



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
March 2025 | Volume 109 | Number 07

President's Message

Dear CivFed Members,

On behalf of all of our 80-plus member organizations, I want to begin by reasserting in the strongest terms the Civic Federation's unwavering support for our dedicated, hard-working neighbors and federal employees who contribute so much to the well-being of our Northern Virginia communities. We recognize these are terribly difficult times for many of you and offer you our heartfelt support as you move forward.

In this connection, I want to highlight one promising upcoming event in particular. Next Saturday March 8, Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church will host a pop-up resource fair on the campus of Wakefield High School at 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. A whole range of support services will be available there, as will members of your CivFed leadership team. See you there!

Even as events across the river reverberate with jarring regularity, our work at CivFed must proceed. We're at the heart of 'budget season' in the county, and at our general membership meeting next Tuesday March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium, we will be having our annual visit from APS Superintendent Dr. Durán and the Arlington School Board.

They will be presenting on the APS budget, which like the county budget, faces real challenges this year and in the near future. The 2025-26 APS budget will be released on March 13th, two days following our meeting with schools' leadership.

I'm sure that members will have questions on the budget outlook and other aspects of Arlington Schools. We will afford time for a robust Q&A from the audience after the presentations by the Board and Superintendent.

Our Schools Committee Chair Todd Truitt will moderate the session. For your background prior to next Tuesday, Todd has provided a link below to lengthy January report on APS' budget and enrollment data along with comparable information from other local school districts. That report link is [here](#).

It is always a great pleasure to welcome back returning members, and the venerable Daughters of the American Revolution seeks reinstatement with CivFed on Tuesday. There is a brief article below.

Finally, Arlington Police Chief Andy Penn will offer a very timely briefing on our public safety and security situation now and in the near future.

I would also like to add a quick word on our joint work session with the Arlington County Board last Wednesday evening. All five Board members joined us in addition to County Manager Mark Schwartz.

Our agenda was packed with remarks from CivFed committee chairs and leaders and responses from individual Board members on Arlington's economic prospects; open and good government; planning and zoning; climate change adaptation and housing.

I hope sessions like this – likely allowing greater focus and even more spontaneous interaction on fewer key topics – will be an annual or semi-annual feature of our CivFed calendars in the years to come.

Meantime, we'll see you next Tuesday!

Best,
John Ford
ACCF President

March General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [February minutes](#) approval
- 7:05 - 8:30 Arlington County School Board and APS Superintendent Duran
- 8:30 - 8:40 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) - Returning Member
- 8:40 - 8:55 Arlington Chief of Police Andy Penn
- 8:55 - 9:00 Other business from the floor and adjournment

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday March 9th** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person.
2. **Facebook Live** (Other Guests): No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
3. **Zoom** (Delegates): Registration is required ([link](#)) by Monday, March 10 at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Keep reading this newsletter for details on Virginia Hospital Center parking and access instructions.

ACCF & County Board Joint Work Session

Submitted by David Smith, ACCF Board Chair

We held our annual joint session with the County Board on February 26. This year we tried a 'work session' format, which was centered around five topic areas. Each area was moderated by a civic leader in the community and included a panel of community volunteers engaged in the topic areas. We were pleased with the engagement between our civic leaders and the County Board.

1) Economic and Fiscal Resilience

- *Civic Leader: Nick Giacobbe, Nicole Toulouse, Michael Dowell*
- *County Board: Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., Takis Karantonis*

2) Good Government and Open Government

- *Civic Leader: Jackie Snelling, Allan Gajadhar, Jon Huntley*
- *County Board: Susan Cunningham, Maureen Coffey*

3) Planning and Zoning

- *Civic Leader: Brian Harner, Jack Spilsbury*
- *Board Members: Matt de Ferranti, Susan Cunningham*

4) Climate Action

- *Civic Leader: Mark Greenwood, David Smith, Jackie Snelling*
- *Board Members: Takis Karantonis, Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.*

5) Housing

- *Civic Leader: Anne Bodine, Jean Henceroth*
- *Board Members: Maureen Coffey, Matt de Ferranti*

You can view the full work session at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJRhWEHFgjA&list=PLg2YcoutvhQ8-KTob2yg-urQYgibdVTzQ&index=2>



*Photo of the panel on topic 1: **Economic and Fiscal Resilience.***

Civic Leaders (Left): Michael Dowell, Nicole Toulouse, Nick Giacobbe, John Ford, Mark Schwartz (Arlington County Manager)

County Board (Right) Maureen Coffey, Matt de Ferranti, Takis Karantonis, Susan Cunningham, Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr

February General Membership Meeting Outbrief

by Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary

ACCF was honored to welcome Arlington County government and civic leadership to discuss a range of topics including community planning, housing and development, and a new effort within the community to memorialize the enslaved in Arlington. We included time for the audience to ask questions throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion topics and questions included:

1. Samia Byrd, Arlington County's Director of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD), shared an overview of CPHD and outlined key initiatives within the community. You can review Samia's presentation [here](#).

2. Anne Venezia, Arlington County's Housing Director, discussed affordable housing in Arlington. The conversation was moderated by Matt Hall, ACCF housing Committee Co-Chair. You can review Anne's presentation [here](#).
3. Tim Aiken and Jessica Kaplan, civic leaders representing the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) project, shared an overview of their project. Discussion was moderated by Nicholas Giacobbe. You can review the MEA presentation [here](#).

Meeting Video Link: [ACCF February 2025 General Membership Meeting](#)

Please contact Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary, at secretary@civfed.org with any questions.

Housing Committee Update

Submitted by Housing Committee Co-chairs, Matt Hall and Anne Bodine

Join us March 20 from 6:30 - 8:00pm

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/62S8R9yhSDmMdnMlhyixpQ>

Next Steps to Advance Work of the Committee

A member of the CivFed leadership will discuss with the group next steps to help consolidate the work of our committee since we reconstituted in March 2023, including response by the Board on the draft housing tracker resolution, and possible engagement with board members on our alternate development proposal presented Feb 20.

If you didn't catch our Feb 20 session, we recommend you watch the video on our CivFed Committee web page <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/housing/> that also includes links to the slide deck and materials. Here's the direct link to the video that includes a good discussion: <https://vimeo.com/1061104416>.

We will also look at upcoming programming, to include reviews for 20 years of the Affordable Housing ordinance in zoning code and 15 years of the Affordable Housing Master Plan. We will also discuss the county board's priorities for CPHD with regard to housing as outlined in upcoming work sessions.

Submitted by ACCF Housing Committee Co-Chairs at housing.chair@civfed.org

Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee

Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, GLUP Subcommittee Chair

The next Planning and Zoning GLUP and Site Plan Review Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 31, from 7-9:00 pm. Please mark your calendars and register at the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/lQMmBqg6SXuvzAzm6hF39g>

We also look forward to several key Arlington County Board sessions earlier in March with the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD):

First, on Wednesday, March 5 at 1pm, the Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development (CPHD) will present its Preliminary Work Plan for 2025-26 to the County Board. The plan will signal next steps on key initiatives, including an internal staff review of the Special GLUP Process; a zoning study on major and minor site plan amendments; and other priorities such as the Commercial Resilience Initiative's plans for "Adaptive Reuse" of commercial properties.

Location: Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Room #307, or online via this link: [County-Board Work-Session with CPHD-Planning-Work-Plan-Work-Plan](#)

Second, on Tuesday, March 11 from 1:00-4:30 pm, the County Board will hold its annual "Budget Work Session" to review budgetary issues with the Departments of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) including allocations for the General Fund, Housing and Community Development Fund, and Development Fund. The session will include the Planning Commission, the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Department of Human Services.

Location: Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Room #307, or online via this link: [County Budget Session with CPSD](#)

The Subcommittee is also continuing to develop its 2025 Work Plan, including priorities for developing a CivFed recommendation. To advance our dialogue with the County, the subcommittee is seeking input into possible improvements to Arlington's planning and development process. As a first step, we are identifying recent projects and development sites for use as "case studies" to show what is working or needs improvement. We have been posting links to these on the Planning and Zoning Committee webpage, including one to our February 5 Subcommittee Meeting, which featured an outstanding presentation by Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association Vice President Maurya Meiers on lessons from Special GLUP and Site Plan experiences. Maurya's presentation provides key pointers for navigating the Special GLUP and Site Plan Review processes and draws on BVSCA's experience with the Washington Boulevard/Kirkwood "Special GLUP Plus," as well as the Vermont and 11th Street Special GLUP.

Please contact Jack Spilsbury, chair of P&Z GLUPPlus Subcommittee, at glup.sc.chair@civfed.org for additional information.

Public Safety Committee Meeting

The Public Safety Committee will meet on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. During this meeting, we will further discuss and plan the Civic Federation Public Safety Panel, scheduled for the April 8, 2025, general meeting. The invited panel includes the Arlington County Police Chief, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Director of the Department of Human Services. The committee meeting will be via Zoom, registration: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eTMTIFrJTtiqqsHJOIzPjg>

For more information, please contact Michael McMenamin at bod.member3@civfed.org.

Membership Committee Update - National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Arlington Chapter House

Submitted by Jackie Snelling, ACCF Organizational Development

The DAR is a women's service organization whose mission is to promote Historic Preservation, Education, and Patriotism. Members come from a variety of backgrounds and interests, and can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution. The Arlington House Chapter has over seventy years of making a positive impact through our various committee work projects that allow us to effectively serve our local community.

The Arlington House Chapter has been specifically recognized for its work with Literacy promotion, support of our local active duty military and veterans, Arlington Public Schools, a partnership with the Arlington Free Clinic, Conservation garden work at Arlington House, and an ongoing Preservation cleaning project at Walker Chapel Cemetery.

The Arlington House Chapter has applied for membership in the Civic Federation. The application has been reviewed by the membership committee and recommended as meeting our membership requirements. The ACCF Board is recommending a vote supporting this membership at our March 11 General Membership Meeting.

Contact Jackie Snelling at bod.orgdev@civfed.org for any questions.

Civic Spotlight: Langston Boulevard Alliance Creates Community Center Committees

Submitted by Jean Henceroth, ACCF Board Member

The Langston Boulevard Alliance (LBA) is continuing to support the area's growing population through its new Community Centers Committee, in partnership with the Langston Boulevard Presidents' Breakfast Group. The committee is looking at three facilities, only one of which offers a range of Parks and Recreation activities: Langston Brown. Meanwhile Dawson Terrace is the oldest masonry building in Arlington, built in 1697, while the former Lee Center is 100 years old.

The Community Centers Committee identified priorities for each facility:

- Dawson Terrace: Arlington Parks & Rec recently worked with the North Highlands Civic Association to open the building for meetings; what more can be done?
- Langston Brown: Do its programs continue to meet neighborhood and community needs, or could they be expanded?
- Lee Center: Which future uses will best serve the Langston Boulevard Corridor? The County approved \$250,000 to assess the building's condition in the first half of 2025. LBA is leading a robust community engagement about future uses of the approximately 2-acre site, which now is home to the Lee Center building and a park with heavy usage. This will inform the County Board's decisions about future use.

For more information, please contact Jean Hencroth, ACCF Board Member, at bod.member3@civfed.org.

Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)

Secretary, [Matt Gloudeman](#)

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Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Director at Large, [Paul Holland](#)

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Director at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair Cory Giacobbe (Parks)
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair TBD
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org

Any delegate, alternate delegate, or member of a member organization may participate on any public interest or support committee. Please contact the applicable committee chair, point-of-contact, or President John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting, and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a link to

our website for more details.

joinus@Civfed.org

The Civic Federation's Website

CivFed Calendar FY2025

March

- 3/11 – General Membership Meeting
 - 3/13 - Public Safety Committee Meeting
 - 3/16 - ACCF Board of Directors Meeting
 - 3/20 - Housing Committee Meeting
 - 3/31 - Planning and Zoning GLUP and Site Plan Review Subcommittee
-

Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.

The VHC Director of Security has advised CivFed that we should begin to park in Parking Garage C (map below). You can then walk across to the Oncology entrance and gain admittance until 8 p.m. **After the meeting, you MUST EXIT via the Women's and Infant lobby.**

ENTER (until 8 p.m.): Zone C Ground floor Oncology entrance (only open until 8 pm, Monday-Friday)

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Take a right at the double doors by the visitor kiosks
- Take a right at the single door
- Go to elevators and take to lobby floor
- Exit elevators and go left to hall directly behind welcome desk in lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead

ENTER or EXIT (24/7): Zone C first floor Women's and Infant lobby entrance (please use this entrance to exit after 8 pm, open 24/7):


- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Walk to hall directly behind the welcome desk in the lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead



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