

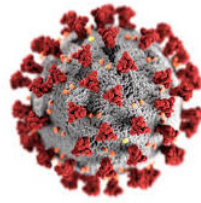


Respecting Tradition  
Welcoming Progress

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## Old Glebe Civic Association

OCTOBER 2020



### THE PANDEMIC CHANGED EVERYTHING!

All the plans we announced in our last newsletter—*out the window!* Our April 19th meeting to address the concerns you expressed in the OGCA survey we conducted—*cancelled!* Our Annual Meeting to elect new Civic Association officers and delegates to the Civic Federation—*cancelled!*

We are now planning a new Annual Meeting, to be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 18—online of course. In

addition to holding elections, we are inviting speakers to address the issues identified as important to you by your responses in our recent survey. We are reaching out to the County's Arborist to learn about policies controlling the clear-cutting of trees. A speaker from the Zoning Board will tell us what rights neighbors have to examine development plans. We may get a County expert to discuss flood control issues. A police department spokesperson may address our concerns about: (1) crime and (2) speeding on Military Road. Unfortunately, we don't have the final speaker list in place in time for this newsletter, but it is sure to be a meeting you won't want to miss. On **Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m., use the link: <http://bit.ly/OldGlebe>**

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 Peter Jaffe  
Treasurer Ruth Gordon

#### Members of the Executive Committee and Delegates to Arlington Civic Federation:

Officers listed above, plus:  
Karen Rosenbaum, *Newsletter Editor*  
Howard Solodky, *NCAC Rep*  
Maureen Fanguy  
Tony Spadaro  
Marx Sterne

### VOTE EARLY AND AVOID THE WORRY

by Howard Solodky

Because of the coronavirus pandemic and concerns about the effectiveness of the U.S. Postal Service, this year, more than ever, it is important to understand your options for voting in Arlington. Not only is this a Presidential election year, but one of Virginia's two U.S. Senate seats, the U.S. House of Representatives seat for Virginia's 8th District (in which Arlington is located), and two Arlington School Board and one Arlington County Board seat are all up for election. Fortunately, the Virginia General Assembly and the Arlington Electoral Board have taken steps to make it easier to vote and to vote early.

You essentially have three options for how to cast your vote this year. First, of course, you can **vote in person on November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Madison Community Center (3829 N. Stafford St.) anytime between 6:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Arlington Registrar's office will take steps to encourage social distancing at the Madison Center and the other 53 polling places in Arlington.

Second, **voting early in-person** began September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2200 Clarendon Boulevard, which is a storefront next door to the Arlington government

center building at 2100 Clarendon. This location will be open Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm through October 16<sup>th</sup>. Beginning October 17<sup>th</sup> and ending on October 31<sup>st</sup>, hours will be extended Monday through Friday to 7 pm and Saturday 9 to 5. A little closer to home, the Madison Community Center will be open for early in-person voting beginning October 17<sup>th</sup> and ending October 31<sup>st</sup> Monday through Friday 2 to 7 pm and Saturday 9 to 5.



Third, you can request a **vote-by-mail** ballot and do not have to provide any reason for doing so. You must request your vote-by-mail ballot by 5 pm on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, if you want to mail

your ballot back, the Arlington Registrar recommends placing it in the U.S. mail no later than October 24<sup>th</sup>, so you should consider requesting a vote-by-mail ballot considerably earlier than October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A mailed ballot will be counted only if it is postmarked by November 3<sup>rd</sup> and received by the Registrar no later than noon on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Alternatively, you can avoid possible delays with mail delivery and drop off your vote-by-mail ballot at any of the five early in-person voting locations, but only on the dates and at the times listed above.

### 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"

## VOTE EARLY AND AVOID THE WORRY *continued*

In addition, you can drop off your vote-by-mail ballot at the Madison Center or the Arlington government center building at 2100 Clarendon on November 3rd between 6 am and 7 pm.

You can register or check your status online at [elections.virginia.gov/registration](https://elections.virginia.gov/registration). If you need a ride to the polls, you can contact the Arlington Democrats at 703-528-8588 or [rides@arlingtondemocrats.org](mailto:rides@arlingtondemocrats.org). Lastly, the General Assembly changed the law in Virginia, so you no longer need a photo ID to vote. And Election Day is now a state holiday, so you have no excuse for not voting. **Your vote is your voice; you should exercise it.**

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

The election is already underway in Arlington and unless you just landed from another planet, you know that Democrats **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** are running to unseat **Donald Trump** and **Mike Pence**. Also on the Presidential ballot are Libertarians **Jo Jorgensen** and his running mate **Jeremy "Spike" Cohen**. Democratic U.S. Senator **Mark Warner** is seeking reelection opposed by Republican **Daniel Gade**. And U.S. Representative **Don Beyer**, a Democrat whose District includes Arlington, is also seeking reelection, and his Republican opponent is **Jeff Jordan**.

Democrats **Cristina Diaz-Torres** and **David Priddy** and independent **Symone Walker** are vying for two Arlington School Board seats. County Board Chair **Libby Garvey**, also a Democrat, is seeking another term, opposed by independent **Audrey Clement**.



Also on the ballot are five bond referenda and two proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution. The County bond referenda would fund (1) METRO and other transportation projects, (2) local parks and recreation, (3) miscellaneous County infrastructure projects, (4) capital projects for Arlington Public Schools and (5) capital projects for the County Stormwater program. Over \$100,000,000 of these general obligation bonds would finance APS and stormwater management.

One of the two proposed constitutional amendments has attracted considerable attention because it addresses how legislative districts are drawn in Virginia. The websites of the Republican Party of Virginia and the Arlington County Republican Committee do not reveal a Republican position on this amendment. OneVirginia2021, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit and a 501(c)(4) advocacy group, has been advocating for redistricting reform in Virginia since 2014. It supports the constitutional amendment, claiming on its website that the amendment includes citizens in the redistricting process, makes the process transparent and ends partisan gerrymandering. However, Linda Perriello, a former OneVirginia2021 chair and longtime board member, has decided to vote No on the proposed amendment.

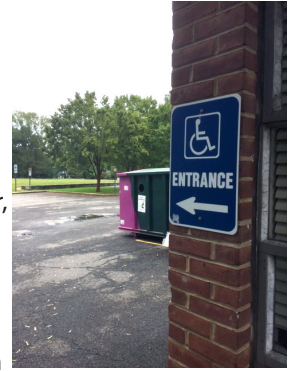
The Democratic Party of Virginia and the Arlington County Democratic Committee have stated that they are opposed to the amendment. The Arlington Democrats website emphasizes that (i) the amendment will not end gerrymandering, (ii) all 16 members of the redistricting commission contemplated by the amendment are members of the General Assembly or selected by political party leaders, (iii) any two politicians on the commission can veto any redistricting plan, resulting in redistricting in Virginia being controlled by the Virginia Supreme Court without any gerrymandering guidelines, and (iv) the General Assembly enacted this year, and the Governor signed, legislation that actually outlaws political gerrymandering in Virginia. Perhaps as importantly, the proposed amendment does not create an independent citizen redistricting commission, like those in California, Michigan and other states, that it appears everyone supports.

The second proposed constitutional amendment has not caused much controversy: "Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?"

## GLASS RECYCLING CONTAINER

by Burt Bostwick

You may have noticed a large glass recycling container at the rear of the Madison Center, located directly adjacent to Madison's Handicap Entrance, youth



soccer fields and playgrounds. Since August of 2019, our civic association has attempted to engage the County regarding the location of this container. After our first letter expressing our concerns, in September 2019 we received the following response from the Department of Environmental Services: "As we near the placement date, we will involve the Civic Association, as well as DPR [Dept. of Parks & Rec] staff, in the discussion of where to place the bin." The next email communication was received in early July 2020, informing us that the bin would be installed the next week at the original proposed location -- next to the playing fields. Since then, in spite of several communications with County staff, we have been unable to obtain a satisfactory explanation or justification for the location of the container.

We continue to be concerned with the location of the container -- essentially in the middle of a playground -- and we are pursuing these concerns with staff and the County Board. Our most recent examination of the container revealed that someone had left several broken panes of glass next to the container, as they would not fit in the holes basically designed for bottles and containers. In the meantime, we urge all parents and children to use caution in the area.



## MILITARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

by Rich Samp

Old Glebe residents will be interested in the County's plans for three sections of Military Road. Two of the three planned reconfigurations are uncontroversial and are likely to be completed in the coming months. The third, involving installation of a round-about or a stoplight at the intersection with Nellie Custis, has generated significant opposition from leaders of several affected civic associations.

The County announced this summer, that it would soon be "finalizing our next steps for improvements" at Military Road and Nellie Custis Drive. The announcement caught us by surprise because in 2018, when residents first questioned whether plans to install either a round-about or traffic light was supported by any data, we had been led to believe that the County would do nothing until after accident and traffic-flow data was released for public comment. The latest announcement suggests that some County officials plan to make "improvements" without first obtaining community input on whether improvements are needed. In response, the Old Glebe Civic Association once again asked the County to show why changes at this intersection are necessary.

The two noncontroversial changes are at the intersection with 36th Road: moving the crosswalk north to the corner, thereby bringing it closer to the entrance of the Nature Center; and extending the curb at the southeast corner of Marcy Road, thereby upgrading the bus stop while slowing the speed of northbound traffic turning right on Marcy Road. Construction on these begins October 5.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

by Marx Sterne

Arlington County has not set official trick-or-treating times nor any Halloween-regulations related to the pandemic. According to CDC guidelines, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **none of the following is advisable:**

- Traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door;
- Trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots;
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors;
- An indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming;
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household;
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement, increase risky behaviors.

For suggestions about **what can be done** check out <https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/halloween-arlington-covid19-safety/>



However you celebrate, remember **Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday morning, November 1st at 2:00 a.m. so set your clocks back one hour and enjoy an extra hour of rest.

## ARE YOUR KIDS BORED WITH BEING AT HOME?

by Ruth Gordon

Want some fun online activities for your elementary, middle, or high-schooler? Ones that are educational yet fun! Here are some resources to explore:

- For the younger set, see [outschool.com](https://www.outschool.com). There are hundreds of live instruction classes ranging from one class for an hour to a weekly class one to two hours a week. Classes vary from painting, how to talk like a Brit, singing lessons, Chinese, and Fortnite, all for \$10+ per class. Try [diy.org](https://www.diy.org) for self-paced classes in photography, drawing, cooking, and more—FREE!
- For middle school students, check out [VarsityTutors.com](https://www.varsitytutors.com) for free classes ranging from digital photography, Chinese, and chess to film production, recycled art class, and history detectives—FREE!

Or [www.idtech.com/virtual](https://www.idtech.com/virtual) to take a programming class in python, Minecraft, Adobe animation, Java, or C++. Costs about \$400 for two hours of live instruction and two hours of self-paced learning.

- For high school students, check out IBM's free program to earn a "Design Thinking" badge or a "Build your own ChatBot" badge: <https://www.ptech.org/open-p-tech/students-parents/> —FREE! And, of course, [coursera.org](https://www.coursera.org) has a variety of classes that are free and taught by institutions such as Yale and MIT. Learn about "The Science of Well Being" or "AI for Everyone." Find something great to put on that college application!

## VACCINES

by Rich Samp



While many are watching closely for news of a COVID-19 vaccine, health care professionals urge people not to overlook other important vaccines. In particular, flu season is fast approaching, and doctors recommend that everyone age six months or older get a flu vaccine no later than the end of October. While a flu vaccine doesn't protect against COVID-19, it reduces one's risk of becoming seriously ill or even dying

from the flu. Last year, 188 otherwise healthy children died from the flu nationwide. Flu shots are available at all local supermarkets and drug stores and are 100% covered by most health insurance plans.

The Centers for Disease Control also recommends a pneumococcal vaccine (offering protection against pneumonia and related diseases) for all those 65 or older.

# OLD GLEBE CIVIC ASSOCIATION ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m

- Do you want to save trees? A spokesperson from Arlington's *Urban Forest Manager* will tell us how!
- Are you concerned about car break-ins, crime in general, and traffic safety? A representative of the Arlington Police will give us the facts.

**DON'T MISS IT:** <http://bit.ly/OldGlebe>

## 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/>