



*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: Rich Samp

Vice President: Burt Bostwick

Secretary: Karen Rosenbaum

Treasurer: Ruth Gordon

**Executive Committee/Delegates to Arlington Civic Federation**

Officers listed above, plus:

Maureen Fanguy

Howard Solodky

Tony Spadaro

Marx Sterne

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

April 2019

### OGCA IS GROWING! WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

*by Rich Samp, OGCA President*

We knocked on doors in several blocks just outside our borders—where the residents were not members of *any* civic association—and we found overwhelming support for becoming part of OGCA! Earlier this month, the Arlington County Civic Federation gave its blessing for our proposal. The expansion becomes official as soon as we receive final approval from the County Board. So it's time to extend a warm "welcome" to the newest residents of OGCA.

The streets being added to Old Glebe are: (1) the rest of Dittmar Road (between 36th Street and Glebe Road); (2) Abingdon St. between 36th Street and Glebe Road; and (3) Vermont Street between Dittmar Road and 35th Street, as well as the two cul-de-sacs that run off of this block (36th Street and 35th Road). In the next week we will be distributing "welcome packets" to each of our "new" neighbors—letting them know who we are and encouraging them to become active in our organization. We hope they all come to meet us at **Neighborhood Day** on May 4th!

### NEIGHBORHOOD DAY, SATURDAY MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

**1:30—4:00 AT WALKER CHAPEL**

This year we are partnering with Walker Chapel to offer fun on a beautiful spring afternoon together! We will provide:

● a movie with free popcorn for the younger set (remember, we had to cancel similar event in February),

- an Arlington History Trivia Quiz (for prizes!)
- a moon bounce,
- a Count-the-Jellybeans contest (more prizes!)
- face painting,
- a DVD & CD swap (bring what you've enjoyed and take home something new!),
- a parent/child sack race (even more prizes!),
- a smart phone scavenger hunt (even MORE prizes—see instructions on page 3!)
- ice cream treats!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE BEST FUN YOU'VE EVER HAD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**OGCA Executive Committee**

*Left to right:* Howard Solodky, Burt Bostwick, Ruth Gordon, Rich Samp, and Karen Rosenbaum.  
*Absent:* Maureen Fanguy, Tony Spadaro, Marx Sterne.



**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"

# THE AMAZON DEAL DOWNLOAD

by Howard Solodky

## ■ DEAL APPROVED

At a crowded and sometimes raucous hearing, the County Board on March 23rd approved the Arlington incentive package for Amazon to locate its HQ2 facility in newly branded National Landing, consisting of parts of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard in Alexandria. Amazon expects to invest around \$2.5 billion for its new headquarters project that will eventually occupy 4 million square feet of office space, potentially expanding to 6 million square feet by 2035.

## ■ ARLINGTON'S CONTRIBUTION

The actual Incentive Grant Agreement entered into between the County and Amazon has only two components, but the details are complicated. First, for 15 years Amazon is entitled each year to 15% of incremental hotel occupancy tax revenue expected to be generated from increased business travel to Arlington. Amazon's right to share in this tax revenue is contingent upon it meeting 90% of certain office space occupancy targets each year, starting at 64,000 square feet by July of 2020 and growing to 6,056,000 square feet by July of 2035. By then the County expects this subsidy to Amazon will reach \$23,000,000 in total. The second component is not

a direct payment to Amazon, but rather a commitment by the County to use incremental real property tax revenue generated by National Landing to fund public transportation and other infrastructure projects in and around HQ2 over 10 years beginning in 2022. The Grant



Agreement requires the County to establish a property tax baseline in 2021 and then set aside 50% of the increases in property tax revenue each year from National Landing for such projects. The County anticipates the value of this incentive to be \$28 million over the 10-year period.

## ■ OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Commonwealth of Virginia will invest up to \$195 million in transportation projects including additional entrances to the Metro stations at Crystal City and Potomac Yard, improvements to Route 1 and a connector bridge from Crystal City to National Airport. Also, the Commonwealth offered job creation incentives that could total \$550,000,000, provided the average salary at HQ2 is at least \$150,000.

Over the next 20 years, Virginia Tech will establish a new Innovation Campus in Alexandria,

and George Mason's Arlington campus will offer new master's degree programs in computer science.

Arlington and Alexandria, as part of their already approved respective long-term Capital Improvement Plans, will invest a total of \$570 million in transportation projects and affordable and workforce housing throughout their respective jurisdictions.

## ■ SO WHAT DO WE GET?

What do we Old Glebe residents get out of all this, good or bad, beyond the potential use of the new transportation and other infrastructure improvements? The County projects that, taking into account the cost of the Grant Agreement, the net tax benefit to the County will be \$174,160,000 over 12 years and \$342,260,000 over 16 years. Amazon expects to create 25,000 jobs, and the current 18% office vacancy rate in Arlington should drop. On the other hand, the portion of the new Amazon employees expected to live in Arlington will add an estimated 73 to 98 students on average each year to APS' already crowded schools. It is anyone's guess as what additional pressures will be brought to bear on County roads and services, and on the price of already expensive housing. Stay tuned!

"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!" While our area was thankfully spared much of the snow that fell on the rest of the country, Old Glebe was prepared for it! Since the County requires that sidewalks be cleared after snowfalls, we instituted **SNOW DAYS!** a program to identify neighbors who needed help in clearing their properties, as well as a list of local service providers. Where providers weren't immediately available, generous neighbors pitched in and made sure the work was done. Starting next fall, we will update our lists and get the word out to all who might need them.

by Burt Bostwick

## UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS

by Howard Solodky

Every year has an election in Virginia, and 2019 is no exception. The general election will be held on November 5th, and we will vote as usual at the Madison Center. On the ballot will be races for State Senate (31st District), House of Delegates (48th District), Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, two County Board seats and the School Board.

Primaries will be held on June 11th. Only Arlington Democrats will be holding primaries or for the School Board contest, caucuses; the Arlington Republicans have not announced any primaries. In the Democratic primary State Senate race, incumbent Barbara Favola is being challenged by Nicole Merlene; and for Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti is seeking the Democratic nomination over incumbent Theo Stamos. Voting for these races will be at the Madison Center.



School Board candidates run in the general election without party affiliation being listed on the ballot. However, they may be endorsed by local political parties. The Arlington County Democratic Committee will hold a caucus to choose between Reid Goldstein, current Chair of the School Board, and challenger David Priddy. Three caucuses will be held: June 4 from 7 pm. to 9pm at Drew Elementary School; June 6 from 7 to 9 pm at Key Elementary School; and June 8 from 11 am to 7 pm at Washington-Liberty High School.

## OGCA ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Come to Gulf Branch Nature Center at 2:00 p.m, Sunday, June 9, to hear our featured speaker.

**Matt de Ferranti**, recently elected to the Arlington County Board.



We will also have the opportunity to welcome our newest neighbors (see page one) to the Association.

Annual meeting is when we elect new Officers and Executive Committee Members. Newcomers: this is a *GREAT* way to get to know all about Arlington affairs and your neighborhood. Can you bring new energies and enthusiasms to OGCA? Please contact our President, **Rich Samp** <[rasamp@verizon.net](mailto:rasamp@verizon.net)> if you are interested in serving.

## A NEIGHBORHOOD PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

created by Marx Sterne

Figure out the answers for the items below, start taking photos with your smart phone, and bring the results to our **NEIGHBORHOOD DAY** to win big money! **1st prize = \$50, 2nd prize = \$25, and 3rd prize = \$10**, (depending on number of right answers and time of submission). Child/Parent Teams are encouraged. All items to be pictured are within the boundaries of OGCA.

1. My footing is firmly fixed on both sides, but I cross a stream.
2. For many years, our oldest residents have slept here.
3. In early spring, peepers call me home.
4. I stand now as a sentry, but in history I had a big boom.
5. A silent screen star once lived here.
6. This sign tells all who pass that this is where we live.
7. This is not a castle, but a queen calls it home.
8. Who, who can it be, I ask, who, who, somewhat sleepily.
9. This plaque honors the man for whom this mini-park is named.
10. Once I was a mighty tree; now my voyages are only in the imagination of those who embark.
11. This memorial marks many states whose soldiers served here.
12. With hammer and tongs and fire, fine things are wrought here.
13. Back and forth, up and down, I feel like I'm flying when I hang off the ground.
14. Aspiring to heaven, this landmark is used in our neighborhood logo.
15. Timbers from my old house were used to make me a new home here.
16. Now I have a President's name, but when I was smaller, I had another name shown here.
17. Love is nil, but here I play ball.



**GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER....** continues to be a local treasure, with programs and activities



for kids of all ages. (If you've never been to 'Bat Fest', you don't know what you're missing!) However, the Nature Center continues to find itself on the 'cut and reduce' lists from the County Manager, the latest being a proposed reduction in staff and days open if the Board wishes to maintain the current real estate tax level. Our local non-profit, **Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center**, was established specifically to oppose radical cuts to the Nature Center and its programs and projects, such as for several recent Eagle Scout projects.

*Friends* now has a vacancy for president of the organization, supported by a dedicated board and substantial financial resources. Please see the web site for details: <http://site.friendsofgbnc.org/>

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_ \*

\*[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/>