glencarlyn

The Village View

Newsletter of the Glencarlyn Civic Association since October 1952

November 2026

COMMUNITY EVENT

Neighborhood Luminaria and Holiday Party: Saturday, December 12

By Brandon Hemel



The Annual Glencarlyn Luminaria is one of our neighborhood's most beautiful traditions, and we hope everyone will join us on **Saturday, December 12** (rain date: December 19!)

As dusk falls and the luminaria are lit, take a stroll through the neighborhood to enjoy the lights, then join your neighbors for an **Holiday Party from 6-7:30 p.m.** in the Glencarlyn Library parking lot on Kensington Street. Enjoy cookies, warm beverages, marshmallow roasting, and a special visit from Santa around 6:30 p.m. Buy your **Luminaria Pack at** Carlin Hall (5711 4th St S.) from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on December 12. Each pack lights about 50-60 feet of frontage. Purchases support the Glencarlyn Civic Association, and you can pay your annual dues there too. Even if you don't put out luminaria, we hope you'll join the stroll and festivities!

Volunteers needed. Our neighborhood events depend on you. Sign up to help by scanning the QR code.





Luminaria and Santa's visit. Photos by Gerald Martineau

GCA MEETINGS

November 2 GCA Meeting: Be SMART with Gun Safety

By Brandon Hemel

Representatives from Everytown for Gun Safety will speak at the November 2 GCA meeting about responsible gun ownership and secure firearm storage. The **Be SMART** campaign promotes safe storage of firearms to reduce child gun injuries and deaths and help keep communities safe.

Our speakers:

- Monica Dinan is a retired Arlington Public Schools teacher who also taught adult literacy in Washington, D.C. Two of her children work in law enforcement, one is a schoolteacher, and her husband was a prosecutor.
- **Melissa Lord** is an Arlington resident and mother of two adult children, with experience in the U.S. Air Force, federal government, and nursing in Northern Virginia.

Join us **Monday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Carlin Hall.** A Zoom link will be shared through GCA updates before the meeting. Send questions in advance to president_gca@glencarlyn.org. Learn more at besmartforkids.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Corner

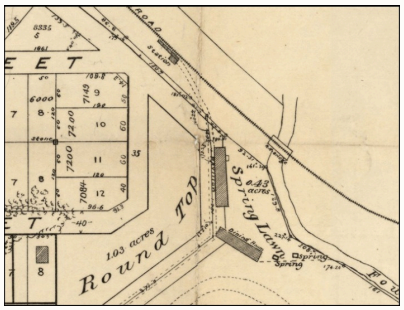
By Brandon Hemel

This month, I am once again ceding the President's Corner to one of our neighbors. Todd Wallace is a longtime resident and amateur historian who has spent many hours researching our neighborhood's past. Occasionally he shares his finds in our Facebook group. Todd's first piece for the Village View looks back to when Glencarlyn Park was a privately owned recreation center with a dance hall. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

When Carlin Springs Was a Resort

By Todd Wallace

Ever since I saw the 1890 map of the First Addition to Carlin Springs and noticed the Carlin Springs Resort pavilions between the two actual Carlin Springs and the Glencarlyn train station, I've been trying to picture what it would be like to attend an event there in the 1870s and 1880s.

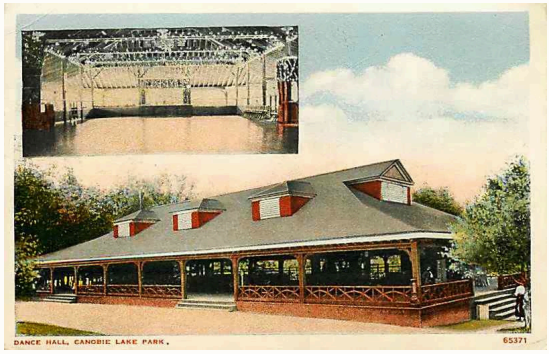


Detail of the 1890 map of the First Addition to Carlin Springs

We can get some idea from this April 15, 1873, *Evening Star* advertisement: "For Rent or Lease – That delightful Country Retreat in Fairfax County, Va., 'CARLIN SPRINGS,' with all the necessary buildings for Summer Pic-Nics or Tournaments, about four miles from this city; large pavilion, bar-room, dining room and kitchen; two large springs of water; large and delightful grounds. The Washington and Alexandria cars stop at this place daily. The Furniture will be Rented with the place if desired."

According to the Glencarlyn Neighborhood Conservation Plan of 2011, the pavilions measured 80 feet long by 30 feet wide. The dance pavilion probably had a raised platform at one end for the band. The dining room pavilion probably had a kitchen at one end, with the rest of the space for tables and chairs.





Historic postcards of the Carlin Springs pavilions.

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— Rial Christensen (alt.)	
— Geoff Gage (alt.)	

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— Josh Goodwin	770-608-5084

CARLIN HALL

Reservations (Arl. Parks & Rec)	703-228-4747
Website	www.glencarlyn.org
Address	5711 4th St. S.

ON THE INSIDE

Luminaria & Holiday Party, Dec. 12 p.1
Nov. 2 GCA Meeting: Be SMART p.1
When Carlin Springs Was a Resort p.2
Halloween Safety Tips p.3
Dec. 7 GCA Meeting: Maureen Coffey p.3
Library Events p.3
Arlington Neighborhoods Program Update p.4
Our Advertisers p.6
New Neighbor Welcome Packet p.5
Pictures from the Last Service at St. John's p.7
The Unofficial Glencarlyn Turkey Trot p.8
S. Carlin Springs Safety & Traffic Update p.9
GCA Dues & Mark Your Calendar p.9
Kids' Corner: Attitude of Gratitude p.9
View from the Garden & October Meeting Recap p.11
Glencarlyn Kids for Hire p.12

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Halloween Safety Tips

By Brandon Hemel

Glencarlyn streets will be filled with ghosts, goblins, superheroes, and all sorts of costumed characters at dusk on Saturday, October 31. Trick-or-treating typically takes place between 4 and 8 p.m.

- **Drivers**: watch for walkers in the street and at intersections.
- **Trick-or-treaters**: walk in groups and stay visible to cars.
- **Not participating?** It's your choice whether to hand out candy. Leave a note at your door or turn off your porch light.
- **Teal pumpkins** mean non-food treats for kids with food allergies. Learn more at FoodAllergy.org (search "Teal Pumpkin Project").

Trick-or-treating is voluntary and is not sponsored by the Glencarlyn Civic Association.





Halloween in Glencarlyn. Photos by Gerald Martineau

GCA MEETINGS

December 7 GCA Meeting: Maureen Coffey, Vice Chair, Arlington County Board

By Brandon Hemel

The GCA welcomes Maureen Coffey, Vice Chair of the Arlington County Board, to her first GCA meeting on Monday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Carlin Hall.

Ms. Coffey is the youngest person ever elected to the Arlington County Board. Her policy focuses include housing (particularly renters' rights), child care, transportation, and community engagement. She co-leads the Board's Audit Committee and serves as Board liaison to the Commission on the Status of Women, Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, Housing Commission, Transportation Commission, and Tenant-Landlord Commission.

Questions can be sent in advance to president_gca@glencarlyn.org.



Maureen Coffey with Brandon Hemel at Glencarlyn Day. Photo by Gerald Martineau

LIBRARY EVENTS

Halloween Bark Party: For Dogs and Dog Lovers

Saturday, October 31 | 2-4 p.m.

Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, 300 S. Kensington St. (outdoors)
Bring your favorite canine friend for a Halloween BARK Party featuring treats, activities, a costume contest, storytime, and prizes. No dog? No problem! Dog lovers are welcome, too.

- 2-3 p.m.: Costume Contest
- 3 p.m.: Storytime for Dogs (and People)
- 3:30 p.m.: Best Dressed Awards (must be present to win)

Visit the Woofs! Dog Training Center table to learn about training resources and programs. Dogs must be leashed, current on vaccinations, and in safe, comfortable costumes. Owners are responsible for cleanup and pet behavior.





Photos by Gerald Martineau

LIBRARY EVENTS

Solo Aging: Strategies for Building a Supportive Future

Wednesday, November 4 | 4-5 p.m.
Glencarlyn Library

As more older adults live without a partner, children, or close kin, solo aging has become an important topic for individuals, families, and professionals alike. Steve Gurney, founder of the Positive Aging Community, and a nationally recognized advocate for aging well, will share the challenges and opportunities facing solo agers. Whether you are navigating solo aging yourself or supporting a loved one, you'll leave with practical tools and peace of mind.

Topics include:

- What it means to be a solo ager, and why this group is growing
- Building a reliable support network and personal "village"
- Resources and community connections for solo agers
- Planning ahead for housing, healthcare, and decision-making
- Creative strategies and approaches

Registration recommended (first-come, first-served seating). For more information, contact Glencarlyn Library at 703-228-6548.

DEVELOPMENT WATCH

Arlington Neighborshods Program (ANP) Update

By Kathy Reeder, Arlington Neighborshods Program Advisory Committee (ArNAC) Delegate

S. Manchester St. and 2nd St. S. – Construction activities to start in late October!

Recent Update: At the September 29 Pre-Construction Meeting, ANP Staff presented an overview of the timing of construction events, reviewed temporary parking restrictions and introduced the project's construction team. The County Landscape Architect and Design Engineer were present to answer questions. Construction activities will begin in late October!

Please note: The primary point of contact for questions or concerns is the County's assigned Construction Manager, Zia Ur Rehman (571-400-2936). If Zia is unable to be reached, please contact the ANP Planner, Hannah Nicely, (703-228-2819 or hnicely@arlingtonva.us).

Background: 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.

Information about the project is available at S Manchester St. & 2nd St. S – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government and on the Glencarlyn.org website under ANP Activities.

Harrison St. Circle – County staff to schedule site visit

Recent Update: The ANP planner, Anika Emery, will be scheduling a site visit between mid-October and early November. Pippy Sickbert, resident of S. Harrison St., will be the project's point of contact for residents and the County. She can be reached at kkravchonok@gmail.com.

Background: The oval on the S. Harrison St. circle was proposed in November 2025 as Glencarlyn's first-priority ANP project. This 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.

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



S. Manchester St. project team, from left: Sam Tadesse, neighbor; Kathy Reeder, ANAC rep; Raj Agnawal, neighbor; John Hart, neighbor; Ryan Donlon, neighbor and block rep; Prudence Sheffield, Principal Planner; Hannah Nicely, Landscape Architect; Gino Squarciafco, Design Engineer; Joe Araujo, Contractor.



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NEIGHBORS

GCA New Neighbor Welcome Packet

By Brandon Hemel

The GCA has an attractive and informative welcome packet for new neighbors moving into our community, with information about the neighborhood, 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 a packet. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER

Write for the Village View

Have a story, photos, or a bit of neighborhood history to share? Want to be a regular contributor? Email the editors at gcaeditorial@gmail.com.

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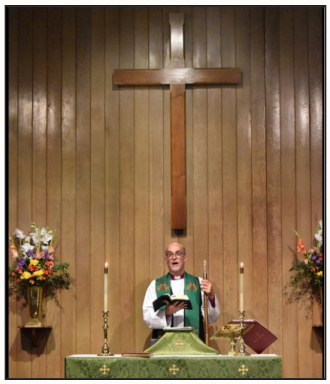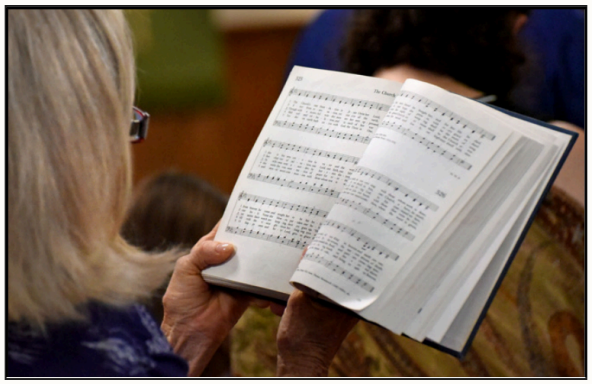
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COMMUNITY

Photos from St. John's Episcopal Church's Closing Service





After 136 years of serving several generations in Glencarlyn, St. John's final service was attended by church members and neighbors. All photos by Gerald Martineau

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NEIGHBORS

A History of the Unofficial Glencarlyn Turkey Trot

By Kelly Discount

In November 2017, my husband and I decided to start a family tradition: an annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving. It would be something we could do with our three kiddos, and a healthy start to a weekend of feasting. We registered for the Arlington Turkey Trot, planned how to get there, and brought jogging strollers for when little legs got tired. Outfitted in event t-shirts at the starting line, the countdown began… 3, 2, 1, GO! We made it about two blocks before all three kids were in tears. Overwhelmed by the crowd and noise, too upset to get into the jogging stroller, and unmoved by any amount of snacks, they refused to go on. Ultimate. Parenting. Fail.

After taking a year off, we tried again in 2019, this time in a way that worked for everyone. And the [UN]OFFICIAL GLENCARLYN TURKEY TROT was born: no registration, no driving, a starting line in front of our house, a 9 a.m. start, any human-powered way you like (running shoes, roller blades, scooter, bike), and 100% volunteer powered.

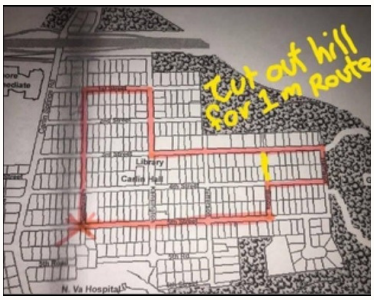
We had a blast, with our eldest trotter at age 82 and our youngest at just 7 weeks! Even during the COVID pandemic in 2020, we had a fun run/walk/bike/scooter/stroll, with trotters in masks spacing out into "starting circles." The tradition has continued ever since.

This Thanksgiving will be our **eighth** Glencarlyn Turkey Trot. Come out and shake your tail feathers with us!

WHO: *All* Glencarlyn neighbors, plus your friends and family!
WHAT: A 1.25-mile loop marked with sidewalk chalk. 1 loop = 1.25 miles; 2 = 2.5; 3 = 3.75; 4 = 5 miles!
WHERE: Start at the corner of S. Lexington St. and 5th St. S. (near the Episcopal church)
WHEN: Chalking: Wednesday, November 25, at 2 p.m. (meet at the starting line)

Main event: **Thursday, November 26.** Meet at 8:45 a.m.; trotting begins at 9!

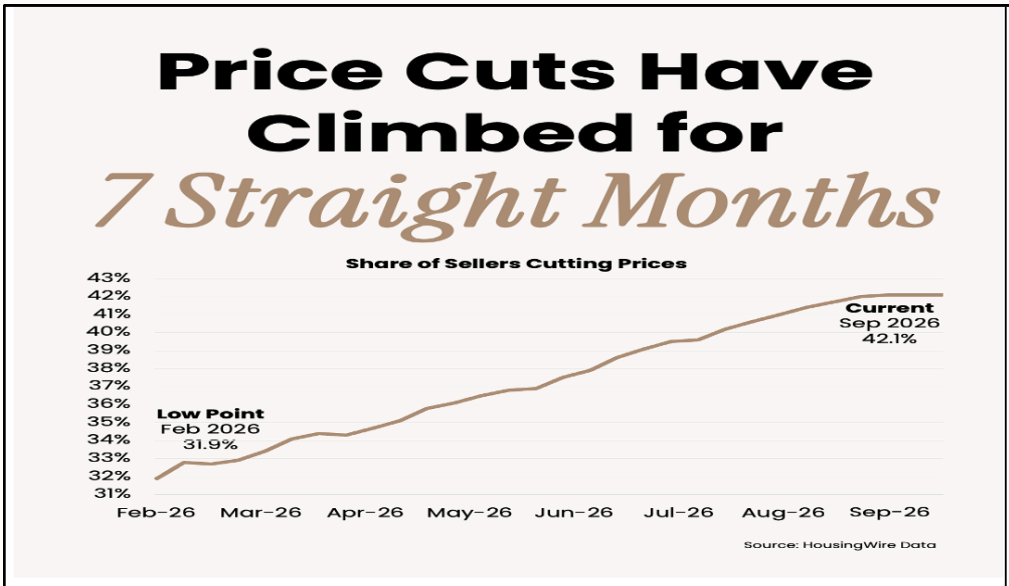
HOW: Any way you like! Those here on Thanksgiving Day – Run, walk, stroll, cycle, scooter, skateboard, or cheer on trotters from your front stoop or the finish line.



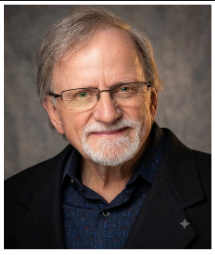




The trot route, costumed trotters, and the start line.



Sellers have been cutting prices for seven straight months, from 31.9% in February to 42.1% in September. In Arlington, reductions picked up this summer as inventory grew and buyers became more selective. Selling? Pricing it right from day one matters more than ever. Buying? A recently reduced home can signal a seller who's ready to deal. Wondering what this means for your price or your offer? Let's talk. Lean on my 41 years of local experience to guide your next move.



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COMMUNITY SAFETY

S. Carlin Springs Rd. Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Update

By Brandon Hemel

Sidewalk widening and construction on S. Carlin Springs Rd. between 5th Rd. S. and 3rd St. S. will continue into 2027.

- The northbound sidewalk between 4th St. and 3rd St. will stay closed until mid-December (weather permitting).
- The contractor will close a **northbound travel lane** during construction, so give yourself extra time.
- Please follow all posted signs. The detours keep everyone safe and separate moving vehicles from people walking and biking.

The improvements include 6-foot sidewalks with a 2-foot grass buffer and a new pedestrian beacon at 4th St. and S. Carlin Springs Rd.

For more information, contact Gabriela V. Kock, Project Management Coordinator, Division of Transportation, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services: 703-228-3938 or gkock@arlingtonva.us.

GCA DUES

Please Pay Your 2026–2027 GCA Dues: $15

Dues support GCA-hosted events, the Village View, glencarlyn.org, our neighborhood directory, and more. Dues cover July 2026 through June 2027. Make checks payable to GCA and send to Tim Aiken, Treasurer, 111 S. Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22204, or pay online. Not sure whether you've paid? Contact Tim at 703-909-4320.

Scan to pay online

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sat., Oct. 31	Halloween; Bark Party, 2–4 p.m.
Mon., Nov. 2	GCA Meeting: Be SMART, 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 4	Solo Aging talk, library, 4 p.m.
Wed., Nov. 25	Turkey Trot chalking, 2 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 26	Turkey Trot, 9 a.m.
Mon., Dec. 7	GCA Meeting: Maureen Coffey, 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12	Luminaria & Holiday Party (rain date Dec. 19)

KIDS' CORNER

Attitude of Gratitude

By Alexandra Discount, age 12

Have you ever had a bad morning? That turned into a bad day? That turned into a bad week? I've found that the best way to stop this from happening is to have an attitude of gratitude. Here are a few simple things you can try…

- **Start the day with a thankful mindset.** Every day when you wake up, read a statement to help you be positive. Here are some examples:

1. Today is going to be a great day.
2. Something cool is going to happen to me today.
3. No matter what happens today, I can handle it.
4. An exciting new chapter in my life is starting today.
5. I need to give myself more credit for how hard I'm trying
6. I'm allowed to be a work in progress.
7. If I keep showing up, life will reward me.
8. I have an important contribution to make to the world.

- **Say "thank you" every day.** Opportunities are everywhere to thank people who help you: a friend gives you a spare pencil when you forgot your pencil pouch, someone helps you carry stuff up the stairs, a parent helps with a homework assignment you're struggling with.
- **Write it down.** Write three things you're grateful for at bedtime. They can be easy, like a snack you like a lot, cuddling with a pet, or living in Glencarlyn (best neighborhood ever!).

Not sure this will work? There's lots of science and research that says it does! So the next time you're having a bad day, find something to be grateful for, no matter how small, and see for yourself if it makes a difference.



Alexandra Discount



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IN THE GARDEN

View from the Garden

By Claire Wade

Fall is a magical time in the Glencarlyn library garden. Leaves are turning bright red, yellow, and orange as they lose their green chlorophyll. Late-blooming flowers are abuzz with bees and butterflies. Migrating birds such as goldfinches are feasting on echinacea and black-eyed Susan seeds as they prepare for their long journey south. Persimmons and figs are ripe with sweet fruit. Asters, goldenrod, and boneset are putting on the year's final flower show. Mallow and milkweed pods are bursting with seeds. There's so much going on, even as the garden approaches its winter rest.

Master Gardeners recently gathered seed from many different kinds of plants in the garden, most of them native or native cultivars. The seeds will be sorted, labeled, and put into envelopes over the winter, then made available in the Seed Library inside the Glencarlyn library. Stop by in early spring to check it out!

It's tempting to "put your garden to bed" and cut back all of the brown plants so your garden looks neat. However, there are benefits to leaving some things as they are. First, it's helpful to have some "winter interest" plants to make your garden pleasant to look at. Red-twig dogwoods, for example, keep their color throughout the winter. Some seed pods can be decorative and also provide food for winter birds.

Many types of bees lay their eggs in sturdy plant stems. They tunnel into the stems and leave their brood in the center, using both hollow stems and those with a soft center. For this reason, consider leaving 12–18 inches of these stems upright when you cut back plants. Some bees also need bare ground for their solitary nests, so they appreciate a small mulch-free area.

You may have heard the suggestion to "leave the leaves." We do this where we can because insects overwinter in fallen leaves. If you clean them all up, you're getting rid of next year's bugs, which are food for next year's birds and may control pests. You might also reduce the firefly display next summer. That said, we do have a lot of leaves in our Glencarlyn yards. It's OK to remove leaves from lawns, pavement, and places where they pile up deeply.

The library garden coordinators are busy planning for next year. There are many wonderful things in store!



Fall color, seed heads, and late blooms in the library garden.

GCA MEETINGS

Recap: October GCA Meeting with School Board Member Monique Bryant

By Brandon Hemel

At the October GCA meeting, Arlington County School Board member Monique Bryant joined neighbors to discuss Arlington Public Schools (APS) priorities and community concerns for the 2026–27 school year.

Bryant outlined the Board's role in setting policy, overseeing the superintendent, reviewing budgets, and coordinating with county partners. She emphasized student achievement and well-being, school safety, and responsible use of public resources. Neighbors also highlighted the broader civic value of strong public schools, including workforce development and long-term community health.

Technology was a key topic, including APS's move toward a more balanced approach to student device use that supports learning while addressing screen-time concerns. Bryant stressed the importance of flexibility for different grade levels and for students with IEPs or 504 plans. She also discussed APS collaboration with regional leaders to seek clearer state guidance on artificial intelligence in schools.

Other topics included academic integrity, grading consistency, literacy, and safety. Bryant noted that the Reader's Rise volunteer literacy program has reached capacity and keeps a waiting list. She also discussed additional cameras, crossing guard updates, and e-bike concerns.

Neighbors raised questions about transportation, scooters, school facilities, and capital needs. Bryant offered to follow up on reports of scooter-related discipline at Kenmore and noted that the 2026 bond includes significant funding for critical infrastructure such as HVAC systems and roofs, with sustainable options where feasible. The discussion underscored Glencarlyn residents' commitment to safe, effective, and equitable schools.

Recap generated from the meeting recording with Zoom and Fathom AI and summarized with Microsoft Copilot.

COMMUNITY

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	Yes	(703) 946-2803
Henry Costello (11)		Cats	Shovel, Recycling			(706) 255-6415
Stella Derks (14)	Yes	Dogs, Cats				(240) 330-2589
Alexandra Discount (12)	Yes	All Pets	Rake Leaves, Snow	Arts & Crafts Tutor	Yes	(703) 791-9571
Eddy Drake (16)	Yes	Dogs, Cats	Lawn Care, Rake	Crochet Instructor, Math Tutor	Yes	(703) 966-4591
Lydia Grootos (16)	Yes	Dogs, Cats			Yes	(571) 289-4549
Elizabeth Heim (13)	CPR Certified	Dogs, Cats			Yes	(571) 545-3145
Christine Houston (13)	Yes	Pets	Rake Leaves, Snow	Math/Chess Tutor, Arts & Crafts	Yes	(571) 213-2723
Marie Houston (14)	Yes	Pets	Rake Leaves, Snow	Arts & Crafts Tutor	Yes	(571) 213-2723
Caleb Janis (15)			Mowing/Rake			(202) 355-5026
Riley Krohl (14)	CPR Certified	Pets	Rake/Shovel		Yes	(703) 862-4938
Órla Lunsford (10)		All Pets			Yes	(703) 593-1170
Harper Lynch (15)	Yes	Dogs, Cats			Yes	(703) 300-5809
Aniya Matadial (17)	CPR & First Aid Certified	Yes		Swim Instructor, Tutoring	Yes	smshomeaker1@gmail.com
Kyle Matadial (12)		All Pets	Rake/Shovel		Yes	smshomeaker1@gmail.com
Lucas Pencikowski (13)					Yes	(571) 242-2823
Willa Pencikowski (10)	Mother's Helper	Mother's Helper				(571) 242-2823
Belen Plaza (14)	CPR Certified	Pets		Arts & Crafts Tutor	Yes	sweethautchinson@gmail.com
Clark Quattlebaum (14)	Yes	Dogs, Cats	Lawn Care, Rake, Shovel		Yes	maryqbaum@gmail.com
Kyle Quattlebaum (18)						maryqbaum@gmail.com
Luke Quattlebaum (16)		Dogs, Cats	Lawn Care, Rake, Shovel		Yes	maryqbaum@gmail.com
Maggie Reed (15)	CPR Certified	Lizards, Birds, Dogs & Cats				(202) 309-8511
Harley Seidel (17)	Yes	Yes			Yes	(917) 213-8540

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