

NEWS FROM THE GLEN

Newsletter of Glen Allen

www.glenallen.org

**Bowie, Maryland
Winter 2009-2010**

Trees Over Bowie

The City of Bowie is trying to add to its overall tree canopy coverage by planting new forest land. One of the places that they would like to plant trees is the 1.3 acres officially known as the Atlantis Drive Storm Water Management Pond (also known as the Wetlands and the Gully). This is the area located at the intersection of Atlantis Drive and Arden Forest Lane. After carefully inspecting a map of the planned planting and speaking with Joe Meinert, Director of Planning and Economic Development for the city, it appears that the area we use for Movie Night will not be affected. This is still early in the planning stage. If it takes place, planting would not start until 2011.

There will be a stakeholders meeting in the Council Chambers at Bowie City Hall (2614 Kenhill Drive) at 7:00 p.m. on December 9, 2009. (This may have already happened by the time this reaches you.) We will post any updates on the Glen Allen website and/or via email to our email list. If you would like your email address added to our list, send your request to Sherry Jones sjones@procomgt.com.

Property Taxes

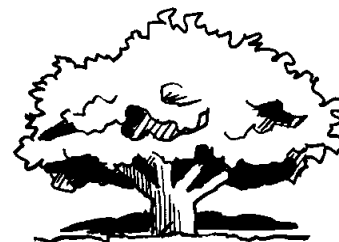
Sandy Pruitt

Leader, People for Change

Have you considered appealing your property taxes? If so, you **must do so by January 1, 2010**. When People for Change www.pfcpgc.org 301-808-1492) held its town hall meeting in Laurel last month, we learned that many people are now filing appeals because their home's assessed value is much higher than what they believe the value to be.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact Dan Puma at 301-952-2184 or visit the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation website at :

www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/appeal.html.



Prince George's County Animal Management Group Seeks Volunteers

The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources' (DER) Animal Management Group (AMG) is searching for volunteers to help provide for the care and welfare of the animal population at its new Animal Services Facility at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro.

There are a number of available positions for those who wish to work "hands on" with the animals including assisting at off-site adoption locations, as well as positions for those who want to work with the public and fundraising for the facility. All positions require a minimum of four hours a month time commitment and volunteers must attend a volunteer orientation/facility tour. In addition, potential volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and must complete a volunteer application. Students who wish to fulfill community service requirements for graduation are encouraged to apply.

Anyone interested in volunteering can visit the shelter for an application, can apply online at:

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/AMG or call (301) 780-7220 for more information.

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The Straight Scoop Common Myths about Pet Waste

Myth: Pet waste doesn't hurt the environment

Fact: Sooner or later pet waste left on the ground finds its way to our storm drains, streams and rivers. It decomposes and produces substances that consume the oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic animals need to live. It can make our streams and rivers unsafe for swimming.

Myth: Pet waste decays quickly

Fact: It actually breaks down very slowly. In winter, if it freezes, it decays even slower.

Myth: Waste from ONE dog can't hurt

Fact: Maybe, maybe not. But we're not talking about one dog, we're talking about 12,000 dogs (the number of licensed dogs in Prince George's County) plus the unknown number of unlicensed dogs.

Myth: No one cares if I pick up after my pet or not

Fact: Stepped in what!?! Sure, they care. They especially care if it is in front of their house or in their yard. More complaints are made for pet waste than for aggressive dogs, barking or dogs running loose (the HOA has received its share of complaints on this). In Prince George's County not picking it up is against the law and may result in a \$250 fine.

Myth: Picking up after my dog is too inconvenient and messy

Fact: No one enjoys doing it, but it has become easier. There are lots of commercial products including special plastic bags and pooper-scoopers. Those otherwise useless plastic bags from grocery stores are excellent for this purpose.

From the Department of Environmental Resources, Prince George's County

Commercial Truck Parking Regulations

The Bowie Code Compliance officers use the Bowie city code, Chapter 14 and 26, and several county codes to enforce the parking regulations for commercial vehicles. The Code Compliance office stated that an HOA can further restrict the rules for commercial vehicle parking; however, it cannot expand the rules beyond legislative boundaries. The city codes are basically the same as the county codes. Bowie code chapter 14 describes restrictions on the city street. For commercial vehicles, it states:

“(3) Commercial vehicle: Any motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer, including but not limited to stake platform trucks, cranes and tow trucks, used for carrying freight, merchandise, passengers or tools of a trade for compensation or in furtherance of any commercial enterprise, that:

(a) Has a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight specification exceeding seventy-five hundred (7500) pounds; **or**

(b) Contains advertising, except that a firm name or similar designation in lettering not exceeding four (4) inches in height shall not be deemed to be advertising; **or**

(c) Exceeds three-hundred (300) cubic feet of load space; **or**

(d) Has dual rear wheels.”

Bowie City code chapter 26 allows parking of certain commercial vehicles on private property. However, the Glen Allen Architectural Guidelines restrict this rule and prohibits the parking of such vehicles. The Guidelines state: “No junk vehicles, recreational vehicles, house trailers, or commercial or industrial vehicles, such as but not limited to, moving vans, boats,

boating equipment, travel trailers, camping trucks or camping equipment shall be operated or **parked upon the property.**”

Random Observations

1. I think part of a best friend’s job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you’re wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn’t want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is a great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. MapQuest really needs to start its directions on #5. I’m pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
7. Bad decisions make good stories.
8. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren’t going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
9. “Do not machine wash or tumble dry” means that I will never wash this – ever.
10. I hate leaving my house confident and looking good and then not seeing anyone of importance the whole day. What a waste.

From the Internet

HOA Contacts

ProCom, Inc.
Sherry Jones: 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
Isaac Truth: 301-249-0707

Committees and Chairs

Architectural Review, Charles Brown
Grounds and Maintenance, Joe Brust
Hospitality, Vacant
Neighborhood Watch, David Nixon
Newsletter, Karen and Bob DeFazio
Website: www.glenallen.org

Operation Pillowcase

The Community Oriented Policing Squad of District II is looking for new and gently used toys, games, puzzles and books to donate to the children and families who have been displaced from their homes during these difficult financial times. Many residents of District II communities have been victims of foreclosure and are now residents of the Shepherd's Cove Shelter. Please help them have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Donations are being collected at:

**Prince George's County Police
District II Station
601 Crain Highway (just off Trade Zone
Ave.)
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774**

For more information, contact
Sgt. Lisa Muhammad on 301-390-2100 or
240-354-9803.

Santa Claus Comes to Glen Allen

Santa is scheduled to ride through Glen Allen on Tuesday, December 15. Makeup days are December 22nd and 23rd.

For safety reasons, the fire department ask that residents of courts come out to the main road to see Santa. Parents, please do not allow your children to climb on the apparatus.

The fire department will be collecting canned goods for the Bowie Interfaith Food Pantry during the Santa rides again this year. Last year we collected almost 1,000 food items, and we hope to exceed that this year.

Please share this information with your neighbors.



Cooking With Bob

Holiday Vegetables

Peas With Black Olives and 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
Pepper to taste
Garlic Clove

Rub a sauce pan with garlic clove. Cook the peas and onions together according to directions on the peas' package. Drain, stir in remaining ingredients and season with garlic salt and pepper. Heat through and serve in a warm dish. Serves (4). Can easily be doubled or tripled.

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Honey Cashew Green Beans

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lb. Fresh green beans
8 T Butter (1 stick)
1/3 cup Honey
1 cup Whole cashews
1/4 t Salt (omit if using salted butter)

Wash and nip the ends of the green beans. You can leave the beans whole or break in half (more elegant if left whole). Steam the beans until the degree of tenderness

you desire. You can boil them, but I prefer steaming.

Sauté the cashews in 2 T of the butter until they are lightly browned. Be careful, as they go from light brown to burned very quickly. Set cashews aside. When beans are cooked, drain well. Melt the remaining butter in a large skillet, add the honey and salt and stir until they mix with the butter. Add green beans and cashews and toss lightly until beans are coated and heated through. Serve in a warm dish. Serves (5)

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Carrots, Pineapple and Apricots

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lb. Fresh carrots (the small carottes work well)
6 T Butter
1 can Pineapple chunks (drained)
1/3 cup Apricot preserves
1/2 cup Dried apricots (cut in quarters)
1/4 t Salt (omit if using salted butter)

If you start with whole carrots, cut into 1 1/2 in. diagonal slices after scraping. Steam the carrots until the degree of tenderness you desire. You can boil them, but I prefer steaming. Drain carrots after cooking and set aside. These can be cooked in advance (up to a few hours).

Melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the apricot preserves and salt and stir until mixed. Add the carrots, pineapple and dried apricots and toss lightly. Keep mixture on the heat until carrots are heated through. Serve in a warm dish. Serves (5)

Crime Statistics for Glen Allen and Surrounding Area

Crimes	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Commercial Robbery	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Residential Robbery	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Citizen Robbery	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	2
Carjackings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assaults	3	3	0	4	6	2	2	3	1	4
Commercial Burglary	0	0	1	0	1	4	1	5	5	1
Residential Burglary	7	4	4	3	7	1	2	3	3	4
Theft	26	32	21	36	26	29	22	21	24	17
Theft from Auto	8	18	21	14	21	11	11	25	13	18
Stolen Autos	8	7	2	2	2	4	10	5	6	4

Crime Statistics for Glen Allen (Number of Reports Written)

Reports Written	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Accident	0	1	0	0	0
Break & Enter	0	0	2	0	1
Check person, etc.	0	0	1	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	1	0	0
Domestic/Dispute	0	1	0	0	0
Stolen Vehicle	0	0	0	1	0
Theft & Theft f/Auto	1	1	1	1	0
Vandalism	0	0	0	2	0

Note: As of November 22, 2009

Get traffic reports and community alerts on your cell phone, PDA or Blackberry. Also available via email.
Go to www.nixle.com

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c/o ProCom, Inc.
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Millersville, MD 21108***

Dated material; please deliver by December 11th