



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

**The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
April 2025 | Volume 109 | Number 08**

President's Message

Dear CivFed members,

With everything that's going on across the river in Washington, and its actual and potential impact on us in Arlington, it seemed like a good time to offer to our members an in-depth panel on public safety issues.

Our panel discussion will headline our April 8 Civ Fed general membership meeting at our usual time and place -- 7:00 p.m. in the Hazel Auditorium of the Virginia Hospital Center.

The panel will include a representative of the Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney, the County Police Chief, the Sheriff, and a representative from the Department of Human Services. We will discuss various topics related to the responsibilities of each office in addressing crime and mental health, as well as how these offices, agencies, and law enforcement work together.

There will be plenty of time for questions from members. You'll find more details below.

On another current issue, and in accordance with our bylaws, Civ Fed's environmental affairs committee has prepared an emergency resolution opposing the recent declaration of intent by Dominion Virginia Power to clear-cut trees and bushes along the Old Dominion bike trail. Given the urgency of this issue, we will present this resolution to the membership for a vote. Please see the article below for a full text of this important resolution.

I also want to share with you a matter of concern to all of us in Arlington, and some steps Civ Fed is taking to address it. The horrific plane-helicopter crash on January 29 over the Potomac River near National Airport that claimed 67 lives has highlighted issues of safety and congestion as well as noise and the economic impact of our Arlington airport.

Several members have been working on a resolution to address these key, interrelated issues, and I'd like to extend an invitation to our membership to join this effort. Please let me know via email if you are interested in being part of it. We'll be continuing our work in the coming weeks, and it is not too late for you to join.

Your Executive Board is working on a number of other initiatives; we're looking

forward to sharing with you as they develop. Meantime, as always, please do consider an even more active role for yourselves as our committees expand their work. Your ideas are ultimately what fuels our activity. Please keep them coming.

Best,
John Ford
ACCF President

April General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [March minutes](#) approval
- 7:05 - 8:20 Public Safety Panel
- 8:20 - 8:45 Emergency W&OD Trail Resolution
- 8:45 - 9:00 New Business and Adjourn

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 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 April 6th** 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, April 7th** 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.

March 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 updates from the Arlington County School Board and Chief of Police Andy Penn. We also welcomed Daughters of the American Revolution - Arlington Chapter House back into ACCF membership, and aligned on representatives for the ACCF Nominating and Awards Committees. We included time for the audience to ask questions throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion highlights included:

1. Several members of the **Arlington County School Board** (Chair Mary Kadera, Vice Chair Bethany Zecher Sutton, and Kathleen Clark) and **Arlington Public School Superintendent** Dr. Francisco Durán discussed the FY26 budget, revenue streams, and expenses. They shared a timeline for

APS budget next steps, to include a budget presentation on March 13th. Dr. Duron expects a deficit of \$42mm. We also discussed priorities including employee compensation and cost of living adjustment (COLA), planning factors for staffing programs, school safety, inflationary costs, and enrollment increases. You can access the presentation slides [here](#).

2. **Arlington Chief of Police** Andy Penn discussed a slight increase in crime this year, prioritizing staff and budget for APD core services, and APD's engagement and collaboration with federal authorities regarding immigration.
3. A motion was made to welcome a returning member, **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Arlington Chapter House**, back into ACCF. The motion was moved, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

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

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

Housing Committee

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

Join us April 17th from 6:30 - 8:00pm

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/e154Iir2QJ6p36xpH4-azw#/registration>

During our April 17th meeting, Co-Chair Anne Bodine will take the Housing Committee through a deep analysis of the Green Valley project, including a review of the project approval process and the proposed community benefit trade-off. Immediately thereafter, we will brainstorm on the possibility of developing a project-specific "Community Benefits Scorecard" to provide residents with a clear understanding of the benefits gained by the County during the upzoning process.

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 Subcommittee will hold its fourth meeting via Zoom on Thursday April 24, from 7:30-9:00 pm. Please [register here](#).

The agenda will focus on developing a CivFed Planning and Zoning recommendation on improvements to Arlington's planning and development process. To advance dialogue with the County, the subcommittee has also been identifying recent Arlington project and development "case studies" showing what is working or needs improvement. Please find links to these on the CivFed Planning and Zoning Committee webpage, including an outstanding presentation by Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association Vice President Maurya Meiers on navigating the Special GLUP and Site Plan Review processes (video of 5 February, 2025). We are looking at ways to actively engage with County planning leaders and staff on these issues, and to assist Arlington Civic Associations with issues arising from Site Plan, Special GLUP, and related developer proposals.

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

Nominations Now Open for CivFed FY26 (July 2025 - June 2026)

Submitted by David Smith, Nominating Committee Member

Election of CivFed officers and directors are held each year at the annual meeting. The 2025 annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. The ACCF bylaws require a 3-7-person nominating committee selected by the general membership each year. The following individuals were recently elected to serve on this committee:

- David Smith, Bluemont CA Treasurer, ACCF Board Chair
- Alex Sakes, Penrose CA President, Pike Presidents Group Chair
- Ron Haddox, Columbia Heights CA President, ACCF Board Member
- Jean Henceroth, Leeway-Overlee CA President, ACCF Board Member
- John Ford, ACCF President

For FY26, all positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and at-large seats on the Board of Directors) are open.

Please note: all nominees must be in good standing with their CivFed member organization and be designated as an alternate or delegate to CivFed. We encourage you to consider running for a position in CivFed! In our May newsletter we will include more information about running for a position as well as a link to our online nomination form.

If you have questions about running for a position, please contact nominating@civfed.org.

Resolution on Dominion Energy tree cutting along rights-of-way in W&OD Park.

**Sponsored by the ACCF Environmental Affairs Committee
Introduced to the Membership at the April 8, 2025 Meeting for
Emergency Vote**

**Mary Glass, Chair and Point of
Contact environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org**

Whereas the ACCF supports the Requested Actions in the Northern Virginia Parks Authority's 3/12/25 letter to Amanda Keyes, Dominion Capital Projects, attached to this resolution^[1];

Whereas the ACCF adopted the "RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION" ^[2] at its 12 November 2024 meeting requesting actions from Arlington County including:

"5. That A[rlington] C[ounty] parks plans and site plans should be required to preserve existing mature canopy as well as increasing ecosystem-enhancing canopy trees and ground level vegetation, planted in soil and maintained for long-term survival of the plantings..."

7. That Arlington County proceeds to develop a comprehensive, climate-facing green infrastructure strategy that includes natural sites as well as necessary use of green infrastructure integration with built infrastructure..."

Whereas the Arlington County Urban Tree Canopy Assessment September 2024^[3] noted the importance of retaining existing tree canopy:

"Over the study periods, public land has shown a 4% increase, private land has increased by 3.7% and right-of-way areas grew by 3.2%. The largest contributor to tree canopy growth is the shift of grass and other vegetation to tree canopy. Notably, parks across Arlington County saw a 6% rise in tree canopy, growing from 59% to 65%, partly driven by the expansion of existing trees, including recent plantings."

Whereas the Arlington County Board adopted a resolution [“Protecting the Natural Environment along the W&OD Trail”](#) on March 18, 2025[4] with requests to Dominion that included:

- End plans to cut most trees
- Selectively prune only those trees that pose a direct threat to power lines,
- A vegetative height limit allowing for more native species of trees, and
- Where trees are removed, replacement planting of diverse species be conducted and maintained including control of invasive species.

Whereas the Arlington County Board has expressed consistent opposition to the Dominion transmission lines within the W&OD right-of-way due to the deleterious effects on the recreational use of the corridor and the extensive loss of trees associated with it, and confirmed this in a resolution passed July 10, 2004[5];

Whereas the April 2024 Metropolitan Council of Governments’ report “CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON[6]” stated that:

“...trees and forests should be regarded as an indispensable component of public infrastructure. These natural resources provide a wide range of services to COG member jurisdictions.”

Therefore, be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation takes the following positions and recommends and requests actions by Arlington County (AC).

1. That Arlington County engage in discussions with NOVA Parks and Dominion and other key stakeholders, including ACCF, to explore alternatives to the current plans for trimming and removing trees from the W&OD Park in light the AC Board’s recent resolution on climate change and the AC General Plan,
2. That Arlington County explore less destructive alternatives to control vegetation that is potentially a genuine risk, including new technologies such as [LiDAR](#) and others that can give real time information using existing GIS and monitoring systems on transmission ROW’s.
3. That Arlington County review the history of transmission ROW vegetation clearing locally and in other jurisdictions, and how applicable state and federal regulations are interpreted.

[1] [Northern Virginia Parks Authority’s 3/12/25 letter](#) to Amanda Keyes, Dominion Capital Projects, <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/environmental-affairs/>

[2] Arlington county Civic Federation Resolution on Climate Adaptation, adopted Nov 12, 2024 <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2024-11/2024-11 ACCF PSComm Res Climate Adapt APPROVED 20241112.pdf>, accessed 3/27/25

[3] Arlington County Urban Tree county Assessment, September 2024, <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/Latest-Tree-Canopy-Study-Shows-Modest-Gains-with-Work-Remaining-Towards-40-Goal>, accessed 3/27/25

[4] Resolution by the Arlington County Boards, “Protecting the Natural Environment along the W&OD Trail”, adopted on March 18, 2025, <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/environmental-affairs/>

[5] Resolution of the Arlington county Board, July 10, 2004, <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/environmental-affairs/> p.2

[6] Report: CONSERVING TREES AND FORESTS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON Metropolitan Council of Governments’, April 2024 <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2024/04/10/conserving-trees-and-forests-in-metropolitan-washington-climate--energy-tree-canopy/> p4

Neighborhood Mini Grant Program Renewed

By Nicholas Giacobbe, ACCF VP

Thanks to County Board [approval](#) on March 15, the Neighborhood Services Division will offer the [Neighborhood Mini Grant](#) (NMG) program again this year. Increasing to \$20,000 from last year’s \$10,000, the NMG is a competitive grant program to

support projects that build community and engage residents.

The program's goals are to provide Arlington neighborhoods and community-based organizations with funding opportunities to encourage civic and community building through a variety of activities, programs, events, and projects that promote racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. For successful ideas from last year's program, see this [list](#) of approved projects.

The maximum grant amount will be \$1,000 per applicant and to be eligible applicants need to be 501(c)(3) organizations, civic associations, and community groups with tax identification numbers located in Arlington County. CivFed will once again be available to help partner members with organizations with 501(c)(3) status who can serve as fiscal sponsors.

The application period will open in April and close at the end of June. Grants will be awarded by August 1 for a period of performance from August through June 30, 2026. Be on the lookout for more details and application materials in an Arlington County press release and newsletters.



The flyer features a green background with a white circular graphic on the right containing an illustration of a man and a woman watering plants in a raised garden bed. The text on the left provides event details, and the bottom left includes logos for HUG and FOUA along with the website URL. The bottom right contains a celebratory message.

**Urban
Agriculture
Family Day**

Sat, 7/27 9AM-12PM

Highlands Urban Garden
@ Virginia Highlands Park

1600 S Hayes St, Arlington

HUG **FOUA**

arlingtonurbanag.org

**Celebrate urban
agriculture with
activities for
adults & kids of
all ages!**

Flyer for Neighborhood Mini Grant funded [Urban Agriculture Family Day](#) organized last summer by Crystal City Civic Association, Friends of Urban Agriculture and SustainableScoop (Photo from FOUA website)



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adolescents ages 12-18. You'll build skills and confidence you need to reach out and provide initial support to young people who are struggling. You'll also learn how to help connect them to appropriate support.

AFTER THE COURSE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges, including anxiety, depression, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Recognize common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- Understand how to interact with a young person in crisis.
- Know how to connect a young person with help.
- Better understand trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying.

Join the more than

2.6 MILLION

First Aiders who have chosen to be the difference in their community.

REGISTER TODAY!

Delivery Format:

Hybrid: Participants will complete two hours of virtual pre-work

followed by a six hour in-person training.

Date and Time:

In-Person Portion: Saturday, April 26th, 2026 9:00am-3:00pm

Location:

DHS Sequoia I: 2110 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22204

Where to Register:

Scan the QR code or email cmartin2@arlingtonva.us

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (**ALGEE**):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.



For more information, visit MHFA.org

Source: Arlington DHS Child and Family Services Division, Behavioral Health Bureau. For additional details, contact Courtney Martin cmartin2@arlingtonva.us.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

Officers

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Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)
Director at Large, [Paul Holland](#)
Director at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)
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](#)

April and May

- 4/8 - ACCF General Membership Meeting
 - 4/17 - Housing Committee Meeting
 - 4/23 - Board of Directors Meeting
 - 4/24 - Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee Meeting
 - 4/28 - Deadline for May newsletter
 - 5/13 - ACCF General Membership Meeting
-

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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