



*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* Rachelle Dove
- Secretary* Peter Jaffe
- Treasurer* Ruth Gordon

**Members of the Executive Committee**

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

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 2024

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

As president, I regularly receive emails from County staff regarding proposed infrastructure repair and replacement projects that may affect our civic association.

Some of the projects are modest in size and impact. In February, the County's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board announced a new sign for Fort Ethan Allen Park which will provide information about the African American soldiers who served in the "United States Colored Troops" stationed at Fort Ethan Allen and other Arlington forts during the Civil War. The location of the sign will be at the beginning of the walkway connecting the circular plaza at Fort Ethan Allen to the sidewalk along Old Glebe Road. It will be no larger than existing signs at that location.

A more impactful project was the North Glebe Road Ditch Restoration project which will probably be completed by the time we publish this newsletter. The purpose of this project was to repair the roadside ditch along the stretch of Glebe Road that leads to Chain Bridge. It also improved the pier supporting the George Washington Parkway there and restored the crossing

for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. The notice contemplated closure of one or both lanes of Glebe Road near the bridge during the evening rush hour to accommodate nighttime repair work. To the County's credit, staff responded positively when I pointed out that closing part or all of Glebe Road near the bridge during rush hour would create a traffic nightmare, and they rescheduled all night work for after 9:30 pm.

A truly large local project will be the replacement of Old Glebe Bridge over Glebe Road. Another article in this newsletter describes that undertaking in more detail. The bridge replacement will take about 18 months and work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2027. This project is still in the design phase, so please reach out to me with any concerns [president@oldglebe.org](mailto:president@oldglebe.org) or contact VDOT [mark.vanzandt@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.vanzandt@vdot.virginia.gov) which controls the project because Glebe Road is a state road. In any event, we will keep you posted.



### ARLINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

*by Tony Spadaro*

In 1998, Arlington County joined a growing number of communities nationwide who were switching to Community Policing, a philosophy and practice that seeks to involve everyone in the safety and welfare of their community. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) Community Police Academy (CPA) is a product of this philosophy.

The CPA is an educational program designed to create better understanding and communication among police, community members and businesses. The CPA gives participants an in-depth awareness of how the Arlington County Police Department operates, learning

how police officers are trained, by meeting and exchanging views with ACPD leaders and sworn police officers, and through hands-on experiences, including a special off-site session on a Saturday, outside of Arlington County. Some of the topics covered in the CPA curriculum include recruitment, legal considerations, use of force, mental health interventions, homeless outreach, community and youth outreach, criminal investigations, the K9 unit, tactical operations, and patrol operations.

The 28th annual Arlington CPA is currently underway (the author is one of this year's participants) and will graduate at the end of April. What is particularly

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## A DIFFICULT LIFE LESSON

by Ruth Gordon

valuable is the opportunity, through interactive discussions and scenario participation, to gain an appreciation of the complexity of situations our police officers have to deal with and



their policies that prevent crime while maintaining the rights of our community members. In addition to being

informative, the CPA is also a challenging and enjoyable experience.

Interested citizens who either live or work in the County may apply for the CPA and undergo a background check, with about 25 being accepted each year, reflecting a balance of Arlington's diverse community. The CPA is an immersive program of about 35 hours of class time over a 10-week period.

Members of the Old Glebe Civic Association who may wish to apply for the next CPA (or for the Teen Police Academy that was initiated in 2022) will find more information on the ACPD's Community Engagement Division (CED) website

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Police-Department/Community-Engagement/Community-Police-Academy>

or by e-mailing the ACPD Community Engagement Division at

[ACPDCED@arlingtonva.us](mailto:ACPDCED@arlingtonva.us).

My daughter was in a car accident driving to school....Or that is what I was led to believe. I'm sharing this story to prepare others for a similar scam.

I received a call from a Woodbridge, VA number. The caller sounded like my daughter, crying, telling me that she had been in an accident earlier in the morning and had hit a car driven by a pregnant woman. My daughter told me her nose was broken and she had some bruising to her face. She wanted to forewarn me before I went to pick her up from the police station. During the call she was apologetic and seemed to convey many of her mannerisms.

My daughter said that the police were holding her since they weren't sure who was at fault. There was a CCTV camera at the light where the accident happened, and they would review that within 24-48 hours.



For now though, she was assigned an attorney and needed to post bail. Bail was set at \$180,000 because the other woman was six months pregnant. We were to take the money to our nearest courthouse.

After I spoke with her, she let me talk to the police officer who conveyed the details of what had happened. The person sounded completely professional and well spoken. After that, the attorney, named Michael Rivers, called me to

inform me about the bail and next steps. Again, a well-spoken man.

I called my husband and gave him the attorney's number. However he got a different story. He was told that our daughter had been drinking and there was an empty bottle of Robitussin in the passenger seat. My husband asked what kind of car our daughter had, and he said an SUV, but couldn't name the model. My husband then asked at what courthouse she was being held at, and he answered Marietta, GA. Well, at that point he knew it was a scam.

### What should you do in such a situation?

- Make sure your family has a "safe word" not shared outside of your immediate circle. Ask for the safe word and if the response is wrong, you know it's a scam. Some other tips:
  - Be mindful that scammers may call from a familiar or official looking number. If you aren't expecting a call, sometimes it's best to let it go to voicemail.
  - Be sure to not provide any personal information to the caller. Don't say, "(child's name), is that you?"
  - Grandparents have been called by someone claiming to be a grandchild who has been kidnapped or is in an accident. The voice may sound exactly like your grandchild. Again, use the "safe word."
  - Do report any such calls to the FTC, and if the scammer was impersonating a police officer, the FBI.

## OLD GLEBE CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Old Glebe Civic Association is pleased to announce that its annual meeting will be held on May 13th at 7:00 pm. at the Madison Community Center. Highlighting the list of speakers at the meeting will be **Patrick Hope**, our member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Also on the agenda will be a presentation by a senior officer of the Arlington County Police Department, a discussion of what improvements residents in our neighborhood would like to see made to the Madison Center and, of course, election of OGCA officers. We encourage all who live within the boundaries of the association to attend this important meeting.



**Come meet your neighbors,  
enjoy light refreshments,  
and hear about**

- **VA legislation**
- **police matters**
- **Madison Center plans**





## UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS *by Howard Solodky*

Not only is this a Presidential election year, but Democrat **Tim Kaine** is seeking reelection to the United States Senate from Virginia, and Democrat **Don Beyer** has announced that he will seek another term as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes Arlington. Locally, we have two School Board seats to fill and we must elect one member of the Arlington County Board.

In anticipation of the general election, both the Democratic and Republican Parties have requested primaries to be held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Currently Senator Kaine is unopposed in the Democratic primary, but **Andrew Campbell** has filed to oppose Congressman Beyer in the Democratic primary for the Congressional District seat. Ten candidates are running in the Republican Senate primary, and at least five candidates have filed to run in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District primary. In addition, **James DeVita, Julie Farnam, Tenley Peterson, Natalie Roy** and **JD Spain** have all announced they are candidates in the June 18<sup>th</sup> Democratic primary to replace County Board Chair

**Libby Garvey** who is retiring.

Virginia is an open primary state, meaning that voters do not register by political party affiliation. Any registered voter is eligible to vote in any primary election. If both parties hold primaries



on the same day, as will be the case on June 18<sup>th</sup>, voters must choose which party ballot they wish to vote.

Early voting begins on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and ends on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The principal early voting location is Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am. to 5:00 pm. and on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am. to 5:00 pm. The Walter Reed Community Center and our own Madison Center will also be open for early voting on those two Saturdays during the same hours, and from 2:00 pm. to 7:00 pm. on June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are not already registered to

vote in Virginia, the registration deadline to vote in the primary is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, don't forget that same day registration is now available in Virginia: beginning May 29<sup>th</sup> you can register to vote the same time you vote in person at one of the early voting locations or at the Madison Center on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot subject to post-election verification of your registration information.

Next November we will fill two seats on the School Board. The Arlington County Democratic Committee will be conducting in May a School Board endorsement process to choose their two endorsees for School Board. The four announced candidates are **Kathleen Clark, Larry Fishtahler, Zuraya Tapia-Hadley** and **Chen Ling**. In-person voting will be held at Washington-Liberty High School on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm., at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm. until 9:00 pm., and at Drew Elementary School on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am. until 6:00 pm. Online voting will also be available beginning April 20<sup>th</sup> through the Arlington Democrats website.

## NATURE STUDIES IN ARLINGTON

Arlington has at least three ongoing nature studies that impact our community. Your input can make a difference.

### (1) Gulf Branch Stream Restoration

Because of active erosion, infrastructure concerns, and habitat



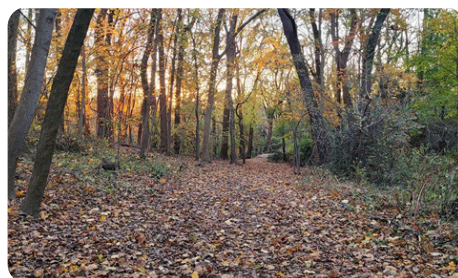
degradation, Gulf Branch was identified as a priority for repair. Funding for design was allocated in 2018 and initial studies began with community input. The process has been delayed by Covid but is underway again with project work expected in 2025. More information is available at

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Environment-Projects/Gulf-Branch-Stream-Project>.

### (2) Study of Natural Trails

This project aim is to ensure the County's trail system remains sustainable and provides high-quality access to nature for all park users. The goal is to inventory and assess the County's existing natural surface trail system, analyze best practices for trail sustainability and community needs, and develop a management framework to support the County's natural surface trails into the future. More info:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Arlingtons-Natural-Surface-Trails-Study>



*by Marx Sterne*

### (3) Deer Management

White-tailed deer are native to Arlington and are an essential part of the ecology. However, too many deer harm the environment by eating certain plants faster than they can grow back. Then their competition for food leads to



malnourishment, disease, and increased mortality rates. This project will identify ways to protect Arlington's County-owned land so all the plants and animals can thrive here. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Parks-Projects/Deer-Management-Project>

# NORTH GLEBE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

by Peter Jaffe

The Virginia Department of Transportation has launched a project to replace the bridge carrying Old Glebe Road over North Glebe Road starting in mid-2027. The current bridge, which is 60 years old, needs significant structural repairs, and because rehabilitation is estimated to cost over 65% of an outright replacement, the Department has decided to rebuild the bridge.

What will the new bridge be like? The new bridge will be in largely the same location as the current bridge, with 10 foot lanes, 2 foot shoulders, and wider sidewalks on both sides. (The current bridge lacks shoulders and has only a single narrower walkway.) In response to initial public questions, the Department has advised that available funding would not support more robust improvements such as the addition of bike lanes or improvements to the approaches on either side of the bridge or improvements to North Glebe Road itself, which lacks sidewalks near the bridge.

### **What's the cost, and who's paying?**

The project will be paid from Virginia and federal funds, including "State of Good Repair" funds intended for bridge structural repairs.



### **How long will the project last, and where will traffic go during construction?**

The project is scheduled to begin mid-2027 and last between 1 and 2½ years, depending on the detour strategy option adopted: the shortest duration would involve a full detour of traffic currently using the bridge along with construction of a temporary pedestrian bridge; a medium-duration would be a partial detour with one lane, one-way traffic across the bridge; and the longest option would retain one lane, two-way traffic on the bridge using a temporary signal.

### **Where can I learn more?**

The Department of Transportation webpage can be accessed at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/north-old-glebe-road-over-north-glebe-road-bridge-replacement-in-arlington-county/>

### **I have thoughts; how can I be heard?**

A public meeting was held in October 2023. A public hearing on design will be held in late 2024. The project engineers and their contact information can be found on the Department of Transportation's webpage.

Trees are not only beautiful additions to our properties; they are an essential part of our natural environment. They absorb excess stormwater, cool our urban heat islands in the summer, and evergreens can block chilling winter winds. They provide food for wildlife, and for humans, too! **MASTER GARDNERS OF VIRGINIA** has two programs for you this month: "Fruit Trees for the Urban Gardener" on April 12, and "Celebrating Native Trees" on Arbor Day, April 26. Think about adding a tree to your property and sign up for our programs at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/>

EcoAction Arlington's sixth-annual **EcoExtravaganza** has a new vibe and venue. Join us at Clare & Don's Beach Shack and we'll kick up our heels together. We will focus on how everyone can help protect our precious water resources while

wrap up Earth Month with the very best party. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 25, 6:30-9:00 pm** and tell all your friends!

Purchase Your Tickets at <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/sixth-annual-ecoextravaganza/>



Follow us on social media to learn more about EcoAction Arlington, upcoming volunteer opportunities, and what exactly we mean by beach chic. Find more details on our website. <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/>

enjoying the relaxed, fun, and beachy vibe of Clare and Don's Beach Shack. Let's





# CAPITAL PROTECTORS



## The 107th USCT at Fort Ethan Allen



DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON, 1861-1865

**F**ort Ethan Allen witnessed the dramatic social change brought on by the war. In late 1865, the 107th United States Colored Troops (USCT) garrisoned Fort Ethan Allen. Two companies, C and H, roughly 200 men, drilled on the parade ground and manned the ramparts here starting in October 1865, while seven other companies were stationed elsewhere.



Charles Singer joined the 107th USCT in the late spring of 1864. He rose to the rank of sergeant major, then one of the highest ranks available to USCTs. Courtesy Gettysburg National Military Park

The 107th came from Kentucky. USCT enlistment was not allowed in Kentucky until the spring of 1864. Enlistment guaranteed freedom for enslaved recruits, but initially required the consent of enslavers. In July of 1864, recruitment in Kentucky was finally opened to "all who present themselves."

*"I wish for nothing but to breathe ... the air of liberty.... I have no ambition, unless it to be to break the chain and exclaim: 'Freedom to all!'"*

—Sgt. Maj. Charles Singer, 107th USCT, September 18, 1864



Prior to the war, Pvt. Creed Miller was enslaved in Kentucky. He enlisted in the 107th USCT. Disease curtailed his service, and he died in early 1866. The badge he wore on his uniform reflects his pride in serving his country. Courtesy National Museum of African American History and Culture

Some early recruits of the 107th were free men who enlisted by choice or were drafted, others were enlisted by their enslavers, and still others escaped from bondage and secured freedom through enlistment.

It's stunning to think that from 1865 to 1866, formerly enslaved men protected America's capital. On November 22, 1866, the 107th mustered out from service.

## ↑↑ NEW SIGNAGE SLATED FOR FORT ETHAN ALLEN by Richard Samp ↑↑

Arlington's Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) recently approved the placement of a new historical marker at Fort Ethan Allen which will commemorate the role of the 107th United States Colored Troops, a regiment organized in Louisville, Kentucky in 1864 from among free blacks and former slaves. Members of the regiment were garrisoned at Fort Ethan Allen and other Arlington forts at the conclusion of the war. The new sign will be unveiled at a public ceremony, likely this fall. (Above is shown a near-final version of the sign.)

Old Glebe Civic Association (OGCA) has long been active in historic preservation efforts at Fort Ethan Allen. It spearheaded the fort's 2013 renovation. The new sign, a near final version seen below, will be erected adjacent to Old Glebe Road.

At the urging of the HALRB, the County has also agreed to take steps to preserve a lengthy fort trench, located in a separate park a block south of the main fort. The County's Parks and Recreation Department plans to rope off the trench to prevent further erosion of the site. It is also considering erecting a sign that would identify the trench and explain its significance in fort defenses.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Thurs. April 11, SCHOOL BD MTG,** action on Proposed FY'25 Budget, 7pm

**Sat. April 13, ECO ACTION CLEANUP,** help clean up litter at Four Mile Run, Jennie Dean Park, 3630 27th Street South Arlington, VA 22206, 10am to noon

**Sat. April 13, COMMUNITY WELLNESS FAIR,** new Outpatient Pavillion, Virginia Hospital Center, free health screenings (for age 18+)

**Thurs. April 18, YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING** for staff, family, community members, Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Blvd. 22204

**Thurs, April 25, SCHOOL BOARD MEETING,** 2024 Honored Citizens Recognition; Secondary English Language Arts Update; Revisions to Policies, 7:00 pm

*[Watch School Board meetings online, on Comcast Ch. 70, Verizon Ch. 41 or at Syphax Education Center, 2110 Washington Blvd. 22204]*

**Mark your calendars for  
THE OGCA ANNUAL MEETING,  
May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. at Madison Community 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 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/>