



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
March 2024 | Volume 108 | Number 07

### March General Membership Meeting

**Location:** Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2023 @ 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](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) by Sunday March 10th 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 by Monday March 11 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.

### Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:10 p.m. Opening and approval of February [minutes](#)
- 7:10 - 8:45 Budget Colloquium
- 8:45 - 9:00 Other business and adjourn

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

#### \*\*\*PARKING AND ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS\*\*\*

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



## President's Message

March in Arlington means budget season, and it's in full swing now. Your civic federation is doing its part for our membership meeting coming up next Tuesday March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center. As usual, the meeting will be available in person or via Zoom.

Our March meeting will consider the proposed FY 2025 budget. We are organizing a colloquium with our membership, led by our committee chairs, on issues covering the overall county budget. Our committee chairs will address the challenges related to proposed increases in taxes (both rates and assessments) and their perspective on the priorities for budget support including speakers for Revenues and Expenditures, Arts and Culture, Environment, Housing, Legislation, Parks, Planning and Zoning, Public Services (stormwater management, public safety, wellbeing and health), and Transportation.

We're structuring these discussions to include time for comment and questions from our members, so please join us and contribute to what we think will be a most productive discussion.

We plan to synthesize our results and communicate them directly to the County Board and Manager.

Looking ahead to April, I want to highlight three events among several sponsored by ACCF in what will be a very busy month.

For our April 9 membership meeting, we will focus on the challenge of inclusive wellbeing for Arlington with presentations and discussion on the key factors of public health and access to natural green space. Our presentations will identify inequities in health and green space in our community that are geographically identifiable. We will engage members in a discussion of strategies for coming together through county priorities and community partnerships to address these inequities as well as others to promote wellbeing.

As you may have hopefully already heard, the CivFed banquet is back! We're holding it at Ft. Myer on Friday evening, April 12, starting with a cocktail hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00. We will feature two young, dynamic speakers from Amazon who will offer a short introduction and then take our questions on how the world's most valuable company got here, what's going on now, and what lies ahead.

For details and tickets, please see the article below.

Then, particularly for those interested in climate change and its impact on the county – and for residents in the Lubber Run watershed in particular – there will be a public meeting at the Lubber Run Center at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10. County staff will present current information and thinking. There will be significant updates and data sharing that those in this watershed will not want to miss.

CivFed will host a Candidates Forum for declared County Board candidates May 14 at our membership meeting. Five candidates have declared their candidacy so far for the single seat available in November.

I want to also highlight the revival of our Communications Committee, with a more detailed announcement below. But in particular, we are asking any members who would like technical assistance with communications to contact us at [communications@civfed.org](mailto:communications@civfed.org). Areas of assistance where we can help may include: setting up a list serve; steps for starting a web site, or how to set up hybrid meeting capability.

Best, John

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## February General Membership Outbrief

CivFed was joined by Arlington County Superintendent, Dr. Francisco Duran, and the Arlington County School Board Members: Cristina Diaz-Torres (Chair), David Priddy (Vice Chair), Miranda Turner, and Bethany Zecher Sutton.

Todd Truitt, CivFed Schools Committee Chair, led the discussion which included pre-prepared and audience questions. Q&A topics included:

- Chronic absenteeism
- School boundaries & related policy
- Open space vs school needs
- Demographic updates and impacts to school planning
- Budget planning (example 89% of the school budget is for salaries)
- Use of statistics to drive decisions
- Collaboration with the County on services (example I-Ride)
- School bus capacity
- School crossing guards (hired through the Police Department)
- Safety on Glen Carlyn road
- Where is education going in the next 10-15 years, how do we keep our competitiveness?
- Student dual enrollment
- Approach to following school trends
- Redevelopment of the Arlington Career Center
- Issues with rollout of employee healthcare
- Merge of school and county HR
- Equity across ethnic groups
- Policies to prevent cyber bullying
- Class size
- Use of empty office space for school / classroom use
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system modernization

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](#)



*From left to right: Bethany Zecher Sutton, Miranda Turner, David Priddy (Vice Chair), Cristina Diaz-Torres (Chair), Dr. Francisco Duran (Superintendent), Todd Truitt (CivFed)*

## **ACCF Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony Resumes April 12**

**Get Your Tickets Today!**  
*by Nick Giacobbe, Banquet Chair*

The Arlington County Civic Federation is pleased to announce that Patrick Phillippi and Brian Stout from Amazon's public policy team will be the featured speakers at the 2024 Banquet and Awards Ceremony, which resumes after a hiatus due to the pandemic. Their presentation will discuss Amazon's progress since the

announcement of HQ2 just over five years ago, the plans for the future, and the impact Amazon's HQ2 has had on the region.

The event will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 in the Koran Room at Patton Hall (formerly the Fort Myer Officers Club) on Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. The banquet is open to our members, their guests and other government and civic leaders from across the County. This includes ACCF member delegates, alternates, officers, board members, and other active participants in Arlington's civic life.

In addition to the Amazon presentation, the program will include the presentation of the 2024 GazetteLeader Cup and the ACCF 2023-2024 awards.

Tickets are available [online](https://bit.ly/ACCF-Banquet-2024) at <https://bit.ly/ACCF-Banquet-2024>, with special early bird pricing for tickets purchased by March 27. There are also tables of eight available for event sponsors, which includes a listing in the program. Reservations close on Thursday, April 4.

This will be a memorable evening of comradery as one of Arlington's most cherished traditions recognizing civic engagement and leadership resumes.

Please contact Banquet Chair Nick Giacobbe at [banquet@civfed.org](mailto:banquet@civfed.org) with questions.

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## **Bigger FY2025 Budget with a 1.5 2.5-Cent RE Tax-Rate Hike** *by Suzanne Smith Sundburg, Revenues & Expenditures Committee Point of Contact*

On 2-24-2024, County Manager Mark Schwartz presented his proposed fiscal year (FY) 2025 \$1.62 billion budget to the Arlington County Board, an increase of \$72 million, or 4.7%, which was based on his proposal to raise the real estate tax rate by 1.5 cents[1]. It should be noted that each 1-cent increase in the tax rate (based on current assessments) generates approximately \$9.1 million in new ongoing revenues.[2]

Even at 1,000+ pages, the budget gives few details as to how money is actually spent by departments. Reviewing the Manager's budget presentation helps to provide some additional context.[3]

In general, the Manager balanced his base budget (keeping it roughly the same as last year's) by utilizing increased revenues resulting from higher real estate assessments, additional revenue generated by new construction and recovering/higher revenues from other existing taxes and fees, and by proposing \$10.1 million in budget cuts that include the elimination of 33.15 full-time equivalent (FTE) county positions.[4]

It should be noted that in FY2023, the County Manager added over 100 FTEs on top of 100 new positions added in FY2022, even as 400+ existing county positions remained vacant for 12 months or longer. See [R&E's May 2022 report](#) on the Manager's FY2023 proposed budget and the report's supporting [Appendix](#).

The Manager also proposed several spending increases, including for affordable housing, schools/teens, tree-canopy maintenance, pay raises for certain employees, etc. To cover his new spending, the Manager proposed to increase the real estate tax rate 1.5 cents/\$100 of assessed value.[5]

Unsatisfied with the Manager's proposed 1.5-cent tax-rate increase, the County Board voted 5-0 on 2-27-2023 to add another penny, raising the advertised rate to a



whopping 2.5 cents/\$100 of assessed value for all residential and commercial properties.[6]

This 2.5-cent rate hike isn't the only tax or fee increase being proposed. Had the proposed tax-rate increase remained at 1.5 cents, the combined impact of all increases on the "average" homeowner[7] is would have resulted in a \$500 increase in the homeowner's bill. With the impact of the Board's additional 1-cent increase (total of 2.5 cents), the average homeowner's bill will increase by \$582 — an unprecedented annual increase, higher than in any other year since at least 2015.

## Impact of Tax & Fee Changes

	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	\$ Change '24 to '25	% Change '24 to '25
Real Estate Tax (excludes sanitary district tax)	\$7,338	\$7,726	\$8,089	<del>\$8,478</del> <b>\$8,560</b>	<del>\$387</del> <b>\$471</b>	<del>4.6%</del> <b>5.5%</b>
Stormwater Utility Fee (formerly Sanitary District Tax*)	123	130	136	258	\$122	90.0%
Personal Property**	1,137	1,224	1,182	1,123	(\$59)	-5.0%
Vehicle License Fee**	66	-	-	-	-	-
Refuse Fee***	319	308	406	416	\$10	2.5%
Water / Sewer Service***	711	742	788	826	\$38	4.8%
Residential Utility Tax***	72	72	72	<del>72</del> <b>\$11,255</b>	<del>\$500</del> <b>\$582</b>	<del>0.7%</del> <b>5.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,766</b>	<b>\$10,201</b>	<b>\$10,673</b>	<del>\$10,173</del>	<del>\$500</del>	<del>0.7%</del>

\*Effective January 1, 2024, the County Board voted to repeal the sanitary district tax of \$0.017 per \$100 of assessed value and replaced it with a new stormwater utility fee of \$258 per equivalent residential unit (ERU). The majority of homes in the County are one ERU or under so for FY 2025, the average homeowner will pay \$258 or less.

\*\*Assumes two conventional vehicles per household, the approximate average number of vehicles owned per Arlington household. The personal property tax figures do not reflect the PPIRA subsidy for personal property tax relief. For FY 2023, the average tax bill assumes a one-time assessment ratio of 88% adopted by the County Board. The vehicle license fee was permanently eliminated with the FY 2023 adopted budget.

\*\*\*Water/sewer rate reflects 48 thousand gallons of water consumption, a revision in FY 2022 of average usage. Historical costs also reflects this assumption. Residential utility tax assumptions are based on the ceiling tax rates.

Source: County Manager's 2-24-2024 budget presentation

From FY2021 through FY2025, the cumulative impact of higher assessments, plus this year's 2.5-cent tax-rate increase, plus the increased stormwater cost, plus all other tax/fee increases will have added **more than \$2,050** to the average homeowner's tax/fee burden.[8]

For calendar years (CYs) 2020–2024, the cumulative impact of *just* the increased real estate assessments plus the 2.5-cent real estate tax-rate increase will have added **\$1,880** to the average homeowner's real estate tax bill.[9]

For the first time, the County Manager also has estimated the impact of his proposed 1.5-cent real estate tax-rate increase on renters: a 6.6% increase on the average apartment unit's assessment. The increased impact of the advertised 2.5-cent tax-rate wasn't recalculated for apartments. However large this increase will be, it may be passed along to residential renters in the form of higher rents — even as Arlington ranked 7 "on a list of the priciest rental markets in the country." [10]

Whereas residential leases do not specify who pays for real estate and other tax/fee increases, commercial leases (i.e., office, retail) often contain a provision to pass along these costs directly to the tenant (on top of rent), based on the amount of square footage leased. Properties designated as "commercial" also pay an additional tax/surcharge equal to \$0.125/\$100 of assessed value to fund the county's Transportation Capital Fund.[11]

Beginning this calendar year, the stormwater portion of the real estate tax bill (1.7 cents/\$100 of assessed value) has been eliminated and replaced by a new [Stormwater Utility Fee](#). When the stormwater tax was charged base on a property's real estate tax assessment, the stormwater cost in FY2024 was estimated to be \$136

annually for the average homeowner. Under the new Stormwater Utility Fee model, the average homeowner will pay **\$122 more for stormwater, or \$258 in FY2025.**[12]

Calculating the changes to the real estate tax are as follows:

\$1.013 (existing tax rate, not including stormwater) + \$0.025 (proposed tax-rate increase) =  
**\$1.038/\$100 of assessed value (the advertised tax rate for FY2025)**

***The County Board isn't required to enact the advertised tax rate .*** The Board can ask the Manager to identify additional budget cuts and efficiencies in order to provide the money needed to cover new spending proposals without increasing the tax rate. Or the Board can do a combination of the two: implement some additional cuts/efficiencies along with passing a smaller tax-rate increase.

Budget negotiations along with a review of departments' budgets occur during the County Board's work sessions with staff. A schedule of those work sessions is found here: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/FY-2025-County-Board-Work-Sessions>.

*Supporting end notes and charts are found at the end of this newsletter.*

For more information, please contact Suzanne Sundburg, ACCF Revenue and Expenditures Committee POC, at [rev.expend.chair@civfed.org](mailto:rev.expend.chair@civfed.org).

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## **CivFed Housing Committee**

*by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee Co-Chair*

On March 21, the Housing Committee will feature guest speakers Courtney Battle (Exec Dir.) and Taylor Phillips (Public Policy Dir.) of the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). HAND is a nonprofit membership collective comprised of over 450 institutions working across the private, public and social sectors to collaborate on production and preservation of affordable housing in the region encompassing Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond. From 6:30-7:30 pm., Battle and Phillips will present their regional overview of the affordable housing supply and market. This will include projected overall needs, housing financing tools and general challenges/opportunities. Following their presentation (7:30-8:00), the Committee will continue to work on its 2024 Resolutions, with the goal of finalizing the subset of such resolutions and their designated workgroups.

Register in advance to join

us: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuuprzo0GNbdGxeI7Xwpzf8byyux8zqy>

Please email [housing.chair@civfed.org](mailto:housing.chair@civfed.org) for more information.

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## **CivFed Environmental Affairs Committee**

*by Mary Glass, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair*

### ***Board Public and Work Sessions on the FY2025 County Budget***

Starting on March 5<sup>th</sup> and continuing to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board will conduct works sessions on each portion of the proposed budget. The public can attend but cannot speak at these meetings. The schedule for all the budget sessions including tax rates can be found at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget->

[Finance/FY-2025-County-Board-Work-Sessions](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/FY-2025-Proposed-Budget) . The Environmental Affairs Committee will be reviewing the sections applying to trees, climate change, and heat islands. Participation from the delegates and other interested parties is welcomed. The budget document can be found at:  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/FY-2025-Proposed-Budget>

### ***Successful Public Town Hall Meeting on Arlington's Deer Management Options***

The meeting conducted on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> on Zoom addressed the current and potential steps to shape a deer management program in Arlington. Three speakers gave short overviews of the issues drawing on their data and experience which was followed by 40-minutes of Q&A from the participating citizens. The County's work to date on a deer management program was summarized by John Marlin, Deputy Division Chief, Parks and Natural Resources Division. Steve Young, a Certified Master Naturalist, ran through concerns on deer overpopulation and the potential impacts on ecosystems they inhabit. The Chief of Animal Control for Arlington County at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Jennifer Toussaint, drawing on her experience with animal control, and wildlife intake and triage, delineated factors to consider in the future planning including up-to-date data and flexibility in options. References and other material from the program will be posted on the ACCF website.

### ***Climate Change and Heat Island Priorities Development Meeting, 2/15/24***

The Environmental Affairs Committee welcomed delegates and other interested parties to voice their opinions on climate change and heat island concerns. The discussions identified a wide range of issues that will be pursued in the cognizant committees coordinating research and any actions on these consequential topics. Please contact the committee chairs to find out more.

**PLEASE JOIN the Environmental Affairs Committee!** As Arlington continues to grow, environmental awareness will be critical. We need your opinions and energy to address these topics. Delegates and Alternates are especially important to this work, but any members of ACCF member organizations are welcome to participate. If you have questions or want more information, please contact the Committee Chair Mary Glass at [environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org](mailto:environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org).

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### **CivFed Legislation Committee** *by Paul Holland, Legislation Committee Chair*

The Legislation Committee met on February 27 to discuss current legislative initiatives being considered during this year's General Assembly Session. The next Legislation Committee meeting will be held in mid-April, with the final date to be determined. The April meeting will feature a run down of the legislation that aligns with the Federation's Legislative Priorities resolution, the next steps for that legislation, a discussion of other topics as identified by the Committee membership, and perhaps a special guest. We are always looking for delegates who may be interested in participating in our committee. Please consider joining us in April.

For questions or interest in joining the Committee, please contact Paul at [legislation.chair@civfed.org](mailto:legislation.chair@civfed.org).

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### **CivFed Legislation - Form of Government Subcommittee**



It was a banner day for the TiGER and for its Son of TiGER offspring. On Saturday Feb 24th, the Arlington County Board voted that this year's general election for County Board will take place by ranked choice voting. See the article: <https://www.gazetteleader.com/arlington/news/arlington-board-opts-to-try-out-ranked-choice-voting-in-nvoember-8354702>. The Board did not put ranked choice voting into use automatically for general election Board candidacies after this year, and Board Member de Ferranti described their choice as 'prudent' in case problems occur. Chair Garvey expressed unhappiness with the state-mandated mechanism for vote counting in multi-member elections, but noted that when the next multi-member Board election is conducted "I won't be here".

In Richmond, several of the bills responsive to the CivFed Legislative Priority list passed by the membership in December have been laid aside for this year. Delegate Hope's bill enlarging Arlington's ability to initiate changes in its own form of government has been put aside for next year.

Of interest, and in particular to delegates with school age children, the Arlington County Democratic Committee will again be initiating its own caucus to determine its nominees for School Board. This caucus will, as the one in 2020 was not, be conducted using instant runoff ranked choice - like the procedure used in the recent two-nominee County Board race. The 2020 School Board caucus was conducted using preferential block ranked choice voting.

If you are interested in the work of the FoG Subcommittee, please contact Dave Schutz ([formofgov.chair@civfed.org](mailto:formofgov.chair@civfed.org)) and if interested in the work of the larger Legislation Committee please contact Paul Holland ([legislation.chair@civfed.org](mailto:legislation.chair@civfed.org)).

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## **CivFed Planning And Zoning Committee Update**

*by Brian Harner, Planning and Zoning Co-Chair*

Next meeting: 7 - 8:30 pm, Wednesday, March 20 (virtual only)

Please register at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOuhqjMsGdL8NB5tC2vNxblzIuWogXup>

The second meeting of the newly formed Planning and Zoning Committee was held February 20. The agenda included discussion about how Arlington's Comprehensive Plan and General Land Use Plan are constructed, and how other communities have created their plans. We also discussed the values and goals participants think should be represented in the Comp Plan. Participants were asked to consider Arlington's Comp Plan in terms of values and priorities.

The third meeting in March will follow up on the Comprehensive Plan discussion and also feature planning data, density and growth. Good planning requires good data. We will ask what are the data-based planning frameworks that will assist in making good planning and zoning decisions. Potential issues for presentation and discussion will include density in terms of population and job growth; number of units per acre established in the GLUP; current number of units built in Arlington; demographics and schools.

Realizing that all of these issues are related and the challenges presented are complex, the committee will continue with orientation sessions and general discussion over the next several months, allowing us to begin to sort through

priorities and formulate a plan for addressing the most pressing issues. We also intend to establish working subcommittees in the near future for current county issues including the Special GLUP process and lot coverage.

The Planning and Zoning Committee will be meeting regularly in 2024 on the third Wednesday of each month.

Contact Brian Harner at [plan.zone.chair@civfed.org](mailto:plan.zone.chair@civfed.org).

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## **CivFed Public Safety Subcommittee**

*by Mike McMenamin, Public Safety Subcommittee Chair*

The Public Safety Sub Committee is planning a Community Policing Workshop where we will hear from and work with the Arlington County Police. Please save the date of Wednesday, April 17, 2024, from 6:30-8:45 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, Multi-purpose Room 527 A&B-909 South Dinwiddie Street, Arlington, VA 22204. We'll send out registration and more details.

The Public Safety Committee will meet Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 to discuss the agenda and plan the workshop. If you would like to support planning for this activity, please register for the March 14 planning meeting at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocuqprDMuE9GRLgNvtdywVHD4N45siL5D>

Please email Mike McMenamin [public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org) with any questions.

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## **CivFed Communications Committee Report**

*by Adam Henderson, Communications Committee Chair*

The Communications Committee met and developed an updated charter (below) that was approved by the Board of Directors at their February meeting. As part of starting a new focus on technical support to members for their communication, we are asking any members who would like technical assistance with communications to contact the Communications Committee Chair, Adam Henderson, at [communications@civfed.org](mailto:communications@civfed.org). Areas of assistance may include setting up a list serve or group, steps for starting a web site, or how to set up hybrid meeting capability.

### **Communication Committee Charter**

It shall be the duty of this committee to develop a communication plan to inform and engage Delegates, Alternates, Member Organizations, the media, and community organizations on a regular basis about Federation news, meetings, activities, programs, and events and to promote and advocate for adopted ACCF positions.

Members will include officers and individuals designated by the board with specific responsibilities related to communication including, but not limited to:

- the Secretary responsible for the newsletter,
- a Webmaster responsible for the website and other communications platforms such as Vimeo, Constant Contact and Zoom,
- a Social Media coordinator responsible for Facebook, Twitter and other social media, and
- a Membership Committee representative responsible for developing and supporting additional methods to augment communications by and for

members,

- a member technical support lead responsible for providing technical support to members for their internal communications.



## **Save the Date! Arlington Unites**

*by Jackie Snelling, CivFed Mental Health Subcommittee Chair*

**Mark Your Calendars for May 18**

**FROM 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**

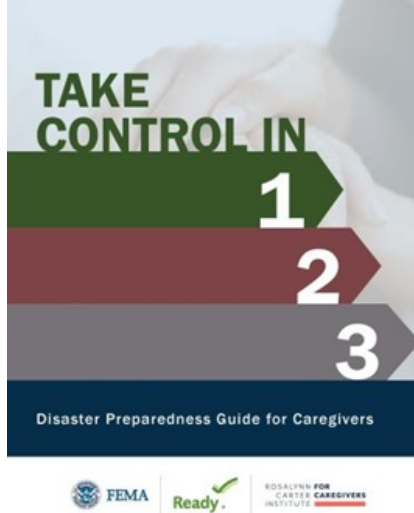
Washington Liberty HS, 1301 N Stafford St. Arlington VA 22201

This event is brought to you by Prevention Unit of the Child and Family Services Division and the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth ^ Families

## **Tips for Caregivers on Preparing for Disasters**

*submitted by Jackie Snelling, Public Services Committee*

Disasters affect everyone and each of us should have a plan based on our own needs. If you will need help in a disaster or if you help provide care for a family member or friend, it is even more



important to plan together with a support team to be ready to meet critical needs and to stay safe in a disaster.

FEMA and the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) have created the Disaster Preparedness Guide for Caregivers to help navigate unique challenges that may arise during disasters.

The Guide recommends three essential steps— assessing needs, engaging a support network, and creating a plan— and provides detailed scenarios and checklists to develop a plan for your individual needs. Go to <https://www.ready.gov/caregivers> for the Guide.

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## Member Update: Arlington Chorale Presents 'The Stranger'

**DATE:** Saturday, March 16, 2024

**TIME:** 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**TITLE:** The Stranger



**TYPE:** Chorale and Orchestra Concert - Classical/Contemporary Music

**WHO:** The Arlington Chorale, conducted by Dr. Ingrid Lestrud, Artistic Director, in collaboration with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, a human services and immigration relief and refugee welcome agency

**VENUE:**

Westover Baptist Church  
1125 Patrick Henry Drive  
Arlington, VA 22205

**SUMMARY:** Commissioned by the Together in Hope project, Kim André Arnesen's *The Stranger* is a powerful composition that urges us to address the plight of refugees worldwide. Using religious texts from many faith traditions, as well as first-person immigrant poetry, this music emphasizes our shared humanity and inspires us to create a world where all are welcome. *The Stranger* serves as a call to action, compelling us to confront the challenges faced by millions of individuals displaced from their homes. The concert will feature three Afghan musicians who fled Afghanistan in August 2021, and the Chorale will be joined by guest soloist Lebanese-American mezzo-soprano Melanie Ashkar.

**TICKETS:** Start at \$25; Children under 17 are free (must reserve). Ticket includes complimentary post-concert reception.

[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MTg4ODcw](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MTg4ODcw)

**PARKING:** Free, in church lot and side streets.

**WEBSITE:** [www.arlingtonchorale.org](http://www.arlingtonchorale.org)

**INSTAGRAM:** @arlingtonchorale



**FACEBOOK:** @arlingtonchorale

**CONTACT:**

- Christine Jones, 571-623-2032, christine@arlingtonchorale.org
- Kathy Sullivan, 571-317-8782, kathy@kanda79.com

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## **2023-2024 Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

President, [John Ford](#)  
Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)  
Secretary, [David Smith](#)  
Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

### **Board of Directors**

Board Chair, [Adam Henderson](#)  
Board Vice-Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)  
Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)  
Member at Large, [Jim Todd](#)  
Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)  
Member at Large, [Nicholas Giacobbe](#)  
Member at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)  
Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

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## **ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES**

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

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## **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](mailto:joinus@Civfed.org)

## [The Civic Federation's Website](#)

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### **CivFed Calendar FY2024**

#### **March**

- Tuesday, 3/12: General Membership Meeting
- Thursday, 3/14: Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting
- Wednesday, 3/20: Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting
- Thursday, 3/21: Housing Committee Meeting
- Sunday, 3/17: Board Meeting
- Monday, 3/25: Deadline for April Newsletter Input

#### **April**

- Tuesday, 4/9: General Membership Meeting
- Friday, 4/12: ACCF Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony
- Sunday, 4/14: Board Meeting
- Monday, 4/29: Deadline for May Newsletter Input

#### **May**

- Tuesday, 5/14: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 5/19: Board Meeting
- Monday, 5/27: Deadline for June Newsletter Input

### **End Notes for the "Bigger FY2025 Budget with a 1.5-2.5-Cent RE Tax-Rate Hike" Article**

[1] Arlington County Manager's F2025 Proposed Budget:

[https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/6/budget/documents/fy-2025/fy-2025-proposed/fy25p\\_all-in-one-web-02232024.pdf](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/6/budget/documents/fy-2025/fy-2025-proposed/fy25p_all-in-one-web-02232024.pdf)

[2] See the County Manager's video presentation of the budget on 2-24-2024, where he states that each 1-cent increase in the tax rate, based on current assessments, generates roughly \$9.1 million in additional revenue: Link to video of the County Board's 2-24-2024 meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwA1-5-wTPA> (budget presentation starts at 5:02:29 on the time counter)

[3] Manager's 2-24-2024 Budget Presentation to the County Board:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/3/budget/documents/fy-2025/fy-2025-proposed/cmo-presentation-fy-2025-proposed-budget-overview.pdf>

[4] Manager's 2-24-2024 Budget Presentation, p. 6

[5] *ibid*, p. 19

[6] Arlington County News Release published on 2-27-2024:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/County-Board-Advertises-2024-Tax-Rate-Increase-to-Address-Critical-Challenges>

[7] NOTE: The Manager includes in his definition of the average “single-family homeowner” all single-family detached, single-family attached (townhouses, duplexes, etc.) and condominium owners. See Attachment II:

[https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/\\_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false)

[meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false)

[8] Year-over-year (YoY) changes in the tax and fee burden for Arlington’s average single-family homeowner. Sources are the tables showing YoY total annual tax and fee increases (real estate, stormwater, personal property (cars), refuse, water & sewer, and the residential utility tax), which are found in the Manager’s annual budget presentation slides:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Budget-Finance/Budget-Archives>

<b>Fiscal Years</b>	<b>Change/Increase in Taxes &amp; Fees for the Average Homeowner</b>
FY2021–FY2022	\$567
FY2022–FY2023	\$435
FY2023–FY2024	\$472
FY2024–FY2025	\$582
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,056</b>

<b>Calendar/Tax Years</b>	<b>Change/Increase in Taxes &amp; Fees for the Average Homeowner</b>
CY2014–CY2015	\$216
CY2015–CY2016	\$212
CY2016–CY2017	\$253
CY2017–CY2018	\$133
CY2018–CY2019	\$279
CY2019–CY2020	\$371
CY2020–CY2021	\$404
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,868</b>

[9] Attachment II to the Final Board Report, dated 1-4-2024, “Request to authorize advertisement of a public hearing to consider the Calendar Year 2024 real estate tax rate and commercial real estate tax rate”:

[https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/\\_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false)

[meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/_2%20-%20Item%20Attachment%20-%20ATTACHMENTS%20I%20-%20III%20-%2026428144.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33187&isSection=false)

**ARLINGTON COUNTY  
REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENT  
AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME  
2015 - 2024**

<b>TAX YEAR</b>	<b>SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE VALUE*</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>BASE TAX RATE</b>	<b>TAX PAYMENT</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>
2015	587,100	6.2%	0.983	\$5,772	\$338
2016	603,500	2.8%	0.978	\$5,903	\$131
2017	617,200	2.3%	0.993	\$6,130	\$227
2018	640,900	3.8%	0.993	\$6,365	\$235
2019	658,600	2.8%	1.013	\$6,673	\$307
2020	686,300	4.2%	1.013	\$6,952	\$279
2021	724,400	5.6%	1.013	\$7,338	\$386
2022	762,700	5.3%	1.013	\$7,726	\$388
2023	798,500	4.7%	1.013	\$8,089	\$363
2024 (Proposed)	824,700	3.3%	1.028	\$8,478	\$389
2024 (Advertised)	824,700	3.3%	<del>1.028</del> <b>1.038</b>	<del>\$8,478</del> <b>\$8,560</b>	<del>\$389</del> <b>\$471</b>

\* Single-family residence is based on all residential property including single family detached, semi-detached dwellings, condominiums, cooperatives, and townhouse residences.

[10] **Report: Arlington moves up to No. 7 priciest rental market in U.S.**, published 2-27-2024: <https://www.arlnow.com/2024/02/27/report-arlington-moves-up-to-no-7-priciest-rental-market-in-u-s/>


[11] Board Report, dated 1-4-2024, "SUBJECT: Request to authorize advertisement of a public hearing to consider the Calendar Year 2024 real estate tax rate and commercial real estate tax rate."  
[https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/1%20-%20Board%20Report%20\(Final\)%20-%202026428144%20CMO%20-%20BOARD%20REPORT.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33185&isSection=false](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/ViewDocument/1%20-%20Board%20Report%20(Final)%20-%202026428144%20CMO%20-%20BOARD%20REPORT.pdf?meetingId=2468&documentType=Agenda&itemId=51827&publishId=33185&isSection=false)

[12] Manager's 2-24-2024 Budget Presentation, p. 21

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