



*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 Federation—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

Karen Rosenbaum, *Newsletter Editor*

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

Facebook Page:

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Our listserv:

[newsletter-subscribe@oldglebe.org](mailto:newsletter-subscribe@oldglebe.org)

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

April 2025

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

Since January, three topics have dominated the conversation in Arlington: the dismantling of the federal workforce; the elimination of federal programs, grants, loans and, in some cases, entire agencies; and the uptick in immigration enforcement in Arlington, particularly in the southern half of the County. Roughly 73,000 federal civilian employees live in Virginia's 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes all of Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County. Thousands of employees of government contractors and subcontractors who have been adversely affected also reside in Arlington. I suspect no one reading this column has been unaffected by the unprecedented, and sometimes illegal, actions of the Trump administration.

I take some comfort, however, in the fact that the Arlington County government, the Arlington community, and even the OGCA have responded, to the extent they can, quickly and meaningfully. The County Board, in the 2026 fiscal year budget just adopted, increased the county's Economic Stability Reserve from \$21.5 million to \$33 million. This "rainy day" fund can help offset the loss of sales tax and room tax revenue attributable to the prohibition on federal employee travel and the expected decline in tourism because of an uncertain overall economy. It can also potentially provide funding for non-profits in the County that provide essential services to Arlington residents that have lost or may lose federal grants and loans eliminated by the Trump administration. As of the date of writing this column, the County has already held a Job Fair at Lubber Run Community Center where residents could learn about County job openings and the Arlington Employment

Center, and will soon will soon co-sponsor with Congressman **Don Beyer** a private sector jobs fair bringing together job seekers and private employers from all over Northern Virginia.



The Arlington County Library has hosted two federal employee and contractor town halls organized by the Arlington County Democratic Committee. Each of those events was attended by over 200 residents who got the opportunity to ask a panel of experts questions related to loss or potential loss of employment including the effect on retirement benefits, how to file for unemployment, how to unionize and how best to pursue legal remedies. APS has an *Immigration Resources for Families* webpage with links to a variety of resources. And the Arlington County Democrats have hosted an immigrant rights forum at Randolph Elementary School in south Arlington.

Residents in our neighborhood have posted "We Support Our Federal Employees" signs in their front yards, and the OGCA has circulated a list of websites that connect job seekers with employers. In other words, Arlingtonians have shown in myriad ways what it means to be part of a community that cares about and supports those who are experiencing hard times.

If you would like to learn more about how Arlington is rallying around our federal employees and immigrant community, come to the **OGCA annual meeting at the Madison Center on May 12<sup>th</sup>** where you will hear from County Board member **Susan Cunningham**, School Board member **Bethany Sutton**, and Police Chief **Andy Penn**.

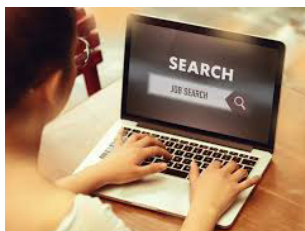
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**OCGA ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

## LOOKING FOR A NEW POSITION? *by Ruth Gordon*

The first place to explore are the local employment resources such as the Arlington Employment Center and the Alexandria Workforce Development Center. Arlington's website offers a rich job database as well as the option to sign up for job alerts. Alexandria has a robust job searching tool, the ability to post your resumé to the site, have hiring organizations review it (a password protected option), and various workshops and job fairs.

Using job search platforms like **Indeed** (a favorite among my family!), **Monster**, **Glassdoor**, **ZipRecruiter**, and **LinkedIn** provides job seekers with an efficient and streamlined approach to finding employment opportunities. These platforms aggregate job listings from various industries, allowing users to search for positions that align with their



skills and experience. Many of these websites also offer filtering tools that enable job seekers to refine their search based on location, salary, company size, and job type. Beyond job listings, these platforms offer insights and resources to help applicants stand out. **Glassdoor**, for example, provides company reviews, salary information, and interview tips, helping job seekers make informed decisions before applying. **LinkedIn**, on the other hand, allows professionals to network with recruiters and industry peers, boosting their visibility to potential employers. Features such as resumé builders, career advice blogs, and job application tracking on platforms like **Indeed** and **ZipRecruiter** further enhance the job search experience by providing essential tools to optimize applications.

Applying through these websites often allows for faster responses from employers compared to traditional methods. With the ability to set up job alerts and receive notifications about new postings, job seekers can improve their chances of securing a desirable position.

## ARLINGTON STEPS UP EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE DEER POPULATION *by Richard Samp*

If you thought you saw a lot of drones flying over the County last month, you weren't imagining things. In its continuing effort to monitor and control the County's deer population, Arlington conducted a daytime drone survey designed to map deer population by collecting infrared heat signatures.

The Parks and Recreation Department will use the drone data, along with visual surveys at randomly selected park locations, to complete its long-anticipated Deer Management Plan, currently scheduled for a July 1<sup>st</sup> release. The Plan will set out Arlington's strategy for combatting the destruction of native plants caused by deer overpopulation.

According to Alonso Abugattas, Arlington's Natural Resources Manager, forest ecology suffers greatly when deer population exceeds 15 per square mile.

A 2021 drone survey concluded that deer population significantly exceeded that limit in several parts of Arlington, including the Old Glebe neighborhood.

The County anticipates beginning a deer-culling effort this winter in affected public parks. It plans to hire professional sharpshooters to shoot deer from elevated tree stands—most effective in winter when reduced foliage increases visibility. The County Board has revised zoning ordinances to permit the gunfire and appropriated more than \$100,000 to deer management in the coming year.

The federal government does not permit Arlington to either cull or do surveys on federal land. But Arlington is permitted to operate on land owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

## GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER NEWS *by Marx Sterne*

*Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center* was instrumental in getting Center hours and staffing restored. The Center is now open Tuesday through Sunday. Limited staff has expanded its role of bringing nature programs to schools. More on-site programming is now possible as well as maintenance of park resources: reestablishing the pond, improving trails, and managing the exhibits of the live animals and the American Indian room. There are now more opportunities for youth volunteers and projects for scouts.

*FoGBNC* is in great need of new leadership to reinvigorate its mission. This could include finding innovative ways to support Nature Center projects and to join with Long Branch Nature Center to advocate for all of Arlington parks. For further information or to offer support, please contact *FoGBNC* president Duke Banks

[duke.banks@gmail.com](mailto:duke.banks@gmail.com)

or vice president Marx Sterne

[mjsterne@verizon.net](mailto:mjsterne@verizon.net)

Meanwhile, after seven year of planning, the Gulf Branch Resilience Project to stabilize and restore the stream is set to get underway in late summer or fall. Information is still forthcoming on the sequencing of work in the five staging areas where equipment will be positioned and the timing of temporarily closing trails. For more information see:

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

Concurrently other organizations are trying to enhance water retention areas, reduce the the number of trees to be removed, and sequester water before it reaches park land.

The County has also announced that a replacement for the culvert where Military Road crosses Gulf Branch is expected to start early in 2026 and take a full year to complete. The current two culverts will be replaced with a single span. Two way traffic will be available throughout the construction, possibly using a flag system during the day and other ways during non-work hours.

The culvert construction will be coordinated with six projects impacting our neighborhood: water main replacement along Military Road, the Gulf Branch resiliency program, sanitary sewage renovation under Gulf Branch, the permanent Military Road/Nellie Custis roundabout, Gulf Branch outfall work slowing water flow on both sides of the culvert, and the 2026 VDOT bridge replacement project where Old Glebe crosses Glebe.

An Open House will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Dorothy Hamm School where representatives will be available to address these projects and their overlap.



# THE HISTORIC ROOTS OF BIRCHLAND

by Richard Samp

The Old Glebe neighborhood had only a smattering of residents in the early 19th century. The entire population of what is now Arlington County was only 1,500 in 1840, and very few of those residents lived this far north. One prominent early resident of Old Glebe was William "Billy" Birch, who inherited a large tract of local land in the 1810s and named it Birchland Plantation. Birchland lives on—in the form of a historic house at 3612 N. Glebe Road.

Billy Birch built twin two-story log structures at the site of the current house and lived there until his death in 1870. The property extended considerably eastward from his house, encompassing much of the land west of what is now Dittmar Road. The Birches constructed a family graveyard several hundred yards northeast from the site of the Birchland manor house. A number of bodies were moved from there to the Walker Chapel cemetery when that portion of Old Glebe underwent residential development in the 20th century.

Like many small-scale farmers in Arlington in that era, Birch held a small number of people in slavery. In 1815, Birch claimed ownership of a William from his father's estate. The 1850 census indicates that his household included one slave, a nine-year-old black male.

Birch had five daughters, several of

whom settled in the area following their marriages. Martha Birch McNair Titus continued to live with her aging father (along with second husband Samuel Titus) until his death. During the Civil War, they remained at their home (which briefly served as a headquarters for Union General Winfield Hancock), despite their strong Confederate sympathies. When a soldier stationed at Fort Ethan Allen expressed to her a desire to see a rebel, she purportedly responded, "If you open your eyes, you won't have to look very far."

Another one of Billy Birch's daughters who settled in the area was Elizabeth Birch Deeble. Her son, Silas Deeble, built a house in the Old Glebe neighborhood in 1870. That house, which stands at 3804 N. Abington Street, was one of the first in Arlington with indoor plumbing and is likely the second oldest house within the Old Glebe Civic Association.

Following Martha's death, the Weaver family of Washington purchased the Birch property. They constructed the present-day Birchland in 1897. They obtained lumber to build the house by purchasing the stand used for the March 1897 inauguration of President William McKinley. A developer recently purchased Birchland from its long-time owners (the Page family) and has undertaken extensive renovations.\*

# UPCOMING PRIMARY ELECTIONS

by Howard Solodky

This year we will be electing a new Virginia Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General plus members of the Virginia House of Delegates. Locally, we will elect new members to the Arlington School Board and County Board. The general election will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and we will be voting at the Madison Community Center.

Both the Democratic and Republican Parties are holding primaries in June. However, only Democrat **Abigail Spanberger** and Republican **Winsome Earle-Sears** satisfied the petition signature requirement, so there will be no primaries for Virginia Governor. In contrast 6 Democrats and 2 Republicans are running in their respective primaries for Lieutenant Governor. For Attorney General, Democrats **Jay Jones** and **Shannon Taylor** will compete in a Democratic primary to oppose Republican incumbent **Jason Miyares**.

For the House of Delegates 1<sup>st</sup> District incumbent **Patrick Hope** is facing challengers **Arjoon Srikanth** and **Sean Epstein** in the Democratic primary on June 17<sup>th</sup>. For County Board, current Chair **Takis Karantonis** is opposed by **James Devita** in the Democratic primary. No Republican primary will be held for our House of Delegates district or for County Board.

Virginia is an open primary state: 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, voters must choose which party ballot they wish to vote.

Early in-person voting begins on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and ends on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, open Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm and on Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 5:00 pm. Additionally, Madison Center will be open for early voting on those two Saturdays during the same hours, as well as from 2:00pm to 7:00 pm on June 11<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The registration deadline to vote in the June 17<sup>th</sup> primary is May 27<sup>th</sup>. Same day registration is now available



Birchland in 1920



Birchland in 1940



\*Birchland today

continued on page 4---->

in Virginia, so you can register to vote the same time as you vote in person. Your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot subject to post-election verification of your registration information.

In May the Arlington County Democratic Committee will be conducting a School Board endorsement process. The two announced candidates are **Monique "Moe" Bryant** and **June Prakash**. The Democrats' School Board endorsement vote is open to all registered voters in Arlington who are Democrats. In-person voting will be held at Washington-Liberty High School on May 4th from 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm., and at Drew Elementary School on May 10th from 10:00 am. until 6:00 pm. Online voting will also be available beginning April 19th through the Arlington Democrats' website.

**MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**OGCA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Cherrydale Room, Madison Community Ctr**  
**SPEAKERS: County Board member**  
**Susan Cunningham, School Board**  
**member Bethany Sutton, and**  
**Police Chief Andy Penn!**

**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/>