
- 2011 Calendar of Events—back page

- The winner of the raffle for the dinner at Fair Hill Inn and Carriage Ride was John Hentkowski of Little Egypt Road. We are saddened to learn that Mr. Hentkowski recently passed away and our condolences go out to his family.
- Fishing Derby winners this September were Mike Boyce and Shannon Swift. Attendance was low and only Shannon Swift seemed to be able to entice the fish onto the hook over and over. Thanks to Dave Larason, Mike Kelly, and Bill Brenchley for organizing this event for years.
- Special thanks to the following residents for mowing Lake George: Kevin McLaughlin, Charles Angalet, Mike Kelly, Brian Swift and Don Emenheiser and to James Tobin for mowing Brinton Park.
- Thank you to the following residents for delivering our newsletters and flyers: Carolyn Shearon, Laura Durkovic, Liz Windle, Beth Tumas, Robanne Palmer, Amy Kovach, Earl Loomis, Trish Maslar, Kim Silva, Laura Gleason, and Russ Holland.

COMMUNITY PROPERTY

We are fortunate in Glen Farms to own two pieces of property that the community can use for their enjoyment; Lake George and Brinton Park. But they are also maintained by GFCA and do require certain upkeep, such as mowing, trimming, removing fallen trees, cleaning up debris, mulching, plantings, and repairs. Your civic dues help fund those projects and your manpower helps with the upkeep and we thank you!

Lake George: This small lake, located off South Parkway and the adjoining property are owned by your Civic Association. Lake George is a valuable community amenity, and a significant attraction for many of our residents. Its existence as part of Glen Farms benefits us all, if only as a positive factor in property values. We are approaching a critical point for Lake George and some serious decisions need to be made regarding the life and health of the lake. One idea being investigated is bioremediation. If you are interested in joining the Lake Committee, a meeting has been planned for February 12th at 10 am at 8 West Parkway. If you have any education in the biology or experience with lakes, please email Dave at 4snailmail@gmail.com

Brinton Park: The tennis court at Brinton Park, located via the pathway off North Parkway and West Parkway, has been used by Glen Farmers for many years. The entire property is owned and maintained by the Civic Association. A survey was handed out to those who attended the Ice Cream Social at Brinton Park inquiring as to their thoughts on what should be done to the tennis court. While many appear not to use it, either because of its condition, their age, or the fact they don't play, one thing was clear: maintain it. Some issues facing the tennis court that need to be addressed are: fixing the net and power washing the surface to provide a safe playing court. We hope to take care of some of these items on Earth Day.



We created an alert neighborhood by residents, who over the last few years have taken a spin around the community with a big yellow "Neighborhood Watch" sign attached to their car. Once or twice someone has called the police regarding suspicious activity, and who knows how many others have been deterred by the visibility of that bright yellow sign. We would like to thank all the many volunteers, and the few others who went the extra mile, patrolling for 3 weeks in a row, or anonymously replacing or fixing the broken flashlight, sign wiring, or clip board, etc. Thank you!

Unfortunately the ranks of the volunteers have begun to dwindle as long-time residents move away, and our once long running and robust neighborhood watch program is dwindling. You are never asked to put yourself in harm's way to prevent crime, only observe and report suspicious activities to the Police Department. Please consider volunteering for a few hours over the course of a week, once a year, to cruise the neighborhood with your eyes open--if you don't know all the twists and turns of these roads it's a great way to learn them, if you do, it's a great way to watch our community transform! Please call our Glen Farms & Tara neighborhood watch coordinator Tobi Ackerman at 410-392-9419 to sign up or check off the box on the 2011 dues form which will be arriving shortly for extra points!

We also can create an alert neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods — by neighbors keeping a watch out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations or any other absence. Your neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive, and who belongs, as a rule, at your residence. Let's face it, neighbors are much more likely to notice and report something amiss at the home of someone they know as opposed to someone they don't.

GLEN FARMS/TARA RESIDENTIAL DIRECTORY

The last update of the GFCA directory was 2008. The directory provides an efficient reference for calling our friends and neighbors here in Glen Farms and Tara. If you are not currently listed and would like to be, have a correction to your listing, or are a new resident, please contact Russ Holland at rusholl@verizon.net so that we can publish an accurate directory this Spring for our residents to enjoy. If you have a business or offer a service you would like to promote to residents, please contact Russ on how to place your ad.

TRASH COMMUNITY CONTRACT

The GFCA Board negotiated rates for the community with two companies: IDS and Corron. The rates are as follows:

Corron	IDS (based on serving 125 homes)
1x/wk Trash, Recycling and <u>Limited</u> Yard waste \$24.00 / mo	1x/wk Trash \$19.50/ mo 1x/wk trash & every other week recycling \$23.50/ mo 1x/wk Trash & every other week yard waste \$23.50/ mo 1x/wk Trash & every other week yard waste and every other week recycling \$26.50/ mo

COMMUNITY REMINDERS

The GFCA board receives *many* inquiries from residents regarding the disrepair of homes, the number of cars at a person's residence, abandoned cars, boats, trailers, RVs, pole barns, and business that are being run out of a home and creating additional traffic or concerns for neighbors. Because our community is outside the Elkton city limits, our hands are tied as to some of the things we can do. We all want our neighborhood to look nice because without that our property values will drop. If you have any questions or issues with a property in the neighborhood, you can contact Curt McCardell, the Code compliance Officer, at 410-996-5225. Below are some zoning regulations:

- Your cars must be tagged and registered, as well as any recreational toy or vehicle;
- Any recreational trailer, camper or boat must be registered and must be parked at least 10 feet from the side property line;
- You may not have more than one commercial vehicle on your property, otherwise it is considered a home business and a special exception is required;
- Construction vehicles, unless in use, may not remain parked for extended periods of time at your home;
- Boats must be stored 10 feet from the side or rear of your property line;
- Any type of shed, garage, or accessory building placed on the property must be at least 10 feet from the side /rear of your property and may not be used for commercial purposes;
- If you run a home business or are considering running a home business that requires visitors, please contact the Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ). Home occupations are permitted by the zoning code only if a special exception is obtained from the OPZ. To obtain this exception, an application and a filing fee of \$25 must be filed with the Commission. The request must pass two public hearings before it will be approved. Once it is approved, a sign not larger than three square feet may be placed on the property. Contractor's signs are permitted on your property while work is underway, but must be removed when the work is completed
- If a home is in dire straits, run down and presents a safety hazard, this falls under the Department of Permits and Inspections and falls under the category of demolition by neglect. The number for this department is 410-996-5235.

ARCA UPDATE

By Owen Thorne

Mark the calendar! The ARCA board of directors invites you to their annual meeting, Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30pm. The meeting will include two parts: a short business portion and an informational meeting bringing all the news of local development issues including Aston Pointe, a discussion of the impending comprehensive rezoning of Cecil County focusing on specific issues affecting our area, and a general discussion with time for your questions and comments. The Cecil County development code - our subdivision and zoning regulations - is proposed to be revamped this winter. Also, the County-wide comprehensive rezoning is poised to happen with public hearings scheduled in February and March. These changes are sweeping and many may be significant in effect. ARCA and CLUA volunteers have begun analysis of these maps and ordinances but we encourage the members to view the documents, contact County government with questions or comments, and share your concerns with your neighbors. Here is a link to the proposed changes: http://ccgov.org/dept_planning/ComprehensiveRezoning.cfm ARCA

welcomes your direct input at this meeting or indirectly through the board members. The board hopes you will renew your ARCA membership for 2011 - still just @10.00 per household. Donations are welcome. Bring a check to the meeting or forward to ARCA Treasurer Ron Hartman, 164 Little Egypt Road, Elkton MD 21921. Also, we have openings on the ARCA board and hope you can join. Owen can be reached at owen@udel.edu or 410-620-2078 if you have additional questions, comments or wish to volunteer.



If you see a new neighbor moving into our neighborhood, please let current chair of the welcome committee, Amy Kovach (amy.kovach@comcast.net) know so they can be officially welcomed to the community. Each new family receives a welcome packet which contains a directory, information about GFCA, as well as maps and brochures full of information about our area. Amy also delivers a condolence card when one of our neighbors suffers a loss in their family.

Please keep your eyes open and speed down to keep the children safe

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE GLEN FARMS WEBSITE RECENTLY?

Our webmaster, Steven Silva, is doing a fine job of keeping it updated

Go to glenfarms.org

For questions about the website, contact Steve at stevensilva@comcast.net

2011 GFCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/18/2011 (Tuesday)	General Membership Meeting
2/12/2011 (Saturday)	Lake Committee Meeting
4/17/2011 (Saturday)	Earth Day cleanup; includes power washing tennis court; Lake George Clean up
6/18/2011 (Saturday)	Fishing Derby
6/25/2011 (Saturday)	<i>Rain date</i> Fishing Derby
7/16/10 (Saturday)	Ice Cream Social
7/17/10 (Sunday)	<i>Rain date</i> Ice Cream Social
8/2/2010 (Tuesday)	General Membership Meeting
9/17/2011 (Saturday)	Picnic
9/18/2011 (Sunday)	<i>Rain Date</i> Picnic
1/17/2012 (Tuesday)	General Membership Meeting
5/2012	Spring Yard Sale