



The Village View

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Civic Association since October 1952

February 2025



Southbound evening rush hour traffic on Carlin Springs Rd. proceeds during icy and snowy conditions on January 6, 2025 Photo - Gerald Martineau

Pressing for safety upgrades to S. Carlin Springs Road

By Scott McCaffrey - Adapted from coverage in ARLnow

On Nov. 26, two students were injured at Carlin Springs and 3rd Street S. when a vehicle collision sent a car into a crosswalk. Both victims, which were follow proper crossing procedures, were recovering from internal injuries at the time of the meeting.

The road, widened in the 1970s, handles about 33,000 vehicles daily, serving as a major connector between Columbia Pike and Route 50. Narrow sidewalks, poor lighting, high speeds, and inadequate signage have long been problematic, particularly for students at nearby Kenmore Middle, Carlin Springs and Campbell Elementary schools.

At a Dec. 2 Glencarlyn Civic Association meeting, Arlington County Board member Takis Karantonis acknowledged the challenges but emphasized the difficulty of balancing pedestrian and traffic needs. He called children’s safety a priority over traffic concerns.

Residents voiced frustrations.

Continued on page 8...



Takis Karantonis speaking at the meeting. Photo - Gerald Martineau

Aging in Place with Arlington Neighborhood

by Brandon Hemel

Attend the February 3 GCA meeting to learn about Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV), a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to helping older residents of Arlington continue living in their own homes — safely, independently, and with an enhanced quality of life.

Wendy Zenker, Executive Director of ANV will speak to us about what tools ANV and Arlington County offer to help seniors aging in place.

Prior to joining ANV in 2017, Wendy was a Senior Vice President for the National Council on Aging, where she directed the implementation of nationwide programs to improve the health and financial well-being of older adults, especially those with low incomes.

The largest growing demographic in the US are those aged 65 and over. Many of these people are also in the Sandwich Generation, taking care of both parents and children or grandchildren.

Come to the GCA meeting at Carlin Hall on February 3 at 7:30 p.m. to learn more about how ANV was created, how it helps residents throughout the county, and how it can help you as well.

March GCA Meeting
 Arlington's Vision Zero pedestrian safety team to speak at March GCA Meeting - see details inside on page 3

President's Corner

by Brandon Hemel, GCA President



Be Prepared

The Scouting Movement's motto *Be Prepared* was coined by Lt. Gen. Baden Powell in 1907. Like many young men and women, I was a scout for three or four years in my younger days but never really thought about what that meant back then. As an adult, I was

leader for my two sons' Cub Scout pack. Honestly, I was more into it than they were. To me, Scouting is more than just learning to tie knots, selling cookies or popcorn, and earning badges and pins.

The ultimate goal is to "*Be Prepared in Mind* by...having thought out beforehand any accident or situation that might occur, so that you *know* the right thing to do at the right moment and are willing to do it. And *Be Prepared in Body* by making yourself strong and active and *able* to do the right thing at the right moment and do it." [Lt. Gen. Baden Powell, 1908]

Twice over the past few months, we saw how Glencarlyn neighbors were prepared and quick to action when help is needed.

In November, neighborhood residents were prepared to help when there was an accident that pinned a young girl against a fence when a car accident occurred at S. Carlin Springs Road & Third Street S. **Once again, thank you, to the neighbors who quickly ran to the scene and provided aid and comfort to the two young girls.**

January's sudden winter storm was another example of how we are prepared to help each other.

The weekend before the snow began to fall, neighbors were already collecting names of people who may need help with snow removal and who had the ability to help out. GCA Vice President Courtney Holmes organized the *snow brigade* on Sunday afternoon, and they got to work on Monday digging neighbors out throughout the day.

And I saw through social media Glencarlyn neighbors continuing to help out during the week even if they were not officially assigned as part of the *snow brigade*.

Thank you to everyone who helped out even if your limbs were sore afterwards and your extremities might have felt a little bit frostbitten in the freezing cold.

My final thoughts on being prepared I ask you to please take a look at the winter safety tips for your home, family, and neighborhood on page 5 – while we are approaching Winter's end in February and March, these are still helpful items to keep in mind throughout the year.

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Vision Zero team to speak at March GCA Meeting

By Brandon Hemel

In May 2021, Arlington County Board adopted the Vision Zero plan as a roadmap for this all-community effort to make our streets, trails, and pathways safer and will be tracked through regular assessment and reporting.

Since then, the County staff developed a five-year action plan to work toward our goal of zero serious injuries or fatalities on our transportation system by 2030.

Please join us on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in Carlin Hall to learn about the county's progress towards this goal.

For more information about Vision Zero, please visit the county website at tinyurl.com/vz0225

Thank you to our Glencarlyn Snow Shoveling Team!

This past January, Glencarlyn saw the highest snowfall in quite some time. We quickly got the word out and neighbors were assigned to help dig out those who could not do it themselves.

Many thanks to everyone who helped their neighbors and many thanks to Courtney Holmes who organizes the teams and assigns them to those who need to be dug out.

If you are unable to shovel your sidewalk and will need help, please contact us, so we can get someone to help you. If you are willing to help clear sidewalks for those unable to do it themselves, please volunteer. Please remember, the priority of the shovelers is to clear the public sidewalks. We will then try to assist those that are unable to clear their walkway and stoop. Contact Courtney Holmes at: courtneyleeholmes@gmail.com



Tracks in the January 5 snow, possibly from our neighborhood red fox according to neighborhood conservationist Steve Young. Photo - Gerald Martineau

Stream Clean-up & Hot Dog Roast – March 8

By Brandon Hemel

Let's get outside and help clean our watershed. The GCA will host a Hot Dog and Marshmallow Roast in conjunction with the Annual Four Mile Run Stream Cleanup on Saturday, March 8.

Trash bags and plastic gloves will available for volunteers by the Glencarlyn Park 3rd Street picnic pavilion starting at 9 a.m. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible. An adult must accompany any volunteer under 18 years old.

The Hot Dog and Marshmallow Roast starts after the cleanup, at the 3rd Street picnic pavilion. In addition to our "Stream Cleaners", **we are looking for a few volunteers to assist Brandon Hemel with the Hotdog and Marshmallow Roast, as well as distribution of supplies.**

Contact Brandon at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com

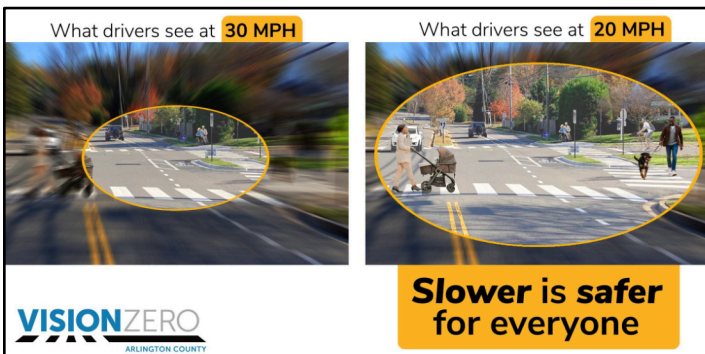
Upcoming GCA Meetings

By Brandon Hemel

The Glencarlyn Civic Association (GCA) meets at 7:30 p.m. in Carlin Hall on the first Monday of most months. From time to time, we also hold special meetings to discuss important topics that affect our community. The scheduled February – May 2025 meetings are below:

- February 3 – Wendy Zenker, Arlington Neighborhood Village
- March 3 – Arlington County's Vision Zero Team/ Pedestrian Safety
- April 7 – Speaker TBD / GCA Nominating Committee Report
- May 5 – Speaker TBD / GCA Executive Committee Elections

The GCA wants to explore a hybrid meeting structure but needs your help to do so. If you have a webcam and mic and can volunteer your time to attend the evening meetings, please email Brandon at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com



Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP) Update

By Kathy Reeder, Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee (ArNAC) Delegate

Manchester St. and 2nd St. S. – All easements acquired; bid package and educational materials underway

This funded project will improve the wooded area at the west end of the Kenmore Middle School property, as well as the S. Manchester St. entrance and frontage, the 2nd St. S. dead end, and the east side of S. Manchester St. Ryan Donlon, whose home is adjacent to the project area, is the block representative.

Construction is estimated to begin in early 2025 but a clear construction timeline is not yet available. The procurement package is being prepared, to be followed by the advertising process. All property easements have been acquired, including those for Arlington Public Schools property.

County staff are close to finalizing a landscape owner's manual for the 2nd St S & S Manchester pollinator garden. It will provide volunteers and interested residents with general and seasonal specific maintenance, including guidelines and facts for each plant. Staff finalized the text for the garden's educational signage. They are working on a website to provide garden and maintenance information, including translations, via a QR code on the signage.

IPC, the invasive control contractor hired by Arlington County, will complete the yearly fall and spring treatments in spring, 2025. Wetland Studies and Solutions, a consulting firm hired by the county, has completed a tree survey. They will evaluate trees for removal, pruning or retention once the invasive treatments are complete. Information about the project is available at tinyurl.com/anpfeb25 and on the Glencarlyn.org website

under ANP Activities.

Neighborhood Signs Maintenance and Relocation – Manufacturing underway

In October the County Board approved funding of the Neighborhood Signs project for multiple civic associations.

For Glencarlyn, this project will replace the existing neighborhood signs at Arlington Blvd./S. Carlin Springs Rd., and at 5th Rd. S./ S. Carlin Springs Rd. The design will remain the same. The sign located at S. Manchester St./ Arlington Blvd. will be replaced and relocated.

Manufacturing of both the replacement and relocated signage is underway. Installation of the two replacement signs is projected for the beginning of 2025, with the timing to be determined. Installation timing of the relocated sign is to be determined.

Moses Ball Spring Area Restoration and Ecological Improvement – project scoping continues

Glencarlyn's first priority proposed project is to restore the Moses Ball Spring area, located at 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Project scoping is underway. It will consider the spring's historical and cultural significance and the need for ecological improvement. Background on redevelopment plans for the overall site can be viewed on the county's website: tinyurl.com/anpfeb252. The Glencarlyn, Forest Glen, and Arlington Mill neighborhoods have formed a committee to monitor and provide input on these plans.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Reeder at kathleenreeder@comcast.net

Remembering Richard Benn

By Julie Lee

Long-time Glencarlyn resident Richard Benn passed away November 10, 2024. Richard lived in Glencarlyn for 40 years, born and raised in the house his parents built on 3rd St. When he married in 1988, he and wife Lisa moved into their home on S. Lexington St, where both their sons were born. Richard served as GCA president in the 1990s. He played a crucial role in containing the hospital expansion proposed at that time on the 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd property, ensuring that it was not taller or closer to the neighborhood.

Richard learned to fly at an early age at the family-owned airport at Bailey's Crossroads. He flew corporate jets and ended his career flying for US Airways. As a young boy Richard fished with his grandfather. He became an avid sports fisherman, winning the White Marlin Open in 1999, the world's largest and richest billfish tournament, along with several other tournaments, and he received numerous awards.

Richard and his family vacationed in Fenwick Island, Delaware where he and Lisa eventually retired. Richard was dedicated and passionate about Fenwick Island and served the town for decades in various capacities. He began serving on the Town Council in 2021, chairing the infrastructure committee and overseeing the resiliency plan to mitigate bayside flooding. Richard was an amazing person and lived his life to the fullest, always sharing fun stories of his adventures. He had such a big heart and would do anything for his family and friends.

He will truly be missed, especially by his mother Mary Benn and sister Julie Lee.



Richard Benn (photo courtesy of Julie Lee)

Home Winter Safety Tips

Recently we have seen winter's full effects on our neighborhood. Here are a few safety reminders:

- **If you heat with a fireplace or wood stove:** Have a professional check it, especially if it has been a long time since the last cleaning. Residue can build up and cause fires. Use dry seasoned wood. Unseasoned wood causes extra soot and smoke increases air pollution for our neighborhood. If you have a wood burning stove, consider wood pellets as they burn cleaner.

Children are especially vulnerable to the health effects of wood smoke because their lungs are still developing.

- **Snow Removal:** Arlington County Ordinance states that

snow must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of snowfall. 36 hours if there is more than six inches of snow. It is a public safety issue when sidewalks are not cleared or are icy.

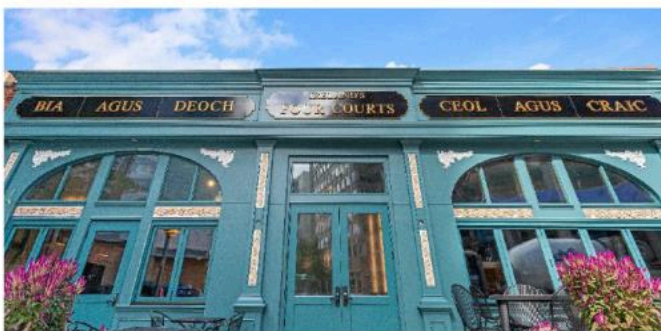
- **Family emergency plan:** If your family cannot return home because of severe weather or closed roads, you need to decide now on where you will meet to reunite. You also need an out-of-town relative or friend to be your family's emergency contact. Learn more about making a plan for winter weather and all emergencies at tinyurl.com/plan0225 – and get a free family emergency plan worksheet at tinyurl.com/ready0225
For more winter weather safety tips, please visit tinyurl.com/prepared0225

Community Yard Sale

By Brandon Hemel

Did you get a holiday gift that you don't really want? Are you overwhelmed by toys that no one plays with anymore? Do you need to make space in your home – then you are in luck – the Glencarlyn Community Yard Sale is tentatively planned for May 17. Once again Blair Robertson has agreed to organize the event, HOWEVER, we always could use a few more volunteers to help out. If you are interested in having the yard sale AND are willing to help organize it with Blair, please contact Brandon Hemel at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com or 703-447-7687

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Doggie Corner

by Sheridan Swope

Meet Juniper, a sweet 2-year-old from Wolf Trap Animal Rescue. Juniper lives at 5826 5th St with Corrie, James, and Cody Wilson. Originally, the Wilsons thought Juniper was a black Labrador but, after a DNA test, they discovered she's actually mostly Mountain Cur and German Shepherd. This was an exciting revelation, which explains her intense love for chasing squirrels and her natural hunting instincts! Juniper's favorite activities include spending time outdoors on squirrel hunts, playing with her best friends Jasmine and Everett, and going on long walks through Glencarlyn Dog Park. She lives with her loving family and is a wonderful big sister to her new baby brother, Cody. With her playful spirit and loyal heart, Juniper brings endless joy to everyone she meets! Say hello to Juniper!

Glencarlyn is full of dogs! This column showcases dogs from the neighborhood and their owners. To feature your dog in Glencarlyn Doggie Corner, contact Sheridan at swopes123@gmail.com.



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Pressing for safety upgrades to S. Carlin Springs Road (cont.)

Continued from page 1...

Residents voiced frustrations: speed cameras operate for only two hours daily and crossing guards are scarce. Teachers and parents reported near-misses with reckless drivers. Suggestions included deploying police officers at critical points, increasing ART bus services, and lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25 mph, as done north of Route 50.

The County Board plans to receive a report on progress for S. Carlin Springs Road during the January recessed meeting on Jan. 28. Arlington County is also acting on the acquisition of easements announced earlier in December. Additionally, efforts are underway to schedule meetings with parents and stakeholders in affected Arlington Public Schools and local communities to address specific safety concerns.

Planned updates to the county's Master Transportation Plan and delayed traffic studies on Carlin Springs Road have added to frustrations. Many residents criticized the county's reactive approach, citing unanswered emails and prolonged delays.

Karantonis highlighted recent improvements, including two

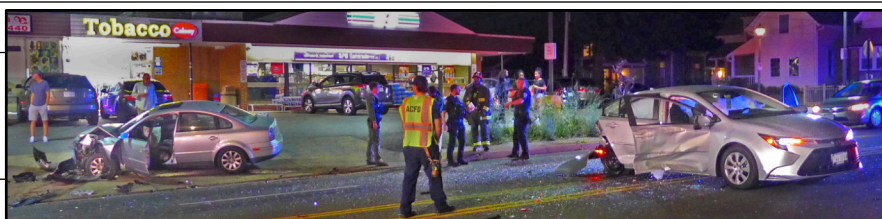
speed cameras that reduced violations from over 4,300 in September to 700 in November. The county is also negotiating easements for wider sidewalks, though some property owners oppose losing yard space.

Discussions on reducing traffic lanes on S. Carlin Springs have resurfaced. A pandemic-era pilot program temporarily closed one lane, but some residents complained about traffic issues created by the barriers. Residents proposed diverting overflow traffic to S. George Mason Drive, which lacks schools along its route.

Karantonis urged residents to contribute specific requests during upcoming consultations, emphasizing that balancing various interests is complex. County officials plan to revisit road safety discussions in March as part of Arlington's "Vision Zero" initiative to eliminate traffic-related fatalities.

[A longer article was originally published on ArlNow.com on December 3, 2024, with the title "Neighbors Again Press for Safety Upgrades to S. Carlin Springs Road." The Village View received permission from the author to summarize using ChatGPT and republish it in the February issue]

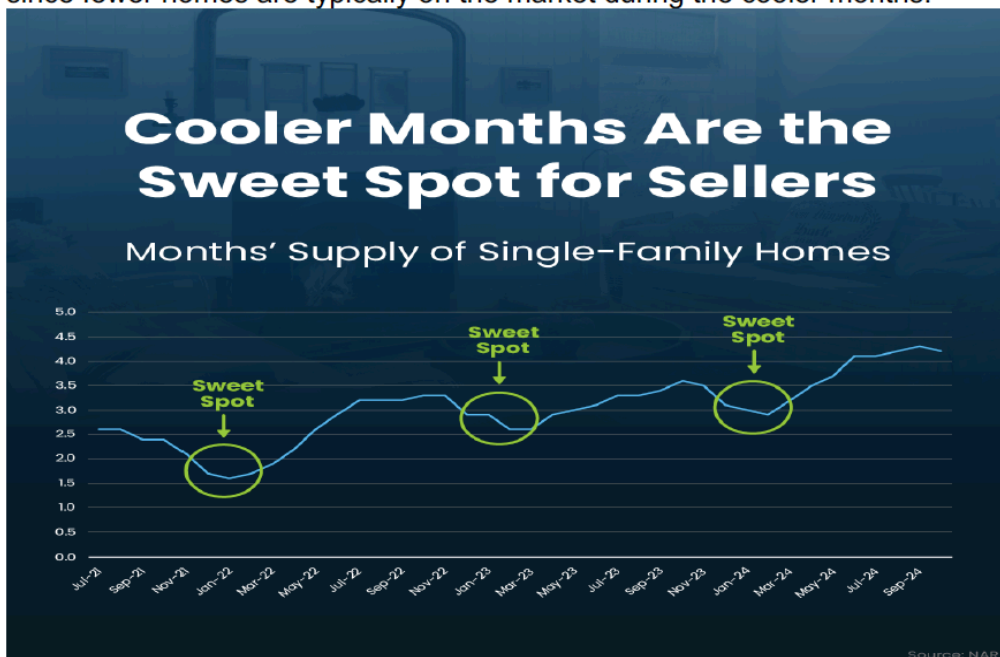
Accident in front of 7-11 on May 23, 2024
Photo - Gerald Martineau



You don't have to wait until spring to sell your house. Winter may be the sweet spot to make your move. History shows, you'll have less competition from other sellers, more serious buyers, and a better chance to stand out since fewer homes are typically on the market during the cooler months.

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View from the Garden

Winter Interest in the Garden

By Extension Master Gardener Linda Carney; Photos by Linda Carney

Winter is a great time for gardeners to sit and reflect on the past growing season and make note of what worked and what didn't. It is also a time to dreamily look through catalogs while contemplating on which bursts of colors to add to the garden in spring. But this is also a wonderful time to get back outside and take a good look at your garden and consider which plants could provide winter interest.

The first on my list of winter interest plants are the evergreens.

As the name implies, these are plants that don't lose their leaves and remain green throughout the winter.

Evergreen trees and shrubs provide structure to a garden when other plants have gone dormant. Some native evergreen trees include the American holly (*Ilex opaca*) which also has the additional benefit of bright red berries (providing food for numerous birds throughout winter), the white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and the Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). Some of



American holly (*Ilex opaca*)

my favorite evergreen shrubs include Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*). There are also native sedges (*Carex sp*) and perennials such as green and gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*), and Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) that will keep things interesting after other perennials have gone dormant.

Next, I look for plants with interesting barks and/or berries



Inkberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

when there is little else of interest in the winter garden. There are an endless variety of bark colors and textures to consider. Some plants with attractive bark include the river birch (*Betula nigra*), with its bark curling as it peels with dark gray-brown to tan patches revealing a smooth peach-to buff-colored trunk, the American hornbeam or Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) with its smooth, sinewy trunk, and another favorite, the red twig dogwood

(*Cornus sericea*), a shrub with beautiful stem colors including red, yellow or bright green that look great in a winter arrangement. Winterberries (*Ilex verticillata*) produce profuse, showy red berries on female plants through winter (note: at least



Purple coneflowers (*echinacea purpurea*)

one male plant is needed for female plants to produce berries).

Finally, many grasses and perennials, if left in place, will provide texture and motion to the winter garden. Seed heads on perennials such as purple

coneflower (*echinacea purpurea*) and black-eye susan's (*rudbeckia sp.*) look almost whimsical with a "hat" of snow, and are a source of winter seeds for wildlife and places of shelter for hibernating beneficial insects. Grasses such as switchgrass (*panicum virgatum*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) have subtle tan colors, textures, and seedheads that look incredible against a blanket of snow.

A garden with winter interest will draw a person out into nature during these shorter, colder days and research has shown that getting outside in nature is beneficial in the fight against Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). So, when planning for your spring garden, take a look outside and consider what could be added to enhance both your winter landscape and your winter well-being.

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To be listed, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/kidsforhire or email gcaeditorial@gmail.com



Please pay your 2024-2025 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* website, our neighborhood directory, and much more. Dues are for July 2024 through June 2025.

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Please send me Glencarlyn Updates since I am not currently getting them _____ (Yes or leave blank)

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Photos from Glencarlyn Holiday Party on December 7.

All photos are by Gerald Martineau.

On the left, Charlie & Lily Robertson pose with Santa before their dad Charlie got his own Santa portrait taken below.



Above: Titus Williams poses with Santa

Right: Emily Denison, Eliza Miller, and Maddie Fletcher REALLY enjoying snack time



Left: Patrick Kelley shows his displeasure after learning he isn't getting a Red Ryder for Christmas, while parents John and Rachel are thrilled by Santa's answer

Above: Ava Gray is all smiles with Santa



For the online version of the Village View, we've added a few pages of holiday party photos, all taken by Gerald Martineau



