



President's Corner

There have been quite a few changes since our last newsletter. In March, Sandy Newton resigned to deal with non-COVID related health issues. I am happy to report that she is home and well on the way to a full recovery. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her well. In accordance with our bylaws, I became Acting President and Eric Cassel assumed the Board Chair position.

The pandemic has altered our lives and resulted in unprecedented economic impacts. In Arlington, the County Manager has submitted a Revised FY 2021 Proposed Budget to the County Board and has warned in his [Memorandum](#) that he expects to return in the coming months with additional revisions. These times have really reinforced the importance of community. There are many inspiring stories of local community-driven initiatives to provide care for each other- to shop for those unable; to make masks and provide PPE for our health-care workers; to feed our first responders, and to feed children and families with very limited resources; all hard-hit by the crisis. The times have really proven the resilience of the Arlington community, and brought out the best in so many of us in service to our neighbors.

Later in this newsletter, and on the ACCF website, I will update the list of community resources. Please reach out to me if you have a suggestion or a resource that has been helpful for your organization.

With almost 80 member organizations, ACCF members serve in our community. We are witnessing incredible acts of neighbors helping neighbors. Please share these stories with us so that we can share them with the membership. Kindness is contagious and can lift us all.

[The County requires Compliance with the Governor's Stay at Home Order.](#)

With resolutions to consider for a vote, there is ACCF business to address. Our scheduled General Meeting will be held virtually. The meeting can be accessed via telephone or web browser. Access details will follow shortly.

I would like to serve as a voice of encouragement. Let me know how we can help you. We all need to continue to look out for each other, but we also need to take care of ourselves.

Warmly,

Allan Gajadhar,
President (acting), Arlington County Civic Federation

April 21, 2020 ACCF Membership Meeting

The April 2020 ACCF Membership Meeting will be conducted on a virtual basis using Zoom, a video conferencing app. Delegates, Alternate Delegates and others associated with member organizations will receive invitation to participate in the April 21 Membership meeting using Zoom. Detailed directions on how to use Zoom will be sent to all invitees beginning Monday April 20. You must register for the meeting on April 21 between 6PM and 7PM.

Agenda

6:00 Sign-in opens

7:00 Call to Order

Pledge

7:15 Update on Arlington County's Response to COVID-19

7:30 Report and Vote on the Liveability Resolution

7:45 Report and Vote on the Revenue & Expenditures Committee Resolution on the County Auditor

8:00 Delegate Input/Discussion

8:30

Old Business

New Business

9:00 Adjourn

Nominating Committee 2020-2021 ACCF Officers and Board of Directors

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee for CivFed's 2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors, please contact the Federation's Acting President [Alan Gajadhar](#)

Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19

- [Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#), which tells residents what to do if they or family members are sick or have symptoms. In addition, the guide provides instructions about how to identify people who came into close contact with you while you were sick.

- The [Arlington Community Corps](#) includes listings by Arlington neighborhood and is designed to link people who need help with nearby volunteers willing to help out—by delivering groceries and medication to other residents at higher risk from COVID-19. For more information or questions, email arlingtoncommunitycorps@gmail.com.

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) updates from Arlington County](#)

- This includes County Resources for food, financial and medical assistance

- Business Resources for small businesses, property owners

- Info from the CDC, VA Dept of Health and Arlington County

- [Virginia's stay at home order FAQ](#)

The links below are taken from a list provided by the Arlington County Public Library

- The Department of Human Services has an extensive [resource page](#) for mental wellness and self-care, including:
 - Find a support hotline
 - Keep your kids engaged while teleworking
 - Take a free mindfulness class
 - Build greater capacity to face challenges ahead
 - The [Public Library](#) has [free resources](#) that can help get you through these stressful times.
 - The [Department of Parks & Recreation lists](#) fun and safe activities for you to do at home and outside while practicing social distancing, including:
 - Make your own ice cream
 - Try origami
 - Take a Zumba class
 - Start a garden
-

Revenue & Expenditures Committee Resolution on the County Auditor

The Revenue & Expenditures Committee is submitting a resolution on the Arlington County auditor for membership approval at the April 21 meeting. This resolution states in major part that *the Arlington County Civic Federation asks the County Board and County Manager to identify additional funding and/or staffing resources (for example, adding a forensic accountant or a compliance officer) to support the County Board Auditor’s ability to complete audits and follow-up reviews within the established audit work plan’s time-frame and to increase overall audit capacity, in order to deliver timely, independent analysis to the County Board and assure Arlington County taxpayers that revenues and fees are being used in the most effective and efficient way possible.*

Follow this [link](#) to read in full the county auditor resolution and its report.

Livability Resolution

Whereas, the Arlington County government has made a decision to increase residential and commercial density,

Whereas, there is not a current guiding document that addresses the impacts of increased density, and that integrates existing county plans and documents,

Whereas, the scale of the proposed developments’ impacts exceeds the scope of customary planning reviews,

Whereas, there is not a process that incorporates input from the direct and indirect communities impacted by the increased density at the scale being proposed,

Whereas, the Arlington County government has committed to increased engagement by residents,

Whereas, the Livability Framework , “[Livability22202 Action Plan](#)”, being

developed by the three neighborhoods adjacent to Amazon's proposed new Headquarters 2 (Aurora Highlands Civic Association, Crystal City Civic Association and Arlington Ridge Civic Association) may have some applicability and usefulness in other areas of the County;

Whereas, all areas of the Arlington County depend on the revenue generated from development in the 22202 area,

Now therefore be it resolved that *the Arlington County Civic Federation:*

- 1. Supports the development of the Livability Framework as a tool for reviewing impacts holistically, including both the proposed building site and its neighboring communities;*
- 2. Calls on the County to acknowledge the creation of the Livability Framework and recognize the viability of the Livability Framework for tackling development challenges with holistic strategies based on shared livability themes to maintain and create better, more livable areas.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cultural Affairs Committee - April 2020

Since the last newsletter in March, COVID-19 has altered our lives. With recent correspondence from leadership at the Arlington Arts Commission and Embracing Arlington Arts, this update provides a glimpse of the cultural affairs in the County.

During these unprecedented times, Arlington artists, arts and cultural organizations are continuing to promote creativity, foster learning, and provide much-needed (and often healing) human connection for the residents of Arlington County and the DMV. See [Embracing Arlington Arts Calendar of Events](#) for the latest virtual offerings.

From virtual dance and fitness classes, streaming of theatrical, music, and opera performances, curricular resources for teachers and students, to adult art-making activities, our arts groups have turned on a dime, moved programs online, and created new offerings. At the same time, they are struggling with their finances, trying to keep staff on board, and, like so many small businesses, applying for loans and relief from the various CARES Act (and other) programs, and seeking donations from an equally cash-strapped or financially uncertain public.

In the past year, the County Manager, senior County staff and County Board members brought together county staff and community arts stakeholders to address issues related to costs and efficiencies regarding the scene shop, costume shop, mobile stage, and the joint use agreement with Arlington Public Schools. The outcome produced viable solutions with many enacted or included for consideration in the County Manager's FY 2021 Proposed Budget.

Given the extraordinary circumstances our community is facing, the County Manager has reformulated the FY 2021 Proposed Budget. In the [Revised FY 2021 Budget Memorandum](#), County Manager Schwartz is proposing to retain two critical staff positions in Cultural Affairs and maintain the base level

funding of the Arts Grants Program. Additionally, he is proposing to postpone the Signature Costume Shop Management program. Marsha Semmel, chair of the Arts Commission has submitted a report for the April 16th Budget Work Session.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Emergency Response Team Training

The nationwide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is comprised trained volunteers who assist their communities when disaster strikes. Arlington County offers free biannual classes to train county residents, employees, and students on how to help themselves and others until emergency responders arrive. The biannual Arlington CERT basic training program (CBT) involves approximately 30 hours of online, classroom and hands-on training and concludes with a final training exercise before graduation. In the CERT basic training program , you will learn disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression and terrorism.

One example of what CERT members do was evident in July 2019 after the severe weather that caused widespread flooding and significant damage to public facilities, roads, businesses and homes. Volunteers from Arlington CERT, the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Team Rubicon trained and mobilized to go door-to-door to assist with damage assessments in the County.

Are you ready to join the over 800 volunteers trained by Arlington CERT? The spring training sessions start in April and the fall sessions in September. Each session includes eight classes that meet on six weeknights (either Tuesdays or Thursdays) and two Saturdays. All classes meet at the Arlington Fire Training Academy in Shirlington and are taught by Arlington County Fire and Police Departments (ACFD, ACPD) and Arlington County Emergency Management staff (OEM), as well as active duty CERT members. The minimum age to attend is 14.

For more information about the Arlington CERT and to register, please visit <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/>.

Arlington County Public Schools

[APS Update on the Coronavirus](#)

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Allan Gajadhar, Acting President
Vice President, Vacant
Allen Norton, Secretary
Burt Bostwick, Treasurer

Board of Directors Acting Chair, Eric Cassel
Board of Directors Vice Chair, Vacant
Member at Large, Allan Gajadhar
Member at Large, Tina Worden
Member at Large, Dennis Gerrity
Member at Large, Mike McMenamin
Member at Large, Stacy Meyer

Here is a [link](#) to Board members bios to learn about their backgrounds.

2019-2020 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden – tina@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs – Mary Glass – mary@civfed.org
Housing – Chair John Vihstadt – housing.chair@civfed.org
Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox – ron@civfed.org
Parks and Recreation – Duke Banks – duke@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning – Chair Ben Kenney – ben@civfed.org
Public Services - Chair Jackie Snelling – jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures – Burt Bostwick (POC) – burt@civfed.org
Schools – Chair Michael Beer – michaelbeer@civfed.org
Transportation – Chair Jerry Auten - jerry@civfed.org

2019-2020 FEDERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit -- Chair Jay Wind – jay.wind@att.net
Awards – Chair – Tbd
Bylaws and Rules – Chair Allen Norton – allen.n@civfed.org
Banquet – Chair – Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Communications – Tbd
Membership – Chair Dennis Gerrity – membership@civfed.org

Any Delegate, Alternate or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee (Please contact the Committee chair or point of contact or [Acting President Allan Gajadhar](#) if you are interested participating on ACCF Committees.)

LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS

[February 1, 2020 - February 29, 2020 Treasurer's Report](#)
[March 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report](#)
[Draft February 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft February 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft March 22 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft April 5, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)

!Please Remember!

The Civic Federation has changed the day and venue on which it holds its monthly meetings.

Effective October 2019, the Federation's General Membership Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Effective April 21, meetings will held be held on a virtual basis using the Zoom video conferencing app until further notice. You must register for Zoom meeting. You can do between 6PM and 7 PM on the day of the meeting. Instructions on how to register and participate in these meeting will be available on CivFed's [website](#) by April 20.
