

## The Glen Echo

### **Newsletter of Fairlington Glen**

November 2011

#### **Glen Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of Fairlington Glen has been set for Wednesday, November 9, 2011, 7:30 PM, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street.

Important documents pertaining to the annual meeting were attached to the September newsletter, which is available on the Glen's web site at <a href="http://www.fairlington.org/glennewsletters.htm">http://www.fairlington.org/glennewsletters.htm</a>. On October 17, 2011, the same material was mailed to owners (or referred to owners at the web site), along with: (1) Board member candidate profiles; (2) instructions for how to vote online; and (3) *if you want to vote by proxy*, proxy materials to be mailed-back.

Voting online is easy and efficient, so we encourage owners to use online voting, rather than to vote by proxy, if they do not want to attend the annual meeting and vote in person.

See article on
"Turf
Management in
the Glen"

#### **Board Meeting Rescheduled**

The Board meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011, has been rescheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2011 (the same date a the annual meeting), 6:30 PM, Fairlington Community Center.

#### **B-Building Mail Boxes Nearing Completion**

Residents in Fairlington Glen B Buildings are happier these days thanks to their shiny new mailboxes, which now provide more room to receive incoming mail. The four-door mailboxes that were installed during the condo conversion in the 1970's have been replaced by larger boxes that meet today's U.S. Postal standards. (Continued next page ...)

Check Ongoing Master

Calendar of Glen Events

Do you have something that you would like to put in the *Glen Echo*? If so, please e-mail Maynard Dixon at *MaynardDixon@verizon.net*.

The *Glen Echo* is published online on the Glen's web site, at <a href="http://www.fairlington.org/glennewsletters.htm">http://www.fairlington.org/glennewsletters.htm</a>

To be notified by e-mail when the latest edition is published, with a link to the newsletter, give us your e-mail address by signing-up for Glen Alerts via the Glen's web site. Your e-mail address will be used only for official Glen business.

(... continued from prior page.)

In addition to the new four-door boxes, all B Buildings in the Glen have an additional box for outgoing mail. All Glen residents are invited to use these outgoing boxes to securely send any cards and letters. Of course, you can still leave outgoing mail in the slots in your door should you prefer.

B Buildings are found in all Glen courts except 6 and 11. Some courts even have more than one B Building.

Please contact Terry McGuire at <u>t.mcguire@cardinalmanagementgroup.com</u>, or 703-565-5012, if you did not receive the keys to your new mailbox, if repair or repainting arising out of this work remains to be done, or if you have further questions.

Many thanks to Jay Yianilos for coordinating this complex project.

#### **Taking Care of Business**

At its October 11, 2011 meeting, the Board approved a contract for drainage work in the alley between courts 15 and 16 (catch basins) and in the lower field behind court 16 (a French drain).

#### **November Reminders**

Less is more when using a Fairlington garbage disposal. Please use your garbage disposal only for bits of food left when working at the sink. Our plumbing systems were not originally designed for garbage disposals, having been retrofitted in the 1970's onto a system built during the Second World War.

In particular, please do not put celery, onions, pulpy fruits, grease, pasta, rice, coffee grounds, corn husks, potato peels or anything sub-stantial down the garbage disposal. Do not try to dispose of non-food

substances such as bones, caulk, or paint through the disposal. Flush the disposal with cold water even after turning it off to ensure that waste gets through the system.

Kitchen sink backups are the responsibility of co-owners to fix, or co-owners working together who share a common line, since ownership extends to the midpoint between two adjoining walls. This makes it especially important for all of us to cooperate.

\* \* \* \* \*

Unless you live in a Braddock unit, please secure your outside faucets (front and back) in order to prevent burst water pipes when the temperature drops and the weather remains cold. In the Barcroft units there is one valve to control both faucets located above the hot water heater in the utility room. For other units there are two valves — one behind the disposal under the sink for the patio faucet and one over the hot water heater in the utility room for the front faucet. To shut-off the water, turn the valves **off** inside the unit and **open** the valves outside in order to drain the pipes and keep them from freezing. Leave the heat in your unit on to at least 55 degrees (even when you are away) to prevent broken pipes.

#### **Tree Capital of Arlington**

The Glen is expecting 16 new trees to be planted throughout the Glen in late November by Davey Tree. These trees were awarded to us by Arlington County through the Tree Canopy Program administered by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). The placement of the new trees is marked by wooden stakes in the common areas near Courts 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 15. The stakes need to remain in place until Miss Utility can confirm they will not interfere with any underground wires or cables. After Miss Utility has marked each placement, Davey Tree will install the trees. Glen resident Alison Trimble has worked hard to bring this project to fruition.

#### **Turf Management in the Glen**

During 2010, Fairlington Glen followed an organic landscaping approach. Recommended by several residents opposed to the use of herbicides, this meant that no chemical products were applied to the grass or shrubs in 2010. During the year, there were numerous complaints from residents about the poor condition of our lawns. In October of 2010, the Glen Board invited all interested residents to discuss their views on land-scaping policy in general, and turf management in particular. Our landscape contractor, Environmental Enhancements (EE), and subcontractors Weedman and Thrive were present at the meeting.

Fred Peratt of EE explained that organic products such as corn gluten, which we were then using, affect only young weeds and those not yet germinated; corn gluten does not treat established weeds, which were prevalent in the Glen. Mr. Peratt recommended a 3-year approach to improve turf conditions within the Glen, including the use of chemical products for broadleaf weed control, fertilization, and soil enhancement, as well as aeration and overs-seeding, soil tests and increased watering. In addition, he recommended continuing the more environmentally supportive approach known as IPM, in which only the areas identified as requiring treatment would receive it.

In November, the Board agreed to adopt a program similar to the approach which has been used successfully for several years in Fairlingon Mews. This program strives to simultaneously eliminate the weed population while nourishing the existing turf grass. The fertilizer used is a urea-based product with 65% of the nitrogen from slow release sources. Weed control products are the least toxic that still deliver the desired results. The only precaution required is that residents are typically advised to stay off the grass for 2 to 4 hours after each application. As the condition of our turf improves, we have the option to gradually shift to more organic products.

A question was raised recently about the use of the product Escalade 2 on October 18. Escalade 2 is a broadleaf herbicide which is considered by EE and its subcontractor Weedman to be the lowest toxicity product which will still be effective. Using the IPM approach, it was applied to approximately 65% of the turf area in Fairlington Glen. As required, notices were posted at the entrance to each courtyard several days in advance listing the products being used.

Escalade 2 contains some ingredients which our current Scope of Work does not allow. After consulting with Mr. Peratt from EE, it appears that the Scope of Work document is *(continued on next page ...)* 

(... continued from prior page) inconsistent with our turf treatment program. The chemicals in question are not an accurate gauge of the toxicity of any given product. For more detailed information on this complicated topic, we refer you to a document available on the Fairlington web site: Fact Sheet on Health Hazards of Pesticides/Herbicides (http://www.fairlington.org/attach2.htm)

The Board will modify the SOW for 2012 so that there is no conflict with the contract. We believe the turf management program we have chosen provides improved turf for the Glen while also maintaining a healthy environment for ourselves, our children, and our pets.

### Fairlington Glen Contact List (November 2011)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Meets second Tuesday of the month

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·	NUMBER (after l	866-370-2989						

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Alexandria Planning Com- mission meets on Lifestyle Safeway	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 (Board meeting rescheduled to 10-9-11, 6:30 pm, FCC)	9 Board meeting 6:30, FCC. Annual Meeting 7:30 pm FCC. FCA meets on Lifestyle Safe- way 7:00 pm at FCC.	10	11	12 Alexandria City Council meets on Life- style Safeway?
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Glen Board 7:00 PM FCC	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31