



GLEN FARMS AND TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2024



Find us on facebook

facebook.com/glenfarmscivicassociation

Check out our website

www.glenfarms.org

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Friends and neighbors, Hello and happy May! We had our April showers so bring on the May flowers! I enjoy going running through the neighborhood and seeing so much of the beautiful spring bloom, running into all our neighbors walking their dogs, walking with their families, and riding their bikes. As the end of spring draws near, remember to keep being amazing neighbors to each other by picking up after your dogs, and keeping them leashed or in your yard. Be aware that more people are on our wonderful, shady back roads so please drive cautiously like your kids live here. But enough about that, let's get ready to enjoy the summer! As you may recall, with May comes our first Friday Night by the Lake on May 10th. Bring the family, bring a frosty beverage or two, and enjoy an evening with your neighbors! Just remember if you drink, don't drive, do the watermelon crawl.

As a last reminder, thank you to all of you who have paid your dues this year, we sincerely appreciate your contributions to helping us maintain our neighborhood. If you want to be a wonderful, dues-paying neighbor like the rest of our great neighbors but maybe haven't had the opportunity, you can go to our website at www.glenfarms.org and pay your dues in three easy minutes. Thanks again to all our amazing neighbors and volunteers, special shout out to our Earth Day committee! If you see any of them, make sure you thank them for doing such a wonderful job. I'll see you all down by the lake!

--John

FRIDAY NIGHT BY THE LAKE – SPRING CELEBRATION

MAY 10th from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

We are kicking off Friday Night by the Lake early this year and hope to see you there. Stop by for a quick visit or stay for the evening to catch up with old friends and meet some new neighbors. As always, bring a chair, favorite beverage, and snack. Neighbors of all ages are welcome! As a continuation of Earth Day, we will be having several environmentally focused activities. For the children there will be a Craft Station and a Storytime Area. To help our native birds we will have a Birdhouse Building Station including birdhouse plans, building demonstration, and completed houses. A Native and Invasive Plant table will provide information so that we can all learn how to make small changes that can help improve our neighborhood's biodiversity. The neighborhood Clothing Drive is still in progress so if you have items to donate to a local charity, drop them off anytime at 5 Oak Drive or 213 Rhett Lane or bring them to Friday Night by the Lake. For questions contact Kathy Gibney dkja@comcast.net or Kim Silva kim_whale@comcast.net.

BRINTON PARK

Vandalism: In mid-April, one of the end posts for the tennis court net at Brinton Park was deliberately destroyed. As a result, the Tennis Court is closed for the foreseeable future. Vandalism in Brinton Park is extremely rare. It is located in the middle of the community, with limited access and surrounded by homes. It is not easily accessible to the general public. We know that the court itself needs to be resurfaced. The cost of resurfacing the courts is estimated between \$4,000 and \$8,000. The cost just to replace the damaged post is approximately \$500. Sadly, the Civic Association does not have the funds to resurface the tennis courts. It does not make sense to replace the post if the courts will not be resurfaced. The Park is still available, and the basketball nets are still there. The paved area can be used for children's wheeled toys. We hope you will continue to enjoy this community asset, even though the tennis courts are no longer usable. We will be discussing future use of Brinton Park, as well as security options, if any. The Community will be

consulted and involved in these discussions. If you have any suggestions or comment, please feel free to reach out to me, John Novak, at john.r.novak@gmail.com or (302) 299-5135.

Improvement: The Glen Farms Civic Association, who owns Brinton Park and is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance, is evaluating improvements to the park. These improvements may include remodeling or adding amenities and will be a multi-year project.

For 2024, we have 3 goals:

1. **Complete a survey of Brinton Park:** A survey of Brinton Park is being performed, including right of ways (ROW) and easements. The survey will be performed by Myers Land Survey Corp. and is expected to be completed this Spring 2024. You may see surveyors measuring the area, as well as setting markers.

2. **Establish mowing and lawn care access to Brinton Park:** Access to the upper level of the park for mowers and lawn care equipment needs to be added so that workers accessing the park via North Parkway can gain access to the upper level. At present, the lawn care company is accessing the upper level of the park through adjoining property. We are grateful to our neighbors for this accommodation. We expect to be able to access the park directly in 2025.

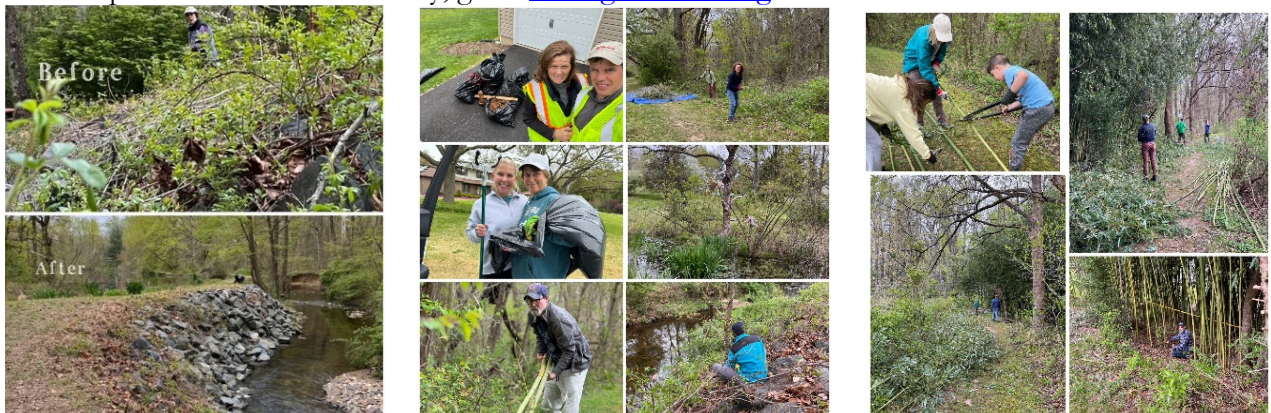
3. **Planning for future of Brinton Park:** Lastly, we will begin planning for the future of Brinton Park. Regrettably, it has been ignored over the past years, and we would like to rectify that oversight. We are identifying interested residents who would like to be part of the planning process. If you are interested, please contact Barb Bronson, at autumntrails@comcast.net or (410) 392-7699.

SUCCESSFUL START AT LAKE GEORGE

On Sunday, April 21st neighbors gathered to begin restoring the Lake George ecosystem through invasive plant removal! A huge thanks to everyone who participated in our Earth Day restoration work! It was a fun and successful afternoon! To foster a healthy ecosystem, we must work together to remove the invasive plant species that compromise the success of our native species. Our efforts involved tackling the bamboo, multiflora rose, autumn olive, Japanese honeysuckle and oriental bittersweet that have been taking over. With the helping hands and hard work of many neighbors, we made a lot of progress in just a few hours. It was a wonderful start, but there is still more work to do. Would you be interested in joining future efforts to return the lake to its natural beauty? Stay tuned for an upcoming workday!

Bamboo poles that have been cut and trimmed are available for all of your gardening and DIY needs. They are stacked at the Lake, below the parking lot near the exercise stations.

For all the photos taken of Earth Day, go to www.glenfarms.org.



FREE LITTLE LIBRARY RENEWAL

Little Libraries Have Been Renewed! (pun intended) Mother Nature has not been kind to our Little Libraries, so after 2 years we needed to make some repairs and replace the doors. The Civic Association Board members stepped up, contributing their time and resources to repair and upgrade the Little Libraries. There are 3 Little Libraries in the Community: (1) the parking lot at Lake George on South Parkway, (2) the entrance to Brinton Park on North Parkway; and (3) the entrance to Tara. **Neighbors are invited to add books they have already read to fill our shelves. Children's books are especially welcomed.**

FALL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

September 14, 2024 – rain or shine!

Who's pondering a Yard Sale? count me in! Typically, a last-minute decision, but with some research we have discovered that now is the perfect time to start planning for our Fall Yard Sale. The aim is to engage as many residents as possible, along with our neighboring communities. We've got the date set for September 14, 2024 rain or shine. Keep an eye out for further updates!

- For questions contact LauraLee at neighbors@c21gk.com.

CHANGES COMING TO OUR WEBSITE

We recently conducted a survey to get input on what residents/users would like to see on our website. With that input we'll be forming a committee to redesign our website to include many of those features and make it more attractive and easier to use. Look forward to forums where you can share information (*e.g.*, Lost & Found, Services Available & Needed, Community Input, etc.), better structure for ease of navigation, and more content that the survey told us was needed.

-Tim

TAKING ITEMS FROM COMMON AREAS

Hello, neighbors! With the warmer weather often comes the desire to get out and about and enjoy walking around our gorgeous neighborhood. As we do this, let us please remember that Lake George and Brinton Park are owned by GFTCA and, therefore, the foliage is GFTCA property. So, please remember this and do not take items from the common areas (*i.e.*, river stones, reeds, flowers, etc.) without permission. You wouldn't go into your neighbor's yard without permission and pick their flowers. It may seem like one item here or there won't matter, but please try to remember that you may not be the only one doing this, and if everyone takes a flower, there would eventually be no more flowers left to enjoy. Not only that, but it is generally best not to mess with natural resource areas that are managed by others, as we can't know what downstream effects our actions might cause.

Thanks so much for your help and understanding with this. We, the Board, love our beautiful community and the great people who live here. Wishing everyone a lovely Spring!

UNWELCOME SALESPEOPLE

Recently there have been salespeople dropping off flyers, or knocking on doors, offering their services to residents. These are often unwelcome interruptions. Sometimes salespeople can be persistent. Glen Farms and Tara have a No Solicitation policy, and signs are posted at the entrances to the neighborhood. If you encounter a salesperson, please tell them that we have a No Solicitation policy, the individual should leave. If they do not, you may call the Cecil County Sheriff Non-Emergency Hotline: (410) 996-5500. Let them know we have a No Solicitation policy and that someone is soliciting after being asked to leave. You may also notify the Better Business Bureau.

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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

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



At Social Functions

If Paying via Square or PayPal, please email your membership form to the Treasurer at gfcatreasurer@gmail.com