



# GLEN FARMS AND TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2024



Find us on facebook

facebook.com/glenfarmscivicasociation

Check out our website

[www.glenfarms.org](http://www.glenfarms.org)

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Change often comes with the new year - out with the old, in with the new. This year the civic association is changing leadership. John Novak is taking the helm as President, starting February 1st. I will backfill the Vice President position for the remaining term. We also welcome Mike Horn to the board of directors. Mike grew up in Glen Farms and recently returned to the community with his wife, Kate, and their family.

In October, I was elected to serve on the board of the Newark Natural Food Co-Op, and needed to make some room in my schedule, hence my stepping down from GFTCA. I will continue to be involved as much as I am able. I am honored to have served as a Director, President, and now VP. We have such a wonderful community and neighborhood. Happy New Year to everyone.

--Scotty

I do not have the same neighborhood legacy as some of our friends and neighbors, but those of you who know me know that I go hard, as the kids say. I'm 36, can I say that or am I one of the kids still? My wife and I moved to this neighborhood in January of 2020 and in the four short years we've been here, we've learned to call it home. The community really came together when myself and Scotty were involved in our motorcycle accident almost three years ago, mowing our lawns and making us food. It was an incredible show of love and community spirit, a strength of spirit I hope I can live up to. I have served this community first as a Director, then as Vice President. As I transition to the role of President, I pledge to you my commitment to continued improvement and fostering of community spirit. In exchange, I would like you, the community, to hold my feet to the fire. Be engaged, communicate to the board what you would like, and hold me accountable if you see changes you may not agree with. I always welcome meeting new people or hearing from old friends and neighbors, and would love nothing more than to have a good, solid conversation about our neighborhood and its potential.

I look forward to conversing and working with you all, to help grow this community into the best version of itself. To quote Steven Dubner, "Take care of yourself and, if you can, someone else too."

--John

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> 7 pm

Newark Baptist Church, 6011 Telegraph Road

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** for the first General Membership Meeting of 2024! We will be introducing the new Officers and Board Members elected at the December Meeting, voting on the proposed Bylaw changes discussed in December, and discussing other community issues. Attendance by the Membership is highly encouraged!

## PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

During the last General Membership Meeting in December, several changes to the bylaws were proposed. The changes are enumerated below. They are to be officially voted on in the next General Membership Meeting on **February 13<sup>th</sup>**.

### I. Article II – Aims and Purposes

Propose **addition** of section F as a statement of equality and inclusion.

Stand together to promote inclusion, community, and neighborly respect. The Glen Farms and Tara community is one of diversity, equity, and inclusion, welcoming friends and neighbors of every race, creed, orientation, identity, or cultural background. Value exists in diversity as we build each other into better versions of ourselves and our community.

### II. Article V – Officers

Propose language change to clarify the fact that special elections can be held to backfill unexpected vacancies before the normal election for that position occurs.

#### Current language:

The Officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each elected by a majority vote at an annual meeting for a two-year term. Terms shall be staggered such that the President and Vice President are elected in even calendar years, and the Secretary and Treasurer are elected in odd calendar years.

#### Proposed language:

The Officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each elected by a majority vote at an annual meeting for a two-year term. Terms shall be such that the President and Vice President are elected during alternating terms, President and Secretary on even years, Vice President and Treasurer on odd years to ensure organizational continuity, allowing for exceptions in which an officer filling either position is elected to a new position, opening a vacancy. At such time, a special election will be held to elect an officer to fill the remaining vacant term, which will consist of the remaining time until the next scheduled election for that position.

### III. Article VI – Board of Directors

Proposed language change to clarify that the Board will always attempt to have representation from both Glen Farms AND Tara.

#### Current language:

Every effort shall be made to select at least one Director from Tara.

#### Proposed language:

Every effort shall be made to select at least one Director each from both Tara and Glen Farms.

### IV. Article X – Committees

Proposed description of **Section G, Neighborhood Safeguard Committee:**

- (1) Stay abreast of criminal trends and behavior in the community and region which may concern membership and/or board.
- (2) Interact with membership to facilitate positive interactions between membership and law enforcement if and when necessary.
- (3) Interact with law enforcement on behalf of the Civic Association when and where necessary to support the aims and purposes of the board as outlined in Article II of this document.

(4) Advise the membership and the Civic Association as to new trends, concerns, vulnerabilities, and precautions relating to safety and security that may be of interest to membership and Civic Association.

## V. Article XII – Amendments

Proposed change is to allow for electronic communication regarding bylaw amendments/adjustments rather than requiring printed copies.

### Current language:

The by-laws of the Glen Farms Civic Association, Inc., may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a meeting when the vote is taken. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Membership via circulated paper copies at least fifteen (15) days before the vote is taken.

### Proposed language:

The by-laws of the Glen Farms Civic Association, Inc., may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a meeting when the vote is taken. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Membership via email, distribution points, and posted on the website at least fifteen (15) days before the vote is taken.”

## DUES

*Friends and neighbors of Glen Farms,*

To start, we would like to thank the many of you that have paid your dues for the February 2023-January 2024 season. We pushed for an increase in participation in October, and we increased our participation from 25% to 30% (~90 households)! Unfortunately, this means we are still in a down year.

### What do my dues do?

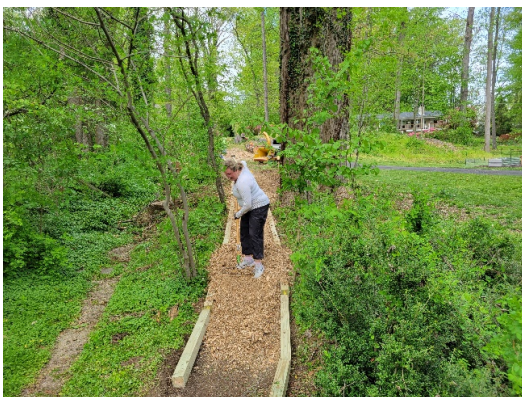
The dues you pay support the Glen Farms and Tara Civic Association. This year alone, those dues



helped pay for materials to rebuild the walking path on the east side of Lake George; rebuild the rotted dock at Lake George; and maintain common areas via mowing, pruning, and trimming. The dues also pay for community events (e.g., Ice Cream Social, Fishing Derby, etc.), but only when we receive enough funds.



The Civic Association is responsible for the maintenance of Lake George and Brinton Park. Lake George serves as a water retention reservoir to prevent pollutants like fertilizer and runoff from entering the Christina River. To meet that obligation, we are



required to have a reserve to maintain the lake in accordance with certain environmental regulations, and to prevent the embankment from washing out. If the Civic Association were to dissolve or become insolvent, the money needed for that maintenance would likely come from an increase in county taxes or by an HOA the developer maintains the right to install in the event the Civic Association goes away.

We maintain a small annual budget for minor community projects, like signs to remind residents to pay their dues and the welcome committee that engages new residents. We have liability insurance in the event someone is seriously injured

in our common areas. The annual community yard sale, which supports the entire community in helping reduce waste, increase the reuse of belongings, and financially benefit those households that participate, is supported by dues for signage, flyers, and outreach. Combined, these expenses cost the equivalent of about 60 households' worth of dues. We would like to have more activities like the Fishing Derby, Ice Cream Social, and fund improvements for the community, but those are in danger now.

### **What do my dues *not* do?**

Your dues do not pay board members; ours are entirely volunteer positions. Your dues do not pay for the annual Santa ride, candy hand-out, and canned food collection; this is entirely supported by an anonymous member of the community. Your dues do not support the hiding of Easter eggs throughout the common areas in the spring; this is entirely supported by an anonymous member of the community. Your dues do not support Friday Nights by the Lake; this is entirely supported through the generosity of members of the community.

### **What can I do?**

Long story short, we do not have enough households paying dues this year to cover the cost of even the regular common area maintenance. At \$25 per household per year, if we doubled participation to 60% of households, the resulting \$4500 would be enough to scrape by with the bare minimum of expenditures in a year. At the recent membership meeting, this problem was addressed. The only solution is two-fold: an increase in dues and an increase in contributions. The membership unanimously voted in favor of an increase in dues from \$25 annually to \$40 annually. Additionally, in the following year, the board will be pursuing efforts to increase communication, so the membership knows we're here and what we're doing. We understand that on our end, we need to show you, the community, what your dues support. We need to make you feel like your dues are being well spent. We will be increasing awareness and signage at community events and at dues-sponsored activities. We will also be making it easier to pay your dues with easy-to-scan QR codes at events and by exploring options to make payment easier with cash transfer apps. We know most of our membership want to pay, but sometimes it's forgotten among the hectic life of working all day, raising a family, and just surviving. We will endeavor to make it easier to pay and easier to see what you're paying for. Our goal is to have all 376 homes participating.

Lastly, if you would like to volunteer at any events, or to support the community in any capacity, please do not hesitate to email the board, reach out to a board member, or submit interest via the website at <https://glenfarms.org/volunteer/>.

The Glen Farms Tara Civic Association is a non-profit entity that performs some of the functions that a traditional HOA performs (common area maintenance, for example) but without an HOA. Any of you who have lived in an HOA community should be able to appreciate the difference 😊. With that in mind, we need to continue to make it easy to pay dues. As a reminder, dues are \$40 per house, per year. That said, here are the ways to pay your \$40:

- Paypal: to this email address: [gfcatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gfcatreasurer@gmail.com)
- On the Glen Farms/Tara website: (<https://glenfarms.org/membership/>)
- Paper Check: Make out to "GFCFA" and *mail* to (do not just place in mailbox per postmaster):

Winston Robinson  
Treasurer  
14 South Parkway  
Elkton, MD 21921

## **FUTURE COMMUNICATION**

We have been reminded by the postmaster that we cannot distribute paper communications in mailboxes. We currently distribute our various messages BOTH electronically and physically. As of January 2024, we are discontinuing the paper newsletters. We will still print a small amount and place in the Little Library boxes around the neighborhood but we will no longer print and mail the newsletter.

## **WILDLIFE**

Glen Farms/Tara is described as “Suburban,” but we all know that this area is not the typical ‘burbs. Among the many aspects that make it unique here is the wildlife that we share. Deer, fox, raccoons, squirrels, birds, and more. That said, we would like to remind you that we SHARE this space. If an animal is bothering you or your family, please contact Cecil County Animal Services at 410-441-2040. We had a recent report of someone shooting and killing a fox. As a reminder, guns cannot be discharged in Glen Farms and certainly not on the wildlife.



# GLEN FARMS AND TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

[www.glenfarms.org](http://www.glenfarms.org)

## 2024 DUES NOTICE

Membership Dues for the fiscal year beginning **February 1, 2024** are now due. Dues are only **\$40** per household. Your dues enable us to provide the activities listed below as well as preserve Lake George and Brinton Park. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any board member. The contact information for each board member is listed on the GFCA website and in the newsletters.

### PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO ENSURE WE KEEP MEMBERSHIP CURRENT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names and ages (if living at home): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Used solely to assist the Board in event planning)

The Civic Association publishes a Community Directory every couple of years.  
If you do not wish to have your phone and/or email published, please indicate below:

NO EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ NO PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### I am interested in the following GFCA activities/committees [Please check all that apply]:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Day        | <input type="checkbox"/> Chili & Pie Cookoff   | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Concerns Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Derby    | <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver Newsletters   | <input type="checkbox"/> Brinton Park Committee          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Cream Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake George Committee           |

AMOUNT DUE (by July 15) payable to "GFCA" \$ 40.00  
ADDITIONAL DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT METHODS

### Mail to:

Winston Robinson  
Treasurer  
14 South Parkway  
Elkton, MD 21921  
[gfcatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gfcatreasurer@gmail.com)

### Online through

You can now pay your Membership dues online by using PayPal, a secure internet payment service. If you don't have a PayPal account, you can now pay with just a credit card, or eCheck, thru PayPal. There is a direct link to PayPal on the website.  
[www.glenfarms.org](http://www.glenfarms.org)



If Paying via Square or PayPal, please email your membership form to the Treasurer at  
[gfcatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:gfcatreasurer@gmail.com)

### At Social Functions