

GBIA



NEWS

February 2005

Next General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2004 7:30 p.m. GBIA Hall

GBIA Welcomes New Board

Elections for the GBIA Board were scheduled to be held at the January 11th General Membership meeting. There were six vacancies on the board and originally seven candidates were running. Prior to voting, Levin Parker declined his nomination, leaving six candidates for six positions. For this reason, no voting was required and the secretary cast a unanimous vote for the slate of officers. Senator Ed DeGrange was on hand to swear in the new board members and we congratulate them all. The GBIA Board welcomes:



*Dolores Call
Candy Fontz
Marsha Frazier
Jacquelyn Lucy
Nancy Brown
Gary Falls*

We are grateful to all our new Board members for their willingness to give their time to the GBIA. It is a worthwhile cause and one that has a noticeable impact on life in Glen Burnie.



Chairperson Needed for B&A Trail Committee

Beth Behegan has generously donated countless hours to chairing the B&A Trail committee for the GBIA, in addition to serving as our Treasurer. She is seeking a replacement as soon as possible. For details regarding the responsibilities of the position, contact Barb Moeller at 410-766-6760. Thank you for considering whether you can help at this time.

Rev. Rothamel Addresses GBIA General Meeting

Rev. John Edward Rothamel, Jr. introduced himself at the GBIA General Membership meeting in January, as well as his plans for the new Glen Burnie Community Center, located at the former First Avenue School Site. While no new information is available regarding plans to develop the site into condominiums, Rev. Rothamel and his church, *The Light Center Spiritualist Church*, currently rent the building. His organization plans to make space in the building available to local community groups for meetings, at no cost. For further information you can contact Rev. Rothamel.

Glen Burnie Community Center
13 - 1st Avenue SW, Glen Burnie, MD 21061
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Internet: info@glenburniecc.org

(The article below was taken from the Glen Burnie Community Center's web site: www.glenburniecc.org)

January 1, 2005 -- The Glen Burnie Community Center (GBCC), located on the 2nd Floor of [The Light Center Spiritualist Church](#) (TLC) located in the historic school building at 13 - 1st Avenue SW, Glen Burnie, Maryland announced today that it's doors were open to the public.

The building offers four rooms of various sizes in which formal and informal educational, recreational, social, and cultural activities will be offered to the community by community groups, organizations, and businesses.

Programs for singles, couples, parents, families, children (of all ages), teens, adults, and older adults will be offered. GBCC will offer a mix of free and fee based choices.

At the present time, the facility is not handicapped accessible, however plans are in process to provide elevator access.

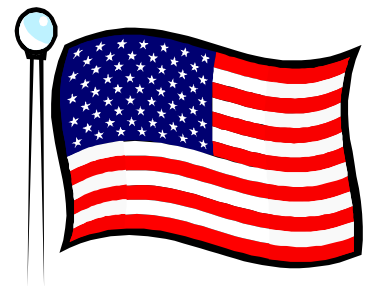
The Glen Burnie Community Center is sponsored by the Outreach Team of [The Light Center Spiritualist Church](#) and is a non-religious offering to the community. TLC is currently applying for grants and funding to assist in the cost of providing GBCC to its home and it's neighbors.

Proposed to Membership:

Lamar Smelley
Suzy Shepherd



Winter



Happy Birthday,
Presidents
Washington
and Lincoln



DeGrange Bill Gives Greater Protection to Victims of Identity Theft

Senator James Ed DeGrange (D. Anne Arundel County 32nd) characterized identity theft as “the crime born of the Information Age that crosses economic, racial, geographical, educational age and gender boundaries to violate victims.” DeGrange said he is sponsoring legislation to provide stronger and swifter protection for victims of ID theft.



The measure specifies that upon receipt from the victim of a valid police report alleging ID theft, a credit reporting agency must immediately and permanently block reporting any information that the victim specifies is a result of the ID theft.

The credit reporting agency must then notify the victim that the information has been blocked.

The measure provides the victim with ways to unblock the information, if such information has been given in error or was misrepresented.

A comprehensive study of the aftermath of identity theft, conducted by the Identity Theft Resource Center, that in 2003, nationwide, 7 million people were victimized by ID theft. The study notes that while victims discover ID theft more quickly (12 to 18 months in 2000 to 1 to 6 months in 2003), it takes far longer to eliminate negative information from credit reports. The average time spent by victims has grown from 175 hours in 2000 to 607 hours in 2003.

Fraudulent use of credit through ID theft is a dual crime. There are at least two victims – the consumer victim whose credit card was used and the commercial victim who has lost services or merchandise. Unfortunately, the vast number of commercial victims does not report the crime to law enforcement, considering it more fiscally advantageous to write off the loss. (Cont'd on p. 4.)



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Marsha Frazier
Levin Parker
Bob Tavik
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Attorney
Charles W. Ayres, Jr.

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 14th
Valentine's Day

Tuesday, February 8th, 7:30 p.m.
General Membership Meeting

Monday, February 21st
President's Day Observed



According to a 2003 study released by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the total cost of ID theft in 2002 was nearly \$50 billion a year, with businesses and financial institutions sustaining a \$33 billion loss.

DeGrange pointed out, “the emotional impact of ID theft has been found to parallel that of victims of violent crime. The fallout from the crime can last a lifetime and can include the suspension of professional licenses denial of credit of every type from mortgages to auto loans.”

“Unfortunately,” the Anne Arundel County lawmaker said, “time works against the victim. The imposter can steal thousands of dollars over a period of weeks or months before the victim know about it. The process to clear one’s credit record of fraudulent purchases is time-consuming and can be costly.” A Harris Interactive survey shows that victims’ out of pocket expenses have totaled \$1.5 billion annually since January 2001.

DeGrange asserted that his bill, patterned after California law, represents an effort to make it easier and less expensive for victims of ID theft to clear their credit records of fraudulent charges.

GBIA News is a monthly publication *by and for* Glen Burnie Improvement Association members.
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