



*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 Rachelle Dove
Secretary Rich Samp
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Members of the Executive Committee

Officers listed above, plus:

Elizabeth Stevens
Tony Spadaro
Marx Sterne

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Send an email to "newsletter-subscribe@oldglebe.org"

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Old Glebe Civic Association

October 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *by Howard Solodky*

Some of you may have been wondering when, if ever, the roundabout at Military Road and Nelly Custis will be finished and what will be its final price tag. The roundabout has been in the County's plans for well over 10 years and construction has been ongoing for at least five years. The County's website on this project states the roundabout will be finished this coming summer. I thought I would share what I have learned from publicly available materials and from speaking with County staff.

By way of background, in 2015, Arlington County received a \$750,000 grant from VDOT to fund specific improvements to Military Road between Nelly Custis and 36th Road. The changes to the intersections of Military with 36th Road and with Marcey Road were completed over 5 years ago. In 2017, the "public engagement" process for the biggest change to Military, the roundabout, began with a public meeting at Taylor Elementary School. I attended that meeting and discovered, to my surprise, that the purpose of the meeting was not to solicit input from affected residents about what, if any, changes should be made to the intersection with Nelly Custis, but rather to ask attendees whether they preferred a roundabout or a traffic signal at the intersection. In retrospect, it appears those two choices were dictated by the fact that the County had already received a VDOT grant that could only be used to fund one of those two possibilities. In any event, the OGCA was told early on by staff the total cost of the Military Road improvements would be \$1.5 million, half of which would be funded by the VDOT grant.

Virtually from the outset, the OGCA and the larger affected community were opposed to the roundabout. The OGCA wrote a letter to the County Board in 2021 noting that (i) there was no history of accidents at

at the intersection, (ii) the roundabout would eliminate bike lanes on Military and Nelly Custis near the roundabout, and (iii) the size of the intersection is too



small to accommodate a roundabout causing drivers to be confused about who has the right of way. In October of 2021, the County received feedback on the temporary roundabout the County had built at the intersection as a pilot project. A majority of the 702 respondents to a County survey about the pilot felt **less safe** using the roundabout. The following year the County held an open house at Hamm Middle School about the roundabout and virtually all attendees were **opposed** to the project.

Undaunted, the County is in the process of finishing the roundabout project. The project manager believes the actual construction process will be completed by the end of November. The permanent roundabout will have a large sloping apron around its circumference to accommodate large trucks and buses that otherwise cannot maneuver around the circle because the turning radius is too sharp. Bicyclists will either have to merge with vehicular traffic or use the sidewalk to get around the intersection. And most importantly, the final cost of the roundabout will be **\$2.5 million**, \$2 million of which will be paid by the County because only \$475,000 of the VDOT grant remains after the other Military improvements. The OGCA has reason to believe the County Board is not thrilled with this result and hopefully has learned some valuable lessons about the importance of real public engagement **before** embarking on a significant transportation safety project.

VOTE NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 3RD

by Howard Solodky

This year's general election is already underway in Arlington with early in-person voting having begun on Sept. 18th. Control of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives is up for grabs this year. Here in Virginia, Democratic Senator Mark Warner is running for reelection and is opposed by Republican Bert Mizusawa. More locally, Democrat Don Beyer is seeking another 2-year term as the member of Congress from Virginia's 8th District, which includes Arlington. He is opposed by Republican Tony Sabio, Libertarian Shelly Arnoldi, and Independent Tim Sharman.

Local races for Arlington County Board, Arlington School Board and Arlington Treasurer will also be on the ballot. For County Board, Democratic incumbent Matt de Ferranti is being challenged by independent Audrey Clement and Forward Party endorsee David Sisson. Ranked choice voting will be used for the County Board election. Bethany Zecher Sutton, endorsed by the Arlington County Democrats, is seeking another term on the School Board and is opposed by James Vell Rives IV, who has been endorsed by the Forward Party. And Acting County Treasurer Kim Rucker, also endorsed by the Arlington Democrats, is running to fill the remaining term of former Treasurer Carla de la Pava who resigned this summer. Aasim Rawoot is the other County Treasurer candidate on the ballot.

The official ballot is two-sided due to three amendments to Virginia's constitution and five County bond referenda. The three amendments would enshrine in the state constitution: (i) the right to reproductive freedom including decisions about prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, birth control, abortion, miscarriage care and fertility care; (ii) marriage equality by stating that two adults seeking a lawful marriage cannot be denied a marriage license based on sex, gender or race (the current Virginia constitution only recognizes marriages between one man and one woman which has been overridden by federal law); and (iii) the right of every state resident who is a citizen and at least 18 years of age to vote in Virginia, including convicted felons after they have completed their prison terms and been released. The five bond referendums seek \$80 million to enhance the County's school infrastructure over the next ten years and \$184 million to fund investments in transportation, parks and recreation, community infrastructure, and water and sewer system improvements.

Election Day this year is November 3rd, and given the closure of the Madison Center, voting will take place at St. Peter's Episcopal Church between 6 am and 7 pm. St. Peter's is located at 4250 N. Glebe Road, and has ample parking. All voters are also eligible to vote by mail; a Mail Ballot can be requested until 5 pm on Oct. 23rd by going online to the Virginia Department of Elections Citizen Portal. Mail ballots must be postmarked no later than Nov. 3rd and received by 12 pm Nov. 6th, so mailing early is strongly advised. Alternatively, you can place your Mail Ballot in a drop box at any early voting location while the site is open, at any polling place on Election Day until polls close, or at any one of nine 24-hour drop box locations including the Madison Center outside the construction fencing near the Stafford Street entrance. If you have not yet registered to vote, Virginia allows voters to register the same day they vote in-person, whether such vote is cast early or on Election Day.



Early in-person voting will be ongoing through Oct. 31st at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 320. Monday through Friday early voting at Courthouse is from 9 am until 5 pm. Additionally, on Oct. 22, 23, 29 and 30, you can vote at Courthouse Plaza between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm. Early in-person voting is also available on Oct. 22, 23, 29 and 30 from 2 pm to 7 pm at Langston-Brown Community Center and Walter Reed Community Center. Finally, all three voting locations will host early voting on Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31, with Saturday hours from 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday hours from 11 am to 4 pm. Don't forget to take advantage of these voting options and let your voice be heard!

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HELP SHAPE THE NEW MADISON COMMUNITY CENTER: COMMUNITY MEETING OCTOBER 19TH.

by Elizabeth Stevens

Work to renovate the Madison Community Center is well under way. It is expected to re-open in Fall 2027 with a new roof, windows, HVAC system, and a completely new and improved fitness wing.

County staff will hold a meeting with the community at the Langston-Brown gym (2121 N Culpeper St) at 6:30pm on Monday October 19. This will be an opportunity to express your preferences for what equipment and what programs will be available or developed at Madison as it re-opens, and in the years ahead.

Do you want an updated children's playground? An indoor basketball/volleyball/pickleball court? (There is not a single indoor court in the County north of Langston Blvd.) A community garden? An art studio? This

is your best chance to weigh in as these plans are being developed.

Earlier this year, the County provided this list of Madison fitness equipment already slated for "priority replacement":

Precor Elliptical EFX * Precor Elliptical EFX (with arms) * Matrix Seated Leg Curl * Matrix Leg Extension * Matrix Lat Pulldown * Matrix Seated Row * FreeMotion Cable Cross * Matrix Dumbbells up to 50 lbs

In addition, below is a partial list of the additional equipment upgrades we have already requested, after getting feedback from members of the community Madison renovation listserv. [If you would like to be added to the listserv, please send an email to madisoncenterrevamp@gmail.com]

Additional free weights, up to 100lbs * Free weight squat rack * Updated bench rack * Updated cable machine * A Peloton so users can log in with their own accounts * Additional incremental dumbbells, like 7.5lb, 12.5lb and 17.5lb * Seated calf-raise machine

**Hope to see many of you on
Monday 19 October at 6:30pm at
the Langston-Brown gym!**



FINDING BALANCE IN A DIGITAL CHILDHOOD

By Kathleen McKenna

If you're a parent in Old Glebe, chances are you've had the same conversations we've had in our house: How much screen time is too much? When is the right time for a phone? What about social media, gaming, or AI? And how do we set boundaries when it feels like every other kid already has access?

We're all figuring this out together—and that's why we've started the Arlington chapter of The Balance Project.

The Balance Project is a national, parent-led movement focused on helping families create healthier relationships with technology while protecting the childhood experiences kids need most: face-to-face connection, unstructured play, independence, creativity, boredom, and time to simply be kids.

This isn't about blaming parents or eliminating technology. Most of us



Arlington, VA

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thebalanceproject.life
for more info

Find Us!

Join Us!

already know there are real challenges. What's harder is changing the norms around us so that families don't feel like they're making these decisions alone.

Our Arlington chapter is bringing local parents, educators, mental-health professionals, and community leaders together to learn, share experiences, and take collective action. We believe meaningful change starts right here—with neighbors talking to neighbors and families supporting one another.

If you're at all interested in joining us in the pursuit of more balance in your family's digital life, we'd love to have you join us. You can find the national movement and local chapter here: <https://www.thebalanceproject.life>

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ROCKS, ROOTS AND RESILIENCE: GULF BRANCH PASSES ITS FIRST BIG TEST

By Marx Sterne

Work began early this year to stabilize the area drained through the Gulf Branch Stream, to mitigate erosion problems and re-landscape the area with native plants. Work is on track for completion early in 2027. With the intense storms in August and September, the new stream channel and stone/log structures performed well. The construction team is strengthening spots that came under stress and the new plants and tree roots will provide additional support.

As explained on the project webpage: <https://bit.ly/GBNC2026>, as work is completed, the soil will be stabilized. Once the stream work is complete, the robust and diverse replanting plan will include native canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs, and native plants tailored to site-specific locations within the stream corridor and park. Very soon the work accessed via 37th St N from Military Road (Reach 1, Reach 2 and the stormwater drainage from Richmond Street and the Madison School) will be completed and work will begin to



remove the deck matting and access paths and stabilize that area. A few sections may need to remain accessible to the project team for additional touch-up work.

The project team has appreciated community members' openness to constructive solutions to concerns about sledding safety. The team is making modifications to address these concerns and additional modifications will be included as the area is planted. Much of the planting will take place this fall.

Interestingly, Arlington County has a requirement that the stone needs to be sourced within a certain distance from Arlington and much of it has come from the Luck Stone Quarry, near Centerville.

The County team thanks the neighbors and the community for your understanding and patience throughout the project.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Madison Community Center Renovation

Monday, October 19 · 6:30 p.m.

Langston-Brown Gym
2121 N Culpeper St, Arlington

Come learn about the plans and share your thoughts.

BIGGER ARCH, FEWER FLOODS: MILITARY ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT MOVES AHEAD

By Marx Sterne

Planning was completed on schedule in June for a major project to replace the culvert on Military Road that allows the Gulf Branch Stream to run to the Potomac River. The existing culverts that carry the stream under Military Road have reached the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement. The culverts are also undersized for the location and in larger storms, Gulf Branch overflows to the top of the culvert. The new culvert will be an open span arch design to better allow flow through the culvert. The sewer project on Military Road is not impacting the culvert construction schedule. Permitting for the culvert replacement is underway and construction for the culvert is expected to start in Spring-Summer 2027. The project is expected to take about one year.

See CULVERT page 8



OLD GLEBE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HALLOWEEN PARADE



31 OCTOBER

SATURDAY

COSTUME PARADE

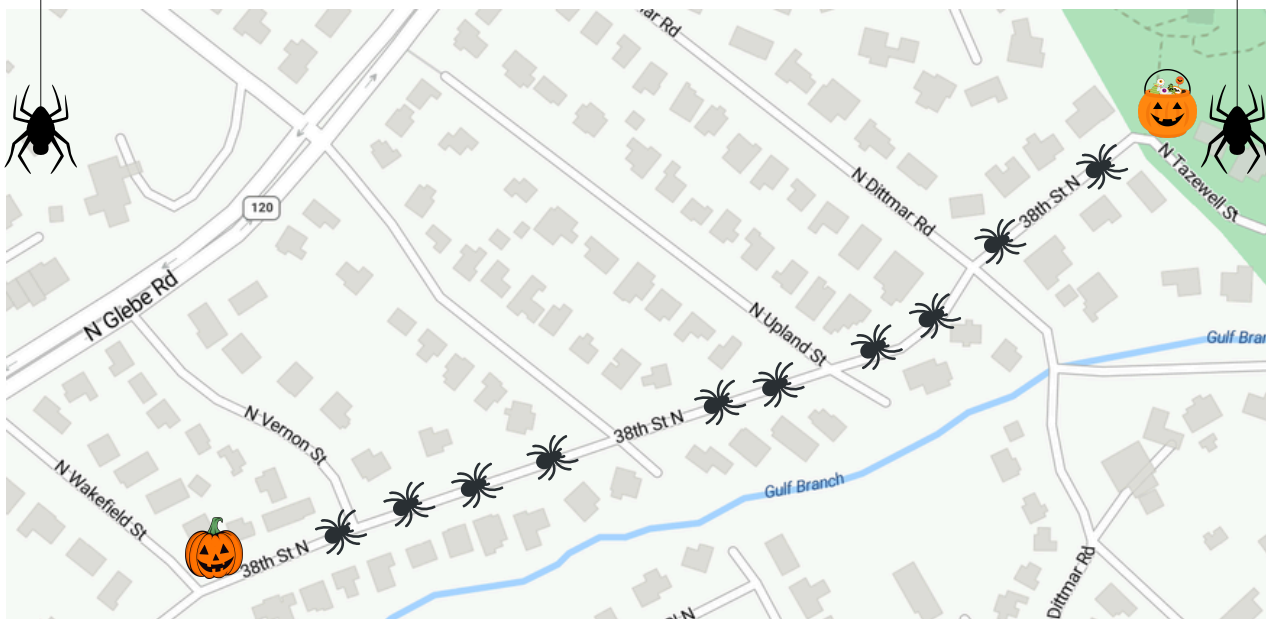
3:30 - 4:00 PM

CIDER & DONUTS

4:00 - 5:00 PM



WISHING YOU A NIGHT FULL OF FRIGHTS AND A BAG
FULL OF DELIGHTS. HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



The start of the Parade is at 38th Street N and N Wakefield Street. It will proceed down 38th Street and end at N Tazewell Street. The Potluck will be set up at 38th Street N and N Tazewell Street.

Let's make this year's Halloween parade so good it's scary!

We're looking for **volunteers** to help with set-up, clean-up, candy tossing, and general spooky fun — and if you'd rather support from the shadows, consider donating to help cover costs!

Just scan the QR codes below to sign up or send a few bones via Venmo — every little bit helps keep the magic (and mayhem) alive!



[VOLUNTER SIGN-UP](#)



[VENMO DONATION](#)

@Rachelle-BarimanyDove

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at barimany@yahoo.com.

Plans call for an automated flagger device for the project, which functions as a temporary traffic signal and allows traffic to move through the work zone one direction at a time. It is likely that there will be a community meeting this Fall, to share more information about the transportation plan and the upcoming construction. For more information see: <https://bit.ly/culvert2027>

MILITARY ROAD SEWER WORK NEARS THE FINISH LINE

By Marx Sterne

Work is nearing completion for sewer replacement along Military Road between 36th Road North to 38th Street North and North Oakland Street. For project details see: <https://bit.ly/sewer36>

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. Send the information below with a check made out to Old Glebe Civic Association to join or renew for one year (\$20), three years (\$50) or a lifetime membership (\$200). Mail to **OGCA, 4522 North 37th 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 <https://www.oldglebe.org/contact-us/>