



*Respecting Tradition  
Welcoming Progress*

Old Glebe Civic Association (OGCA) is an organization formed to give residents a voice in local, County, and State affairs. Any resident may become a member.

OGCA is a member of the Arlington County Civic Association —which provides policy inputs to the County and State governments.

**Old Glebe Officers:**

- President* Howard Solodky
- Vice President* Burt Bostwick\*
- Secretary* Peter Jaffe\*
- Treasurer* Ruth Gordon\*\*

**Members of the Executive Committee**

- Officers listed above, plus:
- Rich Samp
- Tony Spadaro\*\*
- Marx Sterne\*

**Arlington Civic Federation Delegates\***

**Alternates\*\***

Karen Rosenbaum, *Newsletter Editor*

**CONNECT WITH US!**

[www.oldglebe.org](http://www.oldglebe.org)

**Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Old-Glebe-Civic-Association>

**OGCA Listserve:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com>  
Search "oldglebecivicassociation"

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

April 2022

### NEW MILITARY ROAD/NELLIE CUSTIS ROUNDABOUT

*by Peter Jaffe & Rich Samp*

Last Autumn, Arlington County installed a "test" roundabout at the intersection of Military Road and Nelly Custis Drive to replace the existing one-way-stop "t" pattern. Bollards in the roadway now guide vehicles in a rounded triangle pattern around the intersection, and vehicles entering from all three directions must yield to vehicles already in the circle. Bike lanes end shortly before the intersection, and cyclists must now merge into car traffic.



County staff asserts that the project will enhance traffic and pedestrian safety. If the County deems the roundabout effective, permanent changes will be adopted, with new curbing, pedestrian crossings, and utility poles at a cost of roughly \$1.5 million. If not, County staff contemplates installation of a traffic signal at a cost of \$1.5 to \$2 million.

OGCA wrote to the County opposing the changes given the minimal evidence of safety concerns. The roundabout has been the subject of significant debate on social media. Proponents claim that the roundabout reduces traffic speeds on Military Road. Detractors contend that the new pattern has generated confusion and near-accidents, that it is difficult to navigate, and that the required merging of auto and cyclist traffic is particularly dangerous and difficult for cyclists. County staff are soliciting feedback at [militaryroad@arlingtonva.us](mailto:militaryroad@arlingtonva.us).

OGCA pledges continued opposition to the roundabout. If you are interested in joining this fight, contact OGCA at [roundabout@oldglebe.org](mailto:roundabout@oldglebe.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*by Howard Solodky, OGCA President*

Spring is here, so the annual meeting of the Old Glebe Civic Association cannot be far behind. On the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup>, the OGCA will meet virtually to elect the members of the Executive Committee. In addition, the meeting will feature at least two speakers.



Representatives from the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists will present a program on the impact of deer on our local forest ecosystems. Also, County staff will discuss the status of, and future plans for, the Gulf Branch Nature Center.

As I mentioned in my last column, the OGCA not only provides information about our neighborhood but takes an active role on issues that affect our neighborhood. For well over a year, the Association has been gathering information from—and expressing our concerns to—County transportation staff and County Board members regarding the advisability of constructing a permanent roundabout at the intersection of Military Road and Nellie Custis at a cost of around \$1.5 million. We remain of the view that a permanent roundabout would be a solution in search of a problem. Read the details (on this page) and then we would love to hear your opinions!

We have also been involved in the controversy surrounding the pickleball noise coming from Glebe Park every day from 7 in the morning until 11 at night, adversely affecting the Park's near neighbors. Read more about pickleball also in this newsletter. If you have other issues that affect you and your neighbors, we would like to hear from you. I can be reached at [president@oldglebe.org](mailto:president@oldglebe.org)

## UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Election season will soon be upon us. The general election is November 8<sup>th</sup> this year, and we will, as usual, vote at the Madison Community Center to elect a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, of which Arlington is a major part. We will also be electing a member to the Arlington County Board and one to the School Board.

In anticipation of the general election, Democratic and Republican party primaries will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> across the Commonwealth. Here in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Democratic incumbent Congressman Don Beyer is being challenged by political newcomer Vicky Virasingh. The Republicans will be selecting their candidate to be the representative of the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in a convention to be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Declared Republican candidates are Monica Carpio, Jeff Jordan, Heerak Christian Kim, and Karina Lipsman.

As to the County Board race, no candidate has filed to run against Democratic incumbent Matt de Ferranti, so a Democratic primary may not be necessary. It is not yet clear that any Republican candidate will be seeking to serve on the County Board, so again a primary may not be held.



The Arlington Democrats will be conducting a School Board endorsement vote June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Democrats' School Board endorsement vote is open to all registered Democrats in Arlington. Voting will be held at Lubber Run Community Center on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, at Drew Elementary School on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm., at Campbell Elementary School on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm. to 9:00 pm., and at Washington-Liberty High

School on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. The Arlington Republicans have announced that they will not be conducting an endorsement vote.

If you would like to vote in the primary before June 21<sup>st</sup>, early voting begins on May 6<sup>th</sup> and ends on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The principal early voting location is again Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, which is open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In addition, the Walter Reed Community Center and our own Madison Center will be open for early voting on those two Saturdays during the same hours, as well as from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm on June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are not already registered to vote in Virginia, the registration deadline in order to vote in the June 21<sup>st</sup> primary is May 31<sup>st</sup>. **Don't forget that your vote is your voice!**

## MORE FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA



### Check out our Plant Clinics!

The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic is open from 6:00 to 7:45pm every Wednesday from May 4 through September 28 and is located in the East Lobby of the Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

The

Arlington Farmers Market Plant Clinic, open Saturday mornings from 7:45 to 11:15am, beginning April 30 and operating through September 24, is located at N.14th Street and N. Courthouse Road.

The Small Space Garden Plant Clinic, located at the back of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford Street, is open from 9:00 to 11:00 am on Sunday, May 1, coinciding with the Fairlington Farmers Market.



## MAY 2022 PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS FROM THE MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA



Friday, May 13, 10:00 am, ONLINE

### Basil Love

Basil is America's most popular herb, and for many of us, that means the familiar Sweet or Genovese Basil and its use in Italian and French cuisines. But there is a broader world of basil out there: different varieties, flavors, leaf sizes, and colors.

Basils are important to many different cultures around the globe —beautiful garden basils, pollinator-attracting basils, and basils grown for function, for fragrance, and even for bouquets.



Extension Master Gardeners Kathryn Kellam and Susan Wilhelm will introduce you to a wider world of basils and explain how to care for, harvest, use, and preserve exciting new basils as well as familiar favorites. Free.

Friday, May 20  
10:00 am, ONLINE

### Controlling Mosquitoes and Ticks in Your Yard Without Pesticides



Learn pesticide-free best management

practices to control mosquitoes and ticks in your yard and keep them away from you and your family. Extension Master Gardener Joan McIntyre will explain how to identify mosquitoes and ticks prevalent in this area, their life cycle, how they reproduce, and where they go in the winter. Free.

To receive links to participate in the above events, RSVP at

<https://mgnv.org/events/>

## PICKLEBALL IN GLEBE PARK

by Richard Samp

Glebe Park (located along Old Glebe Road) has been a favorite recreational area for Arlington residents for more than 60 years. But since pickleball play began at the park in 2018, the noise created by pickleball rackets striking balls has become a source of neighborhood controversy—as it has been in communities across the country. For the past three months, the Old Glebe Civic Association has been working actively with County personnel to help seek a resolution acceptable to all parties. Due in part to OGCA's efforts, the County in mid-April implemented a five-month "test program" designed to ameliorate the noise problem.

Pickleball is a trimmed-down version of tennis that uses a smaller court, rackets akin to ping-pong paddles, and plastic balls that move more slowly (but make much more noise) than tennis balls. Pickleball lines were drawn in 2018 on a paved area at the southwest corner of Glebe Park, and play began. The popularity of the sport resulted in two sets of pickleball lines being drawn on both halves of one of the park's three tennis courts in late 2019, so that pickleball could then be played on two additional courts. Competition for the

courts is stiff, so in good weather play is often continuous from early morning until the park's lights turn off at 11 pm.

The noise from pickleball (much more so than the noise from tennis and basketball) has become a major problem for residents of nearby houses—particularly those living on the section of Tazewell St. (off of 38<sup>th</sup> Street) south of the park. Some of the houses are only 135 feet from the "stand alone" pickleball court; the noise from those courts reverberates across the amphitheater-like terrain downhill to Tazewell Street and can be heard distinctly (and constantly) inside the houses.

Perhaps to avoid the pickleball-noise lawsuits that have plagued other parts of the country, County officials approached OGCA board members for their assistance with the issue. Under the recently implemented "test program," the stand-alone pickleball court will be closed for five months. In its place, pickleball lines have been drawn on a second tennis court, so that there will now be four courts on which to play pickleball – but all of the courts will be further away from the Tazewell St. residences. Also, lights at the park

will be turned off at 10 pm instead of 11 pm, thereby reducing late-night play. Finally, County officials have agreed to investigate potential noise mitigation



measures.

OGCA will continue to monitor the situation and may suggest additional measures to the County after five months. One possible measure is the construction of sound barriers along the southern and western sides of the three tennis courts. Another possibility is relocating pickleball play to larger County parks and reserving Glebe Park for tennis and basketball. (Arlington already has other pickleball courts at Lubber Run and along Walter Reed Drive.) Another possibility is reducing the hours during which pickleball may be played at Glebe Park. We encourage residents to share your views on how the park's facilities can best be utilized.

## FRIENDS OF GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER (FoGBNC)

by Marx Sterne

Having been relatively inactive for the past few years largely due to COVID, FoGBNC is rebounding and beginning to work in tandem with supporters of Long Branch Nature Center in south Arlington. Usage of the parks and nature centers has increased dramatically as people sought diversions from COVID restrictions. Nevertheless, the County has directed that both Centers will be open only three days a week. Thus, the most pressing issue is getting the six-day schedule restored — which may require filling some full time and part time staff vacancies. Duke Banks' testimony before the County Board engendered support from several County Board members, the [Sun Gazette](#), and [ArlNow](#).

The FoGBNC Board is beginning work with the Nature Center staff to identify projects to improve the Centers. It will advocate for an increase in the County budget for: maintaining the Centers, updating the American Indian Room, and adding signage about the American Indians who lived and continue to work in this region and, possibly, building a board walk to the pond and cabin for enhanced handicapped access.

FoGBNC has updated its website <http://site.friendsofgbnc.org> which provides background information on FoGBNC, its history of working with the county, plus videos of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and a Symposium on Gulf Branch's impact on Arlington. FoGBNC is seeking more active members to help work on several projects including updating the membership records, improved social media outreach and general participation to move the organization forward. To volunteer, offer suggestions or for more information, please contact President Duke Banks or Vice President Marx Sterne through the FoGBNC email address: [friendsofgbnc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgbnc@gmail.com)



**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING  
JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30pm ONLINE**

**<http://bit.ly/061322>**

Election of Officers  
Speakers on: Ecological Impact of Deer  
& Future Plans for Gulf Branch Nature Center

**IS YOUR OGCA MEMBERSHIP CURRENT? JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!**

Membership funds are used for community events, beautification, and causes such as Gulf Branch Nature Center. Please send the information below with a check made out to Old Glebe Civic Association to join or renew for one year (\$10), three years (\$25) or a lifetime membership (\$100). Mail to **OGCA, 4522 North 37th Street, 22207**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Arlington, VA. 22207

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\*



Interested in volunteering? Check here:

\* [Your email address is **vital** for us to be able to keep you up to date with OGCA news.]