



# GLEN FARMS & TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## Fall 2025

 Find us on Facebook  
facebook.com/glenfarmscivicasociation

Check out our website: [www.glenfarms.org](http://www.glenfarms.org)

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends and neighbors, with the approach of fall comes cooler weather, bonfires, and leaves! As we all seek to enjoy our flannel, pumpkin spice, and foliage, we have a few reminders to help ensure our neighbors can all enjoy as much of fall as possible. Be aware of any burn bans in effect, as bonfires can risk not just your home but the homes of your neighbors. Refrain from burning leaves, as the embers of a leaf can float on the wind further than you know, igniting fires as far as a quarter mile away in some cases! Watch where you move your leaves – blowing your leaves into a roadway can create a dangerous slipping situation for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and even runners, so make sure you either bag and remove, compost, or leave them in place to nourish next season's lawn! Also, keep an eye out for drainage areas, as leaves blown into drainage ditches and culverts can reduce water flow, and may result in flooding.

Tune into the GFTCA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/glenfarmscivicasociation>) as we roll out a number of announcements, including the new pet of the month! To enter, message the page with a photo and brief paragraph about why your dog, cat, fish, bearded dragon, or axolotl should be the pet of the month! We look forward to seeing you all at the next Friday Night by the Lake. Keep being great neighbors!

-John R. Novak

### OCTOBER FNBTL

**October 24, 2025 (7pm)**

The board is planning to host one more Friday Night by the Lake (FNBTL) this year in October. If you would like to be a part of making the "Spooky Season" FNBTL as fun as possible, please contact Kelsey Novak at [ksmeltz91@gmail.com](mailto:ksmeltz91@gmail.com) or (717) 715-4903.

### DUES MESSAGE

Please remember to pay your 2025 dues! The dues are **\$40** per household per year and can be paid here: [Membership – Glen Farms & Tara Civic Association](#) – to date, we have only received dues from 26 households out of 340!

*Please reach out to any board member or contact us through the website or Facebook if that amount is prohibitive for you or your family. We would be happy to work with you and arrive at a solution together!*

Additionally, the Board is in the process of setting up a Venmo account to make paying your dues even easier! Keep your ear to the ground!

As a reminder, your dues **DO NOT**:

- pay any type of salary to board members (positions are 100% voluntary)
- pay for any religious holiday observance (Christmas and Easter events are sponsored privately by a community member)

However, your dues **DO**:

- support the implementation of FNBTL and other community events
- support the upkeep of common areas like Lake George and Brinton Park
- support upgrades to common areas

## GOOD STEWARDSHIP

It has recently come to our attention that trash has been repeatedly dumped into common areas like Lake George. Please remember that these common areas exist for the enjoyment of all our residents. Accumulation of trash and waste detracts from the natural beauty of these areas and negatively impacts the area by leaving behind debris that can take hundreds of years to fully decompose. Additionally, food scraps and the like invite other pests into the area that may not exist otherwise, and we would hate to have to call in a piper to clear the area of rats! Please remember your fellow human, clean up after yourselves, and take care of the equipment and wildlife that our community is blessed to have.

## CYBERSECURITY

Many of our residents have reached out with concerns because scams and cyber issues have been hitting even closer to home. No one wants to fall victim to one of these scams. We must be vigilant, even as board members, as nefarious actors will go to our website, read our names, and use that to try and email other board members as an exploit. With that in mind, we put together a rough list of tips to ensure you and your loved ones are safe.

- Government agencies like the MVA will never reach out to you by text message unless you have specifically signed up for text alerts. Further, they will never send a text link for you to click to pay anything.
- If you receive an email from someone you know asking for money, click on their email address or mouse-over it to see what it says. Make sure that email is coming from your actual friend, not someone pretending to be them. Alternatively, reach out to that friend to confirm they sent the message.
- Set up multi-factor authentication. Sure, it might be a pain in the tuchus sometimes, but having your bank send you a text message when you try to sign in helps prevent someone else from accessing your account.
- Update your software! Whenever your laptop, phone, or application says there is an update available, go ahead and update it. Most updates include security patches, which make it harder for adversaries to target you.

- Password protect your Wi-Fi. Additionally, password protect any of the devices you connect to your Wi-Fi. With the Internet of Things, if you have a Wi-fi-enabled device like a programmable light switch, and you don't put a password on it, someone with bad intentions can connect to your light switch, and use it as a gateway to access the rest of your network, including your computer.
- Update your passwords regularly. Every season change, it's a good idea to change your passwords for your accounts. When you do, make sure you don't use the same password for multiple accounts. That way, if you get scammed into trying to login to your email on a bad site, you aren't giving the ne'er-do-wells access to your bank account, mortgage, or worse yet your Netflix!
- If anyone from the board, your family, friends, or anyone else asks you to pay anything with, or to purchase, iTunes gift cards, just block them. No one legitimate accepts iTunes gift cards as a form of currency, I promise.

Keep these tips in mind and be careful out there! For more information or resources, visit an authority like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency for more tips: <https://www.cisa.gov/audiences/individuals-and-families>

## ENJOYING THE COMMON AREAS

While enjoying the lovely common areas and trails that Glen Farms has to offer, please be conscious to stay on the trails/within the common areas so as to not accidentally stray into neighbor's yards. A particular area of concern is the bamboo around Lake George. Residents may occasionally see maintenance occurring to the bamboo, but these are board-sanctioned activities by members of our Earth Day Committee or Lake Committee. Please do not take it upon yourself to try and maintain the bamboo. If you have interest in joining or contributing to any Committee which dedicates time, resources, and knowledge to cleaning up the common areas and keeping our natural ecosystem healthy, please reach out to the board. We would love to hear from you and help you get involved!

## DOGS IN THE COMMUNITY

As some of you may have noticed, we have had a recent spate of dogs escaping, and we have come together as a community to ensure they are returned to their rightful homes. We know that every now and then, a dog might rush past you and out the door, it happens to the best of us. That said, we need to be diligent in making sure that we have good control over our furry friends. In Cecil County, an "at large" dog is one who has escaped the confines of its home, fence, etc. Any time a dog is not inside a residence, it is required to be on a tether of minimum length, behind a fence, or on a leash. The owner of an at-large dog may be fined up to \$500 in Cecil County. Additional fines may apply if a dog escapes a home or fence and attacks or chases someone. We have many runners, joggers, and cyclists in our neighborhood, as well as those who enjoy walking their dogs on leashes. Let's look out for our neighbors and ensure we have positive control of our own dogs. And please **always** remember to pick up after your dog appropriately. Keep being excellent to each other!