

The Glen Echo

Newsletter of Fairlington Glen

March 2010



Email Notification System

The Glen email notification system established in mid-February has attracted numerous subscribers in its first few weeks—over 200 at last count. The new system will be limited to time-sensitive information such as weather issues, trash pickup, contractors' work schedules, and grounds maintenance issues. Our first "alert" provided information on storm damage reporting. The system will not allow more than one alert a day, and we expect to send far fewer than that. If you have not yet joined and would like to, please go to our website and register. The website is www.fairlington.org/glenindex.htm. Scroll down to Glen Alerts and sign up. Please join us!

Thank You!

A huge shout out to our on-site staff, Nelson Ordoñez and María Castro. They are the reason you could walk on the sidewalks in spite of our record-breaking snow this winter. When you see them working in the Glen, tell them how much you appreciate their dedication and hard work.



Storm Damage

Even before the snow melted it was obvious that our community suffered a great deal of damage. Some we can repair ourselves, some will require outside contractors. We were talking to our insurance company before it even stopped snowing, and we will keep you informed.

Important Numbers



Arlington Police	703-558-2222
A-1 Towing Service	703-416-0710
Dominion Power	1-888-667-3000
Triple-S Pest Control	703-352-7738
Capitol Services (trash)	703-998-5860

Fence in front of Court 4



You may have noticed that the white split-rail fence in front of Court 4 (Stafford Street at the Quaker Lane entrance to the Glen) has deteriorated nearly beyond repair. We are considering several different solutions, including removing it completely, replacing it with landscaping, and replacing it with another fence. If we replace it with another fence, we could put back something similar to what is there now, or a different style which would be lower maintenance.

The Board is soliciting your input into this decision. Please register your opinion with any board member, or by email to our new dedicated email account:

GlenLandscaping@gmail.com

Spring is Coming – Promise!

As we gazed out at mounds of snow this winter, it seemed that Spring might never come. But in the midst of February's blizzard, the Landscaping Committee began working with our grounds contractor, Environmental Enhancements, to plan for Spring. Courts 1 through 6 are scheduled for rejuvenation pruning, and throughout the Glen beds will be cleaned up and mulched. This winter has left us with quite a few damaged shrubs and trees, but we will do our best to replace those we can't save.

The Spring walk-through is planned for Saturday, March 20, so mark that morning on your calendar and plan on joining us as we walk through the community reviewing the plantings in our common areas. If you would like something changed in an area around your home, make your request using the form attached – or it's also on our web page: www.fairlington.org/glenindex.htm

As you know, the mulched beds surrounding our homes are common area property, and so are maintained by the Glen's landscaping contractor. Those residents who prefer to maintain the flower beds themselves place a red reflector in the bed to notify the contractor to skip that area. But you must renew your red reflector status each year. If you want EE to omit your flower beds in 2010, you must re-submit the attached form as soon as possible. Like the form for requesting landscaping changes, it is also found on our web page. Either form can be emailed to our new landscaping email account: GlenLandscaping@gmail.com



This will be the last issue of the Glen Echo delivered to your door – we are moving to an on-line format beginning in May. The newsletter will be posted on our web site, and everyone who is registered with Glen Alerts (see information on Glen Alerts elsewhere in this issue) will get an email with a link to the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this faster, more economical way of delivering information to you.

RECREATION PASSES

It may still be a little chilly but it's never too soon to start dreaming of tennis, basketball and the pool! As in the past, you need not reapply for a recreation pass UNLESS you've lost a pass (and there is a \$5 charge for a replacement pass—paid in cash or by check made out to Fairlington Glen) or if a family member has turned 12 in the last year. New residents will need to submit an application. You can choose to get a family pass which can be used by all family members or have passes issued in individual names (for those over the age of 12).

To obtain your Recreation Pass

Complete and sign this form and drop it by or mail it to: Sandy Heaton, 4138 South 36th St (Court 6) by **May 5**. Or you can e-mail the information to sandyheaton@comcast.net. We will accept applications after the deadline date but processing of late applications may take up to 2 weeks.

- Passes will be hand-delivered in a plain white envelope.
- The code for the tennis court is on the bottom right of the pass.

Application Form

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Family Pass : _____

OR

Name(s) for individual passes

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

I certify that the above information is correct. I understand that misrepresentation in the application may result in suspension of any recreation pass involved. I agree that the person(s) named in this application will abide by the rules for Fairlington Glen and its recreational facilities.

Signed

Questions? Call Sandy Heaton at 703-820-2058.

What is Rejuvenation Pruning?

The objectives of pruning shrubs are to maintain vigor, remove damaged or diseased branches, help maintain the natural size and shape of a plant, and improve flowering and fruiting. There are four basic pruning techniques used for maintaining shrubs: heading back, renewal, rejuvenation, and shearing. In the past, the Glen has largely sheared the shrubs in the mulched beds, which means the new growth on the top of the plant is cut back to give a rigid, formal appearance.

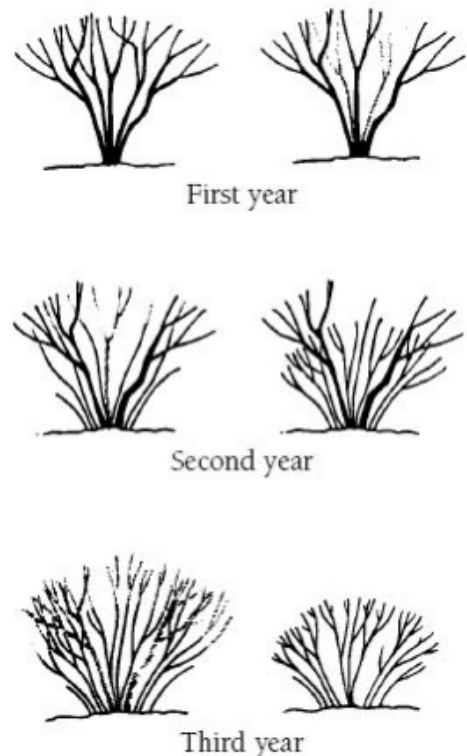
Pruning, on the other hand, involves selectively cutting back overgrown, sparse or leggy portions of the plant in order to allow light and air to reach the center. Rejuvenation pruning is a drastic cutting in which all stems or canes are cut back. This results in a more vigorous shrub and, in the case of flowering ornamentals, better flowering.

Many of our shrubs in the Glen have outgrown their original space. Rejuvenation pruning will help to stimulate the formation of new, more productive and vigorous wood, essentially creating new plants from old. Our intention is to move away from the formal shearing of plant material towards a more natural look in which plants will have a shape that is determined by the natural growth habit of the plant. This will also help control insect activity by providing better air movement through the plant.

The best time for rejuvenation pruning is late winter. The plant will initially look unsightly, but will leaf out as usual in April or May and continue to put out new growth throughout the year. The goal is for the plant to fill out and thrive in a smaller, more attractive form.

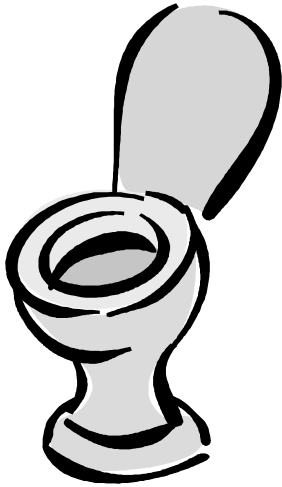
We know that the pruned look will be unappealing for a while but please be patient and know that we are concerned with the long-term health of the plant.

Do you have something that you would like to put in the Glen Echo? If so, please email Dotty Stratton at dotty736@yahoo.com.



Ways to Reduce Water Usage

One of the things that can have a major impact on water usage is a leaking toilet. How do you know if your toilet is leaking? There are a number of things to look for.



- You have to jiggle the handle to make the toilet stop running.
- There are sounds coming from a toilet that isn't being used.
- You have to hold the handle down to flush the toilet.
- You see water trickling down the side of the toilet bowl.
- The toilet turns on the water 15 seconds or so without you touching the handle ("phantom flushing").

The easiest way to check for a leak is to add a colored tablet to the tank, wait 15-30 minutes then check the toilet the bowl to see if the water in the bowl is colored. Tablets may be obtained from Sandy Heaton. Sandy can be reached by e-mail (sandyheaton@comcast.net) or by phone (703-820-2058).

Please Remember!

Be careful what goes into garbage disposals and toilets. Use the toilets only for human waste and toilet tissue. Please do **not** put the following items in toilets and sinks:

Toilets: tampons, sanitary napkins, condoms, large wads of toilet paper, disposable diapers, baby wipes, napkins, tissues, dental floss, or pet waste and litter.

Sinks: celery, onions, pulpy fruits, grease, pasta, rice, coffee grounds, corn husks, potato peels, seafood shells, bones, caulk, paint.



While backups have been reduced since renovation of our sewer laterals, they will never be entirely eliminated from a sewer system built during the Second World War. With care, however, we can keep the number low.