



### Spaghetti Dinner

Join us Feb. 27 from 5 - 7:30 pm for a delicious dinner!



### Gulf Branch

Have a birthday party at Gulf Branch!



### Save Money!

Provide us your email to receive our newsletters via email! Help us save \$250 a year!



### Join Old Glebe

Join Old Glebe or run for office! We need you!

Respecting Tradition,  
Welcoming Progress

# Old Glebe Civic Association

February 2010

### Third Annual Spaghetti Dinner, February 27, 5 - 7:30 pm

Join your neighbors and friends for a warm and cozy evening at Walker Chapel. On February 27th from 5-7:30 pm, we'll have a spaghetti dinner complete with salad, fresh bread, and dessert. There will be a small moon bounce for the kids to burn off some of that excess winter energy. The cost is \$5 a person or \$15 for a family. If you are able to bring a food item, let us know and your entry will be free! Additionally, perpetual members may attend for free! Please RSVP and sign up for a food item by Friday, February 12th at [www.oldglebe.org](http://www.oldglebe.org).

### Gulf Branch Nature Center Hosts Birthday Parties

Parents may arrange for their child's birthday party to be held rain-or-shine during the week or weekend with the Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center. Fees start at \$150 for a two-hour party and includes a 30-minute nature program. Parties can include up to 15 children. For more information, contact Tricia Schnell at 703-300-3553 or [fojnc.birthday@gmail.com](mailto:fojnc.birthday@gmail.com).

### Fall Meeting

On November 15, 2009, we held our Fall Meeting at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Janet Nuzum, founder of the Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center, was a guest (continued on page three.)

### Old Glebe Elections

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? There are six officers and three delegates to the Civic Federation that will need to be filled come May 2010. Officer positions include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, historian, and recording secretary. Additionally, three delegates attend monthly meetings of the Civic Federation and register a vote for Old Glebe. If you would like more information about these positions, email us at [information@oldglebe.org](mailto:information@oldglebe.org) or attend our next meeting in May!

### Water Main Break at Walker Chapel by Jane McFarland

On the morning of November 23, 2009, a 36-inch water main break flooded 12 properties in the Old Glebe section of Arlington. Nine basements suffered damages resulting in thousands of dollars. Only three of the nine households had insurance coverage, as many insurance companies decided that the damages were beyond the scope of standard policies.

An Arlington County employee, who worked daily at the water main break worksite, offered repeated assurances to neighbors that the staff recommendation would be to cover all losses. In December, however, residents learned that the County had investigated itself and found no "gross negligence," and, therefore, was not liable for any damages. (Continued on page two.)



The Old Glebe Civic Association (OGCA) is a neighborhood organization formed to give residents a voice in local, County, and State affairs. OGCA is a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation, which provides policy inputs to the County and State governments. Any neighborhood resident may become a member. Dues are \$10 per year, \$25 for three years, or \$100 for a perpetual membership. Be a part of your community and join today! [www.oldglebe.org](http://www.oldglebe.org) (Pay via Paypal!) or email [treasurer@oldglebe.org](mailto:treasurer@oldglebe.org).

A family who lost a loved-one in the accident at the water main break thanked our community for all the kindness shown to the workers. Thank you!

**Water Main Break Continued from page one.**

At the same time, the County is refusing to release maintenance records for the 36-inch pipe under the Freedom of Information Act.

Numerous phone calls were made to 911 that morning and citizens were told by dispatchers that the flooding was not an emergency, but a Public Works problem. The timing of the water main break remains an issue of dispute. The County maintains that the break occurred just before noon and that Public Works was



they had called 911.

I went back home to get my husband out of the basement. While mud and water were not yet in our backyard, my husband met with his 11:30 client upstairs. My husband is in an electric wheelchair

a mystery due to the destroyed records. I was told, during this call, that Public Works had been notified. I called again at 12:06 because our garden shed was floating in our backyard and I wanted to see if we could get real sandbags here. I was afraid that our shed was going to plow into the house

next door.

Our neighborhood would advise all residents to contact their homeowners insurance companies and see what coverage they need for damages due to a water main break.

While the County says that the pipe that broke should have lasted another

thirty-five years; they also discovered a second crack, which they described as a "lucky find."

In the event of a water main break, neighbors should:

1) Call Public Works directly if possible. On 11/23, I had already notified neighbors to come home from work before Public Works knew about the problem.

2) Not expect any emergency help from the County. On 11/23, the only offers of help that I got came from neighbors. My neighbor, James Bailey, came over with two wet vacuums and spent hours saving our elevator with a technician, on speaker phone, from the elevator company. When one wet vac got too hot, he would use the other one. He also shoveled mud from our steps with a snow shovel. Not everyone will be so lucky as to have a "White Knight."

The County did not send any high-  
(Continued on page three.)

An employee offered repeated assurances to neighbors that the staff recommendation would be to cover all losses.

notified at 12:10 PM. Residents maintain otherwise. Unfortunately, the 911 calls made that morning were accidentally erased per the County.

I personally made the mistake of not immediately calling Public Works that morning. I went up the street and walkers told me that

due to MS and I worked to "sandbag" our elevator machine in the basement with comforters, towels, etc. When I went back up to Walker Chapel to see what was happening, no one was there.

This is when I made my first 911 call -- unfortunately the time of this call remains



Did you know you can use the Madison Center to host a birthday party? Add in a moon bounce and a face painter and you've got a party!

ranking official out to our neighborhood to survey our damages until a month later. After many angry emails and phone calls from residents -- ignoring requests for a community meeting -- it offered individual meetings with County officials just before Christmas.

Nine weeks after the flood, despite many pleas, the County has yet to send a camera down the County drainage system that runs in the backyards of the houses on Dittmar Rd. We have no idea whether the County's pipes are clogged with mud and other debris that could flood our houses again. It was this Arlington system that sent the water over to N Upland St on 11/23 and flooded four houses; one of which has \$50,000 in damages.

In the event of a major water main break, residents should expect prolonged disruption. The "drying machines" came to our neighborhood on 11/23, and did not leave two houses until 12/11. I have personally lived with workers in my house almost every day since 11/23 and they finished the inside of our basement on 1/20. Outside construction, such as the fence and painting over the mud-lines on the house, has yet to be addressed. After a visit from Fox News, Arlington County did suddenly decide on 1/14 that they could help residents with mud removal and mulch. Of course, they have told me that they cannot do much about the mud where the grass used to be other than to offer to reseed in spring. Our dog misses his backyard.

### Fall Meeting Continued

speaker and reported on the organization's fundraising efforts and the need for a permanent organization supporting the nature center. Ward Foley of Arlington County's Parks and Recreation Department also came to the meeting to discuss the uses and future of the Madison Center. While Mr. Foley assured us that he was not aware of any County plans to close the Madison Center, the County is analyzing each of its facilities and consolidating programs. Neighbors who have ideas about how to more fully utilize the Center and/or how to better advertise their programs are encouraged to email [information@oldglebe.org](mailto:information@oldglebe.org) or attend a meeting!

### Late Mail Delivery?

Does your mail arrive after 5:00 pm? Many of our neighbors have complained of receiving their mail as late as 7:30 pm. Thanks to Block Captain Bill Schwab, who recently spoke with a few folks in the Post Office, our neighborhood should be expecting earlier delivery times. If not, please let us know - information @oldglebe.org.

### Books to your Door

Arlington residents who are homebound can sign up for the Library's Books by Mail program by calling 703-228-5960. You can request preferred genres in fiction and nonfiction or request specific titles - all delivered free to your mailbox.

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If you'd like to be better prepared for and able to respond to emergencies, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training may be for you. To-date, over 400 County residents have completed this eight-session training program and many have continued on to be active members of their neighborhood CERTs. The training is free and will begin March 4 and 9. Contact Cynthia Kellams at [ArlingtonCERT@aol.com](mailto:ArlingtonCERT@aol.com).

Skimp on the Salt and Protect the Environment  
 - Limit your use of De-Icing Salt Near Plants  
 and Streams.

Recycle Q & A

Can I recycle products that are made up of multiple materials? (i.e. flashlight made of plastic, glass and metal, or a cardboard container with a foil liner.)

Unfortunately, Arlington's system cannot support products made of multiple materials. It is best to take apart and separate each material and then place them in your recycling cart.

Do Your Part - Shovel Smart

Be sure to clear your sidewalks of snow and ice this winter season. Try to shovel within 24 hours of a snowfall, since snow can turn into ice within a day or less. If you live on a corner lot, try to keep the crosswalk clear for your neighbors. Shovel snow onto your yard rather than the street. Help our older neighbors if possible!

Dreaming of Spring?

WALKArlington has developed a series of neighborhood Walkabouts, or self-guided walking tour routes to explore. For your own Walkabouts brochure with 16 different routes, visit [www.walkarlington.com/go/walks.html](http://www.walkarlington.com/go/walks.html). You can even watch video versions of some Walkabout routes online!

Other News

Church of the Covenant at 2666 Military Road is having a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 16th, 6:30-8:30pm. All are welcome, and it's free! (Donations gratefully accepted)

# Carol, Jerry & Jinx

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 the Neighborhood!*

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 our Clients are our best advocates!*



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Visit us at **McEwen-Lunger.com**  
*Call Carol, Jerry & Jinx -- because You deserve the Best!*



**Join or Renew Your Membership With Old Glebe!**

Membership funds are used for community events such as our Spaghetti Dinner and Neighborhood Day activities. Additionally, funds are used to support community beautification efforts and causes such as supporting the Gulf Branch Nature Center. Please send a check to renew your membership for one year (\$10), three years (\$25), or a perpetual membership for \$100. Give your completed application to your block captain or email [treasurer@oldglebe.org](mailto:treasurer@oldglebe.org) for mailing information.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am interested in serving as an officer or delegate of the Civic Association

\_\_\_ I am interested in helping out with Civic Association activities

You may also submit your dues using Paypal via [www.oldglebe.org](http://www.oldglebe.org).

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[www.oldglebe.org](http://www.oldglebe.org) (You can pay via Paypal!) or email [treasurer@oldglebe.org](mailto:treasurer@oldglebe.org).

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