



*Respecting Tradition  
Welcoming Progress*

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

April 2023

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

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* [to be filled]

*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*

Sometimes Arlington County's public engagement process can seem unwieldy, unresponsive and downright broken. In fact, the Arlington County Civic Federation adopted on March 14<sup>th</sup> a resolution to that effect with specific recommendations on how to improve public engagement and make local government more transparent. [See <https://www.civfed.org> for **Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance.**] Other times, however, the community engagement process in Arlington works as intended.

You may recall that we reported on the pickleball noise problem at Glebe Park. The so-called standalone court next to the basketball court at the park is less than 150 feet from homes on



the portion of N.Tazewell off of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, and pickleball was being played from 7:00 in the morning until 11:00 at

night seven days a week. The County Manager's office asked the OGCA to get involved to help address the issue. OGCA recommended that the standalone court be closed to pickleball, but that striping for two more pickleball courts be added to the tennis courts at the park to address the demand for pickleball play. We also suggested that sound insulation material be installed around at least two sides of the tennis courts. DPR adopted this win-win recommendation as a pilot project that ran from last April until this past September, although DPR failed to install any sound reducing material.

Unexpectedly, DPR announced shortly after the conclusion of the

test period that pickleball play could resume on the standalone court, and that on some unspecified date sound insulating material would be installed around two sides of the tennis courts. The OGCA immediately pointed out that such a result would leave the homeowners located closest to the park worse off than when the process began because now FIVE pickleball courts, including the standalone court, would be producing noise!



After some give and take with County staff, DPR sponsored an event at Lubber Run Community Center open to all stakeholders, including pickleball players, tennis players and neighbors who live close to Glebe Park. After a robust discussion at that meeting, DPR announced that the standalone court would be permanently closed to pickleball play (although open for other recreational uses) and that sound insulation would be installed around two sides of the tennis courts.

The OGCA is pleased that a reasonable solution to the pickleball noise problem at Glebe Park has been adopted by the County. If you have an issue that affects the neighborhood and you believe the OGCA could be of help, please let us know at: [president@oldglebe.org](mailto:president@oldglebe.org).

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### 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"

## STORM TAKES DOWN LOCAL TREES!

One of the benefits of living in Old Glebe is the presence of many old growth trees. One of the disadvantages is seeing their demise as a result of severe weather. And of course we have frequent power outages when they fall on electric lines.

Heavy winds on April 1<sup>st</sup> knocked over quite a few trees in our neighborhood,



including this one at the corner of Military and Old Glebe Roads.

This tree fell on top of the community garden maintained by OGCA. We have asked the County to try to avoid further damage to the garden when it removes the tree.

## BIKE TO WORK DAY

Friday, May 19, 2023

Join thousands of Arlington bicycle riders for **Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate commuter bicycling with riders all over the region.

Whether you ride to work or work at home, Arlington will have ten convenient pit stops along popular routes where you can have breakfast treats, pick up some schwag from cycling groups, talk with other cyclists and—if you register—pick up a free Bike to Work Day 2023 tee shirt!

The weather will be glorious, and the vibe will be welcoming. Register here:

<https://www.bikearlington.com/biketoworkday/>



### IN MEMORIAM:

## BURTON LANE BOSTWICK

September 16, 1941 —November 23, 2022

Our friend and colleague Burt Bostwick died in November after a year-long battle with cancer. He leaves a big hole in the Old Glebe neighborhood and our civic association, and we will miss him greatly.

When Burt retired from a career in government service, he became active in numerous local organizations including the Old Glebe Civic Association, the Arlington County Civic Federation, and the Northern Virginia Senior Softball League. He served many years in leadership positions in these and other organizations.

In recognition of his long and productive years of community service, a memorial bench honoring Burt Bostwick will be installed in Gulf Branch Park. Funding is being provided by Old Glebe Civic Association, The Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center and other individual friends. The bench is to be located near the owl house, one of the many projects that Burt supported, along with the pollinator garden, the historic marking for Fort Ethan Allen, the relocation of the dog park, and the preservation of Gulf Branch Nature Center. (It may take up to a year for the bench to be in place.)



portrait by Karen Rosenbaum

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS: DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!

This year's general election on **November 7<sup>th</sup>** will be chock full of candidates because we will be voting not only for our State Senator and House of Delegates member, but for all of the so-called "constitutional officers" for Arlington including Commonwealth's Attorney.



### ARLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT

First on the election schedule, the Arlington Democrats will be conducting a process to choose their endorsee for the School Board beginning **May 7<sup>th</sup>**. The two announced candidates are **Miranda Turner** and **Angelo Cocchiaro**. All registered voters in Arlington who are Democrats are eligible to vote at Drew Elementary School on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm, at Campbell Elementary School on **May 10<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and at Washington-Liberty High School on **May 13<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

### RANKED CHOICE VOTING WILL BE TRIED IN COUNTY BOARD PRIMARY *by Rich Samp*

The Democratic primary election for two County Board seats taking place on June 20<sup>th</sup> will be historic—it will be conducted using "ranked choice voting," the first time that novel voting method is being used in Virginia.

Ranked choice voting will permit Arlington voters to designate their first-, second-, and third-choice candidates among the six candidates vying to be the Democratic Party's County Board two nominees. Election officials from across the Commonwealth are watching Arlington's primary carefully. If all goes smoothly here in June, it is very possible that other County Board elections (including the November election) will be conducted in the same manner. While it is up to each local jurisdiction to decide whether to adopt ranked choice voting for County Board elections, the Virginia legislature has not yet approved its use in statewide elections.

After the first-choice votes are counted, if two candidates each have

### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

The Democratic Party primary will be held on **June 20<sup>th</sup>**. No Republican primary has been announced.

For **State Senator from the 40<sup>th</sup> District**, which includes Arlington, incumbent **Barbara Favola** is being challenged in the primary by **James DeVita**. Because of redistricting, Delegate **Rip Sullivan** will no longer be representing the Madison precinct. Our part of Arlington is now within the **House of Delegates 2<sup>nd</sup> District**, and running to be the Democratic nominee for Delegate are **Adele McClure** and **Kevin Saucedo Broach**.

**Josh Katcher** is running against his boss, current **Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti**. **Beth Arthur**, Arlington's long-time **Sheriff**, is retiring, and running in the Democratic primary to replace her are **James Herring**, **Jose Quiroz** and **Wanda Younger**. The other constitutional officer positions that will be on the ballot this year include **Treasurer**, **Clerk of the Circuit Court**, and **Commissioner of Revenue**. No candidates are listed for these posts, so presumably the incumbents will retain them.

Two seats on the **Arlington County**

received more than one-third of the first-place votes, they will be declared the two nominees. Otherwise, the candidate with the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated, and their ballots are redistributed to the candidate listed second on each of those ballots. After that redistribution is completed, another candidate is eliminated, and the process continues until only the two winning candidates remain.

Supporters of ranked choice voting argue that this method ensures the election of candidates with broad support throughout the electorate. In a traditional election involving multiple candidates, a candidate can win despite getting no more than 25% or 30% of the vote. That same candidate is unlikely to win under ranked choice voting unless he or she is able to garner a substantial number of second-place votes among the supporters of the other candidates.

**Board** will be filled in the general election and six candidates have announced their candidacy in the Democratic primary: **Maureen Coffey**, **Jonathon Dromgoole**, **Natalie Roy**, **Julius "JD" Spain**, **Tony Weaver**, and **Susan Cunningham**. Because the controversial Missing Middle Housing initiative may influence your vote, we recommend you familiarize yourself with each candidate's position on MMH—and of course, other issues.

### VOTING LOGISTICS

The registration deadline in order to vote in the **June 20<sup>th</sup>** primary is **May 30<sup>th</sup>**.

If you would like to vote in the primary before **June 20<sup>th</sup>**, early voting begins on **May 5<sup>th</sup>** and ends on **June 17<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 Saturdays **June 10<sup>th</sup>** and **June 17<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 13<sup>th</sup>** and **June 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The Arlington Office of Voter Registration & Elections has initiated a public education campaign to help voters and candidates fully understand the ranked choice voting system. Among the important points: you don't hurt your preferred candidate in the slightest by casting all three of your votes. So you should cast second- and third-choice votes for candidates you regard favorably, regardless of how strongly you prefer your top choice. Those second-tier votes come into play only if your top choice has been eliminated from the race.





Celebrate National Walking Day on Saturday April 15, 2023, when **WALKARLINGTON** will host three free community walks. Space is limited, so be sure to register ahead of time: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/walkarlington-presents-walking-palooza-1860949>

● **Guided Hike on Theodore Roosevelt Island, Saturday, April 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** WalkArlington, in partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), presents a guided hike on Theodore Roosevelt Island covering history, flora and fauna.

● **Walk & Learn: Engineering Safer Streets, Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.**

Join Christine Baker, Arlington County's Vision Zero Program Manager, on a guided walk in Ballston and Virginia Square

● **Black Heritage Walk with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, Saturday, April 15, 2-3:30 p.m.** Discover Black heritage in Arlington on a walk led by Dr. Scott Taylor, president of the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. Visit and learn about important historic sites such as St. John's Baptist Church and Freedman's Village Bridge. The walk will end at the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, which reopened at a new location in September. Participants will be able to spend time taking in many artifacts and exhibits from Arlington history.

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