

The Village glencarlyn View

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Civic Association since October 1952

May 2025

Get Ready for Glencarlyn Days Weekend June 6 and 7

by Brandon Hemel

Get ready for the biggest event of the year—Glencarlyn Days, happening June 6–7! We're kicking things off on Friday night, June 6, with our beloved **Community BBQ at Carlin Hall**. For just \$10 per person or \$30 per family, enjoy burgers, sides, and beverages, plus an evening full of fun. Activities include an obstacle course, moon bounce, the crowd-favorite cakewalk, and—back by popular demand—our famous 50/50 raffle!

Then, on Saturday morning, June 7, join us for the traditional **Pancake Breakfast at Shelter #2** in Glencarlyn Park, from 8–10 a.m. (\$7 per person / \$20 per family). While you eat, a Park Naturalist will offer a special, kid-friendly presentation.

After breakfast, we'll gather at St. John's Church for face painting, bell ringing, and balloons as we gear up for the **Glencarlyn Day Parade**. This year's theme: "Pajama Party!" So throw on your favorite PJs and help us create the world's longest Pajama Jam! Don't forget to decorate your bikes, strollers, and wagons—we'll also have decorating supplies on-site at St. John's. The parade will wrap up at the historic Ball-Sellers House, where we'll celebrate **the 50th anniversary of its**

donation to the Arlington Historical Society. From there, explore the **Annual Tour of Homes**, featuring some of the most beautiful and unique houses in our neighborhood. Additional tours include the Community Library Garden and the Ball-Sellers House.

We'll also be collecting **GCA dues** (\$15/year) during both the BBQ and the Pancake Breakfast—thank you for supporting our community!

We Need Volunteers—Including Trucks! Glencarlyn Days can't happen without YOU. We need many hands, especially folks with trucks to help transport supplies to and from Glencarlyn Park. We also need volunteers to assist with the parade. **Sign up today** at tinyurl.com/gcday20252 or email Courtney Holmes at courtneyleeholmes@gmail.com. Details about roles and shifts are available on the website and in the GCA Updates. Even a couple of hours of your time makes a big difference!

Glencarlyn Days is the most important community event of the year—be a part of it! Keep an eye out—a flyer with detailed information will be delivered to your door in the coming weeks.



Pancakes flipping, kids slurping snow cones, and neighbors parading in style—just a few of the joyful community traditions from Glencarlyn Days past! Photos by Gerald Martineau.



President's Corner

by Brandon Hemel, GCA President



Make Your Voices Heard

Neighbors, my first year as president of the Glencarlyn Civic Association is almost complete. And, if I am so lucky, the neighborhood will allow me to continue on for the next twelve months.

What I have discovered in the past year is that we need to continue to make our voices heard. Each and every one of us.

Arlington County's leaders should receive feedback from all residents, both homeowners and renters, as well as long-term inhabitants and newer community members. Active participation in civic activities ensures representation of the community's interests and needs.

Early on as GCA President, I attended an evening forum with other civic association and county leaders at Lubber Run Community Center. Feeling a little awkward and new to the process, I sat near Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz. I sheepishly introduced myself to him, "Hello, I am Brandon Hemel, the New GCA President, replacing Julie Lee after her long tenure." Mark's response, "Oh, I know who you are." I had to stop myself from asking outloud, "Is that a good or a bad thing?"

However, since then, I found that this is an incredibly good thing.

We want the county board, staff, and school board members to KNOW WHO WE ARE.

Neighborhoods like ours need advocates who are ready to hold the county accountable. The December GCA meeting with County Board President Takis Karatonis was a perfect example of this – this was soon after the horrific accident on Carlin Springs – Carlin Hall was packed with neighbors from our community and nearby residents.

Glencarlyn has a long history of advocacy and speaking up. Speaking out on traffic and pedestrian safety, school boundary changes, the potential closing of the Glencarlyn Library, VHC Health's land swap and now the Wellness Hospital, protecting our tree canopy, the county's Missing Middle zoning changes, the impetus behind Arlington Neighborhood Village. I am sure there are more that I may be missing in this list.

During a recent round table with Arlington County civic association leaders and county staff, we discussed the county's upcoming 2026 budget draft plan and what we (as civic association leaders) felt were priorities for the county.

After Schwartz and county staff gave their spiel, they opened the floor for our comments. This time, full of confidence, I raised my hand and gave a full-throated endorsement of the Arlington County Library system and why we need neighborhood libraries. Not only did I mention the fantastic work OUR LIBRARY COMMITTEE has done but I cited the county's own study of turning libraries into third places for people to go to besides home and work.

I guess I was so forceful that Schwartz openly asked the county director of public engagement, "Sarah, have you ever attended a GCA meeting? They are quite fun."

Continued on page 3

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GCA Officer Elections May 5th

By Rachel Porter

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates to lead the GCA for the coming year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). The election will take place at the May 5 GCA meeting. If any candidates for these positions express interest prior to the May 5 meeting, they will be added to the slate. Additional candidates for all elected positions may be nominated “from the floor” at the meeting, with the consent of the nominee.

Candidate Slate

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Kathy Reeder (Delegate)*

Village View Editor

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Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF)

Tim Aiken (Delegate)*

Dixie Duncan (Delegate)*

Rial Christensen (Alternate)*

Jeff Liteman (Alternate)*

*Incumbent

Sue Campbell (Delegate)*

Lee Clarke (Delegate)

Geoff Gage (Alternate)*

Sara Williams (Alternate)*

Packed Agenda for GCA May 5 Meeting

By Brandon Hemel

Come to the May 2025 GCA meeting to meet Sarah Tracey, Arlington County’s Director of Civic Engagement and Stephanie Bello, Arlington County’s Director of Constituent Services & Resident Ombuds. These two members of our county staff are key points of contact for many services and communications within Arlington.

We will also have Lily Whitesell and Christin Conaway Jolicoeur from Arlington County to give us details on upcoming repairs to the Long Branch stream outfall at the intersection of 5th Rd S. and S. Kensington.

Please attend to learn how your advocacy can directly impact the community around for the better and benefit of all of us.



Glencarlyn Day
parade, 1979

Clear Your Clutter May 17!

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 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.



President’s Corner, cont.

Continued from page 2

Schwartz and two members of the county staff attended the April 2025 GCA meeting regarding the Wellness Hospital. Again, Glencarlyn and other neighbor residents expressed our opinions of the facility and of the importance of transparency in planning, safety, and traffic management during construction and during operations.

Jill Hunger from the Dept. of Community Planning wrote to me afterwards, “Thank you for the invitation. As you and the civic association stated, this is an important project. I am glad that conversations with County staff and VHC Health and their

partner are starting early. I look forward to future discussions.” A little more playful, Schwartz wrote, “Glad to join and to NOT talk about libraries 😊”

Glencarlyn’s history of civic engagement is something everyone should be proud of and my request to you as residents in our community is to keep your voices loud and keep involved in any way you can.

Thank you for your confidence in me as GCA President. Please attend May 5th’s meeting and vote in the GCA Executive Committee election.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP) Update

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

Manchester St. and 2nd St. S. – Construction estimated for July or August

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 July or August 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 finalized 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 will also launch a website once the educational signage is installed. This website will provide garden and maintenance information, including translations, via a QR code on the signage.

IPC, the invasive control contractor hired by Arlington County, will continue the yearly fall and spring treatments in June 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/anp05252

Neighborhood Signs Maintenance and Relocation – Installation timing yet to be determined

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 the replacement and relocated signage is underway. Weather conditions have delayed a final schedule for installation of the two replacement signs. Timing for installing the relocated sign is still to be determined.

Moses Ball Spring Area Restoration and Ecological Improvement – working group to start meeting

This project proposes to restore the Moses Ball Spring area, located at 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd. The project will consider the spring's historical and cultural significance and the need for ecological improvement. Kathy Reeder met with ANP staff to review the presentation given at the February GCA meeting. ANP staff is reaching out to several county departments who may play a role in the project and anticipates providing feedback by late spring/early summer, 2025. Neighborhood residents Steve Young, Sue Campbell, Tim Aiken, Sue Auerbach and Kathy Reeder have volunteered for a working group to help ANP staff scope the project once the feedback is available. They will meet starting in April on neighborhood priorities for the project.

If you haven't already seen Steve Young's nice video showing the site and explaining the project, take a few minutes to enjoy it: tinyurl.com/amoses05252 . If you have questions or are interested in joining the working group, please contact Kathy Reeder (kathleenreeder@comcast.net).

Background on redevelopment plans for the overall site at 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd. can be viewed on the county's website. The Glencarlyn, Forest Glen and Arlington Mill neighborhoods have formed a committee to monitor and provide input on these plans.



*Moses Ball Spring
Photo by Gerald Martineau*

GCA New Neighbor Welcome Packet

The GCA has an attractive and informative welcome packet for new neighbors moving into our community.

It includes information about our neighborhood, our county services, schools, parks, recreation, medical needs for people and pets, and shopping.

Welcome Committee members Janet Fedak, Linda King, and Peggy O'Connell have packets ready to go.

If you are new to Glencarlyn, or have neighbors who are new, please contact Janet at jjfedak@gmail.com and the committee will deliver this wonderful welcome to our new neighbors.

VHC Health Wellness Hospital Proposal Takes Shape

by Brandon Hemel

The proposed VHC Health Wellness Hospital, to be located at 601 S Carlin Springs Road, has sparked important discussions among the Glencarlyn community. At the April 6 GCA meeting representatives from VHC Health, Arlington County and LifePoint discussed plans for state-of-the-art acute care behavioral health and acute care inpatient and outpatient rehab facility, emphasizing their commitment to addressing community concerns. VHC Health and LifePoint expect to submit the initial construction plan to the county in early May for initial county review.

The facility, co-owned by nonprofit VHC Health and for-profit LifePoint, will feature expanded capacities, with moving some of the VHC Health behavior health and rehab beds from the main campus on George Mason Drive to this site will increase the number of rehab beds from 20 to 50 and behavioral health beds from 35 to 96. VHC Health's Adrian Stanton reiterated that the hospital's model is to offer acute care services rather than residential treatment. GCA residents recommended methods for reducing traffic impact through staggered shift changes and visitation hours.

Community concerns have been front and center. Topics included traffic and pedestrian safety, safety of our neighborhood, and the environmental impact of construction. Arlington County is working on adding additional pedestrian safety measures and

traffic control along Carlin Springs Road as part of the upcoming master transportation plan, while VHC Health and LifePoint plan to incorporate biophilic design elements to enhance the therapeutic environment. Noise and lighting issues, as well as security during construction and operation were also discussed.

Parking provisions are expected to accommodate up to 300 spaces, with plans for shared facilities with future Long Branch Nature Center upgrades and public transportation access underway.

Arlington County will review the 4.1 site plan, which becomes public after submission in early May.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the Arlington County Site Plan Review Committee process, providing valuable input on the hospital's design and functionality.

This article used Microsoft CoPilot to summarize the April meeting transcript



*The April 6 GCA meeting
Photo by Gerald Martineau*

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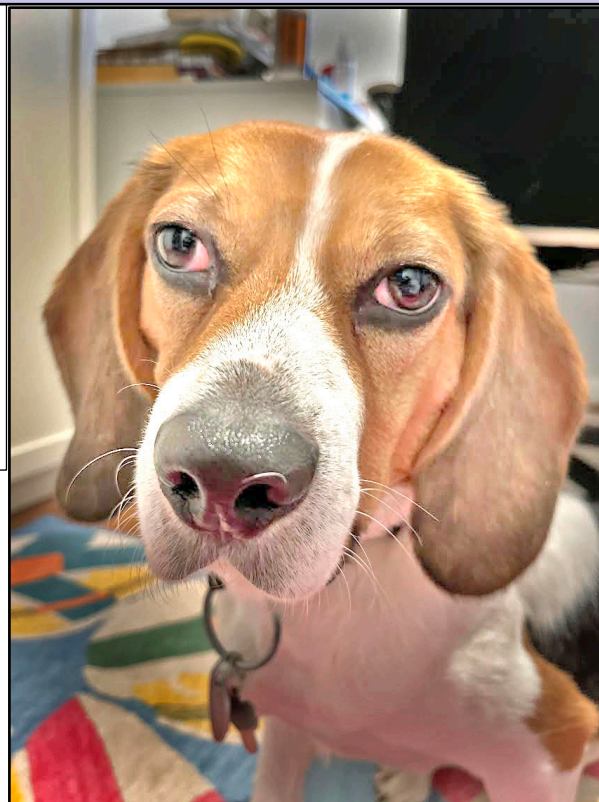
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Doggie Corner

by Sheridan Swope

Meet Sherlock, a 4½-year-old male tri-colored beagle. He was adopted by Wendy and Doug Duncan from the BREW rescue organization in October 2023. Originally his name was Hiro, but they changed it to Sherlock Duncan when adopted. Sherlock lives at 101 Lexington with Wendy and Doug. He is very sweet, friendly, and loves to meet new dogs and people. Sherlock's favorite pastime is sniffing on extremely slow walks and eating pretty much anything, whether or not others would consider it edible (With Frankie, I feel your pain!). Sherlock hates getting wet but loves playing in the snow. Say hello to Sherlock, Wendy, and Doug!

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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Learn of Long Branch Nature Center's Role in Trying to Capture Notorious Spy Robert Hanssen

by Steve LeSueur

The Glencarlyn Library's Speakers Program resumes in May with a presentation on the role of the Long Branch Nature Center in trying to capture Robert Hanssen, the FBI agent who spied for Soviet and Russian intelligence services against the United States from 1979 to 2001.

The presentation speaker, Alonso Abugattas, currently a Natural Resources Manager with Arlington County, was deeply involved in working with and observing the FBI's efforts. Mr. Abugattas is an entertaining and widely sought speaker on the topic.

All of the following Speakers Program events are held on Tuesday nights and run from 7 – 7:45 p.m. Light refreshments are served.

May 20: "Glencarlyn and the Hunt for a Russian Spy." Alonso Abugattas, Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County, will speak about the role of Long Branch Nature Center in trying

to capture master spy Robert Hanssen. Hanssen's espionage represented one of the worst intelligence disasters in U.S. history. Learn how FBI agents used the Long Branch Nature Center to try to apprehend Hanssen, who was using the park's amphitheater as one of his drop spots for selling U.S. secrets and betraying U.S. agents abroad.

June 17: "Cultivating Your Family Tree." Representatives from the National Genealogical Society and FamilySearch will discuss the services and tools they offer to both beginners and experienced genealogists. Both the National Genealogical Society and FamilySearch are premier organizations with long histories of providing education, research assistance, online resources, and other genealogical services. Learn about the benefits and satisfaction of tracing your family's genealogy.

The Speakers Program is co-sponsored by the Glencarlyn Library and GCA's Supporters of the Glencarlyn Library.

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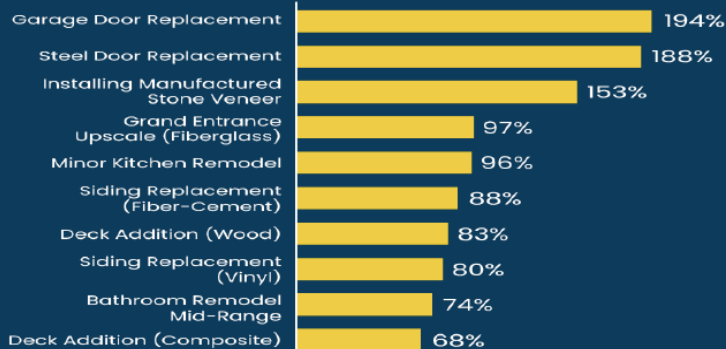
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The Glencarlyn Facebook group is not affiliated with the Glencarlyn Civic Association

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Renovation Projects with the Highest ROI

Job Cost vs Return on Investment (ROI),
2024 National Average



Source: Zonda



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View from the Garden

Plant This Not That: Replacing Bush Honeysuckle

By Extension Master Gardener Alyssa Ford Morel

Some invasive plants are sneaky. They pop up in one's garden without explanation or obvious origin and force gardeners to take action on the spot, lest they be forgotten and allowed to grow and spread. Some of the sneakiest are the bush honeysuckles, several species of *Lonicera* with Eurasian origins. I've encountered bush honeysuckle plants two feet high that clearly have been growing for a year or more in areas where I know I've recently spent time gardening, and yet somehow missed their presence. Sneaky.

The name bush honeysuckle is also sneaky, implying a plant of a certain size. Several years ago I was explaining to a volunteer at an invasive pull how to recognize and remove bush honeysuckle, when he pointed at another plant further away and asked if it was also a bush honeysuckle.

"No," I said, squinting without my glasses. "That's a tree."

My curiosity roused, I went over to see what the tree was, and was embarrassed to realize it was indeed a bush honeysuckle grown to 20 feet. I've since encountered many more such giant honeysuckles, pruned at the bottom and considered trees by their caretakers.

Like so many invasive plants, bush honeysuckle has positive qualities that mislead Americans to plant it widely. Its flowers are attractive and fragrant, and its berries are tasty to many birds. Unfortunately, like other invasives (as defined by executive orders 13112 and 13751, signed by President Clinton and amended by President Obama), it easily escapes cultivation, spreading rapidly in the wild and outcompeting the native plants that support local food webs. Those berries that attract birds are high in carbohydrates instead of the healthy fats our birds need. It is also

allelopathic, producing chemicals harmful to native plants and mycorrhizal fungi. Studies have shown it has chemicals that can hurt or kill native insects and young amphibians.

So, what to do about this sneaky plant? First, we must identify it correctly. It has a branching growth habit, with leaves held opposite each other. When a branch is cut, a clear hole can be found in the center. In spring, the pretty and fragrant tubular white to pink flowers that fade to yellow are helpful in identification as are the bright red late-summer berries that

persist into winter.

Bush honeysuckle can be pulled by hand when it is young, and dug up when larger. Plants too tricky to be dug up can be cut low and an herbicide carefully applied to the new growth.

There are many great replacement plants. If you want a native shrub with fragrant flowers, consider sweetshrub, also known as Carolina allspice (*Calycanthus floridus*), which is native to parts of southern Virginia but does well in Northern Virginia. It has dramatically beautiful maroon flowers with a fruity scent from April to July. Sweetshrub is seldom severely damaged by deer and likes sun to part shade.

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) offers nectar and pollen to bees from white to pink-tinged flowers in April to May, and black fruit from September through November which appeal to many birds. Its size of three to six feet, both tall and

wide, makes it a great fit for many suburban yards, and it offers attractive fall coloring that varies from yellow to orange to crimson. Despite the off-putting name, the berries can be used for jams, juices, and natural red coloring.

Arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) earned its common name because the very straight branches were used by Native Americans to make the shafts of arrows. Normally six to ten feet tall and wide, this shrub likes sun or

some shade. It has showy white blooms in May to June, followed by attractive fruit in the fall. There are many cultivars of arrowwood viburnum which are propagated vegetatively by cloning. For good cross pollination and fruit set, it is important to have at least two arrowwood viburnums that are genetically different from each other.

I wish you happy planting as you replace sneaky and invasive bush honeysuckle with a great wildlife-supporting native plant.

This article was previously printed in The Potomac Flier published by the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance



Flowering Bush Honeysuckle



Sweetshrub, aka Carolina allspice



Black chokeberry



Fruiting Bush Honeysuckle



Arrowwood viburnum



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Aniya Matadial, 15 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Babysitter; Red Cross Certified Babysitter; CPR Certified Babysitter - smshoemaker1@gmail.com

Kyle Matadial, 10 - Dog Walker; Yardwork; Rake Leaves; Shovel Snow; Basketball Training - smshoemaker1@gmail.com

Willia Pencikowski, 8 - Dog Walker (small, calm dogs) - 571-242-2823

Belen Plaza, 14 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; Babysitter; SafeSitter Certified Babysitter; Arts & Crafts Tutor - sweetahutchinson@gmail.com

Kyle Quattlebaum, 17 - Dog Sitter; Dog Walker; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; House Sitter; Household Work; Yardwork; Lawn Care; Rake Leaves; Shovel Snow - (703) 919-3631

Luke Quattlebaum, 14 - Dog Sitter; Dog Walker; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter - (703) 283-9887

Clark Quattlebaum, 12 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Dog Walker; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; Soccer Training - (703) 725-1826

Maggie Reed, 14 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Cat Sitter; Other Types of Animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; CPR Certified Babysitter; Rake Leaves; Shovel Snow - 202-309-8511

Harley Seidel, 15 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Dog Walker; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; House Sitter; Babysitter - (917) 214-8540

Peyton Seidel, 14 - Parent's Helper; Dog Sitter; Dog Walker; Cat Sitter; Other types of animals Sitter; Plant Sitter; House Sitter; Babysitter - (917) 214-8540

To be listed, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/kidsforhire2 or email gcaeditorial@gmail.com

Meet You at the Library! What's Happening at Glencarlyn Library in May

These are the featured May events at the Glencarlyn Library

No registration required.

Register or view more information at tinyurl.com/lib05252

Special Events at Glencarlyn

Wellness Wednesday: Calligraphy

Wednesday, May 14, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Practice your penmanship with a class on calligraphy! On the second Wednesday of each month, we gather at the library for a calming craft or activity, tasty refreshments, and friendly conversation with neighbors. This month's session will focus on creating beautiful lettering with simple calligraphy techniques.

Registration recommended. RSVP to receive an event reminder; snacks and drinks will be first-come, first-served.

I Love ASL: American Sign Language for Kids

Saturday, May 3, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

For elementary and middle school students

In honor of National Hearing Month, children are invited to learn the basics of American Sign Language. This fun and interactive session will introduce the ABCs, everyday signs and phrases, and provide an introduction to Deaf culture.

Regular Events at Glencarlyn

Tuesdays: Paper Crafts

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Good for ages 6–11. Children can make a different craft each week using paper and other materials provided by the library. Projects might include origami, bookmarks, 3D art, seasonal decorations, and more!

No registration required. Space is limited—first-come, first-served until capacity is reached.

New! English Conversation at Glencarlyn

Saturdays, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For adults, beginner to advanced. Practice speaking English in an informal and friendly setting. Sessions are led by experienced library volunteers and are perfect for adults at any level.

Registration recommended to receive updates. First-come, first-served seating.



Peter Vaselopoulos of the Arlington Historical Society speaks to a full house at Glencarlyn Library on March 18 about Arlington's role in the Civil War. Photos by Gerald Martineau.



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.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

Please send me 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** and send to: Tim Aiken, Treasurer, 111 S. Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22204

or pay online: tinyurl.com/gcadues2

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

