

DRAFT

Meeting called to order by Julie Lee at 7:32 p.m.

Julie welcomed Environmental Specialists Elizabeth Crowther and Hayley Gambone, of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, to explain how to recycle correctly. Ms. Crowther thanked the community for its interest and requested that attendees complete an evaluation form after the presentation. She mentioned county resources for recycling updates and information, such as the website (recycling.arlingtonva.us) and brochures and flyers that are occasionally placed on recycling bins on pickup days.

Reasons for recycling:

1. Good for the planet - Use of recycled materials keeps resources in the earth longer.
2. Good for the wallet - Recycled materials cost less to produce than virgin materials.
3. Good for jobs - Collecting and selling our recycled materials pays for itself and creates more jobs than trash collection.
4. Required by code in Arlington County.

What is accepted for recycling? There are only a few things that belong in your bin. They fall into four basic categories. All items should be clean and dry. The blue recycling bin lid should be closed tight. If your bin needs to be replaced, contact the DES office.

1. Hard, rigid plastics that are not breakable or snappable, such as plastic milk and juice jugs, spray bottles and rigid bottles with necks. Items stamped 1, 2, and 5 are the most durable and recyclable, excluding small things like bottle caps separated from bottles, which are too small for the machines to collect. If it is smaller than your fist, it is too small.
2. Cardboard
3. Paper
4. Metal and aluminum (highly recyclable)

Glass is damaging to Materials Recovery Facility equipment. Glass is only recyclable at the five purple dumpsters located throughout the county. Probably the nearest one for Glencarlyn is at Washington Blvd. and N. Quincy St., near the playing field.

The following are not recyclable in Arlington:

1. Styrofoam
2. Plastic or compostable cutlery
3. Solo cups
4. Soiled napkins, paper towels or paper plates (these items are compostable)

Compostable organic material can be taken to farmer's markets or county bins.

Hazardous waste, including solvents, paints, adhesives, chemicals, and insecticides, are dangerous and must be taken by appointment to the Household Hazardous Materials facility, off Glebe Road in South Arlington, to prevent them from leaching into our soil or water systems.

Trash is burned in Arlington. There is some benefit from heat energy captured with burning.

The County's recycling process: Material for recycling is taken to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Manassas. If a certain amount of stuff in a truckload does not qualify, the whole truckload can be rejected. The county does not profit but still pays the cost of the pickup and transportation. Thus, it is important to avoid wishful recycling; i.e., putting it in, hoping it's good. A better policy is "When in doubt, throw it out."

There is a recycling hotline at 703-228-7610. Questions addressed to arlrecycles@arlingtonva.us are answered every half hour. Questions can be emailed to Elizabeth at ecrowther@arlington.va.us or Hayley at hgambone@arlington.va.us. There is a "Where does it go?" app online (may be somewhat outdated).

During the question and answer period the following information was shared:

Regarding numbers on the bottom of plastics, numbers 1 through 7 indicate different kinds of resin used to create the plastic. Number 1, 2, and 5 items are the most durable, and should be recycled if large enough. Number 6 items are styrofoam in solo cups and cannot be recycled. Number 7 items are a mixture of materials - not pure and not recyclable.

Salad containers can be recycled if they are number 1, but not Number 6, and not if they rip easily. Ms. Crowther said she throws berry clamshells away because they are sometimes accepted and sometimes not.

Number items 4 are vinyl or PVC, very toxic and generally not recyclable.

Aluminum foil can be recycled, if clean and crushed into a large ball.

Magazines and junk mail can be recycled if clean and dry, as can letters with plastic windows.

Grocery bags must be taken to grocery stores. They get caught in the machines at MRFs.

Plastic-coated milk or juice boxes are trash. They have complex contents.

You can remove the paper from cans or plastic film from spray bottles, but it is not necessary.

Pill bottles are recyclable if bigger than your fist.

Large yogurt containers (bigger than your fist) can be recycled.

Can lids should be thrown out if not attached.

TV's, computers, printers, radios, stoves and bicycles can be recycled twice a year at E-care events, but these have not been taking place during Covid.

Julie expressed appreciation to the presenters for the valuable information.

Reports

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting, which was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report by Tim Aiken -There are 127 dues-paying members, and a balance of \$20,401.00.

Civic Federation report by ?

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee report by Kathy Reeder - Actions on the 2nd St. S. project have been completed, including the relocated No Parking sign and the planting of trees. An additional No Parking sign has been requested. The DES department will address the request, but not for a month or so. The 4th St. S. project will start next summer. For more information, go to the NC Activities tab at glencarlyn.org.

Village View report by Brandon Hemel - The deadline for the next issue is November 10. There will be no Village View in January. It will return in February.

Old Business

Steering Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion report by Pippy Sickbert - The October 15 event, “Glencarlyn through the Prism of Race: A Conversation,” had 33 participants (40 registered). About 60% of the attendees filled out an evaluation, with 95% reporting they were very or extremely satisfied. They found the facilitators good, said they would recommend the experience to a neighbor and would participate again. A quarter expressed interest in joining the Steering Committee. There will be a follow-up brainstorming session on Thursday, November 12, from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Look for information on GCA updates or gcainterests@gmail.com. We are signing up to partner with the County’s DRE program.

The “Resolution on Inclusion and Equity,” approved by the GCA Executive Committee, was presented and shown on screen for everyone at the GCA meeting to read. It is posted on the GCA website. Pete Olivere moved to approve the resolution, and it was seconded. There were two minor corrections, one grammatical and one spelling. With those corrections, the resolution was unanimously approved.

S. Manchester St. Fence - The County was tasked with finding a resolution. There will be 20-foot openings at 1st and 2nd Sts. S., with an extension of the sidewalk on 1st St. S. Large boulders will be placed to prevent cutting across the grass. Julie Lee observed that the county made a thoughtful decision, responsive to all concerns.

Halloween - Comments were very positive. We may want to do daylight Saturday trick-or-treating again next year. Thanks to Courtney Holmes, who helped craft the guidelines, and thanks to participants for following them.

New Business

December Holiday Events - The neighborhood luminaria sale and display will be on December 5, with social distancing practices used for the sale of the materials. The bags, sand and candles are 10 for \$7.00. Cash and checks are accepted. Brandon Hemel said people will be able use PayPal on their phones, and possibly Venmo. They’ll be sold at Carlin Hall from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Six volunteers are needed for 90-minute shifts. The luminaria lighting will be at dusk, approximately 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Rain date will be December 12.

Upcoming GCA Meetings - At the December 7 GCA meeting, Bill Browning will speak about white-tailed deer destroying habitat, their presence in our park and neighborhood and how local governments can control the deer population. Takis Karantonis, the newest member of the County Board, will be the guest speaker at the February 1 meeting. Let Julie Lee know about ideas for future speakers. Pete Olivere asked if we will continue to use Zoom for GCA meetings after Carlin Hall is open again. Julie Lee said the advantages and disadvantages will be considered. Ms. Lee thanked Pippy Sickbert for being our Zoom master, saying, “She does it so smoothly, we don’t even know how much work it is.”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

