

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Civic Association since October 1952

December 2025

Candles, Cocoa, and Cheer — Dec. 6

by Brandon Hemel

Join neighbors for one of Glencarlyn's favorite traditions as we celebrate the holiday season together.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, start your day at Carlin Hall from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** to pick up luminaria kits — 10 candles, bags and sand for \$9 — enough to light up a 50- to 60-foot lot.

When dusk falls, light your luminaria and take a walk to enjoy the warm glow along the neighborhood's streets and the sparkle of holiday lights on homes.

Then head to the Glencarlyn Library parking lot from **6 to 7:30 p.m.** for warm drinks, sweet treats, and plenty of good cheer. A

special visitor will make an appearance at **6:30 p.m.** — don't miss it! The rain date is Saturday, Dec. 13.

Volunteers are needed to help make the evening shine. Sign up at tinyurl.com/signdec25w

St. John's Church will host a community caroling party on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. Join neighbors for a sing-along of holiday favorites from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by cookies, hot chocolate, and other seasonal treats. It's a family-friendly gathering with plenty of time to enjoy the company of friends and neighbors. Late arrivals are welcome, and the festivities will take place indoors — no need to worry about frightful weather.





 ${\it Pictures~of~luminaria~and~the~holiday~party~in~years~past.~Photos~by~Gerald~Martineau.}$

December 1 GCA Meeting

Are you thinking about doing home construction or wondering what entails when you must make a zoning request? See page 3 for details on the meeting.





President's Corner

by Brandon Hemel, GCA President



Many times, in my personal life and professional career, I have taken part in retreats and visioning sessions to help organizations find new ways of looking at themselves and new ways of solving problems.

More than once, we looked at how we can change our *Operating Systems* to better understand each other, resolve personal conflicts, and increase a sense of cooperation. In two different situations, decades apart, we settled on using The Four Agreements introduced by Don Miguel Ruiz.

- 1. **Be Impeccable with Your Word** Speak with integrity and kindness.
- 2. **Don't Take Anything Personally** Others' actions reflect their inner world, not your worth.
- **3. Don't Make Assumptions** Misunderstandings stem from unspoken expectations. Ask questions, communicate clearly, and replace assumptions with truth.
- 4. Always Do Your Best Your "best" varies daily—focus on effort, not perfection.

I feel that these agreements can help us in Glencarlyn, too. As neighbors, I hope we can all be impeccable with our words, be kind to each other and speak with integrity without malice or gossip.

Each of us looks at the world through our own eyes and while we can sympathize and empathize, we may never understand another's motivation or their experiences.

Taking things personally without knowing the situation can lead to assumptions.

So often, we enter situations that are unclear, and we are using preconceived notions and expectations of other people that may not have could be flat out wrong.

For example, during conversations around the proposed VHC Health Wellness Hospital, I was relying on the fact that there was a hospital at 601 S. Carlin Springs for many decades and it was just part of life for us. However, for many new residents in Glencarlyn, the hospital on that site was just a small ER facility or even an open field after the demolition.

So that was an assumption on my part that we were all coming from the same place.

I hope each one of us strives to do our best in every interaction we have with each other. AND sometimes one's best can vary from day to day based on the situation and circumstances.

Have you found these agreements helpful? I invite you to share your thoughts or stories at our next meeting or via email.

I cannot say I am perfect at using the Four Agreements with every interaction, and I cannot say my best today will be my best tomorrow or I may be even better next week. But what I am doing to trying to live within a guideline to make sure my actions match my words and my actions as GCA President continue to serve you as neighbors within Glencarlyn and represent Glencarlyn's needs within Arlington County.

By holding myself accountable to these principles, I aim to ensure our association stays a space where every voice is valued and respected.

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So, You've Decided to Update Your Home, What You Should Know

by Brandon Hemel

Are you thinking about doing home construction or wondering what entails when you must make a zoning request? Join us on December 1 at Carlin Hall and learn directly from the Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development.

Darryle Smith, Zoning Inspector, will be joining us to discuss Arlington's myriads of zoning regulations and what you need to know before you start a construction project or if you have questions about the permitting process.

A Zoom link will be sent in advance of the meeting via Glencarlyn Updates email.

If you cannot attend but would like to send questions, please email GCA Brandon@outlook.com

For more information about the department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, please visit tinyurl.com/ housedec25

December Events at St. John's

Community Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 7th 5-6 pm Followed by light refreshments and socializing

Christmas Eve

Family Focused Service Wednesday, Dec. 24th 5 pm (No service on Christmas Day)

Blue Christmas Service

A gentle approach to Christmas for those who have difficulty in this holiday season. Sunday, Dec. 21st 7 pm

Thank you to all who have supported the Glencarlyn Little Free Food Pantry!

St. John's Episcopal Church



415 S. Lexington Street Arlington, VA 22204 www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org 703-671-6834

See website for more information

Volunteers Needed for VHC Wellness & Behavioral Health **Facility Committee**

by Lee Clarke

VHC Wellness & Behavioral Health Facility Project Overview

VHC Health has submitted a preliminary plan for a 146-bed facility that would be located on the southern half of 601 Carlin Springs Road. Over the past decade, the Glencarlyn Citizens' Association (GCA) has actively tracked the development of this site, engaged with the County Board and staff, and offered feedback as the project has progressed.

County Review and Community Involvement

Currently, Arlington County is reviewing the initial submission from VHC Health, but it has not yet been accepted. Once the submission is approved, the County will begin the Site Plan Review Process (SPRC). This process involves a review committee comprised of civic association leaders and county staff, an online period for community engagement, and a series of survey and compiling the results. Additionally, the advisory group meetings. The process will conclude with a County Board hearing and a vote, anticipated in 2026.

Community Engagement and Collaboration

During the past three years, members of the Glencarlyn community have met with residents from various civic associations, county staff, and VHC Health representatives to express concerns regarding the site and operations of the Wellness Hospital.

The GCA Executive Committee would like to thank all individuals who have participated and contributed their time and perspectives during this period.

Call for Glencarlyn Volunteers

In preparation for the SPRC process, and in collaboration with GCA President Brandon Hemel, who will serve as the SPRC Representative, the focus is now shifting inward to the Glencarlyn neighborhood.

Volunteers are needed within Glencarlyn to join the Wellness & Behavioral Health Facility Committee. The committee's mission is to keep all neighborhood families informed as the project advances and to provide meaningful opportunities for residents to share their viewpoints throughout the process.

Upcoming Neighborhood Survey and Committee Needs

The committee plans to conduct a neighborhood-wide survey shortly after the VHC plans are accepted later this fall. To support this effort, they are seeking a neighbor with experience in online surveys to assist in distributing the committee will monitor the project's discussions in approximately ten advisory groups. Volunteers who are passionate about nature, urban forestry, transportation, or history are encouraged to monitor one or more of these advisory groups.

Contact Information

If you are interested and able to help ensure that the interests of the Glencarlyn neighborhood are represented in this project, please contact Lee Clarke at lee.clarke.clck@gmail.com

For more information about the site plan process, please visit tinvurl.com/vhcdec25

GCA February 2 Meeting – Arlington County Board Member JD Spain

by Brandon Hemel

Julias "JD" Spain Sr. was elected in the 2024 November County Board General Election, the first General Election in Arlington's history to use Ranked Choice Voting.

The February 2, 2026 meeting will be his first official GCA meeting as a County Board Member and he will be ready to listen to Glencarlyn residents and answer our questions about many of the issues that we are facing.

Spain, Sr. is a retired combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps with 26 years of service.

Spain, Sr. has deep civic roots in Arlington. In 2015, he was appointed by the County Board to serve on the Civil Service Commission to advise the Board, County Manager, and Human Resources staff on county policies over a three-year term. In 2018, he was elected President of the Arlington Branch of NAACP, serving two terms, which includes one term as Regional Vice President for Virginia NAACP overseeing 13 NAACP branches in Northern Virginia. During his leadership, the NAACP Arlington Branch and JD received several recognitions, including: the 2020 Community Leadership Award from the FBI Washington Field Office; the 2021 James B. Hunter Human Rights Award from the Arlington Human Rights Commission;

and, the 2022 National Thalheimer Award, the NAACP's highest award given annually to its branches for outstanding achievements.

Spain, Sr. is also a senior business leader at a management consultancy in Tysons Corner, Virginia, and a member of George Mason University's President's Innovation and Inclusive Excellence Councils.

Spain, Sr. and his wife have been married for 32 years and have lived in the historic Butler-Holmes subdivision of the Penrose Community in Arlington since 2009. Together, they are proud parents of three adult children, all graduates of Arlington Public Schools, and enthusiastic grandparents to a beautiful granddaughter.

A Zoom link will be sent in advance of the meeting via Glencarlyn Updates email. f you cannot attend but would like to send questions, please email GCA_Brandon@outlook.com

For more information about the department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, please visit tinyurl.com/ housingdec25





Construction activity continues across the neighborhood, from a 5th Street partial teardown to new homes on 2nd Street and a major single-family build at CSR and 3rd. Photos by Gerald Martineau.



GCA New Neighbor Welcome Packet

The GCA has an attractive, informative welcome packet for new neighbors with details on our neighborhood, county services, schools, parks, recreation, medical resources, and shopping.

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

If you're new to Glencarlyn—or know someone who is—contact Janet at jjfedak@gmail.com

Arrowheads, Springs, and Forgotten Stories: A Call to Study Glencarlyn's Past

On October 8, 2025, five Glencarlyn residents wrote the Arlington County Board encouraging the county government to undertake a thorough historical evaluation including an archeological review of the 5.8 acres of property the county is retaining at the site of the former Virginia Hospital Center Urgent Care facility at 601 S. Carlin Springs Road.

The five signatories believe the site offers "a unique opportunity to unearth a more complete history of Arlington from the early Native American presence, through colonial settlement, to early 20th century residential development." Records and accounts drawn from multiple sources suggest the land may have once been a Native American hunting and camping site as evidenced by the discovery of 8,500-year-old LaCroy Point arrowheads found near the Moses Ball Spring.

Some speculate that George Washington, when he arrived here in 1786 to survey his claim to land acquired just south of Moses Ball's property, may have drunk from that same spring, based on his diary entry recording a meeting with Moses Ball.

Moses Ball is the brother of Glencarlyn's first colonial resident, John Ball. Moses acquired a 91-acre tract in 1748 adjacent to and south of John and Elizabeth Ball's holding. Unlike their holding, the location of Moses' house and the site of his family's burials has never been established but could possibly be determined with the aid of modern ground-penetrating radar.

Subsequent accounts of the 91-acre tract tell another interesting story of land ownership that defies the historical norm in the post-Reconstruction South. James Reynolds, who lived with the second generation of Carlins in the 1850s at the Ball-Sellers House, acquired a substantial portion of the Moses Ball tract following the Civil War. He and his wife, Virginia, divided their land into several parcels, enabling three Black families-the DeVaughns, Sparrows, and Roberts—to become owners. The Sparrows held land adjacent to today's W&OD trail, which could explain the origin of Sparrow Pond's name. Joshua DeVaughn appears in the Glencarlyn Remembers booklet as the caregiver of Mary Carlin, the last living Carlin who resided in Glencarlyn. Washington Roberts may have been the enslaved six-year-old "Mulatto" slave listed in the 1850 census as residing with the second generation of Carlins and is listed by name in the 1860 census as a 16-year-old freeman living with the Carlins. Glencarlyn Remembers records that Washington Roberts was once Samuel Burdett's butler in the early 1900s.

From the Native American presence, to the Ball-Sellers House residents, to George Washington's visit, to the subsequent subdivision of the John and Moses Ball land tracts by Samuel Burdett and John Curtis and James Reynolds, Glencarlyn is rich with history. We will continue to encourage the county to undertake a thorough historical evaluation of a site that could yield even more insights into our community's past.

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Peace, love, and good wishes to you and yours for a very Happy Holiday season and a safe and healthy 2026!

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Big Transportation Changes are Underway in our Neighborhood!

by Natasha Reed

On Nov. 3, county officials met with residents to provide updates on Carlin Springs Road safety concerns, including project management coordinator Gabriela Kock, Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau Chief Hui Wang, and Capt. Damon Washington of the Arlington Police Special Operations Division. They confirmed that recently installed traffic cameras are successfully reducing vehicle speeds during operational hours, and pledged to work with the community to find solutions addressing the unsafe conditions at the Carlin Springs Road and 1st street intersection. Officials also discussed recent traffic signal and signage improvements along Carlin Springs Road, and confirmed that, thanks to the generous cooperation of one local resident, a construction project is already underway to meet ADA requirements on the corner of 5th Road South.

Officials also provided a major pedestrian safety update for our neighborhood, confirming that the County will begin a construction project in 2026 to improve sidewalks from 3rd street to 6th street on the eastern side of Carlin Springs Road. This ambitious project will expand existing sidewalks to 6 feet, with a 2 foot grass buffer between pedestrians and vehicles. Although this project will require the temporary closing of one traffic lane, officials pointed out that the project's completion will Additional information, including ways to engage, may be found create a safer walking space for County residents, including many at tinyurl.com/tplanengage

schoolchildren.

These projects would not have been possible without the hard work of the presenting officials and the advocacy efforts of community members.

Many residents generously provided right of ways despite no legal obligation to do so, embracing Glencarlyn's commitment to neighborhood safety for current and future generations.

Although these updates mark a major step towards improving safety for both pedestrians and drivers, they do not address every safety concern raised by residents in response to numerous accidents and near-misses over the years. To best ensure that everyone continues to enjoy our neighborhood in the safest possible conditions, we encourage you to consider engaging with Arlington's Transportation Future plan. This project, launched in October 2024, is a County initiative geared towards developing a new Transportation Plan focused on safety, equity, accessibility, ease of use, and climate resiliency for current and future residents. With enough participation, our neighborhood's traffic safety and congestion issues could be more thoroughly addressed down the road.



Symphonic Concert Dec. 17

The Washington-Liberty High School music program will host its annual Symphonic Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Admission is free, and the event is open to the entire community.

The concert will feature a festive program of seasonal favorites, including selections from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, music from The Polar Express, and other well-known holiday classics.

Upcoming GCA Meetings

The Glencarlyn Civic Association (GCA) needs help managing our Zoom meetings! We need someone to attend as our Zoom Manager. No tech experience required—just attend in person. Contact GCA_Brandon@outlook.com if you can help.

Upcoming Meetings (7:30 p.m. at Carlin Hall; Zoom link sent in GCA Updates email a week prior):

- **Dec. 1:** So, You've Decided to Update Your Home, What You Should Know Darryle Smith, Zoning Inspector
- **Feb. 2:** Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., Member, Arlington County Board
- Mar. 2: Speaker TBD & Nominating Committee Elections
- Apr. 6: Speaker TBD & Nominating Committee Report
- May 4: Speaker TBD & GCA Executive Committee Elections



Pack 548 Scouts filled a truck with food donations for AFAC and sorted them on site. Photos by Blair Roberston.





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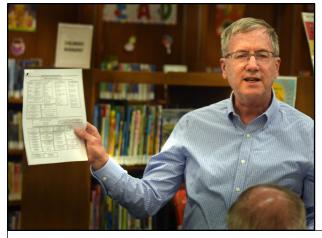
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Local historian and "Our Man in Arlington" columnist for the Falls Church News Press Bill Fogarty recently spoke at the Glencarlyn Library on the evolution of Arlington's governance and its political parties. In his presentation, Fogarty told the fascinating story of how the County's governing bodies have changed over the years, as it made the transition from a largely rural community with a population of little more than 3,000 in 1870 to the vibrant city suburb of today. Caption information by Simon DeGroot; Photos by Gerald Martineau.



Thanksgiving in Glencarlyn!

Photo by Gerald Martineau.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP) Update

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

Manchester St. and 2nd St. S. – Construction timeline not yet available

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.

The advertising process is underway, targeting bid return by end of November and going to the Board in December. Construction is estimated for next spring 2026, but a clear construction timeline is not yet available. All property easements have been acquired.

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, completed the fall treatment at the end of September. One more treatment is left and will take place during summer 2026. 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 <u>tinyurl.com/anpdec25</u> and on the Glencarlyn.org website under ANP Activities.

Neighborhood Signs Replacement and Relocation – Decision made on S. Manchester St. sign relocation

The old sign located at S. Manchester St./ Arlington Blvd. will be replaced and relocated within the landscape triangle just south of the S. Manchester St. intersection as you head south into Glencarlyn. The new sign will use the same design as the old one and will be angled to face traffic heading south and located in front of the Crepe Myrtle within the triangle. The permitting process is underway. Thanks go to Amanda Martin for coordinating the decision on the sign relocation.

The old neighborhood signs at Arlington Blvd./S. Carlin Springs Rd., and at 5th Rd. S./ S. Carlin Springs Rd have been replaced with new signs, using the same design.

S. Harrison St. Circle – location for new proposed ANP project!

The oval on the S. Harrison St. circle has been proposed as Glencarlyn's new first-priority ANP project. It will replace the Moses Ball Spring project (see the September Village View). This new project proposes to remove and replace deteriorating structures, replace invasive plants with natives, help resolve any stormwater management issues and treat the invasive ivy on the west side of S. Harrison St., beginning at 5th St. S.

Volunteers are still needed to help with mowing and caring for the meadow circle trail at the 5th St. S. and S. Illinois entrance to Long Branch Nature Center, and with mowing, weeding, planting and other maintenance around the three neighborhood signs. For many years, one neighbor has performed most of this work and is ready to share his knowledge and pass on the responsibility. If you are willing to help figure out how we can do that, please email Kathy Reeder (kathleenreeder@comcast. net).





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View from the Garden

By Master Gardener, Linda Carney



Calycanthus 'Aphrodite' flower. Photo by tinyurl.com/ gardpcdec25

The Sad Tale of Two Magnolias and New Shrubs to Celebrate

This summer many of you may have noticed the two Magnolias struggling on either side of the entryway to the library. Master Gardener and Library Garden coordinator, Paul Nuhn, consulted with some experts and concluded that these trees have succumbed to *Phytophthora Root Rot*. This is a soil-borne disease caused by soil-borne pathogens.

According to the Missouri Botanical Garden's web site (tinyurl. com/gardendec25), root rot-causing *Phytophthora* species can survive in the soil for years and can spread through splashing rain or irrigation water. It can also spread through contaminated soil and garden equipment. Rot is more likely to spread in early

spring and late fall during cool, rainy weather. However, symptoms are more likely during stress periods of low rainfall (like the drought we've been experiencing). We treated both trees with a recommended fungicide and will watch for signs of life in the spring.

On a brighter note, we added several new native shrubs throughout the library garden. The first shrub is *Calycanthus* 'Aphrodite' (a hybrid Sweetbush) and can be found in the herb garden border bed at



Ceanothus americanus (New Jersey Tea). Photo by Elaine Mills, Extension Master Gardener.

the entrance to the patio, across from the pollinator garden. It has large, fragrant red flowers in late spring and summer. It likes part to full sun, is adaptable to moist, well-drained soil and will get 6-8' high and wide.

Next, we added two *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey Tea) shrubs on either side of the bench in the herb garden border that

backs up to the children's garden. These are compact shrubs growing 2-3' tall and wide, with fragrant white flowers produced in spring. They prefer dry to medium moisture, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade, but are drought tolerant once established. The flowers attract bees and hummingbirds, and is the host plant for the Spring Azure and Summer Azure caterpillars.

In the shade garden inside the gate of the 3rd street entrance we planted a *Fothergilla gardenii* (Dwarf fothergilla). Not native to Virginia, but often found



Physocarpus opulifolius 'Amber Jubilee'. Photo by Linda Carney.

here, this is another compact shrub, growing 2-3' high and wide with bottle-brush like white flowers that bloom in spring before the leaves appear and colorful fall foliage. It likes full sun to part shade with moist, well-drained soil.

Continuing on the walkway, just outside the gate on the 3rd street entrance you will find a *Lindera benzoin* (Spice bush). This is a medium size shrub reaching 6-12' high and wide, with small, fragrant yellow flowers appearing before the leaves in early spring. It prefers part shade and average, well-drained soil. This shrub is a host plant for the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar.

Finally, in the front entrance to the library we planted a cultivar of Ninebark called *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Amber Jubilee'. This cultivar is a compact plant, growing 5-6' tall and 4' wide, featuring showy orange foliage with yellow veins on new growth in spring and summer before turning purple in fall. This shrub prefers full to part sun and dry to medium, well-drained soil.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for the two Magnolias, but hope you will come check out these new shrubs as well. Hope to see you in the garden!



The first round of leaf pickup by Arlington County. Photo by Gerald Martineau.

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Henry Costello (11)		▼ Cats	▼ Shovel, Recycling			(706) 255-6415	
Hailey Denton (16)		Pets	▼ Rake Leaves		~	(520) 353-5060	
Makayla Denton (14)		▼ Pets	▼ Rake Leaves		~	(520) 353-5060	
Stella Derks (13)		▼ Dogs, Cats				(240) 330-2589	
Eddy Drake (16)	▽	▼ Dogs, Cats	✓ Lawn Care, Rake	✓ Crochet Instructor, Math Tutor	V	(703) 966-4591	
Elise Eclarinal (16)	☑ CPR Certified	▼ Dogs, Cats			~	(703) 705-1702	
Lydia Grootos (16)	~	☑ Dogs, Cats			~	(571) 289-4549	
Elizabeth Heim (13)	CPR Certified	▼ Dogs, Cats			~	(571) 545-3145	
Christine Houston (13)	~	▼ Pets	▼ Rake Leaves, Snow	✓ Math/Chess Tutor, Arts & Crafts	V	(571) 213-2723	
Marie Houston (14)	▽	Pets	✓ Rake Leaves, Snow	Arts & Crafts Tutor	V	(571) 213-2723	
Logan Krohl (17)		▼ Dogs, Cats	▼ Rake/Shovel		~	(703) 593-1170	
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Aniya Mataidali (15)	CPR Certified	V				mshomeaker1@gmai l.com	
Kyle Matadali (20)		V Dogs	▼ Rake/Shovel			mshomeaker1@gmai l.com	
Willa Pencikowski (8)						(571) 242-2823	
Belen Plaza (14)	▼ CPR Certified	▼ Pets		✓ Arts & Crafts Tutor	V	sweethautchinson@g mail.com	
Kyle Quattlebaum (17)		▼ Dogs, Cats	Lawn Care, Rake/ Shovel		V	(703) 919-3631	
Maggie Reed (15)	▼ CPR Certified	✓Lizards, Birds, Dogs & Cats			V	(202) 309-8511	



Please pay your 2025-2026 GCA Dues-\$15

Your dues to the Glencarlyn Citizens' Association help fund the Glencarlyn Day events, holiday parties, picnics, Village View newsletter, the alencarlun, or a website, our neighborhood directory,

and much more. Dues are for July 2025 through	June 2026.	,, ,
Name		_
Phone		_
Address	_ email	
Please send me Glencarlyn Updates since I am no	ot currently getting them	(Yes or leave blank)



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

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/gcaduesdec25w

If you aren't sure if you paid, contact Tim at 703-909-4320.