



GREATER GLENMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Glenmont — The Gateway to the Nation's Capital

Spring 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

GGCA Membership Meeting

We will be discussing school-related issues and the Neighborhood Watch on Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. in the Wheaton High School auditorium (12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20906).

Neighborhood Watch Walk

Join us for our first walk of the year on Saturday, March 12, at 11 a.m. Walkers will meet in the parking lot of Weller Elementary School (3301 Weller Road, Silver Spring, MD, 20906).

Board of Education: Public Hearing

The Board will hold a public hearing on the Wheaton and Edison modernization on Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD, 20850.



GGCA Bylaws

We have updated the GGCA bylaws, based on input from our members, and we plan to vote on them at the March 8 membership meeting (see “Upcoming Events” above). Your vote is crucial, so please attend this meeting! Download the proposed bylaws from our home page at <http://glenmontcivic.org>. To receive a printed copy, please contact Amanda (GGCA secretary) at 301-704-2226.

se habla español

Esta hoja informativa contiene información importante sobre la comunidad de Glenmont. Si desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame a 240-398-7906 o escribanos al correo electrónico glenmontcivic@gmail.com.

The Neighborhood Watch: Keeping an Eye on Glenmont



The Greater Glenmont Civic Association (GGCA) is pleased to announce the return of our successful Neighborhood Watch program! The Neighborhood Watch brings neighbors, community leaders, and businesses together in an ongoing effort to create a safer, more enjoyable Glenmont for everyone. Through neighborhood walks, training events, and other activities, volunteers help make the community safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to crime, public health issues, and natural or manmade disasters.

The Neighborhood Watch walks are an integral part of the program. Groups of walkers tour the neighborhood, looking for and reporting any suspicious activity, graffiti, housing-code violations, and other issues. These walks send a strong message to criminals that they are not welcome in Glenmont.

Our first walk will be held on Saturday, March 12 (see “Upcoming Events” on the left). For more information, contact us at glenmontcivic@gmail.com. The program won't survive without volunteers, so come be a part of one of the best deterrents to crime in your neighborhood!



School News: Wheaton and Edison

The county has major changes in store for Wheaton High School and the Thomas Edison School of Technology, both of which are due to be renovated. The Board of Education is considering several options for this renovation, including combining Wheaton and Edison into a single school. Superintendent Jerry Weast is recommending that the schools remain separate but share certain elements, such as a single principal.

What's the GGCA board's position?

The GGCA board supports the superintendent's recommendation, but we believe it falls short in one important way: it fails to address the problem of low enrollment at Wheaton. Although Wheaton has top-tier programs in engineering and biomedical science, many academically gifted students living in Glenmont choose to enroll in other high schools. One reason may be that, because Wheaton and Edison share a campus, people wrongly believe that Wheaton is a trade school (like Edison) rather than a school for college-bound students.

We see an opportunity here to “re-brand” Wheaton in a way that will correct this misconception, draw much-needed funding to the school, strengthen its programs, and attract the best and brightest students. Currently, the superintendent recommends that Wheaton's distinguished programs in engineering and biomedical science become application based, meaning that students from throughout the county could apply and gain admission based on merit. We call on the Board of Education to go further by transforming these

HELP WANTED!

programs into county magnet programs. Magnet programs are similar to application-based programs but receive extra funding for busing and for planning rigorous curricula. The current budget does not have the funds to support a magnet program, but we call on the Board to create the magnet programs for the 2015–2016 school year, upon completion of the new building.

With these changes in place, Wheaton could be re-branded as the “Wheaton High School for Science and Engineering,” a unique school with a highly rigorous program. This would make Wheaton more competitive with other schools in the Downcounty Consortium (the group of five high schools that students in Glenmont can select from). And because Wheaton and Edison will have some similar programs (such as IT courses), students from Wheaton could take advantage of learning opportunities available at Edison, and vice versa.

Why is this issue important for Glenmont?

Glenmont needs and deserves a first-rate high school for our college-bound students. A high school with a top-notch technology program and two magnet programs, located in a brand new building, will be a boon for everyone, whether or not you have children in the school system. For example, a re-branded high school would make our community more desirable to home buyers who are looking for good schools, which may significantly improve home values.

How can I get involved?

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing on this issue on March 15, 2011 (see “Upcoming Events” on page 1). Several GGCA members and other Glenmont residents will be speaking on behalf of our community. Please attend; we need your support! The presence of Glenmont residents will let the county know that this issue is important to us.

We also urge you to write to the Board to express your views before a final decision is made on March 28. Email board members at boe@mcpsmd.org or write to them at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 123, Rockville, MD 20850. Also check out “How can I get involved?” on our web site: http://glenmontcivic.org/uploads/Wheaton_BOE_process.doc.

Join Us!

If you haven’t paid your dues for 2011, there’s still time! **The yearly membership fee is only \$10 and is tax deductible.** Mail back the card below, or bring it to the next meeting!

Does Your Child Need Service-Learning Hours?

The GGCA will be hosting a big summer festival on June 18, 2011 (location TBD)!

We need volunteers to do face-painting, sell snacks and raffle tickets, and help with the setup and cleanup. We also need volunteers to help make posters for the event, videotape the festival, and provide live entertainment. We offer service-learning hours to student volunteers. Email us at glenmontcivic@gmail.com for details!

Logo and Tagline Contest

Enter our logo-design contest, and help give the GGCA a fresh new look! The winning logo will be used on the redesigned GGCA web site and on all print materials. We are also accepting entries for a new tagline, either for the Neighborhood Watch or for the GGCA in general. You may submit as many logos and taglines as you wish.



We are accepting entries from March 1, 2011, until May 25, 2011. Winners will receive a T-shirt and ball cap featuring the new logo and tagline.

All logos must be original and must print well in black and white. Entries will become the property of the GGCA. Please send submissions to P.O. Box 9821, Silver Spring, MD, 20916 or to glenmontcivic@gmail.com.

FILL OUT & MAIL BACK TODAY!

Greater Glenmont Civic Association • P.O. Box 9821 • Silver Spring, MD 20916

Check Enclosed • Membership Fee (\$10) / Donation Amount: _____

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

Areas of Interest (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quadrant chief or block captain | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth volunteer coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> School liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood clean-up crew | <input type="checkbox"/> County board or commission member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social event coordinator | |