



*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 "oldglebecivicasociation"

# **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

## **Old Glebe Civic Association**

October 2023

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*by Howard Solodky*

One of the goals of the OGCA is to foster a sense of community within our neighborhood. That can include welcoming new residents, helping each other as neighbors when possible, and enhancing the quality of life in the area. The Association wishes to recognize the long-standing contributions of two of our residents for their beautification efforts.

You may have noticed the attractively landscaped, triangular-shaped islands at the intersection of



Old Glebe and Glebe Roads, and also where 36th Street intersects Glebe. These flowers and bushes are not

the work of County staff—but solely due to the efforts of **Tony Spadaro**, a member of the OGCA Executive Committee. Tony has, for years at his own expense, provided, planted, and mulched them.

You might also recall that the triangular island at Old Glebe and Glebe used to have an Old



Glebe Neighborhood sign courtesy of the County. Some months ago, apparently a motorist ran over that sign and shattered the post supporting it. Tony has taken the lead on working with the County to replace and reinstall the post for the sign.



Last, but not least, is the garden at the corner of Old Glebe and Military Roads on the site of the County's water pressure balancing station. Although the property is County owned, it is **Jo Ella Samp**, not County staff, who has planted and replanted that garden year after year. Trees have fallen or been uprooted damaging the garden, but it lives on thanks to Jo Ella's efforts.



Jo Ella and Tony exemplify what it means to be a good neighbor and help create a sense of community. If you have thoughts about other ways we can improve the appearance of our neighborhood or otherwise enhance our community, please let me know at [president@oldglebe.org](mailto:president@oldglebe.org)



## HALLOWEEN PARADE AND POTLUCK

The Old Glebe Civic Association is excited to announce its sponsorship of a Halloween Parade and Potluck on **Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>** from 4 to 6pm. The event is open to all those interested who live in the OGCA boundaries or close proximity. Everyone is welcome to attend in costume: children, parents, and pets! We will begin at the intersection of N Wakefield Street and 38<sup>th</sup> Street N and proceed down 38<sup>th</sup> Street toward Dittmar Road.

The parade will conclude with the potluck at 38<sup>th</sup> Street North and N Tazewell. If you plan to attend the event, please bring a dish according to your last name initial (see below). If you're interested in helping or have questions, please reach out to Rachelle Dove: [barimany@yahoo.com](mailto:barimany@yahoo.com) or see the website to sign up for additional jobs:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAAAD22A1FDC43-44586544-halloween#/>

### POT LUCK DISHES

A-G	Appetizer	O-T	Side Dish
H-N	Main dish	U-Z	Dessert

## WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ARLINGTON'S MISSING MIDDLE INITIATIVE?

*by Ruth Gordon*

First things first: the initiative is now called the **Expanded Housing Options (EHO) Development**. Natalie Roy, a candidate for the Arlington County Board, writes a newsletter, *EHO Watch* you can subscribe to by emailing her directly: [natalieuroy@gmail.com](mailto:natalieuroy@gmail.com).

She writes: "As of September 25<sup>th</sup>, the number of approved EHO permits remains at 8. The total number of EHO permit applications received by the County totals 43. Thus far, every application has been in R-5 and R-6 zoning districts. According to the last verbal update from the County, Arlington has not received any applications for projects in R-8, R-10, or R-20 zoning districts."

[Editor's note: Most of Old Glebe is zoned R-10 or R-20—single family dwellings.]

Roy also provides information on permit approval and rejection. The County's interim Permit

Tracker enables users to learn if an application has been rejected. Once a permit is approved, one can take the EHO Permit number and search for additional kernels of information about the project via the Arlington Permit Center.

Additionally, there is an EHO lawsuit filed on behalf of ten Arlington homeowners alleging that the County Board violated state law in multiple ways in passing EHO. Roy writes, "the lawsuit seeks an injunction to prevent the County from issuing EHO permits and to declare the EHO zoning ordinance invalid." Retired Fairfax Judge David Schell was appointed to preside over this case and will make a decision on the seven counts in the lawsuit on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Specifically, the Judge will decide if six of the seven counts warrant going forward to trial.

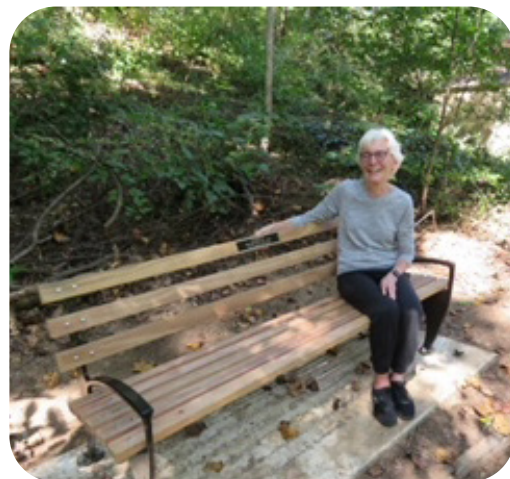
## BURT BOSTWICK MEMORIAL BENCH

*by Rich Samp*

Friends and neighbors of Burt Bostwick, long-time President of the Old Glebe Civic Association, gathered at the Gulf Branch Nature Center on September 16<sup>th</sup> to remember Burt. The County just installed a new bench overlooking Gulf Branch in Burt's honor. It was paid for with contributions from the Civic Association, Friends of Gulf Branch, and several private donors.

Burt's many civic activities spanned a wide cross-section of Arlington life, as was reflected by the diverse group of friends who gathered to remember him. In addition to spearheading a revival of the Old Glebe Civic Association in the 1990s, Burt's many activities included orchestrating the installation of informative historical markers about Fort Ethen Allen, co-founding Friends of Gulf Branch (which has been instrumental in restoring and maintaining funding for the nature center), playing lead roles in the Arlington Civic Federation, and helping to organize the Northern Virginia Senior Softball League.

The gathering occurred on a particularly appropriate occasion: September 16<sup>th</sup> would have been Burt's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Pictured sitting on the new bench is Mary Bostwick, Burt's wife of 55 years who continues to reside in the Old Glebe neighborhood





## VOTE THIS NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> (OR SOONER)

This year's general election is already underway in Arlington and elsewhere in Virginia, with early, in-person voting having begun on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The entire House of Delegates and Senate are up for election this November, with control of both legislative bodies hanging in the balance. Because of redistricting, **Patrick Hope** (D), rather than **Rip Sullivan**, is now our representative in the House, and he is running unopposed. Our current State Senator, Democrat **Barbara Favola**, is seeking reelection and she is being challenged by Republican **David Henshaw**.



At the County level, the five "constitutional officer" positions for Arlington (Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, and Treasurer) are all on the ballot. The Democrat running for reelection or nominated to fill each of those positions is unopposed. Of particular note, **Beth Arthur**, the first female sheriff in Arlington, had been the County Sheriff for 22 years, and she will be replaced by **Jose Quiroz, Jr.**, now serving as acting sheriff. **Miranda Turner**, who has been endorsed by the Arlington County Democratic Committee, is seeking to fill the empty School Board seat. Independent **James "Vell" Rives** will also appear on the ballot for School Board, however he announced back in July that he had dropped out of the race.

Because of all the controversy surrounding the Missing Middle Housing (now called "Expanded Housing Options") issue the past couple of years, Arlington voters may focus particularly on the race to fill two seats on the County Board. Republican **Juan Carlos Fierro**, perennial independent candidate **Audrey Clement**, and Democrats **Maureen Coffey** and **Susan Cunningham** are all vying for those two positions. You will recall that pursuant to state law, party affiliation of candidates for County Board and for School Board do not appear on the official ballot. We encourage you to go online and familiarize yourself with the County Board candidates' positions on the issues.

Election Day this year is November 7<sup>th</sup>, and members of the OGCA who choose not to vote until then will, as usual, be casting their ballots at the Madison Community Center between 6:00am and 7:00pm. All voters are also eligible to vote by mail; a Mail Ballot can be requested until 5:00pm on October 27<sup>th</sup> by going online to the Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal. One could register to vote until October 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Virginia allows voters to register on Election Day, but such new voters will have to cast provisional ballots to allow for confirmation of their registration information.

Early in-person voting will be ongoing until November 4<sup>th</sup> at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 320. Monday through Friday early voting is from 8:00am until 5:00pm. Additionally, you can vote at Courthouse Plaza on October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>, both Saturdays, between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm, and on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Early, in-person voting also will be available at our own Madison Center and at Walter Reed Community Center on October 24, 25 and 26 and on October 31 and November 1 and 2, from 2:00pm until 7:00 pm, on October 28 and November 4 between 9:00am and 5:00pm, and on October 29 during the hours 11:00am until 4:00pm. Don't forget to take advantage of these voting options and let your voice be heard!

## NEW HOUSE IN OLD GLEBE SHOWS NEED FOR LOT COVERAGE REFORMS

by Rich Samp & Howard Solodky

At least since 2014, County staff has recognized the need for "a more comprehensive look" at lot coverage. This past summer, staff included in the draft *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan*, a recommendation to (1) "find ways to discourage or limit development and impervious surfaces," (2) "discourage development of large homes on small lots," (3) "increase or strengthen requirements for tree protection," and (4) "place restrictions on single-family home sizes." Recently leaders of various civic associations including the OGCA, urged County Board members to finally authorize a lot coverage study in the final Plan to be adopted before year end.

Board member Libby Garvey has agreed to look at a house (some might call it a "McMansion") under construction on Military Road near the intersection with Old Glebe Road. Land use experts say that permitting large homes on small lots can lead to significant



decline in the tree canopy. As this picture (which depicts an early phase of construction at the Military Road site) illustrates, developers building large homes usually cut down every tree on a lot. Arborists agree that new trees planted after completion of the house do not compensate for the loss of mature trees, whose many advantages include reducing flood damage.

Arlington has been facing serious stormwater-drainage problems as

*[continued from page 3]*

new construction has increased the amount of land covered by impervious surfaces. Indeed, this month the County agreed to buy a residential lot for \$1.6 million in Waverly Hills (and to spend another \$350,000 to tear down the house) to help combat flooding problems in that neighborhood.

County and civic leaders visiting the Military Road site are also evaluating the impact that an oversized

house can have on immediate neighbors. That issue has come into increasing focus in light of the County's recent adoption of "Missing Middle" upzoning, under which developers are now permitted to build multiple housing units on lots previously zoned for single-family houses only. Civic leaders and County Board members seem to agree that if size limitations are placed on single-family homes, those same limitations should apply to Missing Middle Housing.

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## 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/>