



*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* Burt Bostwick\*\*
- Secretary* Peter Jaffe\*\*
- Treasurer* Ruth Gordon\*

**Members of the Executive**

- Committee Officers** listed above, plus:
- Karen Rosenbaum\*, *Newsletter Editor*
  - Rich Samp
  - Tony Spadaro\*
  - Marx Sterne\*\*

**Arlington Civic Federation  
Delegates\*\*  
Alternates\***

**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

October 2021

### UNWANTED TRAFFIC CHANGES COMING TO MILITARY ROAD!

*by Rich Samp*

In mid-October, Arlington County is installing a "temporary" roundabout at the intersection of Military Road and Nelly Custis Drive. Old Glebe Civic Association (OGCA) has repeatedly expressed its opposition to this project for the past four years; we fervently hope that current traffic patterns will be restored once the County completes its analysis after one year.

The County is installing bollards (poles) in the roadway to guide vehicles in a circular pattern around the intersection. Because of the limited size of the intersection, bike lanes will be eliminated as well as the stop sign. Instead, all vehicles entering the intersection will be directed to yield to traffic already in the intersection.

County staff asserts that the project will enhance traffic safety. In August, OGCA argued that the roughly \$1.5 million construction cost was unjustified given little evidence of any safety concerns. Only three accidents have occurred over the past eight years (two involving bicycles) out of the approximately 32 million vehicles that passed through the intersection during that period. Our letter also said removal of the stop sign and bike lane *increases* danger for pedestrians—particularly school children during morning rush hour—and also for bicyclists.

If the County deems the roundabout effective, permanent changes will be adopted, with new curbing and utility poles. If not, County staff contemplates installation of a traffic signal, at a cost of \$1.5 - \$2 million.

OGCA pledges continued opposition to the roundabout. Other civic associations have concurred with OGCA that the project is overly expensive, will not improve traffic safety, and will unnecessarily slow movement along Military Road. If you are interested in joining this fight, contact [Richard Samp](mailto:Richard.Samp@verizon.net) <[rasamp@verizon.net](mailto:rasamp@verizon.net)>

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*by Howard Solodky, OGCA President*

At the June 9<sup>th</sup> virtual OGCA Annual Meeting, I was honored to be elected the new President of the Association. For the past few years, I have been a member of the OGCA Executive Committee and the Association's representative on the County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank Rich Samp for his hard work, good judgment and leadership as President of the OGCA the past four years. Under his guidance, the Association accomplished much, including adding to our membership some adjoining areas that previously had not been part of any civic association.



OGCA takes an active role on issues that affect our neighborhood. For example, recently we met with County Board Chair Matt de Ferranti and County staff to express our concerns about the location of the glass recycling bin at the Madison Center, its proximity to the playground and *de facto* athletic field there and steps that should be taken to avoid hazards from broken glass. More recently, the Association delivered a letter to the County Board expressing our opposition to the roundabout proposed by the County for the intersection of Military Road and Nelly Custis.

If you have public safety, environmental, zoning or other issues that affect you and your neighbors, and you believe we can help address those issues, we would be happy to hear from you. Also, if you have ideas about what other activities the Association might undertake to strengthen the Old Glebe community, please let us know. I can be reached at: [president@oldglebe.org](mailto:president@oldglebe.org)

I look forward to working with you and the members of the OGCA Executive Committee.

## ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> (BUT YOU CAN VOTE EARLY)

by Howard Solodky

This year, Virginia voters will be electing a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. In addition, the entire 100 member Virginia House of Delegates is up for election. Locally, Arlington voters will also cast votes in both a County Board and School Board race. And lastly, Arlingtonians will be asked whether they approve the issuance by the County of general obligation bonds totaling about \$85,000,000. Fortunately, particularly given the ongoing pandemic, the Virginia General Assembly and the Arlington Electoral Board have made it easy to vote and to vote early.

You have three options for casting your vote this year. First, of course, you can vote in person on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Madison Community Center (3829 N. Stafford St.) anytime between 6 am and 7 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 17<sup>th</sup> at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. This voting location is open Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm through October 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the Courthouse Plaza location will be open on October 23 and October 30, each Saturday, from 9 am to 5 pm, and on Sunday, October 24 from 11 am to 3 pm. If you prefer voting early a little closer to home, the Madison Center will be open for early in-person voting on October 23, October 24 and October 30 during the same hours as Courthouse Plaza. Walter Reed Community Center will also be open those dates and times for early voting.



Third, you can request a vote-by-mail ballot and do not have to provide any reason for doing so. You can request your vote-by-mail ballot on the Virginia Department of Elections website, which request must be submitted by October 22<sup>nd</sup>. A mailed ballot will be counted only if it is postmarked no later than November 2<sup>nd</sup> and received by the Registrar no later than noon on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Alternatively, you can avoid possible delays with mail delivery and drop off your vote-by-mail ballot in a 24-hour drop box at any of the early in-person voting locations described above, as well as at several other locations listed on the Arlington Registrar's website.

If you have not registered to vote or you are unsure of your registration status, you can register or check your status online at <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/>. In order to vote in the upcoming election, you must register no later than October 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 voter ID law in Virginia, so you no longer need a photo ID to vote. For example, any current utility bill, bank statement, government check or other government document with your name and address on it is sufficient. For younger voters, any student ID card issued by a US university or community college, and any valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia, represents valid identification.

Election Day is now a state holiday, so you have no excuse for not voting. Your vote is your voice; you should exercise it.

## BUS SERVICE RESTORED

by Rich Samp

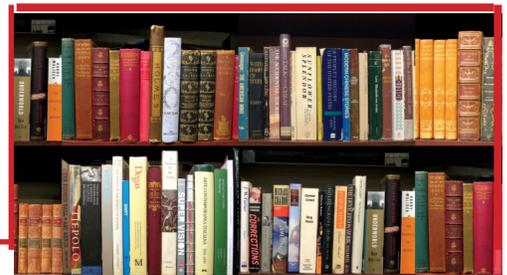
Among the many negative impacts of the COVID-19 epidemic on Old Glebe residents has been the loss of public transportation. Arlington suspended operations of its ART-53 bus in March 2020, depriving local residents of any public transportation option.

The good news is that the ART-53



resumed service this September. The County acted following calls from OGCA members this summer urging resumption of service and noting that Old Glebe residents cannot reach Metro stops without bus service. While there have been occasional service glitches in the past month, the bus service now connects our neighborhood with two different Metro stops.

For those unfamiliar with the bus system, the ART-53 bus runs round-trip between the Ballston and East Falls Church Metro stations, with a route that passes through our neighborhood. Arlington maintains 16 routes on its ART bus system, but four of those (including ART-53) were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19.



## LIBRARY NEWS

by Marx Sterne

**Friends of Arlington Library (FOAL) will hold its first book sale since fall 2019!**

- Friday, October 22, 10 am to 7 pm (FOAL members only).
- Saturday, October 23, 10 am to 7 pm (open to the public)
- Sunday, October 24, 11 am to 6 pm (open to the public, half-price day)

The book sale will be held in the auditorium at Central Library at 1015 N Quincy Street in Arlington. Because this is a smaller space than usual, there will be a capacity limit for patrons. There will also be a smaller inventory of books. Masks will be required by all visitors. A separate room will be set up for children's books. Because of space limitations, customers will be strictly limited to two boxes each visit. Books must be kept with you as you shop—piling or sorting books will not be permitted. Also, because of the smaller capacity of the auditorium, patrons are to limit shopping to one hour.

For additional information see: [arlingtonlibraryfriends.org](http://arlingtonlibraryfriends.org)

## RESOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANTS:

by Peter Jaffe

Autumn is now here, so residents may be thinking about planting in anticipation of next Spring. Those residents who are interested in fostering native species have a wealth of resources at their disposal:

- A popular regional resource is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2003). You can find it in print here and there, or download the whole thing at

<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf>

- A searchable, expanded database of Native Plants has been put together by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. It's available at

<https://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>.

A similar, national database (searchable by state) is provided by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at <https://www.wildflower.org/plants/>.

- Getting more local, the Plant NOVA Natives campaign has local native plant databases, guidebooks, lists of local vendors, and other resources at

<https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>

- Ornithologically-minded planters can find plants to attract particular types of birds such as songbirds or hummingbirds (as well as non-bird pollinators) at the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia,

<https://www.audubonva.org/native-plants-for-wildlife>.

- For help finding places to buy native plants, check out the Virginia Native Plant Society's database at <https://vnps.org/native-plant-nursery-list/>



## POTENTIAL GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER UPGRADES

by Burt Bostwick



You are likely very familiar with Gulf Branch Nature Center—especially if you have children. However, like any of us, it could use a little sprucing up from time to time. Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center (FOGBNC) is a non-profit specifically created to support the programs of the Nature Center.

FOGBNC was unable to reach agreement with the County to upgrade the Native American Exhibit. However, we are going to try again with suggestions to: upgrade the “critter” exhibits; adding audio-visual exhibits focusing on the plants and animals native to our area; as well as exhibits on the influence of our Native American population. Here is a web site that has a lot of easily purchased and installed exhibits and upgrades that we will try to convince the County is a worthwhile expenditure of their time and budget. <https://www.pinterest.com/erfans/nature-center-exhibit-ideas/>

If you have an interest in this effort, please contact Burt Bostwick [gusfs63@gmail.com](mailto:gusfs63@gmail.com)

# Volunteers Needed!



by Ruth Gordon

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. Volunteer with Old Glebe! We are recruiting for these roles!

1. **"Chat" Sitter** This person enjoys talking and sitting, oh, and participating in a monthly civic association meeting! Join us and help steer our direction!
2. **Yodeler** This person works in "concert" with our president and helps to share messages of what's happening in Arlington with Old Glebers. An example includes the new traffic circle for \$1.5m at Nelly Custis and Military Road. Choose an issue that's important to you!
3. **Marketing Wizards** work with the Yodeler to take action on an issue. Do we email our membership or the County board? What should we do to make the situation right? Choose an issue that's important to you!
4. **Tree Huggers** Many in the community want to see more trees saved and planted. There are several ideas on this front. Join a mini-group over coffee an

hour a month and brainstorm solutions!!!

5. **Design your own role!** Are you awesome with creating ideas? Savvy at solutions? Love to meet new neighbors? We have a role for you! Whether you have an hour a week or an hour a month, reach out! Email [ruthmgordon@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmgordon@gmail.com)

## 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/>