



Historic Glyndon Baltimore County's First Historic District



# Community Newsletter

Historic Glyndon, Inc., Fall 2017 • <http://historicglyndon.org>

## President's Letter

Dear Glyndonites:

### Preservation. Restoration. Education.

Glyndon celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1971. This interest in the town's history and concerns for protecting the community's historic homes resulted in the formation of the Historic District Committee at a GCA general meeting. Its mission was to spearhead an effort to have Glyndon included on the National Register of Historic Places, thereby offering limited protection from proposed projects (funded by Federal funds) that endangered the historic value of the community. The volunteers soon realized that they needed to incorporate as a separate organization to achieve this goal. Thus in 1972, Historic Glyndon, Inc. was formed as a non-profit corporation whose goals were to preserve and protect Glyndon's cultural, social, economic, and architectural history, as well as to conduct educational and beautification projects that enrich Glyndon's historical heritage.

In 1973 Glyndon was included on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the Maryland Historical Trust Register. As part of our National

Bicentennial, Baltimore County enacted Bill 1776, creating a Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC), which, along with the Baltimore County Council, could designate historic districts. In 1981 Glyndon became Baltimore County's first historic district.\*

As homeowners who live within the historic district or in individual properties later designated on the Baltimore County Landmarks List, we are custodians of Glyndon's architectural history. As a result of that 1981 designation, we must present any exterior renovation, reconstruction, alteration, addition, demolition or other structural changes to properties located within the historic district or listed individually on the Landmarks List to the LPC for approval. The LPC's Historic Preservation Design Guidelines are located on their website and provide excellent examples for homeowners as we try to modernize our Victorian painted ladies. A review of the design guidelines is a visual trip through Baltimore County's history as well as local Glyndon history. There are pictures of many Glyndon porches, eyebrow windows, and rooflines.

One of the reasons I moved to Glyndon is because I love the Victorian houses,

the wood porches, the original wavy glass windows, and the gingerbread trim. I am thankful that that original Glyndon group had the passion and foresight to work with the Federal, State and Baltimore County governments to preserve our beautiful homes.

On Saturday, December 9 (from 4-8 pm), HGI will be presenting the Glyndon By Candlelight Holiday House Tour. This is a celebration and an opportunity to share some of our unique houses through a self-guided walking tour. The proceeds from this major fundraiser will help to continue our preservation mission by providing funds for renovations to the Glyndon Train Station, the Glyndon School House, and other local landmarks. Proceeds from past house tours have funded replacement of our street signs and publication of a new edition of Glyndon's history book. So come out and support HGI's house tour and share some of the many reasons you fell in love with Glyndon.

Pamela Becker  
President, Historic Glyndon, Inc.

\*Historical information courtesy of Glyndon, *The Story of a Victorian Village*.

## Historic Glyndon Holiday House Tour



GLYNDON  
BY  
CANDLELIGHT

2017

Saturday,  
December 9, 2017

4:00 - 8:00 pm

*A self-guided tour of unique and varied houses in Baltimore County's First Historic District, decorated for the holidays*

## 119 Central Avenue



This circa 1884 house might look somewhat familiar to someone who has walked the streets of Glyndon. 119 Central Avenue's Gothic details are similar to that of two other "cottages" that town founder Dr. Leas had constructed as an investment and to promote growth of the fledgling town: 122 Central Avenue and 4711 Butler Road. In his will, Dr. Leas devised this property and another to his daughter, Louisa Albright Leas Prichard. At the time of her father's death in 1888, Louisa was living with her husband Anthony and their two children, Arthur and Caroline, in Tacoma in the Washington Territory. 119 Central had been a tenant property for Dr. Leas and the Prichards sold it fairly soon in 1890 for \$1700 to George R. Bellows.

George, a New Yorker, was manager of the Baltimore office of the Western Newspaper Union, a newspaper syndication service. He actively served in the community in the Epworth League and as superintendent of the Sunday school program at Glyndon Methodist Episcopal Church. He was also appointed by the governor to serve as a board member of the Maryland Workshop for the Blind. His wife, Ida V. Parks Bellows, was active in the church, too, as well as in the Reisterstown Women's Christian Temperance Union and in the Woman's Club of Glyndon, having served as president of the latter.

The couple raised two sons in Glyndon. Donald P. Bellows served in the military during World War I. Afterward he became an auditor and then manager for an insurance firm, the Maryland Casualty Company. A 1952 newspaper article in *The Sun* (February 13) tells of his and his wife's move back to Donald's hometown from Pittsburgh when they began thinking about the quality of life they wanted for their future retirement years. In 1939 they bought the former Atkinson estate on about nine acres at 4708 Butler Road where they adopted a slower, more rural life. They learned to grow all of their own vegetables and they raised chickens, pigs, cows, geese, ducks, and rabbits. In preparation for that well-thought-out retirement, Donald commissioned neighbor

P. C. Wroe, a contractor, to build his retirement rancher right next door at 4716. Unfortunately, Donald died from a massive heart attack while at his desk at work and he was never able to live nor retire in his dream home.

The other son, George Kent Bellows, known as Kent, became a well-known music scholar, teacher, lecturer, and critic. He co-authored the book *A Short History of Music in America*. Kent resided in the family home until 1965 when, at the age of 61, he moved to Philadelphia, where he lived out his remaining years. He sold the Glyndon home to

Scott and Sara Broadbent for \$14,500.

*Researched and written by Ann B. O'Neil;*

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### Plans for the Glyndon Volunteer Fire Department

The Glyndon Volunteer Fire Department has been here to provide quality fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the community for over 100 years. It is our mission to provide those quality services for many years to come. The company has met and determined long term goals to fulfill this mission. After review of the character of our current call volume, it has been determined the greatest need of our citizens is for emergency medical services. To meet this need we are currently in the approval process to place an ambulance in service beginning in 2018. This unit will be staffed with a combination of paid and volunteer providers.

Our current building does not have adequate living, sleeping, office or operating space for us to meet our mission or house our current equipment. It definitely does not allow us to meet the future needs of our community or our members. It hinders our ability to recruit and retain quality people.

We are currently in the infancy stages of looking at new facilities. At this stage we have not made any definitive decisions. We are looking to maximize efficiency, be cost effective, and fit in with surroundings. We will keep you updated as plans develop.

These initiatives are very costly so we will be starting a capital campaign very shortly. We are here to serve our community and need your help. Please support our fundraisers and our capital campaign. Most of all, if you have time, please come join us. You don't have to ride equipment to join; we need administrative, fundraising, financial and business help as well.

Susan Bollinger, *President, GVFD*

## Holiday House Tour

The most wonderful time of the year is just a few weeks away! Glyndon will again host another amazing Holiday House Tour. This self-guided walking tour will feature nine beautifully decorated homes along Chatsworth and Central Avenues. We are so excited and grateful to the participating homeowners. You will not want to miss this one!!!

Tickets are on sale now at our website ([historicglyndon.org](http://historicglyndon.org)) or at either of the two Glyndon merchants during regular business hours:

**The Boxwood Collection**  
15 Railroad Ave. and

**The Wine Post** 4876 Butler Rd.

Many volunteers are working hard to make this a successful event and fundraiser for our historic community. Would you like to help? Volunteers are needed to help as greeters, docents, parking lot and street attendants, and much more! Contact Co-Chairs Sue Benson and Jayme Provencher at [glyndonhousetour@gmail.com](mailto:glyndonhousetour@gmail.com).

### House Tour sponsors are:

#### Gold level:

Santoni's  
The Wine Post  
Glyndon Grill  
The Boxwood Collection

#### Silver level:

Glyndon Family Dentistry  
(Dr. Jay Toth)

#### Additional support:

The Forbush School at  
Glyndon  
Glyndon United Methodist  
Church  
Glyndon Volunteer Fire  
Department

## GCA Halloween Spooktacular

*Ghosts and Goblins, Spooks Galore*

*Scary Witches at your door*

*Jack-O-Lanterns smiling bright*

*Wishing you a Happy Haunting Night!!!!*

*Does an evening of fright and delight sound alright?*

*Then be our guest for a Ghoulish night.*

*Sunday, October 22nd*

*At the bewitching hours of 5:30-7:30pm*

*Emory Grove Hotel*

*Games and activities for the kids*

*Snacks and beverages to be enjoyed*

*Children must be accompanied by an adult*

*Sponsored by the Glyndon Community Association*

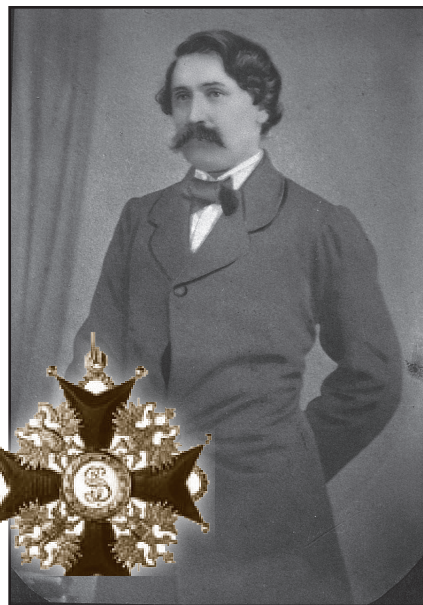


## The Doctor who Founded Glyndon

Anyone who has lived in Glyndon a while is probably familiar with the story of the founding of our town by Dr. Charles Albright Leas (1822-1888). Dr. Leas was a Pennsylvania farm boy who made his way to Baltimore at age 18 to work in a store. He honorably graduated from college with a medical degree, practiced medicine in Baltimore, and served as the City's health commissioner for two years. His life then took on a bit of the unusual as he served on the medical staff of the Russian army during the Crimean War and was knighted by the Czar for his efforts. He subsequently served as a U. S. consul to Russia, Sweden, Belize, and Madeira (Portugal).

Upon Dr. Leas' return to Baltimore, he again served in the City's health department, followed by several years serving as superintendent of the House of Refuge (Maryland School for Boys). At the time of his retirement, he bought a farm in what was to become Glyndon and shortly thereafter decided to establish a town here, laying out avenues, planting trees, selling lots, and investing money in houses.

In an effort to locate more information about Dr. Leas, I recently built a family tree for him and his family on



Ancestry.com. I was fortunate to discover a good bit of information about him which had not previously come to light. We knew that he was married twice and had three daughters who inherited six of the homes he had constructed as investments. However, there was a fourth daughter previously unknown to us, Julia Albright Leas, his first daughter, who died at just two years of age (1845-1847). Of his three surviving daughters, two had one child each who never married or had families. The third, Louisa Albright Leas Prichard (1848-1932), lived in Washington Territory at the time of her father's death. She and her husband Anthony have a number of descendents and with some more research, I'm sure that some could

be located. I wonder how many of them are aware of their great-great-grandfather who established a little village in Maryland?

Finally, the most exciting discovery was a photograph of Dr. Leas posted by Shari Laverty on her family tree. Until now, no one in Glyndon had ever seen what our founder looked like!

*Researched and written by Ann B. O'Neill*

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## Mission Statement

The mission of HGI is to preserve and protect Glyndon's cultural, social, economic, and architectural history, as well as to conduct educational and beautification projects which enrich Glyndon's historical heritage.

## HGI Board for 2017

President: Pamela Becker  
1st Vice President: Fran Acle  
2nd Vice President: Richard Stanley  
Treasurer: Paul Crampton  
Secretary: CJ August Gulley  
Immediate  
Past President: Mary Ellen Porter

## Board Members' Terms Ending January 2018

Nicole Crumpler Leo Ottey  
John Morris Jamal Robinson

## Board Members' Terms Ending January 2019

Sue Benson Polly Papp  
Vernene Lenz Teresa Moore  
Jayme Hux Provencher

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## SPECIAL THANKS

to Legal Images of Baltimore for supporting our community through high quality printing!  
[www.legalimagesofbaltimore.com](http://www.legalimagesofbaltimore.com) or 410 727-0505

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## Woman's Club News

The Woman's Club of Glyndon has \$5 tickets available for Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" day, Tuesday, October 17th. With a \$5 ticket the buyer gets lots of discounts that day! Call 410-833-1703

The Woman's Club of Glyndon presents "Bids-Bites-Kal" on Saturday, October 28th from 5-8 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 109 Main Street in Reisterstown.

The evening features a silent auction with wonderful items including food, activities, products, and more!

Bites will be an Italian dinner. Kal (Kevin Kallaugher), Glyndon's own international political cartoonist, will speak after dinner. Humorous! Clever! Entertaining!

The cost of \$25/person helps support local educational and charitable 501(c)3 exempt organizations and will be a pleasant evening for everyone!

Call 410-833-2756



## Holiday Open House

Everyone is invited to this year's HGI Holiday Open House at the home of Janet Clinton  
4808 Butler Road  
Sunday, December 3 from 2-5 pm.

## Put a Light in The Window

Or better yet, ALL of them! Help Glyndon shine for the holidays by putting white candle lights in your windows before Dec. 9. It's a Glyndon tradition and welcomes in the season.

## Glyndon Volunteer Fire Department Fall Events

**Movie night.** Come see *Casper* on Friday October 13th at 7pm on the lot next to the station.

Bring a blanket or chair. Free admission. The fire company is selling hot and cold drinks, popcorn, and snacks.

**Trick or Treat.** Sunday, October 29 from 2 to 4. Get a space on the lot and

decorate your car. Trick or Treat and fire engine tours. Costume contest. Call the station at 410-833-1262 option 1 to ensure a space on the lot.

**Christmas Tree Sales.** Help support the company by buying your tree here starting November 24. Trees will be on the lot next door, and parking is behind the station. We offer free delivery.

**Breakfast with Santa** is December 9 from 8am to 11am. Donations only. Get pictures with Santa. Crafts and face painting are available. Menu includes pancakes, eggs, bacon, biscuits and gravy, milk, juice, coffee, hot chocolate, and more.

**Children's Birthday Party.** Have your child's party at the station. We provide demonstrations, engine rides, helmets, etc. Call the station at 410-833-1262 hall rental option for further information.

## Holiday Shopping Opportunities in Glyndon

**Annual Holiday Open House**  
November 10-12

**Black Friday,** November 24

**Small Business Saturday,**  
November 25

**Shop Glyndon Holiday Event**  
December 8-9-10,

**Holiday House Tour**  
December 9

## Support HGI with your membership

2017 has been and continues to be an especially busy year for the Board of HGI including planning the May Preservation Program "Taste of Maryland", the recently concluded four Summer Porch Readings, and the upcoming Holiday Open House and Glyndon by Candlelight House Tour. These enjoyable and educational programs and events cannot happen without the support of our members. Annual dues are only \$10 per individual and \$20 per business, a small contribution for such a worthy organization that works hard to preserve Glyndon's historical heritage. **HGI Memberships make perfect holiday gifts!**

Your dues can be mailed to:  
Historic Glyndon, Incorporated,  
PO Box 3641, Glyndon, MD 21071.

## Thanks to the following businesses who are 2017 members of HGI

Jay C. Toth, DDS, PA      Karlсен Food Systems  
Woman's Club of Glyndon, Inc.      Santoni's  
Misguided Angel Interior Designs