



NEWS FROM THE GLEN

Newsletter of Glen Allen

www.glenallen.org

Bowie, Maryland

Fall 2006

Glen Allen HOA Assessments to Rise

The Board of Directors of the HOA has always tried very hard to keep our assessments low. There has been very little increase over the last 4+ years. However, insurance costs have gone up approximately 15% and, due to the increased cost of gas and electricity (up 17%), lawn maintenance companies have had to raise their rates as well. At 16+ years old, Glen Allen is at that awkward age when things start to need refurbished or fixed. Some trees in the common areas need to come down for safety's sake. The signs and light fixtures at the entrances need to be repaired (a surprisingly expensive undertaking). With the rising insurance, management and landscaping costs and unforeseen maintenance expenses, we had little choice but to increase the assessment by 10 percent. That 10% will increase the assessment to \$154 each year (still among the lowest assessments in the area). A copy of the budget and the assessment coupon will be mailed to you shortly.

HOA To Change Banks

Community management companies often use banks which specialize in working with HOAs. Over the past year, the bank that ProCom has been using made some serious errors in regards to assessment payments. All errors have been corrected. However, in response to the Board of Director's complaints, ProCom is changing the bank they use for the communities they manage.

We have the option of switching to this new bank or asking ProCom to manage all payment processing themselves. If ProCom handles payment processing we would be getting personalized service but it would cost a bit more and residents would lose the direct debit and automatic bill paying option. If we go with the new bank, residents would keep the direct debit and automatic bill paying option.

The Board must make this decision quickly, possibly by the time you read this. Either way, we hope to make the errors of the past year history not be repeated.

Holiday Safety Tips

With the holiday season quickly approaching now is the time to remain vigilant about your personal safety. Most criminals are opportunistic. Please report any suspicious activity that you may observe. When calling 911 or the police non-emergency number 301-333-4000, please be prepared to give a good detailed description, which may include; height and weight, color of clothing, any distinguishing features, vehicle information i.e. tag number, make, model, and color. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind, while out and about this holiday shopping season.

- ♣ Always park your vehicle in a well lit parking lot.
- ♣ Never leave valuables in your vehicle. This includes newly purchased packages.
- ♣ Always keep doors and windows secure. Even if you don't plan on being away from your vehicle for long, take an extra second to lock your doors.
- ♣ Be aware of your surroundings. Always look in your vehicle before getting inside.
- ♣ Never leave your vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition with the vehicle running.



Cooking with Bob

Peas With Black Olives & Pimentos

Ingredients:

2 cups Frozen Peas
2 T Onion (chopped)
2 T Butter
2 T Pimentos (diced)
2 T Sliced Black Olives (pitted)
1/2 t Crushed Oregano
1/4 t Garlic Salt
Black Pepper to taste
Garlic Clove

Peel the garlic clove and cut in half. Rub a sauce pan with the cut ends of the garlic clove. Cook the peas and onions together according to directions on the peas' package. Drain, stir in the remaining ingredients and season with garlic salt and pepper to taste. Heat through. Serves 4.

A nice vegetable for a Holiday dinner! Can easily be doubled or tripled.

Prepare for Emergencies!

Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes; a house fire, a hurricane or a terrorism attack. We may be helpless to prevent an emergency, but perhaps we can be prepared to meet one if it occurs. Here are the top 10 things you can do to prepare for an emergency (from the Department of Homeland Security website at www.dhs.gov):

1. Determine the best escape routes from your home. Find at least 2 ways out of each room.
2. Pick two places to meet after a disaster. Choose one right outside your home. Choose one outside your neighborhood in case it is not safe to stay near or return home.
3. Choose an emergency contact person outside your area because it may be easier to call long distance than locally after a local or regional disaster. Share the contact person's phone number with everyone in your family.
4. Complete an emergency contact card and give copies to each family member. Be sure to include your out-of-town contact. You should also have at least one traditionally wired landline phone since cordless or cell phones may not work in an emergency.
5. Find out how to care for your pets and working animals when disaster strikes. Pets should not be left behind, but many emergency shelters cannot house them. Visit the Animal Safety section on www.redcross.org or the Humane Society website on www.hsus.org for some ideas. Be sure to store extra food and water for your pets.
6. Every 6 months, review your plan, update numbers and check supplies to be sure that nothings has expired, spoiled or changed.
7. Check your children's school websites or call the school offices to request a copy of the schools' emergency plans. Keep a copy at home

and work or other places where you spend a lot of your time. Make sure the schools' plans are incorporated into your family's emergency plan. Also, learn about your workplace's emergency plans.

8. Teach your children how and when to call 911 number for help.
9. Practice. Conduct fire drills and practice evacuating your home twice a year. Drive your evacuation route and plan alternate routes in case of road blockages or gridlock.
10. Work with your neighbors. See who has specialized equipment like power generators or expertise such as medical knowledge. Decide who will check up on elderly or disabled neighbors. Make back-up plans for children in case you can't get home in an emergency.

HOA Contact List

ProCom, Inc.

Adriane Merkel: 301-261-0777

HOA Board of Directors

Karen DeFazio, President: 301-249-7463

Charles Brown, Vice President: 301-351-1396

Cary Hithon, Treasurer: 301-218-1956

Gary Goldberg, Secretary: 301-249-2271

Dorothy Morrison, At-Large: 301-390-2841

City Council Member, District 4

Michael Lyles: 301-249-0521

Committees and Chairs

Architectural Review, Charles Brown

Grounds and Maintenance, Joe Brust

Hospitality, Gary Goldberg

Neighborhood Watch, vacant

Newsletter: Karen and Bob DeFazio

Website

www.glenallen.org

What's UP?

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**? At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP** and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report?

We call **UP** our friends. And we use it to brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, we warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and some guys fix **UP** the old car. At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special.

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is stopped **UP**. We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4th of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions. If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing **UP**.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things **UP**.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry **UP**.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now my time is **UP**.

Crime Statistics for Glen Allen and Surrounding Area

| | July | August | Sept. |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Homicides | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shootings | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assaults | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| Known | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Stranger | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Carjackings | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Citizen Robberies | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Residential Robberies | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commercial Robberies | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Residential Burglaries | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| Commercial Burglaries | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | |
| Auto Thefts | 13 | 7 | 7 |
| Auto Thefts w/ Engine Running | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| % w/ Engine Running | 0 | 0 | 0 |

October figures not available

The above are the statistics for Beat E1 in District II of the Prince George's Police Dept. Glen Allen is among the communities that make up E1. This encompasses the area south of Laurel and Greenbelt, east of the beltway, west of the Arundel County line and north of Pennsylvania Avenue. Glen Allen lies within two police beats, E1 and E6. Mt Oak Road divides beats E1 and E6; therefore the majority of Glen Allen is in E1.

Compiled by Charles Brown

Data Source: District II Crime Analysis Unit

With the cold weather approaching, remember that leaving a vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition (even if it is just warming up) is a ticketable offence. One that could cost you \$70 and 1 point on your driving record.





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Please deliver by November 14th