



# The Village View

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Citizens' Association since October 1952

April 2021

## Glencarlyn Library is in Danger of Remaining Closed until July 2022

The County Manager's proposed budget for FY 2122 recommends keeping Glencarlyn Library CLOSED until July 2022, while opening all other branch libraries except Cherrydale. WE MUST convince the County Board to open Glencarlyn Library, even if it is only part time. This will require a concerted effort on our part to convince the County Board to **fund** Glencarlyn Library.

They must be reminded that Glencarlyn Library is CRITICALLY LOCATED to serve communities that need it most. Three APS schools are located within short walking distance. These schools serve student bodies with some of the greatest literacy needs. Carlin Springs elementary has the highest percent of free/reduced lunch students and English learners. The library serves over a half dozen Arlington communities in addition to Glencarlyn, including Arlington Mill.

The County Board should be encouraged to use the racial equity lens, tools and disaggregated data to determine which libraries to open.

EVERYONE must make your views known by:

- **Emailing the five County Board members at [county-board@arlingtonva.us](mailto:county-board@arlingtonva.us) and letting them know, in your own words, why it is important to open Glencarlyn Library.**
- **Attending and Speaking at the County Board's virtual public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, April 6, at 7 pm.** The County Board will hear public testimony on the proposed FY 2022 Operating Budget. Advance Speaker Signup will be posted one week in advance of the hearing. (More information will be forthcoming.)
- **Drop books at Glencarlyn Library.** Even if we can't pick up at the library, continue to use the library to drop off. CIRCULATON NUMBERS ONLY HELP OUR CAUSE

Two years ago, we mounted a successful campaign in opposition to a budget proposal that would have closed Glencarlyn Library. We can succeed again.



*Students hard at work at the Glencarlyn Library.*

*Photo Credit Gerald Martineau*

## A Neighborhood Discussion on the Missing Middle Housing Study at the April 5<sup>th</sup> GCA meeting, 7:30 PM

- What is the Missing Middle Housing Study that is currently being conducted by Arlington County?
- What is Missing Middle Housing and how might it affect single family neighborhoods like Glencarlyn?
- What impact would this increased density have on schools, parking, taxes, trees and other environmental issues?
- What are the benefits of missing middle housing?

These questions and more will be addressed in a neighborhood discussion led by Julie Lee Monday, April 5th at 7:30 pm, via ZOOM. There will be a slide presentation about the County's Missing Middle Study, with time for questions and the sharing of ideas.

# President's Corner



*By Julie Lee, GCA President*

## Three Tasks for You

Dear Friends and Neighbors- I am asking you to do three things for Glencarlyn in the next week:

- 1- Go to the web address in Glencarlyn Update emails or the QR code on the back page of print version of the Village View, and **enter your information as we prepare to print a new**

**Glencarlyn Directory.** We are encouraging everyone to provide their information online in a safe and secure manner.

- 2- **Contact the members of County Board at: [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us), to protest the County Manager's "cost saving" proposal to keep Glencarlyn Library closed until July 2022.** Remind them that Glencarlyn Library serves some of the most underserved communities and schools in the County. Insist that they use their "equity lens" to make these kinds of decisions. Surely, they can find the funds to open Glencarlyn Library, if only part time.

- 3- **Plan to attend, via ZOOM, the April 5th GCA meeting, when we will have a community discussion about the County's Missing Middle Study.** I have written and spoken about the Missing Middle study before because I believe it is important that everyone understand what is being considered. The County government has determined that with the growing work force and population, Arlington needs more housing. To accomplish this, they are considering how and where to up-zone single family neighborhoods to allow duplexes, triplexes, multiplexes, townhomes and low-rise apartments. Initially they had hoped this would provide "reasonably priced" housing for middle income families. However, they have now had to acknowledge that this would all be market driven housing, and the County has very little, if any, ability to control prices. Certainly, the idea of providing housing opportunities for teachers and fire fighters who work in our county is wonderful. However, missing middle housing is unlikely to provide that. "Missing middle" refers to the type and size of housing and NOT the price. And how will the increased density, created by missing middle housing, impact our schools, our trees, stormwater management, parking, taxes? The County has not provided answers. They have, however, conducted some listening tours, in which members of our community have participated. And they continue to provide information, which will be part of the presentation on April 5th.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## GCA Officers

email: [gca\\_exec@glencarlyn.org](mailto:gca_exec@glencarlyn.org) or  
[president\\_gca@glencarlyn.org](mailto:president_gca@glencarlyn.org)

### President

Julie Lee 808-384-4954

### Vice President

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Tim Aiken 703-820-0084

## Neighborhood Contacts

### Neighborhood Conservation Delegate

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### Carlin Hall Reservation

Arl. Parks & Recreation 703-228-1805

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### Area Chair/Block Captain Coordinator

Peter Olivere 703-626-2520

### Glencarlyn Email Updates

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### Volunteer Coordinator

Julie Lee 808-384-4954

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## Glencarlyn Web Site

[www.glencarlyn.org](http://www.glencarlyn.org)

### Carlin Hall

5711 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND GCA'S NAME TO GLENCARLYN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

By Jeff Liteman and Kathy Reeder

The GCA Executive Committee will introduce an amendment at the May meeting to change the name of the organization from "Glencarlyn Citizens' Association of Arlington, Virginia" to "Glencarlyn Civic Association of Arlington, Virginia."

The change was recommended by the GCA Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (REI) and endorsed by the Executive Committee to foster greater community participation and inclusivity.

REI found that some neighbors who are not U.S. citizens have interpreted the current name to mean they are not eligible to become GCA members or participate in GCA activities. Substituting "Civic" for "Citizens" clarifies that the organization includes and welcomes all Glencarlyn residents, regardless of citizenship status.

The proposed change would bring Glencarlyn in line with the terminology used by Arlington County government when referring to neighborhood associations, most of which have "Civic Association" as part of their name. The change would permit the continued use of the acronym GCA.

REI also noted that in the not-too-distant past, "White Citizens Councils" were created in many Southern cities to oppose racial integration and civil rights for African-Americans and other minorities. Changing the name makes clear GCA's inclusive character and intent.

Per the GCA bylaws, this proposed amendment must be passed by two-thirds of the members present and voting to take effect. Please plan to attend the May GCA meeting to vote on this important amendment to help ensure that all neighbors know they are welcome and valued participants in the GCA.

The proposed amendment can be found on the GCA website and copies are available outside of Glencarlyn Library to the left of the front doors.

*President's Corner (Continued from page 2)*

One of the most significant facts to note about this potential upzoning is once it is done, it can never be reversed. **This is too important of a decision to get wrong.** Please plan to join in the discussion, via zoom, on Monday night, April 5th at 7:30 pm.

You must be signed up for the GCA Updates to get the zoom link. Sign up by emailing your name and street address to: [gcaupdates@glencarlyn.org](mailto:gcaupdates@glencarlyn.org).

## Deadline Approaching: Join the GCA Executive Committee

By Barbara Martinez

Time is running out to submit your name for the 2021–22 GCA Executive Committee!

At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee will present at least one candidate for each office, president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and Village View editor, along with delegates and alternates to the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

As of press time, we need nominees for the ACCF slots—possibly one delegate and two alternates.

Why be an ACCF delegate? It is an opportunity to influence countywide decisions and priorities and make sure Glencarlyn's voice is heard. Said Glencarlyn delegate Sue Campbell, "I am learning a great deal and looking out for issues that affect the quality of life for folks in our neighborhood but also for the whole county." Concerns she focuses on include pedestrian safety and school equity.

The Nominating Committee invites any GCA resident who is interested in being nominated for any position or wanting to learn more to contact Kathy Reeder at [kathleenreeder@comcast.net](mailto:kathleenreeder@comcast.net) or 703-820-3933 as soon as possible. A member of the Nominating Committee will get in touch with you and answer any questions you may have.

The slate of nominees will be announced at the April 5 GCA meeting. The names will be published in the April Village View and/or Glencarlyn email updates before the May 3 meeting, at which the election will be held.

Interested GCA members not on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else from the floor during that meeting. (Members nominated by someone else must confirm—either in person or in writing—their willingness to stand for election and commitment to serve if elected.)

Any individual residing in Glencarlyn is eligible for membership and election to a position. Candidates and voters must be current members of the GCA to run. The term of office begins on July 1 and runs through June 30, 2021.

Although not an elected position, the area chair/block captain coordinator role is open. Please contact Kathy Reeder if you are interested in this position. What does an area chair/block captain coordinator do? This position recruits and coordinates the people all around the neighborhood who distribute the Village View. It's a good way to get to know neighbors beyond your immediate block—and probably get some extra steps in.





Photo of temporary waterwall lane closure on Carlin Springs Rd.  
*Courtesy: Gerald Martineau*

## Back to school means more people on the roads, and children and parents walking to school.

In partnership with Arlington Public Schools, Arlington's Department of Environmental Services is piloting a temporary lane closure along the northbound lane of S Carlin Springs Rd, between 8th Pl S and 5th Rd S, to provide a buffer from traffic for pedestrians and kids walking to and from school.

This temporary lane reduction will also help to calm traffic in the northbound direction adjacent to the primary walking path to increase safety for all users.

This lane closure is possible due to the reduction of vehicular traffic volume caused by COVID19. The temporary lane closure will begin the week of March 8 (see Note, below) and will be in place for approximately 6 months, unless traffic conditions change. Arlington staff will monitor safety and usage throughout the duration of the project. A combination of barriers, bollards, rubber wheel stops, and signs will be deployed as part of the pilot lane closure.

The sidewalk will still be available for use. The temporary buffer will allow for safer travel for pedestrians and bike users.

This pilot is part of Arlington County's Vision Zero goal to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while ensuring safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Everyone depends on a safe transportation network to reach their destination. Vision Zero provides an opportunity to work toward a safer transportation system for all through commitment and intention.

## Election of Officers at the GCA Meeting Mon., May 3rd, 7:30 pm

The Election of GCA officers and delegates will be held at the May 3rd GCA meeting. We will consider and vote on a name change for our organization to "Glencarlyn Civic Association". There will be a discussion about community activities, such as Glencarlyn Day, to be held during the summer and in the fall. We will also have the opportunity to meet and get a report from our Neighborhood Outreach Police Officer, Juan Montoya.

**We will meet at 7:30 pm via ZOOM.**

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## Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Update

Kathy Reeder, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee Delegate

### 4th St. S. (S. Kensington to S. Illinois) NC Street Improvement Project

Over the next several months, relocation and upgrades will be made to the gas and water mains located in the County's right of way (which includes the street and land up to residents' private property lines).

Both must be done in advance of and to facilitate our NC sidewalk construction and street improvement project. This utility construction work is expected to begin in late March and will take several months to complete. Each utility group will notify residents before they begin, typically a few days in advance with contact information.

The NC Program has received bids from contractors for construction work on the 4th St. S. project. They are preparing to go before the County Board in March or April to get approval prior to awarding a contract. Summer 2021 continues to be the estimated timing for the start of construction.

As more information becomes available on contractor selection and construction timing, it will be updated in the Village View and on Glencarlyn.org under the NC Activities tab.

Reminder: Property owners in the project area should return their Temporary Easement and Construction Agreements (TECA) to the County Real Estate Specialist if they have not already done so.

The Final Design Review presentation is available at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/4th-street-south/> under "Documents and Plans." Please contact Laura Simpson ([lsimpson@arlingtonva.us](mailto:lsimpson@arlingtonva.us)) or Kathy Reeder ([kathleenreeder@comcast.net](mailto:kathleenreeder@comcast.net)) with any questions about the project.

### Kenmore Wooded Area Proposed Project

The wooded area at the west end of the Kenmore Middle School property has been proposed for the GCA's next NC project. This area has non-native and overgrown vegetation, insect infestation, a "social path" for students, dumping of trash and soil, drug-related items, and questionable activity due to limited visibility. If you are interested in seeing the area, go to the end of 2nd St. S. on the west side of Carlin Springs Road. The area is on the Kenmore (south) side of the street.

This is a proposed project only and is at an early stage in the NC process. As more information is available about next steps, it will be communicated in the Village View and on Glencarlyn.org under the NC Activities tab.



Crew prepares surveying on 4th Street S.  
Photo Courtesy Gerald Martineau



### Fighting to Saving Arlington's Mature Trees

Longtime Glencarlyn neighbors Stuart and Nancy Davis were recently featured in a Washington Post article focusing on Arlington residents working to protect our county's tree canopy

Nancy explains, "Our role in that Washington Post article was spurred by the fact that we shared our letters to developers—regarding the loss of tree canopy in Glencarlyn—with one of the environment reporters.

The specific letter that we shared originally concerned 401 S. Jefferson. A couple of days after the article was published, DesBuild construction ordered a tree service to cut down four mature trees including Magnolia and River birch species.

Other developers active in our community who have been cutting down trees include Classic Cottages and Albertain Realty. Stuart and I and 10 neighbors have respectfully requested that they stop cutting down trees. The cases that we have documented have now been recorded in a database that is being compiled by the Arlington Tree Action Group."

Photo Courtesy Gerald Martineau



Share your pre-loved books with Carlin Springs Elementary students! We are collecting new and gently used children's books for students in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Donation box is located by the front doors of Carlin Springs Elementary 5995 5th Rd. S

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**We welcome new south 4th street neighbors Anthony Tarzia, wife Ginnie Gordon, daughter Maria and family dog Charlotte, a Dachs-hund and Yorkie mix.**

Anthony is a 4th grade teacher at John Eaton Elementary School in Washington, DC; Ginnie Gordon is an attorney with the Justice Department. In earlier years they both spent 3 1/2 years in The Peace Corps in Belize, Central America.

Daughter Maria is a 5th grade student at Campbell elementary school and enjoys swimming, drawing and writing.

*Photo Courtesy Gerald Martineau*



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# View from the Garden

## The Greening Time

By Judy Funderburk, Extension Master Gardener

photos courtesy: Elaine Mills

Though the arrival of spring, the vernal equinox, when day and night are equal, officially occurred on Sunday, March 20, 2021 at 5:37a.m., the earth began waking up from her long winter's nap much earlier. As sap rises in trees and shrubs, flowering quince branches can be cut and brought inside, forcing tight buds to open into coral-pink blossoms, brightening our indoor living spaces. But the best way to get in touch with what is greening is to take a walk outside and observe the varying stages of new spring growth. Throughout our area, trees are budding, birds are returning or passing in migration, opossums and salamanders are reviving from their winter's sleep.

Walk through the Glen-carlyn Library Community Garden, taking time to notice daffodils pushing upward, crocuses blooming, and starflowers (Ipheion) spilling forth their picture-perfect flowers. Pansies, moss phlox, and lungwort already have or soon will come into bloom. The Christmas rose hellebores (Helleborus niger) have been sporting cream-colored bell-shaped flowers in the Shade Garden since January.



Christmas Rose Flower

As the days lengthen, purple crested iris (Iris cristata) bloom in the four corners of the Herb Garden. In the back Fence Garden, primrose (Primula ssp.) flower in shades of purple and pink, and in the Woodland/Shade Garden, Virginia bluebells (Mertensia virginica) bring delight with their deep blue petals. Epimediums are not only a great groundcover for dry shade with their semi-evergreen leaves, but also have beautiful spring flowers that often bloom before the new leaves spring

up. The Library Garden has two varieties, Epimedium x versicolor 'Sulphureum' (bicolor barrenwort) with its tiny orchid-like yellow flowers in the Asian Garden, and Epimedium rubrum (sometimes called 'Fairy Wings') with its reddish pink blossoms and deep red foliage, located in front of the Community Garden sign as you enter from 3rd Street. Bend down and look closely to see the intricate detail of their winged yellow or deep pink blossoms.



Virginia bluebells

Gardens, like life, are all about seasons, each with their own beauty and teachings. I once heard the month of March described as a pivotal time when, after what may have felt like too long in "the great dark," days grow longer, winter loses its grip on the land, and we can begin to experience "the great bursting forth." A suggestion: Whenever you feel yourself in the clutches of "the great dark," take a walk through the Glen-carlyn Library Community Garden or any garden or into a park to witness the many examples of spring green bursting forth in the annual cycle of renewal.

In this time when daily losses of life and livelihood continue to threaten our sense of well-being, it is helpful to have spaces where we can experience nature's resilience and new growth. With spring so palpably alive, a spirit of gratitude, and perhaps even delight, are possible. The greening of planet Earth provides many wonderful metaphors for living. It might even put a "spring" in your step and the warmth of rainbow-painted love-notes in your heart.

\* On the website MGNV.org click on each of the Demonstration Gardens to see spectacular photos from the six teaching gardens. Learn about their mission, focus, and plant varieties, and find maps of locations.



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## Ball-Sellers House Update

By Annette Benbow, Arlington Historical Society

It's been a pandemic year and the Ball-Sellers House, the oldest structure in the county, never got a chance to open last year for regular Saturday hours and free tours. We are looking forward to opening later this year and hosting special events as usual, but we're not quite there yet. As more people get vaccinated, we look forward to welcoming small groups by appointment. Please email us at: [info@ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@ArlingtonHistoricalSociety.org). For more information visit the Arlington Historical Society website at <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/visit/ball-sellers-house/>

In preparation of a new Glencarlyn Directory, we are beginning with online data collection using a secure Google Form.

Please see Glencarlyn Update emails or the print edition of the Village View

## Ideas, News Tips?

The ***Village View*** is always looking for **articles, stories or photos** about people or activities in the neighborhood or schools. Also needed are events to include in the **calendar**. If you would like to contribute, send your submission to *The Village View* editor at [gcaeditorial@gmail.com](mailto:gcaeditorial@gmail.com). Just remember the **Five Ws**: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

Demand for single-family homes and townhomes is intensifying. Interest from buyers has reached a fever pitch, causing them to make aggressive offers to compete for those homes. The hurried level of sales seen at the end of 2020 continued into January, with sales volume increasing by more than 30% across the NOVA region versus January of 2020. Median sales prices increased 6%, with the median time on market dropping 31% to 13 days. In February and March, buyers were still experiencing double-digit competing offers, price escalation and waived contingencies. In 2020, many sellers decided to pause their moving plans for a few different reasons. Now that vaccines are being distributed and there's a light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, it should bring some peace of mind to many potential sellers who may want to cash out on the market.

As a buyer in today's real estate market, your offer to purchase will likely be up against offers from other motivated buyers. Based on my experience and perspective as a buyer's agent and seller's agent in multiple offer scenarios, I've written a guide called **"13 Ways to Write a Winning Offer", to make your offer stand out** from the competition and be the one that gets accepted. Of course, the strategies you use will depend a lot on the type and condition of the property, your level of motivation, and how much competition you have from other parties. You can **download a FREE copy** of the guide on our website.

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## Revisiting Glencarlyn, A More Inclusive History, Part 2

*By Tim Aiken*

### III – Glencarlyn Settled

At the turn of the 19th century Alexandria's population totaled more than 6,000. According to the 1800 census, an estimated 1,000 settlers lived in the rural outlying areas, and of those, about a third were enslaved people. Among those outlying areas was a 166-acre tract of land that John Ball purchased in 1743 from the original Lord Fairfax land grant. It was on this land that Ball built the log house and its frame lean-to addition that survive to this day. In 1748 his cousin Moses Ball (1717-1792) acquired a 91-acre parcel adjacent and just to the south of John Ball that followed the course of Long Branch. Both men farmed their land raising corn, wheat, and tobacco; kept sheep, cows, pigs, geese, and bees; and operated a grist mill at the edge of their holdings on Four Mile Run.

When he died in 1766, John Ball directed that his property be sold and that the proceeds be divided among his wife Elizabeth and his five daughters<sup>1</sup>. In 1772, William Carlin (1732-1820) purchased the farm for 100 pounds cash. Elizabeth Payne Ball (1714-1792), however, elected to take her widow's dower retaining one-third of the land rather than accept her husband's will.

Karl VanNewkirk with the Arlington Historical Society, who has conducted extensive research of the land records, believes Elizabeth lived in a separate house on her one-third parcel until her death around 1792. Following her death, the one-third parcel and house are likely to have been the same parcel and house that William Carlin leased, for life, to his brother-in-law Edward Skidmore (1765-1828). VanNewkirk thinks this house was located somewhere west of the Ball-Sellers House and could possibly be the same house or at least the location of the house that William's grandson William H.F. Carlin would one day call home.

No enslaved people were listed among John Ball's possessions on his will. Given the small size of his farm and the fact that several of his relatives lived nearby, the Arlington Historical Society does not believe that John Ball ever owned enslaved people. Even if John Ball did not, there is always the possibility that he hired enslaved people from their owners on neighboring farms to help work his land and run his mill.

From the original records of that time, which Fairfax County still maintains, we know that the owners of four of the six parcels abutting John Ball's property did own enslaved people. They were George and James Mercer, who owned land south and east that bordered the west bank of Four Mile Run; John Alexander, who owned land immediately south along Columbia Pike; Simon Pearson, who owned land at Seven Corners; and William Hardin, who owned land east of John Ball just across Four Mile Run.

In 1774 George Washington became a neighbor to Glencarlyn when he acquired the George and James Mercer property. Eleven years, however, would pass before Washington found time to inspect and survey the Mercer property. The initial survey attempted on April 21, 1785 failed when William "Billy" Lee, who had accompanied Washington, seriously injured his knee.

Washington returned on May 5 the following year to complete the survey. It is thought that during this second survey attempt Washington marked a corner of his new land holdings with his initials on a prominent oak tree at the confluence of Long Branch and Four Mile Run. The tree was brought down by a storm in 1899. A segment of the tree still bearing George Washington's initials can be found in the Glencarlyn Library.

William "Billy" Lee, the man who accompanied Washington on the first survey attempt, is another largely untold story. Born into slavery around 1750, William Lee along with his brother Frank were purchased on May 27, 1768 by George Washington from the estate of the late Colonel John Lee of Westmoreland County, Virginia, for sixty-one pounds and fifteen shillings. William kept the surname "Lee," denoting the same famous Virginia Lee family that claims two signatories to the Declaration of Independence and later the commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.



Washington's records referred to William Lee as "Mulatto Will," suggesting that William and perhaps Frank were born to an enslaved mother and a white father. Descendants of William Lee and historians assert that William and Frank Lee were the illegitimate sons of Colonel John Lee. In his diary, Washington expresses a fond devotion to William Lee. Lee remained close to Washington, accompanying him to every battle throughout the Revolutionary War and serving as his personal valet.

Following William Lee's knee injury, Washington procured metal braces to support his injured leg and arranged for him to take on work as a cobbler at Mount Vernon until Washington's death in 1799. The man holding General Washington's horse in John Trumbull's 1780 painting

*(Continued on page 12)*

1. Stacy Dowdall, Mary Hardin, Milly Thompson, Winifred Rollings, and another (possibly Elizabeth) who was married to James Gray.

(Continued from page 11)

entitled “George Washington,” is thought to be William Lee. Trumball’s portrayal of Lee may say more about the artist and his conceptualization of African Americans than what Lee may have actually resembled in person. Lee is the only enslaved person George Washington directed to be freed immediately upon his death.

Moses Ball and William Carlin were most likely aware of George Washington’s survey work. Both men would visit George Washington at Mount Vernon that same month. There is a journal entry Washington made in May 1786 that states that, “When I returned home, I found Moses Ball, his son John Ball, and William Carlin here, the first having his effects under execution wanted to borrow money to redeem them. Lent him ten pounds for this purpose.” It is not clear what “effects” the president was referring to, but perhaps it was one of Moses Ball’s farming instruments or a farm animal he wanted to buy back. Moses Ball is known to have faced chronic financial troubles. William Carlin provided the security for the Moses Ball’s loan from George Washington.

Another African American, Benjamin Banneker, is associated with survey work that was conducted on the Carlin property. While it is unlikely that he visited the Carlin property, Banneker (1731-1806) was a self-taught astronomer, and by some accounts a freed slave, whose mathematical talents were sought out by Major James Ellicott to work on the survey team that then Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson recruited in 1791 to determine the boundaries of the nation’s new capital. A boundary stone marking the western edge of the federal city can be found on the Carlin property at Carlin Springs Elementary School. Today it marks the boundary between Arlington and Fairfax County.

There is a fascinating digital [map](#) featured below that Elizabeth Mitchell, a local amateur historian produced. Not only does the map show the early local road network, churches, and mills that existed in 1760, but it also shows the names of the individual owners and tenants of each parcel of land, based

largely on last wills and testaments. The map also indicates who among the landowners held enslaved people.

#### IV - The Carlins

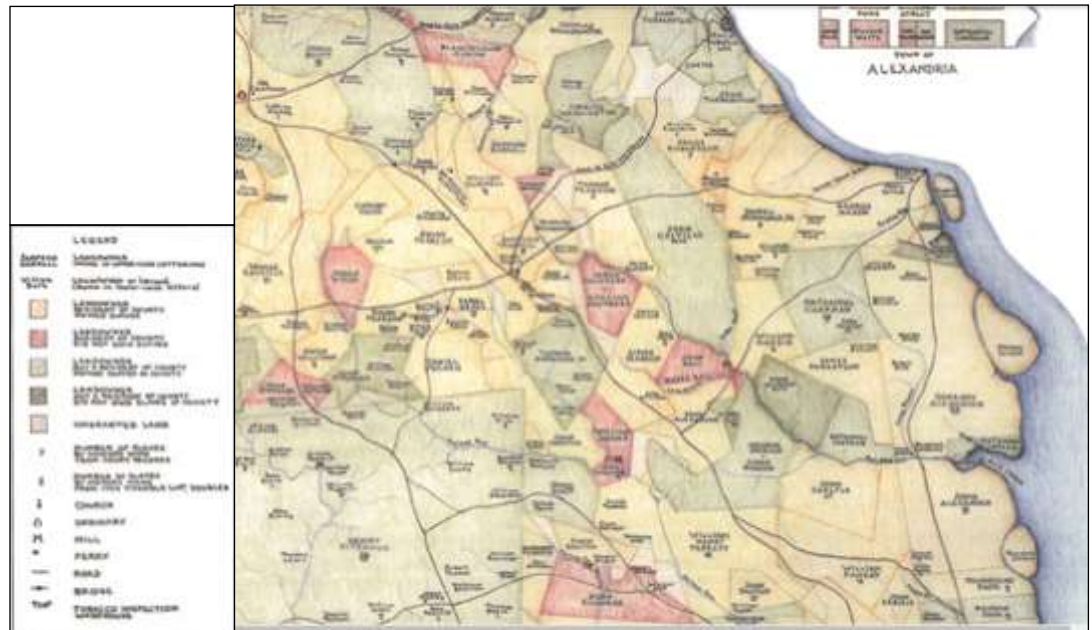
We may never know what prompted William Carlin (1732-1820) to purchase the Ball-Sellers house in 1772 from the estate of John Ball. Perhaps watching successful farmers bring their produce to market in Alexandria inspired him to seek his fortune farming. A plausible theory is that John Carlin’s first wife, Sarah Payne<sup>2</sup>, was related to and possibly the sister of Elizabeth Payne Ball. If so, acquiring the Ball farm may have been

prompted by the family’s interest in supporting Ball’s widow Elizabeth. Whatever the reason, the English immigrant and Alexandria tailor, who counted George Washington and George Mason among his customers, settled here and planted deep roots.

Over the course of the next 100 years, the Carlins worked the farm and acquired several adjacent properties. A careful review of census data and recorded wills shows that William Carlin’s second wife Elizabeth Hall and their children held enslaved people. There is no evidence among surviving records that William Carlin held enslaved people, but lack of evidence does not rule out the possibility. Virginia records from the 1790 and the 1800 census have been lost and there is no record of the Carlins of Alexandria or Alexandria County (Arlington County’s name at that time) in 1810 census.

Records from the 1820 and 1830 census indicate that when Elizabeth Carlin was the head of household, enslaved people lived at the Ball-Sellers property. Two enslaved women are listed in the 1820 census and one enslaved woman between the ages of 55 to 99 is listed the 1830 census. Early census records did not provide the names of the enslaved people only their status and approximate age. But we can speculate that the elderly enslaved woman mentioned in the 1830 census was named Nancy. Among the expenses listed by the executors of William Carlin’s estate is ten dollars paid “to old Negro Nancy” who was identified only as Elizabeth’s helper or nurse. Elizabeth Carlin died in either 1834 or 1835.

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2. Not much is known about William Carlin’s first wife Sarah Payne.



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When William Carlin died in 1820, he directed in his will that his land<sup>3</sup>, which comprised approximately 370 acres, be sold in lots small enough for persons with little money to purchase them, with the proceeds divided among his wife and children. Either because of difficulty finding interested buyers of the smaller lots or because his children<sup>4</sup> clearly preferred to remain on the land and continue farming, a different arrangement emerged. The executors of the William Carlin's estate arranged for close relatives and in-laws, two<sup>5</sup> of whom were the executors of Carlin's estate, to buy back most of the property and deed it to members of the Carlin family. Control of the original Ball parcel fell into the hands of William Carlin's three sons: Wesley (1788-1875), James Harvey (1800-1846), and George Whitfield (1786-1843).

Wesley acquired control of 34 acres of the Ball tract on the west side of Carlin Spring Road and 40 acres land from the Colville tract where he lived in a house that still stands today in Arlington Forest at the intersection of Carlin Springs Road and North First Place just north of Arlington Boulevard.

James Harvey acquired control of 94 acres of the Ball parcel that was referred to as the "mansion house tract" that he purchased for \$874. He also acquired 38 acres of the Colville tract that consisted of steep slopes and the stream valleys of Lubber Run and Four Mile Run. Today we know the mansion house as the Ball-Sellers House and the 94 acres as the area that corresponds to present-day Glencarlyn.

George Carlin acquired 63 acres of the original Ball tract located west of Carlin Springs Road that he sold in 1839. George relocated to the City of Alexandria and became a school master. The 1820, 1830, and 1840 census records show George presiding over large households of up to 12 people. The 1820 census lists a free colored child, and the 1840 census shows a Carlin residence with a "free colored woman" and a "free colored child." His descendants prospered as merchants and later operated a hardware store in Alexandria that bore the family name.

Perhaps to hide the potential conflict of interest, William Carlin estate's executors did not record the deeds in court until more than two decades after his death. One deed records Mary Carlin (1818-1905), the granddaughter of William Carlin, as the buyer of the 40-acre parcel her father Wesley Carlin controlled and occupied. Mary Carlin was five years old at the time of the purchase and there is no record of any payment recorded for the purchase. The deed for the parcel James Harvey Carlin acquired was filed in 1848 two years after James Harvey died. Since James Harvey Carlin was no longer alive, the deed was assigned to his widow, Letia (1797?-1866), and their four children, John Edward Fletcher (1822-1900), William H. F. (1825-1901), Anne (1828-1892), and Andrew Wilson Franklin (1831-1885).

Census records confirm that the second generation of Carlins also held enslaved people. Wesley Carlin is recorded in the 1830 census with three enslaved people. The 1840 census lists four enslaved people, one woman and three children, the 1850 census, a 16 year-old enslaved female, and the 1860 census, two enslaved girls, ages five and seven.

For James Harvey, who was living at the Ball-Sellers House, the 1840 census lists two free elderly African Americans, one man and one woman. When James Harvey's widow, Letia Marcetta Skidmore Carlin, was head of household, the 1850 census registry for enslaved people records one six-year old enslaved boy. Among the residents listed at the Ball-Sellers House in the 1860<sup>6</sup> census are Letia, her children William, Anne, and Andrew, an 18 year old White male named Albert Donen, and a free 16 year old male named Washington Roberts who is assigned "mulatto" for race. For profession, both Albert Donen and Washington Roberts are recorded as "laborers." The 1870 census record lists two of James Harvey Carlin's children, Anne and Andrew, his brother-in-law, Isaac Skidmore (1806-1883), and Washington Roberts, who recorded as a male "mulatto" "farm hand" age 25.

It seems plausible that Washington Roberts could be the enslaved person listed as six years of age in the 1850 census but listed as free in 1860. Perhaps he is even related to the Carlins. When Anne died in 1892 her will<sup>7</sup> directed that \$100 be left to Washington Roberts "as an evidence of his faithful services." From later census data we know that Washington Robert married Mina Whaite in 1884, lived nearby, and died at the age of 67. He is buried at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Fairfax County.

The Carlins' attitudes toward slavery appears to be complex. When the Civil War broke out, James Harvey's son, William H. F., served as a private in the Virginia Third Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army. As noted, George, lived in the City of Alexandria with free African Americans, but his son, James F. Carlin (1820-1882), is listed in the 1850 census with three enslaved people, a 25-year-old woman and two children. After the war, Andrew Wilson Franklin filed claims with the Southern Claims Commission, a court established after the war to reimburse war-related property losses of Southerners who were sympathetic to the Union cause,

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3. The original 166-acre Ball tract was at some point expanded to 191 acres and an additional 185 acres from the original Colville tract found on Mitchell's 1760 map was purchased in 1792. This second parcel covers much of today's Arlington Forest and contiguous parts of Barcroft.

4. There are conflicting accounts on the total number of daughters in the family. Assuming the higher number, the daughters are Hannah Carlin (1784-1819), Mary Carlin (1790-1814), Elizabeth Carlin (1892-1877), Catherine Rebecca Carlin (1793-1854), Sarah Carlin (1796-1877), and Jemimah Carlin (-1819).

5. The two executors were John Richards, who was married to Catherine Rebecca, and Jacobs Bonds, who was married to Mary Carlin.

6. While there are numerous data entry errors in the decennial surveys, separate registries were maintained for enslaved people and Whites and free African Americans, making the erroneous entry of a free person in the enslaved registry less likely.

7. Her will also directed that headstones be erected in the Carlin Cemetery for her brother Andrew and her Uncle Isaac Skidmore and his wife. Some of these markers can be seen today piled to one corner of the cemetery.

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that were rejected. As were in the cases of many with proven sympathies to the Confederacy, the claims were rejected.

William H.F. Carlin married his cousin Margaretta Skidmore (1824-1888) in 1866 and lived on and farmed a 20-acre parcel he bought from his uncle Wesley on the west side of Carlin Spring Road. He lived until 1901. William's house and grounds may have been the same house and grounds that Elizabeth Ball and later Edward and Letia Lydia Hall Skidmore occupied. It was torn down in the 1950s to make room for Kenmore Middle School.

Andrew and Anne continued lived in the Ball-Sellers house, continued to work the farm, started a dairy operation, and replaced part of the existing structure sometime in the 1880s with the 2-story farmhouse structure we see today. In the 1870s they also built and operated Carlin Springs, a pavilion featuring a restaurant, health springs, and picnic grounds near the W&OD railroad station. They ran the pavilion for more than 10 years and built a small railway shelter on their property, arranging for the Washington, Ohio, and Western Railroad (today's Washington & Old Dominion) to schedule stops when the pavilion was operating.



**Figure 1878 Map of Alexandria – the Carlin Springs Pavilion and the residences of Mary, William and Andrew Carlin can be found along the railroad tracks at the bottom center of the map.**

The dairy farm<sup>8</sup> was sold in 1863 to William H. Torreyson whose family expanded its size and continued its operations for close to a century. When Andrew died in 1885, he left his one-quarter interest in the "old Homestead estate" to his sister Anne. Anne continued to operate the farm for a year and a half with the help of Washington Roberts. She spent the last few years of her life living with her brother William at his home.

As many Glencarlynites may be aware, the Carlins sold the two parcels James Harvey acquired including the mansion house to William W. Curtis and Samuel F. Burdett in 1887. The two developers subdivided the parcels into parkland and 384 lots to be sold at \$100 a lot to "all men and women of moderate means or who receive stated salaries." First named Carlin Springs, the subdivision was renamed Glencarlyn in 1896. It is certain that "all men and women of moderate means" did not include African Americans. Restrictive covenants on deeds adopted in the 1920s throughout Virginia and in many states prohibited the sale of residential property to people of color.

The last known Carlin to live in the neighborhood was Wesley Carlin's daughter, Mary Carlin, pictured here. She was a teacher, living her entire life in the house at North First Place. Mary Carlin died in 1905 and is also buried in Carlin cemetery. Standing to the left of Mary Carlin in the photograph is a male African American thought to be Joshua Devaughn.

We know a little more about Joshua Devaughn by way of Munson H. Lane's Brief History and Recollections of the Village of Glencarlyn and Vicinity that was published in the May 1970 issue of the Arlington Historical Society's magazine. Lane, who moved into Mary Carlin's house in 1906 as young boy, knew Joshua Devaughn as "Uncle Josh." By Lane's account "Uncle Josh" and his niece Emma "looked after Mary Carlin in later years." Lane also mentions that Mary gave Joshua Devaughn a parcel of land across a little stream where he built a home and lived with Emma and another niece, Mary, until his death several years later. Elsewhere in his recollections Lane mentions that Joshua Devaughn, was a Baptist minister and "a very devout man."

There are conflicting accounts about Joshua Devaughn in the census records. The 1880 census lists two African Americans, Joshua Devaughn, age 55, "laborer" and his wife Nancy, age 45, living in close proximity to Anne and Andrew Carlin. There is no mention of Devaughn for the next two decades. The 1890 census was destroyed



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8 - Torreyson's daughter Lucy T. Reeves and her husband George and their son Harvey Reeves operated the farm until 1954. Today the farm is known as the Reeves Farm. The farmhouse still stands in Bluemont Park. Torreyson also came to acquire the Ball parcel that George Carlin sold in 1839.

9- There were actually two separate, but adjacent three-acre parcels Mary deeded to Joshua Devaughn. The second parcel was granted through execution of her will.

10- The early census surveys did not list street addresses but the proximity of two households in a survey listing can be a close approximation to the proximity of actual residences since survey work was performed by individuals who walked from house to house. In the 1880 census Anne and Andrew Carlin are listed on line 202 and Joshua and Nancy Devaughn are listed on line 204. Mary Carlin is listed on line 213.



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by fire and 1900 census worker either misfiled the pages or neglected to survey the neighborhood. The 1910 census, however, lists a Joshua Devaughn age 66 with the occupation of "clergyman" and industry of "Baptist" with a wife named Louisa, age 40. The previous entry into the census book recorded the Lanes, including Munson Lane, age 13, presumably in the house Mary Carlin once occupied.

A great deal can happen in 30 years. People can remarry and change professions, but it is doubtful they can slow the aging process. Somehow in the 30 years between the 1880 and 1910 Joshua Devaughn aged only 11 years. A 1922 death certificate appears to split the difference between the two ages. Joshua Devaughn's death certificate states that he was minister, married to Louisa, and born in April 1831 in Warrenton, Virginia. He died at the age of 91.

The photograph of Mary Carlin and Joshua Devaughn offers an interesting and perhaps appropriate way to conclude this series on Glencarlyn. The photograph, like this series, invites more questions than it provides answers. There are still too many unknowns to complete the story or fully understand the past. Having survived to the present day, the photograph forces us to acknowledge that Mary Carlin and Joshua Devaughn are both a part of our neighborhood's history. Like the photograph, the records of Mary Carlin, Joshua Devaughn, Anne Carlin, and Washington Roberts provide us with a more complex but still incomplete picture into our neighborhood's past.

## Happy Easter!

We will be celebrating an Easter Service  
on Sunday, April 4 at 10 am  
outdoors on the church grounds.

All are welcome to join in a masked, socially  
distanced service. The congregation will not  
be singing, but we will have music.

If you think you may be coming, let us know  
so we can provide seating. Email us at  
[regathering@stjohnsarlingtonva.org](mailto:regathering@stjohnsarlingtonva.org).


Easter service will also be available on Zoom.

You can also join in our Holy Thursday and  
Good Friday 7 pm services, just on Zoom.

See our website for info on joining any of  
these or regular Sunday services on Zoom.

## St. John's Episcopal Church

*A vibrant congregation with a big heart.*

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[www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org) 703-671-6834



## Glencarlyn's local farmers market

Barrett Elementary School  
4401 N. Henderson Road

<https://lubberrunfarmersmarket.org/>

Saturdays, April – November

8 a.m. – 12 noon

*Buy Fresh • Buy Local  
Build a Healthy Community*

## Glencarlyn's First, Finest & Only Gym

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Walk a few blocks and  
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Please SAVE THE DATE for the Safe and Distant

# Spring Celebration and Plant Sale

**Sunday, May 16**

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Rain or Shine)**

Native and Locally Propagated Plants,  
Local Honey, Hand-Made Pots, and T-shirts

GLENCARLYN LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN

## Glencarlyn Kids for Hire Will Return Next Month

If you are Glencarlyn resident, high school age or younger and would like to be listed as available for neighborhood jobs, please send your name, age, phone number, and job(s) you would like to perform to The Village View at [gcaeditorial@gmail.com](mailto:gcaeditorial@gmail.com). Parents, please provide your contact information to the same e-mail address.

In preparation of a new Glencarlyn Directory, we are beginning with online data collection using a secure Google Form

**Scan the QR code in the print version to update your Glencarlyn Directory Listing**  
or go to the web address listed the Glencarlyn Community email updates.



## Please Pay Your 2020 - 2021 GCA Dues-\$15

Your dues to the Glencarlyn Citizens' Association help fund the Glencarlyn Day events, holiday parties, picnics, *Village View* newsletter, the [glencarlyn.org](http://glencarlyn.org) website, our neighborhood directory and much more. Dues are for July 2020 through June 2021.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me on Glencarlyn Updates since I am not currently getting them \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or leave blank)

I would like to volunteer for one of the upcoming Glencarlyn events \_\_\_\_\_ (Option to add event name)

Make checks payable to **GCA** — send to — Tim Aiken, Treasurer, 111 S. Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22204.

**Or visit [glencarlyn.org](http://glencarlyn.org) to pay online.**

If you aren't sure if you paid, contact Tim at 703-820-0084.



Use your smart phone's QR reader to scan & go directly to our website





## Seen Around the Neighborhood



Girl Scouts of troop number 60036 of Campbell Elementary School set up a table in the library parking lot next to the February 26th food truck to sell Girl Scout cookies. Their goal is to sell 1,400 boxes.

Left to right: back row Maggie Reed, Abby Ali, Riley Krohl.  
Bottom: Sienna Hochstein.

Photo Courtesy: Gerald Martineau



Frolicking Buck on First Street

Pictures Courtesy: Paul Cutler



Harrison Circle neighbors held a workday March 13 to clear the trees in their roundabout of English ivy, euonymus, vinca, Japanese honeysuckle, and other invasive plants. The workday was cosponsored by the Glencarlyn tree committee as part of its ivy removal project. During February and March, committee members helped eight community residents clear ivy from their trees.

Left to Right: Pete Reed, Judy Funderburk, Michelle Gillespie

Photos Courtesy: Anne Reed, Nancy & Stuart Davis