



January Meeting in the County Board Room

Stefanie Pryor

The Arlington County Civic Federation shifts location and start time for our January 2017 meeting. We thank the Arlington County Board for hosting us in their space at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard in Suite 300. Another first brings [livestreaming](#) of our meeting or live coverage via Comcast 25 & 74 or Verizon FiOS 39 & 40 channels. The meeting will follow our protocol of priority given to member organizations' delegates and alternates for up to 2 rounds of questions from the floor. If time remaining, then members of the general public will be invited to ask questions.

At the end of the meeting, we will be voting on a revised, and much shortened Medical Marijuana Resolution from the Legislative Committee. As a reminder, up to 4 votes may be cast per member organization in good standing. Each organization has up to 4 delegates with 4 alternates named. Submit any corrections for delegates or alternates to membership@civfed.org.

Our [December video](#) is available now. It includes an overview on short-term rentals survey by Planning & Zoning Chair, Martha Moore; Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Patrick Murphy; Arlington County Manager, Mark Schwartz; and the discussion of the Legislative Committee resolution. Thank you to Christian Porter and Alex Pageotte for filming, Flor Cáceres Godoy for editing, and Tom O'Day, student advisor and producer.

Executive Committee

Jesse Boeding

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, December 11, 2016 to plan the agenda for January 3, 2017 general meeting and discuss future meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2).

The deadline for newsletter articles is Thursday, January 26, 2016 due to the meeting date of Tuesday, February 7. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

7:30 p.m.

**Arlington County Board Room
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201
(at the Courthouse Metro station)**

Agenda

- 7:30 Meeting Called to Order
Awards Committee Election
- 7:40 County Board Presentations
- 8:00 Questions & Answers Session
- 9:00 Planning & Zoning Committee
- 9:05 Medical Marijuana Resolution
- 9:20 Unfinished Business and Announcements
- 9:25 New Business
- 9:30 Adjourn

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Treasurer's Report

Pat Spann

Thank you to the following membership organizations for paying the 2016-2017 dues.

Alcova Heights Civic Association (CA)
American Assoc. of University Women (AAUW)
Arlington Coalition of Police
Arlington County Taxpayers Association
Arlington East Falls Church CA
Arlington Education Association
Arlington Forest CA
Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Arlington Heights CA
Arlington Mill CA
Arlington Ridge CA
Arlington View CA
Arlingwood Neighborhood Association
Ashton Heights CA
Aurora Highlands CA
Ballston-VA Square CA
Barcroft School and Civic League
Bellevue Forest CA
Bluemont CA
Boulevard Manor CA
Cathcart Springs Homeowners Association
Crystal City CA
Center for Urban Education
Chain Bridge Forest Homeowners Association
Cherrydale CA
Clarendon-Courthouse CA
Colonial Village I
Colonial Village II
Colonial Village III
Columbia Heights CA
Dominion Hills CA
Donaldson Run CA
Douglas Park CA
Dover-Crystal Citizens Association
Fairlington Citizens Association
Forest Glen CA
Frederick Courts Condo Association
Friends of Arlington Parks
Glebewood CA
Glencarlyn CA
Gulf Branch CA
Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA
Hyde Park Condo. Assoc.
John M. Langston CA

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

PO Box 42091
Arlington, VA 22204
www.civfed.org

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<http://www.civfed.org/pay-dues/>

League of Women Voters of Arl. VA
Leeway Overlee CA
Long Branch Creek CA
Lyon Park CA
Lyon Village CA
Maywood Community Association
National Active & Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 7 (NARFE)
Nauck CA
North Rosslyn CA
NoVa NORML
Old Dominion Citizens Association
Old Glebe CA
Opera NOVA
Organized Women Voters of Arlington
Penrose CA
Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights CA
Rock Spring CA
Tara-Leeway Heights CA
Waverly Hills CA
Waycroft-Woodlawn CA
Westover Village CA
Williamsburg CA
Woman's Club of Arlington
Woodmont CA
Yorktown CA

If you have questions, please contact treasurer@civfed.org and membership@civfed.org

As a reminder, ACCF follows the Arlington Public Schools (APS) [alert announcements](#). They review for both day and evening events. We do not want our audience members and speakers to risk life, limb or bumper to make it to our meeting. Speakers would be rescheduled for future time.

Click here for [Arlington County's new Snow Page](#).

Revised Resolution: Medical Marijuana, Part 2

During the December 2016 meeting, multiple members expressed concern for the wording and content of the resolution. The Legislative Committee requested feedback and edits for the resolution's wording, intent, and citations.

To ensure consensus within the ACCF and ensure everyone is comfortable with the "asks", the portions related to decriminalization and suspending the driver's license penalty have been removed. Instead, the resolution clarifies to allow for people with the medical conditions listed to use an "affirmative defense" in court, should they be arrested before Virginia's medical program is fully functioning.

This simpler version keeps its focus on medical marijuana, removes the contested citations and has the support of those who called for the resolution to be delayed and improved. There are bills pending consideration by the General Assembly for the 2017 sessions, which mirror the content of this resolution so that legislators could act immediately should the ACCF choose to pass it.

Whereas cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, can address pain, nausea and lack of appetite for those under treatment for cancer and HIV, and may also ease symptoms of epilepsy and multiple sclerosis (1)

Whereas the 28 states plus District of Columbia have adopted "medical marijuana" programs (2)

Whereas 86% of Virginians support a medical marijuana program (3)

Whereas objectively more lethal drugs like alcohol and tobacco are legal for adults to use (4)

Whereas the Virginia General Assembly has already passed laws that recognize the potential medical use of cannabis, but without a legal, fully-functioning path to acquire the medicine for a variety of illnesses (5)

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the General Assembly to:

- Update the laws related to medical marijuana, after comparing the existing medical marijuana programs in 28 states & DC for "best practices," and set up a system in Virginia that gives patients the option to access cannabis to provide therapeutic benefit; and

- During the time necessary to establish a medical marijuana system/program in Virginia, establish a statutory medical necessity defense to criminal marijuana possession or use charges against individuals under medical treatment for cancer, HIV, epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.

1. <http://www.webmd.com/brain/ss/slideshow-medical-marijuana>, slide 4, accessed 12/17/16.
2. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-medical-marijuana-laws.aspx>, accessed 12/17/16.
3. http://pilotonline.com/news/government/politics/virginia/poll-majority-of-virginians-want-marijuana-to-be-legal/article_e969c8f3-a960-58a2-9289-6cb280e4ce78.html, accessed 12/17/16 re April 2015 Quinnipiac University poll results.
4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4311234/>, study released in January 2015 comparing lethal risk of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco and other substances.
5. <http://www.nbc12.com/story/31431128/virginia-lawmakers-pass-landmark-medical-marijuana-bill>, accessed 12/17/16.

Redline Version to Identify Changes From December

Whereas ~~the medical benefits of~~ cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, ~~are well established;~~ can address pain, nausea and lack of appetite for those under treatment for ~~to treat such maladies as~~ cancer and HIV, and may also ease symptoms of epilepsy and multiple sclerosis; ~~Alzheimer's, seizures and diabetes~~ (1);

~~Whereas the US Government has even recognized the medical value of cannabis to fight cancer through the Department of Health's National Cancer Institute (2);~~

Whereas ~~29~~8 states and the District of Columbia (DC) have adopted "medical marijuana" ~~programs; and/or recreational usage programs without any major catastrophe or public health epidemic (3);~~

Whereas 86% of Virginians support a medical marijuana program (4);

Whereas objectively more ~~addictive, socially damaging-lethal~~ drugs like alcohol and tobacco are legal for adults to use (5,6,7);

~~Whereas current law mandates the suspension of a driver's license for the simple possession of marijuana for six months;~~

~~Whereas Virginia prohibits all forms of usage or possession of this medicine, even when prescribed for medicinal purposes (8);~~

Whereas the Virginia General Assembly has already passed laws that recognize the potential medical use of cannabis, but without a legal, fully-functioning path to acquire the medicine for variety of illnesses; (9);

Therefore, be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the General Assembly consider updating the laws related to marijuana to:

- ~~Immediately remove criminal penalties for the possession and use of cannabis (or "marijuana" as it is commonly known) so that it is treated like a parking ticket;~~
- ~~Eliminate penalties related to driver's license suspension for marijuana possession; and~~
- ~~after comparing the existing medical marijuana programs in 28 states & DC for "best practices," and set up a system in Virginia that gives patients the option to access cannabis to provide therapeutic benefit; and~~
- ~~During the time necessary to establish a medical marijuana system/program in Virginia, establish a statutory medical necessity defense to criminal marijuana possession or use charges against individuals under medical treatment for cancer, HIV, epilepsy or multiple sclerosis.~~

Civic Engagement - The County Apologizes

On December 8th, 2016, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Jane Rudolph sent the following written apology to residents in the Aurora Highlands neighborhood and asked that it be shared widely by the civic association and a group supporting local parks.

The apology concerned the civic engagement process followed by the Parks Department in 2015. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) recommended to the County Board approve nearly \$1 million in NC bond funds to renovate Nelly Custis Park. The 0.8 acre park is located at 701 24th Street.

"On behalf of the County Manager's Office and the Department of Parks and Recreation, regarding the Neighborhood Conservation project at Nelly Custis Park, we'd like to apologize to the community for a process that did not meet Arlington's vision to be a diverse and inclusive community where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important. County staff made statements that were inappropriate and inconsiderate. The engagement within the community was not at the level that Arlington County expects to deliver to their residents. We are sorry. We are especially sorry to those residents who participated actively and voiced concerns and input, but felt left out of the process. We will strive to ensure that all members of the community are a critical part of the project moving forward."

The statement was read aloud at the NCAC's December 9th meeting by Tim McIntosh of Neighborhood Services. The NCAC Chair, Sarah McKinley, said that she believed the NCAC had acted in good faith based on the information available to it at the time.

The apology resulted from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by several neighbors following the NCAC action.

The Nelly Custis project originally sought to add a second playground. It was later scaled back to focus on renovations to the existing playground and to improve drainage and landscaping. Implementation is ongoing.

For more information on this project and the community engagement process, see <http://friendsofahparks.org/nelly-custis-park/> or a December 22 article by Peter Rousselot welcoming the apology, [Toward a New Model of Arlington Civic Engagement](#), followed by a lively discussion with over 100 comments.

Working Group Members Submit Plan to Address Airport Noise

Joseph Pelton

Community representatives of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) Noise Advisory Working Group have agreed to a comprehensive plan that should address aircraft noise issues at Reagan National Airport (DCA) affecting the DC metropolitan area. We submitted this plan to the Working Group at its 12-15-16 meeting, and it will be considered at the January 2017 meeting.

Arlington/ACCF Working Group Reps Stephen Geiger and Joseph Pelton have completed their 15-month term. Dean Arkema (of Maywood) and Brian Stout (Arlington County's Federal Liaison) will assume these duties in the New Year. Response to the proposed plan has made it clear that MWAA won't conduct or pay for an area-wide noise study (see Point 1 below) and that the local jurisdictions would need to pay the study's costs, estimated to be \$250K to \$300K. The FAA's report—its response to extensive filings and comments on LAZIR B—will also be forthcoming soon, perhaps at the January 2017 meeting.

The community representatives' proposed plan includes the following 6 points:

1. Up-to-date and Area-wide Noise Study with Graded Noise Footprints at Day-Night Average Noise Levels (DNLs) Expressed in Decibels (dB): 65 dB, 60 dB, 55 dB and 50 dB. This study must cover the entire DC-VA-MD region comprehensively. Other useful measurements to include in the study are (i) Sound Exposure Level (SEL), which is a measure of duration and magnitude of a single noise event in A-weighted decibels; (ii) Equivalent Continuous Sound Level (L_{eq}), which is the average noise level over a specified time period, such as school hours; (iii) Time Above (TA), which is the amount of time that a noise event exceeds a maximum decibel level (L_{max}) threshold; and (iv) Number of Events (N-Level), which is the number of noise events above a maximum decibel level threshold during a specified period of time. A 2-month sur-

vey period is recommended, as is a survey to sample affected areas within DCA's flight corridors in order to correlate the public's response to this measured data and assess noise impact.

2. Continue to Explore Departure and Approach Procedural Changes. Options that could provide relief to citizens from airport noise include the following: a) Move waypoints (departure and approach) away from communities and further west or south. b) Increase departure procedure altitudes as high as safety permits and reduce the variability in altitudes that air carriers can fly on departure procedures. c) Disperse departure flight paths to reduce the concentrated flight track exposure that currently affects communities north and south of DCA. d) Review approach procedures to runways 1 and 19 to assess and determine if any changes can be implemented to reduce noise exposure. e) Assess a runway rotation plan for departures consistent with safety to explore whether a runway rotation plan would scatter departure noise more equitably. f) Develop and implement continuous descent approaches for each DCA arrival runway.

3. 24x7 Fly Quiet Program. Implement noise abatement procedures, develop educational and training materials for air carriers and controllers, and rate air carriers on compliance with the Fly Quiet program. This will reduce the noisy and incorrectly flown procedure flight paths we see over DC, Alexandria City and Mount Vernon. There are numerous airports across the United States with very successful Fly Quiet programs.

4. Establish a Permanent Noise Advisory Group. Airport noise issues will never go away and review of the FAA flight procedure alternatives remain in process. Community representatives also have a responsibility to keep their wards, districts, and communities apprised. Thus, we need a permanent group that can address issues on a technical, operational and non-political basis. This might be supplemented by a Council of Government (COG)-based "subcommittee" of the COG Transportation Committee to monitor airport noise and safety issues.

5. Implement Residential Sound Insulation Program (RSIP) via Local Jurisdictions.

This would be designed to reduce aircraft noise inside homes, apartments and condo buildings as well as schools and businesses. The goal is to achieve a quieter environment and better quality of life within the homes and other structures affected by aircraft noise and to recognize local governments have a responsibility to act.

6. **Develop a Longer Term Plan for DCA and Dulles Airport (IAD) Traffic Based on Passenger Usage Needs, Aircraft Safety, Carrier Economic and Technical Requirements in Addition to Noise Mitigation.** Key physical limits and differences between DCA and IAD exist. DCA's runways are more than three times shorter than IAD's, and DCA is ill-equipped to serve large, noisier aircraft safely. DCA has limited gates and parking to handle more traffic. Special national security constraints apply to DCA, making approach and take-off piloting operations much more hazardous and complicated. Within 3 years, Metro's Silver Line service to IAD will make it more convenient. Virginia's government may be willing to help equalize the per-passenger cost of operations for IAD and DCA. Now is the time to undertake longer term plans that seek to maximize safety and noise mitigation, which might involve shifting more larger aircraft and long-distance flights to IAD while also equalizing per-passenger costs between the two airports. These efforts require outside-the-box thinking and must include all stakeholders. Carriers wishing to expand flights at DCA, for instance, might be willing to phase out noisier aircraft and replace them with quieter aircraft, and perhaps even electronic aircraft in order to purchase slots.

“What are you doing for others?” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of Dr. King's legacy, volunteers are making MLK Day, Monday, January 16, a day on, instead of a day off. Volunteers strengthen communities across the country by collecting food and delivering meals, refurbishing homes

and schools, mentoring students, promoting nonviolence, supporting veterans and military families, and much more.

[Arlington County](#) hosts a free, public event 5 to 6:30 p.m., Saturday, January 15. Now in its 48th year, the tribute will include live music from longtime Cotton Club of New York singer Helen Slade; alumni from the Duke Ellington School for the Performing Arts Show Choir; and performances from local talent including poet, musician and arts educator Anne Smith, the Kingdom Fellow Church's Worship Without Words Mime Ministry and poet Kim B. Miller. Admission is free; however the program is ticketed.

John Moran of Foxcroft Heights

Stefanie Pryor

[John Moran](#), the long-term president of Foxcroft Heights Civic Association, passed unexpectedly on December 17. Among his many diverse talents and hats were director, producer, advocate of internet-free communication, source of many a brilliant quote, and a staunch reminder of realities. He requested no memorials or funeral services.

I met John a decade ago via our advocacy and volunteering on Columbia Pike issues. We laughed about being so close and yet so far from Washington, DC. We shared frustration for neighbors and officials who take no or little action. We supported each other and the many people who were forgotten or overlooked in the changing community.

John advocated for his small neighborhood, ensuring its inclusion whether county, state, or federal issues. Foxcroft Heights is situated on a sliver of land sandwiched between Virginia Department of Transportation, Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall, the Sheraton, and Arlington County-controlled Columbia Pike. Perhaps now in death, he may finally get one of his wishes granted: that his long-time street be pronounced correctly on ART buses. For the record, Orme Street is one syllable, not two, and no “may” is needed. And it certainly does not rhyme with 'gourmet'.

Arl County Putting Data To Work

By Jaime Lees, Manager of Process and Data Analysis and Kristanne Littlefield, Chief Digital Innovation Officer, Arlington County Government

Every time an Arlington resident, visitor, business owner or other constituent completes a form, pays a fee, or requests a service, they are providing the County with data. Data can be used to report what happened (How many people reported potholes in 2016?), what is happening (Is the stoplight at the corner of Veitch and Lee operational?) and what could happen (If a greater population is staying in Arlington past retirement, these are the sorts of services the County will want to offer by 2020?).

Much of the data collected via Arlington County Government is public information which means the data can be shared. The [County's Open Data Portal](#) does just that – go to Arlington Open Data Portal to search and download more than 100 datasets covering County financial data, restaurant inspections, responses to Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, public and private transit, public works, real estate assessments, permits and taxes and much more. Don't see the data you need? [Submit a Dataset Request](#) and track the County's progress on the request through the same web page.

In establishing its Open Data Policy, the County leveraged material from the Sunlight Foundation to ensure data is gathered and stored securely, that personally identifiable information is protected, that access to confidential health and financial data is appropriately restricted, and that best efforts are made to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data. The County also discussed lessons learned with Montgomery County and teamed up with the Data Science for the Public Good Program (DSPG) at the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory (SDAL) of Virginia Tech to identify effective website design and data structure for open data portals.

Open Data Governance is guided by County and constituent leadership. Members of the County, Sunlight Foundation, Civic Federation,

the Information Technology Advisory Commission (ITAC), and the Virginia Brigade of the Code for America comprise an External Working Group to advise the County on open data governance. These meetings occur quarterly and are open to the public.

The County's Open Data Portal is part of a larger, on-going effort to implement a County-wide data strategy to maximize data value and enable collaboration. As part of this effort, the County continues to seek opportunities to partner with Arlington Public Schools and constitutional offices in areas where there is mutual interest. The County can use County-wide data to better inform decision-making and service offerings; and constituents can use public data however they want, without requiring County staff intervention.

To learn more about the County's data strategy, please contact Jaime Lees (jlees@arlingtonva.us). Be heard and make a difference in Arlington County.

Arlington County Scholarship Fund for Teachers (ACSFFT)

Lois Koontz was approved unanimously by the ACCF Executive Committee to fill one slot on the [Arlington County Scholarship Fund for Teachers](#) (ACSFFT).

The organization will have another slot coming open in 2017. If you are interested in the schools to serve on the Board and possibly serve as an officer in the future, please review contact Peter Oliviere (poliviere@aol.com), long-term board member. Volunteer for the fun side for scholarship distributions. Limited meetings a year, one session in December and then multiple-day morning sessions during the end of March or beginning of April. The directors as a group interview each of the 15+/- candidates for scholarships over three mornings in a week in the spring.

Civic Federation Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2016 - 2017

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at the **NEW TIME** of 7 p.m.

7:30 pm, January 3 at the County Board Room, NOT the Virginia Hospital Auditorium: County Board; Medical Marijuana Resolution Vote; Awards Committee Election

January TBD: Special Saturday meeting for P&Z AD

February 7: Storm water, resource management, and flood maps; Real Estate Tax Relief (tentative); Planning & Zoning Accessory Dwellings

March 7: School Board (tentative); P&Z Resolution Vote

Friday, April 7: Banquet

April 4: Nominating Committee Election

May 2: Virginia Commonwealth Legislative Panel (tentative)

June 6: ACCF Elections

June 30/July 1: Fiscal Year Closeout and Officer transition

Arlington County Civic Federation Mission

The ACCF is dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. Its purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Committees of the Civic Federation

The committees provide the basis for most actions of the Federation. We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Stefanie Pryor at stefanie@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Jesse Boeding	jesse@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at Dec 2016 Membership Mtg	Postponed to January
Audit	Jay Wind	Jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Duke Banks	duke.banks@gmail.com
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Legislation	Ron Haddox	ron@civfed.org
Membership	Chair needed	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Nominating	Elected at April 2017 Membership Mtg	
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org