



*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* Rachele Dove
- Secretary* Rich Samp
- Treasurer* Ruth Gordon

**Members of the Executive Committee**

Officers listed above, plus:

- Elizabeth Stevens
- Tony Spadaro
- Marx Sterne

**CONNECT WITH US!**

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

**Facebook Page:**

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

**Our Listserve:**

Send an email to "newsletter-subscribe@oldglebe.org"

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

April 2026

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER *by Howard Solodky*

In my president's corner column in the fall OGCA newsletter I summarized what the civic association typically does and does not do on behalf of the Old Glebe community. As you know, the Madison Community Center, located at the very heart of our neighborhood, will close for over a year at the beginning of June for badly needed renovations. An article by OGCA Executive Committee member Elizabeth Stevens reciting most of the details of the renovation appears later in this newsletter. Given the importance of the Madison Center to our community, I thought I would further illustrate the role of the OGCA by describing what the association has been doing to address some of the consequences of the temporary closure of the facility.

County staff from the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Services held a meeting at the Madison Center this past November to educate the public about the renovation and field questions and concerns from the community. Most of the members of the OGCA Executive Committee attended that meeting, and what we heard from the roughly 100 residents who participated in person or virtually were concerns about where they would go (i) to exercise, participate in 55+ activities, play table tennis and engage in yoga and pilates and (ii) to vote both on Election Day and during early voting.

In response to that meeting, the OGCA Executive Committee took several actions. Elizabeth Stevens organized a meeting with DPR to review the details of what the lower level of the Madison Center will look like and what exercise equipment will be replaced or added. The Executive Committee put together a meeting in early February with DES and DPR staff to discuss where in the County and at what times Madison Center users can

go after the facility closes to engage in activities they currently enjoy at Madison. We suggested everything from using trailers at Madison to house



fitness equipment, to having outdoor exercise equipment similar to what is available at Lubber Run, to extending hours at other County facilities such as Langston-Brown, Lubber Run and Thomas Jefferson. It appears that more hours to use fitness facilities at Langston-Brown will become available because APS is moving the school there to the Arlington Career Center.

As to voting, I appeared at the County Electoral Board meeting in December to recommend on behalf of the OGCA that Election Day voting that normally occurs at Madison be moved to St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Glebe Road or to Taylor Elementary School. St. Peter's had also offered to host early voting. An article authored by Executive Committee member Rich Samp appears later in this newsletter and describes where we will be voting in the fall.

Finally, we have arranged for **DPR Director Jane Rudolph** and **Delegate Patrick Hope** to appear at the **OGCA annual meeting May 18th, from 7 – 8:30 pm, at the Madison Center**. This event will be an opportunity to ask Ms. Rudolph more questions about what other County facilities will fill the shoes of Madison during the period of its closure. The OGCA has also asked DPR and DES to schedule another public meeting about the closure two or three weeks before the annual OGCA meeting to make the discussion about the Madison Center at the annual meeting even more informed. I look forward to seeing you in May.

## MADISON CENTER UPDATE

by Elizabeth Stevens

Staff from Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Services came out twice in February to discuss the plan for the upcoming renovation of the Madison Community Center.



The project will begin in June and is expected to be completed in fall 2027. The replacement of the roof, HVAC, interior ceilings, lighting, and windows is budgeted at \$4.7 million, and the renovation and improvement of the lower-level fitness wing is budgeted at an additional \$2 million. There will be a significant upgrade to the fitness-room equipment, as well as renovated bathrooms and a new yoga/pilates/dance studio on that level. There will also be much-improved disabled access to the lower fitness level.

The outdoor areas like the dog park, children's playground, and fields will remain open while construction is ongoing. The DPR summer camp program will be temporarily relocated to Jamestown Elementary School.

You can receive updates as the project proceeds by signing up for County alerts at <https://bit.ly/ACMadisonCC>, or send your email address to: [madisoncenterrevamp@gmail.com](mailto:madisoncenterrevamp@gmail.com) to be added to the community listserv.

## NEW VOTING LOCATIONS COMING TO OLD GLEBE

by Rich Samp

The impending closure of the Madison Community Center means that Old Glebe voters will be heading to new locations for in-person voting during the likely year-and-a-half renovation process. (The change will take effect starting with the August 2026 primary election; the April 21 referendum will take place as scheduled at Madison.)

The County Board has proposed that our Precinct 135 (formerly known as Madison Precinct) will vote at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 4250 Glebe Road. The church's parking lot provides more-than-adequate parking for election-day crowds. For a number of years, Madison has also served as a satellite location for early voting in North Arlington in the two weeks before every election day. The County Board has proposed that the satellite location for North Arlington early voting be moved to the Langston Brown Community Center, on Langston Blvd. near the Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe.

The County Board is expected to vote on final approval of the new locations at its April 18th meeting. The Board is accepting comments for and against the new locations up until that date.



## GULF BRANCH STREAM RESTORATION

by Marx Sterne

The extensive project to restore Gulf Branch is well underway. Tall metal fencing blocks much of the park. Many trees and bushes have been removed and a wooden roadway has been laid for access by heavy equipment. Matting and underlying mulch are in place to help protect tree roots. Boulders are being brought in.

The next work will directly address the ongoing erosion in the stream by reshaping the stream channel to be in balance with the watershed. Log and stone structures will guide the water through the channel and prevent future erosion. Stormwater management in the meadow area will capture, filter, and slow runoff. Soil will be removed to make room for a sand and mulch filter steam bed. Tree removals are in line with the plans to protect as many trees as possible. Some logs by the stream are being saved to be used as in-stream habitats. Several trees were harvested for wood milling, as part of a new partnership and wood reuse initiative. Many native trees, bushes and flowers will be replanted throughout the project area and park.

Construction began in early 2026 and is expect to take about 18 months. Work is being done in phases so that more trails can be reopened. First phase work in the meadow area and below the tennis/pickle ball courts is expected to be completed this summer.

## NOT YOUR TYPICAL ELECTION YEAR

by Howard Solodky

A special election will be held on April 21st to vote on whether the Virginia Constitution should be amended to allow the General Assembly to adopt new congressional districts that would be effective for the November mid-term elections. The precise question on the ballot is: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for all future redistricting after the 2030 census. The presumed purpose of the amendment is to enable the General Assembly to create temporarily a congressional district map that is likely to result in more Democrats being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia and thereby help offset gerrymandering that has or will occur in Texas, Missouri and other Republican-controlled states to send more Republicans to the House of Representatives.

Early in-person voting on the amendment began on March 6th and will continue through April 18th. You

can vote early at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and on Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, April 18. Early in-person voting is also available at Walter Reed Community Center and at the Madison Center on April 11 and 18 from 9:00 to 5:00 and on April 14 and 16 from 2:00 to 7:00. If you requested a mail ballot, that must



be postmarked on or before April 21st and received no later than noon on April 24th. Voters can also drop off their mail ballot at the Madison Center and other locations no later than 7:00 pm. on April 21st.

To accommodate redistricting, all primary elections, which are normally held on the third Tuesday of June, will be held this year on August 4th. Early in-person voting in the primaries will begin on June 19th and end on August 1st. July 24th is the deadline to register to vote (if you are not already a registered voter) in the primaries and

cast a regular ballot; the following day same-day registration begins, but such voters must cast a provisional ballot.

The deadline to file to run for U.S. House of Representatives in a party primary is May 26th and for independents, the deadline is August 4th. Filing deadlines for all other offices remain April 2nd for party candidates and June 16th for independents. Several candidates have filed to challenge incumbent U.S. Senator Mark Warner in the Democratic primary, and the Republican senatorial primary field is even more crowded.

Locally, County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti is being tested in the Democratic primary by James DeVita and Julie Farnham. The Arlington County Democratic Committee has already endorsed School Board Chair Bethany Sutton who is running for reelection. **As always, don't forget that your vote is your voice.**

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## MAIL SERVICE CHALLENGES AND IMPROVEMENTS

by Ruth Gordon

Over the past several months, many neighbors in our community have experienced inconsistent and delayed mail delivery. What began as occasional missed deliveries has, at times, grown into prolonged gaps where important letters and packages didn't arrive at all. These issues sparked concern among neighbors and prompted conversations with postal officials and local representatives.

Neighbors reported that since late 2025, mail delivery has been unreliable, and the situation worsened in the winter months. Some households received only a handful of pieces of mail over several weeks, while others went without mail entirely for days at a time. Missing items included vital

documents like tax forms, bills, bank statements, prescriptions, retirement checks, and other time-sensitive mail.

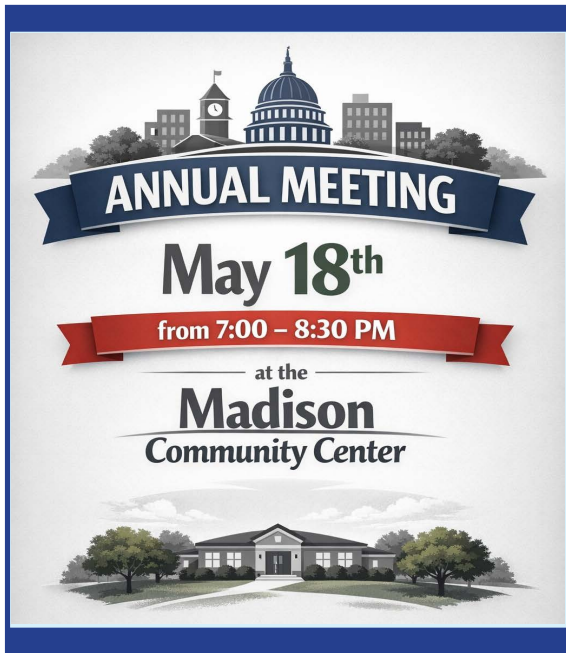
Part of the disruption was attributed to a significant winter storm in late January, which postal officials said affected delivery conditions. However, many in the neighborhood believe staffing shortages were a key factor. Reports from postal employees suggested retirements, injuries, and other absences left routes short-staffed, causing carriers to extend their delivery days or combine routes. Some residents were advised their mail was on mail trucks but had not been delivered.

In response to community concerns

and local advocacy, postal service leaders and representatives met to address the situation. Since that intervention, neighbors have seen improvements. Mail that was previously undelivered has arrived in batches — sometimes with multiple deliveries on the same day to help work through the backlog.

The postal service has taken several steps to stabilize service:

- A new manager has been appointed at the local facility.
- Additional staff have been hired, and further hiring efforts are underway at the North George Mason Drive location.
- Carriers have been working overtime to deliver delayed mail.



## ***A New Option: Advertise in our Newsletter!***

Have a business you would like to promote? Advertise with us! Our association includes 500 homes and our printed newsletter is mailed twice a year to each household. A digital version is also posted online and emailed. Advertising in our newsletter is a great way to build recognition within this active, well-established community. Our rates are: \$125 — Quarter Page Ad | \$250 — Half Page Ad | \$500 — Full Page Ad. Email [treasurer@oldglebe.org](mailto:treasurer@oldglebe.org) to learn more and place your ad for our fall newsletter.

### **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 37<sup>th</sup> St, 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.]

You may also renew with a credit card online at <http://www.oldglebe.org/contact/>