

The Village View

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Civic Association since October 1952

February 2026



*Glencarlyn Holiday Party:
Luminaria, fire, s'mores,
Santa... and a small but
passionate anti-Santa
constituency. Photos by
Gerald Martineau.*

Glencarlyn Holiday Party

Thank you to everyone who bought luminaries or attended the Glencarlyn Holiday Party.

Our annual events were highly attended by families throughout the neighborhood and fun was had by everyone!

Thank you to Courtney Holmes and all the volunteers who helped with Luminary Sales and the Holiday Party!



GCA Feb. 2 Meeting – County Board Member JD Spain

by Brandon Hemel

Julias “JD” Spain Sr. will join us at the February 2 GCA meeting 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. 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.

Itancy 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.

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

President's Corner

by Brandon Hemel, GCA President



From the desk of the family dog

For a change in pace, the Hemel family dog, Maria, has asked to write this month's president's corner.

Hello Glencarlyn Hoomans!

I've lived in Glencarlyn for almost my whole life coming from Puerto Rico and adopted through Lost Dog Rescue. Lost Dog Rescue is one of many great pet adoption groups in Arlington. And my family says the pizza from their cafe isn't bad, either. But they don't ever share with me since I am on strict diet of dog food and the occasional ice cream cone.

What I love about Glencarlyn is that we have a great neighborhood full of friendly people and many of them love dogs. My best friend was a dog named Teddy who moved away after his mom and dad had a little hooman. I am often wary of other people who are not my family or other dogs. BUT one of my favorite hoomans is Dean the Dog Walker! He always has treats for me and often talks with my family about how much he loves Glencarlyn, too.

I also love the Mr. Softee truck, especially when they give me a pup cone. I miss the original driver of the truck, but the new drivers are also nice.

I don't often go to the Glencarlyn Park dog park since I don't play with other dogs, and I like to explore the woods on my own – and my family does not like that.

Where we live, we often see deer and foxes but now coyotes have moved in. These coyotes are very noisy at night, especially when fire trucks or ambulances go by. They howl and bark along with the siren sound.

Coyotes migrated to Glencarlyn in the past few years, and although they are scary, I'm told they are mostly harmless. But they are predators, and you should be wary of keeping little dogs outside for extended periods, and they can be dangerous to outside cats.

If you see a coyote, you should yell at it or do something to scare it off. They are getting more accustomed to living in our neighborhood. They like Glencarlyn for the same reasons as we do. Our semi-secluded area has plenty of trees and wildlife.

If a coyote is aggressive to you or to your pets, please notify the Arlington Animal Welfare League by calling (703) 931-9241.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you love our neighborhood as much as I do.



Photo by Steve Young

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GCA Officers

email: gcaexec@gmail.com
or president_gca@glencarlyn.org

President

Brandon Hemel 703-447-7687

Vice President

Courtney Holmes 202-215-9326

Secretary

Katharine Gannon

Treasurer

Tim Aiken 703-820-0084

Neighborhood Contacts

ArNAC Delegate

Kathy Reeder 703-819-7679

Ryan Donlon (alt.)

Civic Federation Delegates

Tim Aiken 703-909-4320

Sue Campbell 703-931-4098

Dixie Duncan 703-919-0570

Lee Clarke (301) 252-4643

Jeff Liteman (alt.) 202-246-5485

Sara Williams (alt.) 484-432-0111

Rial Christensen (alt.)

Geoff Gage (alt.)

Carlin Hall Reservations

Arl. Parks & Recreation 703-228-4747

Glencarlyn.org Webmaster

glencarlyn.webteam@gmail.com

Village View Editor

Luke Shaheen 717-926-7781

gcaeditorial@gmail.com

Area Chair/Block Captain

Coordinator

Josh Goodwin 770-608-5084

Glencarlyn Email Updates

Rachel Porter & Xi Chen

gcaupdates@glencarlyn.org

Arlington Neighborhood Village Ambassador

Dixie Duncan 703-919-0570

dixieduncan94@gmail.com

Glencarlyn Web Site Carlin Hall

www.glencarlyn.org 5711 4th St. S.

New Neighbors, New Energy: Getting Involved with the GCA

by Katharine Gannon

My name is Katharine Gannon, and I've been serving on the GCA Executive Committee as Secretary since the summer of 2024. My husband and I moved to the Kenmore side of Glencarlyn in the summer of 2023 from Chicago, and we've absolutely loved getting to know the neighborhood, and becoming part of the community.

I'm currently the Director of Sales Development at Elastic, for our U.S. Public Sector business, and I'm in my early 30s. Serving on the Executive Committee has fit in really well with my day-to-day work—it's a manageable time commitment (about two hours a month) and a great way to stay involved while balancing a busy leadership role.

Some of my favorite parts of serving on the exec board have been getting to know more of my neighbors, learning about the real issues impacting our community, and helping make sure our meeting notes are clear, thorough, and useful for everyone. It's been a really rewarding way to stay connected, and give back to the amazing neighborhood. I am also very passionate about the Glencarlyn library and you can find me there quite frequently!

If you are interested in getting involved with the GCA or would like to learn more about the various volunteer opportunities, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 410-980-5767.



Free Pancake Supper Tuesday, Feb. 17th 5:30 to 7 pm

Join in a family friendly
Mardi Gras dinner of
pancakes with sausage,
apple sauce, music and
activities for the kids.



You are welcome to bring something to
help stock the Little Free Food Pantry.

More info at stjohnsarlingtonva.org

Four Mile Run Stream Clean-up and Hot Dog Roast Saturday in March

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 14. Trash bags and plastic gloves will be available for volunteers at 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 follow at the 3rd Street picnic pavilion. In addition to our "Stream Cleaners", we are looking for a few volunteers to assist with the Hotdog and Marshmallow Roast, as well as distribution of supplies.

Signup at tinyurl.com/hotdogfeb26

Contact Brandon at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com

Left, Glencarlyn Library's 2025 program of guest speakers and special presentations ended on a festive note in December with a performance by the Kyle Simmons Clarinet Quintet. A standing-room-only audience enjoyed Simmons's original composition, Quintet for Clarinet and Strings, an innovative blend of classical themes and concepts with more modern interpretations. Photo by Simon DeGroot.

Save the Date: Arlington HistoryFest 250 at Kenmore

by Brandon Hemel

The Arlington Historical Society has announced plans for Arlington HistoryFest 250, a free, one-day outdoor festival commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. It will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School.

"We're proud to welcome visitors and residents to experience the living legacy of Arlington's role in America's founding," said Peter Vaselopulos, President of the Arlington Historical Society, and Chair of the Arlington VA250 Committee. "Arlington HistoryFest 250 is great fun for the whole family. It kicks off a multi-month commemoration, connecting our County's roots to the modern

day, showcasing how Arlington is a place where history lives on."

Programming will feature live reenactments, musical performances, and historical storytelling, hands-on demonstrations, children's activities, and crafts, and local food vendors. Thousands of attendees from across the Washington, D.C. area are expected, along with dozens of historical reenactors, and over 40 exhibitors.

GCA is looking for ideas for our table and active participation - if you are interested or have ideas, please email Brandon at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com

More information on the AHS website: tinyurl.com/festfeb26

Arlington County Zoning Enforcement: Navigating Compliance and Community Concerns

by Brandon Hemel

Darryl Smith, zoning inspection supervisor from Arlington County spoke at the December 2025 GCA meeting focusing on the permitting process and enforcement.

Zoning Enforcement Overview

Zoning enforcement in Arlington County is overseen by the Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development (CPHD). Zoning officials play a vital role in upholding local ordinances by investigating complaints from residents, conducting inspections, and ensuring that properties adhere to land-use regulations. The enforcement process typically begins when a complaint is submitted, either online, or directly to the zoning office. Officials then review the case, conduct an initial inspection, and, if necessary, issue notices of violation requiring corrective action within a designated timeframe.

For more serious or repeated offenses, enforcement may escalate to civil penalties, court proceedings, or involvement from other county departments. Arlington's zoning team works closely with property owners to resolve issues and offers guidance on how to

achieve compliance, emphasizing education, and communication throughout the process.

Short-Term Rental Regulations

In response to the rise of platforms like Airbnb and VRBO, Arlington County enacted specific regulations for short-term rentals, commonly referred to as "homestays." Residents who wish to operate a homestay must obtain a permit, which involves meeting certain requirements such as limits on occupancy, safety standards, and notification of neighbors. The rationale for these rules is to balance the economic benefits of short-term rentals with the need to preserve residential quality of life.

Enforcement actions often focus on properties operating without permits or violating conditions such as hosting too many guests, inadequate fire safety measures, or excessive noise. Notable cases in Arlington have included fines levied against homeowners who repeatedly failed to obtain the necessary homestay permit, as well as corrective orders for those found in violation of occupancy limits.

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The best kind of Thanksgiving morning: a simple neighborhood tradition that doesn't ask much—just come as you are and join the group. Glencarlyn's Turkey Trot fun run/walk filled the street with walkers and joggers, kids on wheels, strollers, dogs, and plenty of seasonal spirit. Photos by Gerald Martineau.



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):

- **Feb. 2:** Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., Member, Arlington County Board
- **Mar. 2:** TBD, Tentatively Arlington County Sheriff Quiroz
- **Apr. 6:** TBD, Tentatively Arlington Historical Society & GCA Nominating Committee Report
- **May 4:** Speaker TBD & GCA Executive Committee Elections

Glencarlyn Community Yard Sale in 2026

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 16.

To have a successful event, we need a leader to organize, and advertise the event.

If you are interested in having the yard sale AND are willing to help organize, please contact Brandon Hemel at GCA_Brandon@outlook.com or 703-447-7687.

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

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Home Winter Safety Tips

by Brandon Hemel

January's and early February's extreme cold reminds us that we still have a way to go till winter is over and it sometimes snows in February and March.

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.
- **Safe use of space heaters.** Never plug them into extension cords; plug them into wall outlets. Keep space

heaters at least three feet from other objects and turn them off before going to bed.

- **Stay informed during power outages.** Be sure you have a battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio (and extra batteries). Get one with the NOAA Weather Radio band so you can hear winter weather reports directly from the National Weather Service as well as local radio stations.

- **Do not use candles during power outages.** Many home fires in winter are caused by candles. Flashlights are much safer. Have plenty of extra batteries.

- **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 – and get a free family emergency plan worksheet at ready.gov/plan.

- **Water Main Breaks** Most common as temperatures fluctuate.

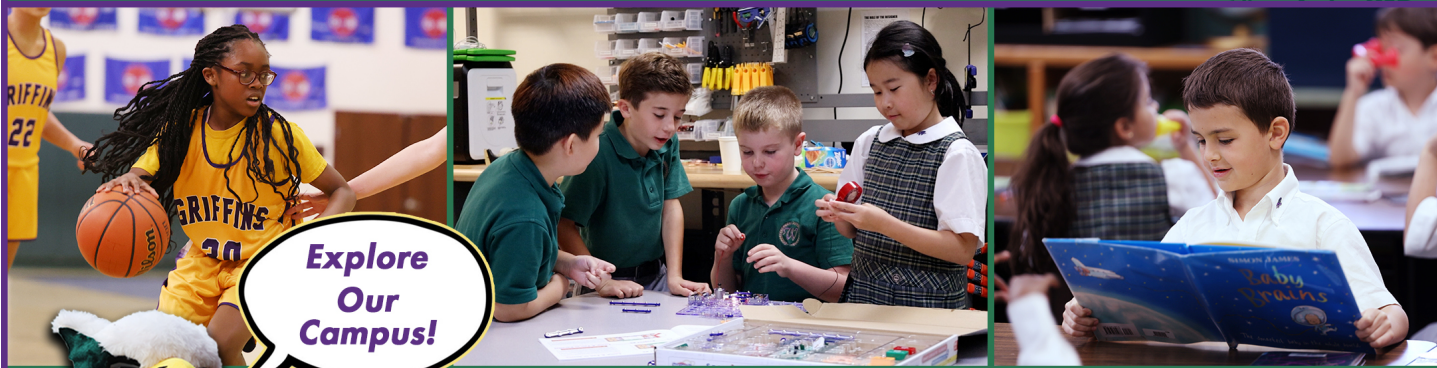
For more winter weather safety tips, please visit tinyurl.com/winterfeb26



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Arlington County Zoning Enforcement: Navigating Compliance and Community Concerns

by Brandon Hemel

Continued from page 4...

Permit Processes and Guidance

Obtaining the proper permits is a crucial step for Arlington residents undertaking new construction, renovations, or launching short-term rentals. The county offers a range of permit types, including variances for unique circumstances, use permits for specific property functions, and building permits to ensure compliance with safety, and environmental codes.

Residents are encouraged to consult the county website or reach out to the Permit Office for guidance. The process typically involves submitting an application, providing supporting documentation, and sometimes attending public hearings if the request impacts surrounding properties. County staff are available to answer questions, clarify requirements, and assist with navigating complex cases.

Community Concerns and Communication

Common zoning complaints in Arlington include unauthorized short-term rentals, unpermitted construction, noise

disturbances, and property maintenance issues. These concerns often reflect broader community priorities such as preserving neighborhood character and ensuring public safety. Darryl Smith stressed the importance of engagement, urging residents to report violations, attend public meetings, and participate in planning discussions.

Clear communication between residents and officials helps build trust and facilitates problem-solving. The county provides resources such as online complaint portals, informational workshops, and regular updates on zoning changes to keep the community informed, and involved.

Arlington County's ongoing efforts to enforce zoning regulations and manage short-term rentals are vital to the well-being of local neighborhoods. By promoting compliance, offering guidance, and encouraging community engagement, officials aim to strike a balance between innovation, and tradition. Residents seeking more information, or support are advised to visit the county's zoning, and permitting website, attend local forums, or contact the Permit Office directly. Maintaining open lines of communication, and adhering to established regulations ensures that Arlington remains a vibrant, and welcoming place for all.

National projections show home prices rising about 1.6% this year, with some communities experiencing even stronger appreciation. In Arlington County, single-family homes are expected to see a 3.8% increase from 2025 to 2026. Northern Virginia continues to show notable resilience, driven by steady demand for homeownership—an investment that remains strong over the long term. If the next chapter is on your mind, just reach out whenever you want to chat.



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Arlington Deer Management Program to begin in Feb.

by Brandon Hemel

Arlington County's four years of planning and study has led to a decision to employ a hybrid approach to deer management that includes professional sharpshooting, fencing, and repellants, and continued monitoring. County managed professional sharpshooters will only operate in county parks during the winter when leaves are off to maximize visibility. Park areas will be closed off during the evenings when sharpshooters are present and police will be moni. The GCA will notify residents through GCA updates, Facebook, and the Village View when Deer Management activities will take place in Glencarlyn Park and Long Branch Nature Center.

For more information, please visit tinyurl.com/deerfeb26

Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP) Update

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

Manchester St. and 2nd St. S. – Contract awarded; clear 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.

Procurement activities are wrapping up and preconstruction activities are beginning. Bids were returned in November and a contractor has been chosen and awarded the contract. Construction is estimated for summer 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 tinyurl.com/anpfeb26 and on the Glencarlyn.org website under ANP Activities.

Neighborhood Signs Replacement and Relocation – Timing TBD for 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 – Site for new proposed project

The oval on the S. Harrison St. circle was proposed in November 2025 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 Needed – Opportunity for community service hours!

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. This would be a great opportunity for students needing community service hours! If you are willing to help plan and/or carry out this work, please email Kathy Reeder (kathleenreeder@comcast.net).

For questions on any of the ANP projects, please contact Kathy Reeder (kathleenreeder@comcast.net).



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View from the Garden

Article and pictures by Samuel Pulcrano, Extension Master Gardener

Pruning Dormant Shrubs and Trees

From late winter to early spring is an ideal time to prune most shrubs and trees because they are in a dormant state. Selectively removing dead or overgrown branches allows plants to direct their energy into healthy new growth in the spring. This will improve a plant's health, appearance, and productivity.

Tools Needed

To prune effectively, you will need the right tools:

- Hand pruners (for small limbs up to 3/4 inch thick)
- Loppers (for limbs 3/4 inch to two inches thick)
- Pruning saws (for large limbs over two inches)
- Pole pruners (for high branches without climbing)
- Gloves and safety glasses (for protection)



Figure 1: Thinning cut



Figure 2: Heading cut

Always sterilize tools before and after use with rubbing alcohol or a bleach solution to prevent disease spread.

Types of Pruning

Proper pruning involves different techniques to keep a plant at a chosen size, shape, and density. Following are several examples:

Thinning cut is the removal of an entire

branch back to the main trunk or stem to open up the plant's structure. Cut the limb just above the branch collar to stimulate growth along the main branch. (See Figure 1)

Heading cut is shortening the length of the branch to

encourage bushier growth. Remove the top portion of the branch back to a specific bud. Cut 1/4 inch above the bud at a 45-degree angle. This will activate the buds beneath the cut

to become new branches. (See Figure 2)

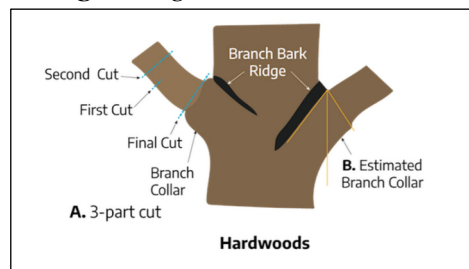


Figure 3: Three-cut method; from Virginia Cooperative Extension Gardner Handbook

Three-cut method is used to remove a tree branch. Start by identifying the branch collar; or where the branch meets the trunk of the tree.

First cut: six-twelve inches from the branch collar, saw one-third of the way through the underside of the branch. This undercut will prevent peeling the bark back to the branch collar.

Second cut: on the top of the branch, three inches from your undercut, saw through the branch removing it.

Third cut: saw off the remaining stub just in front of the branch collar. (See Figure 3)

In all cases, when pruning shrubs or trees, it is always important to use the one-third rule:

Never remove more than one-third of the plant.

For more information on pruning, visit tinyurl.com/mgnvfeb26

Seed Donation During Winter

by Samuel Pulcrano

The winter season presents an excellent opportunity to support the community's seed library by donating any unused, purchased, or harvested seeds. Donors are asked to place them in the designated bin in the seed cabinet located on the back wall of the library.

Master Gardeners will repackaging them into smaller packets so they will be available to the community when spring arrives and planting begins.

See the View from the Garden article on our Seed Library in the September 2025 Village View at tinyurl.com/villageviewfeb26

Volunteers Needed to Help with Watering the Garden


by Samuel Pulcrano

The Glencarlyn Library Garden Coordinators are looking for a few volunteers to help with watering during the upcoming growing season (late spring through early fall). Regular watering makes a significant difference in keeping the plants healthy and welcoming for the whole community.

Watering takes about an hour once a week (turn on timer for sprinkler or hose and come back to put away and/or hand water planters), and schedules are flexible (morning or evening). No experience is needed—just a little time and willingness to help. This is a wonderful way to support a shared community space and enjoy some time outdoors.

Interested? Please contact Linda Carney (miaberley@mac.com) or Sam Pulcrano (spulcrano2@msn.com). Thank you for helping keep our garden growing!

Glencarlyn Kids for Hire

Name (Age)	 Babysitting	 Pet Care	 Yardwork	 Tutoring / Special Skills	 House/Plant Sitting	Contact
Malia Tavares Bryant (15)	✓ CPR Certified	✓ Dogs, Cats	✓ Rake/Shovel	✓ Any Subject	✓	(703) 946-2803
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	✓	(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	✓	(571) 213-2723
Marie Houston (14)	✓	✓ Pets	✓ Rake Leaves, Snow	✓ Arts & Crafts Tutor	✓	(571) 213-2723
Logan Krohl (17)		✓ Dogs, Cats	✓ Rake/Shovel		✓	(703) 593-1170
Riley Krohl (14)	✓ CPR Certified	✓ Pets	✓ Rake/Shovel		✓	(703) 862-4938
Harper Lynch (15)	✓	✓ Dogs, Cats			✓	(703) 300-5809
Aniya Matadial (15)	✓ CPR Certified	✓				smshomeaker1@gmail.com
Kyle Matadial (20)		✓ Dogs	✓ Rake/Shovel			smshomeaker1@gmail.com
Willa Pencikowski (8)						(571) 242-2823
Belen Plaza (14)	✓ CPR Certified	✓ Pets		✓ Arts & Crafts Tutor	✓	sweethauchinson@gmail.com
Kyle Quattlebaum (17)		✓ Dogs, Cats	✓ Lawn Care, Rake/Shovel		✓	(703) 919-3631
Maggie Reed (15)	✓ CPR Certified	✓ Lizards, Birds, Dogs & Cats			✓	(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 *glencarlyn.org* 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 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/gcaduesdec25w

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



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



**Photos from the 2025 Glencarlyn
Holiday Party, by Gerald Martineau**



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Holiday Party, by Gerald Martineau**



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