

Arlington County Civic Federation

The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years

Newsletter

October, 1997

Volume 82, No. 2

October Meeting:

Arlington's Partnerships, Budget, Candidates Night

**7:30 pm, Tuesday, October 7th
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Columbia Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive**

This month's meeting will begin with a presentation by each of Arlington's Public-Private Partnerships, including the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, the Ballston Partnership, the Rosslyn Renaissance and the Clarendon Alliance. There will be time for questions from Delegates as well.

Revenues and Expenditures Committee Chair Bob Atkins will brief us on budget expectations for next year.

Finally, we will have a second installment of Candidates' Night, with the candidates for the Special Election to occur in November. Rules will be those published for the September meeting. The election will choose a replacement for Jim Hunter, who resigned from the County Board in September to concentrate on fighting his battle against advanced cancer. Our thoughts are with him in the struggle.

Plans to be Unveiled for the Old County Courthouse Site

On Tuesday, September 30, at 7:30 p.m., the Site Plan Review Subcommittee of the Planning Commission will consider plans for the old County Courthouse site. Proposed plans include a new office building, underground parking and a plaza. The hearing will be in the County Board Room. Architects will present two alternatives for discussion. The plans then go to the Planning Commission on December 1 and the County Board on December 13th. For more info call Bob Klute or Terry Russell of the Planning Division at 358-3525.

Orientation for Advisory Group Members

On October 6 the County will conduct an orientation course for members of commissions, committees, or ad hoc advisory groups. This course responds to recommendations in the recent League of Women Voter's study and covers County organization, group practices, the role of staff, agendas, dealing with difficult participants and more. For more info call the Arlington Volunteer Office at 358-3261.

Including Everyone: Civic Associations and Diversity

Does your Civic Association lack participation by minorities and apartment dwellers in the neighborhood? Do you *really* want them to join? Reid Goldstein has uncovered a study titled "Including Everyone: Ensuring Neighborhood Organizations Represent the Neighborhood" which attempts to tell you about that. It has pointers for efforts to include renters, youth, seniors and minorities in your activities. Although the study rambles for much of its length, it concludes with some good ideas.

First, you must decide to change. That means a commitment to accepting the diverse groups you want to include, and a recognition that they may not have the same interests you do, the same way of approaching participation in a neighborhood meeting, or the same goals. Then the study recommends contacting members of the groups you want to include, asking them what they want from the organization, and what you might be able to do for them.

Incorporating minority ethnic groups may require looking at the messages your organization sends about participation. Your meeting times and content may not appeal. If many members of the group typically work two jobs, meeting on a weekday evening may prevent them from attending. If they have children, they may be reluctant to come unless they can bring the children along and some kids' activity or child care is available. The study concludes with a list of useful tips for incorporating minorities, and suggested ways to proceed.

Copies of the study will be available on the table in the lobby at our October meeting. Or you can call Randy Swart at 521-2080.

Federation's Neighborhood Day Event Well Received

The ACCF's Neighborhood Day event, a workshop on Civic Association operations, drew a group of 20 who are organizing new associations. Handouts included a digest of County code provisions affecting neighborhoods, "Including Everyone," bylaws tips and press contacts. Beatriz Perez of *The Journal* spoke on dealing with local media. Panelists were Bob Atkins, Pax Baker, Frances Finta, Reid Goldstein, Nancy Iacomini, Tom Palance, Jerry Prokanic, Pat Roach, Chris Scheer, Te Weihe and Randy Swart, who organized the workshop with help from Bob and Frances.

Newsletter Editorial Committee

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Housing Committee Organizes for FY 1997

The Civic Federation's Housing Committee is looking for people interested in housing issues to come to its organizing meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to brainstorm topics and issues appropriate to the Committee's charter and set an agenda for the coming year. The meeting will be Thursday, October 16, from 7 to 9 PM at the Walter Reed Recreation Center, 2909-16th St. South, at the corner of S. Glebe Rd. Please call the chairman, Reid Goldstein, 13-0700 (W) or 271-0431 (H) if you are planning to come or if you have any questions.

One item certain to be on the agenda is providing input to the development of the County's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 1998-2002. This document outlines and prioritizes County efforts for affordable housing and homelessness programs. Interested committee members should prepare to attend the citizen participation session for the Consolidated Plan to be held on Saturday, November 8, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Kenmore Middle School.

Course on Land Use and the Planning Process in Arlington

Arlington County will offer its award-winning "Short Course" on land use planning and the Arlington development process in October. The course runs in two segments on October 16 and 23, and takes 5 hours. It is free, and all participants receive the Citizens Planning Kit, a packet of useful materials about the process. If you are baffled by the language of site plans, variances or zoning and would like to increase your understanding of what is happening, call 358-3580 to register.

Cultural Affairs Committee is Re-Organizing

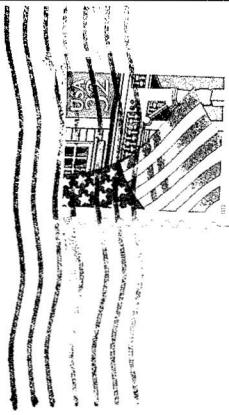
The Cultural Affairs Committee has been re-constituted, but needs additional members to function effectively. The Committee studies, reports and makes recommendations involving Arlington County cultural activities.

The Committee is currently reviewing the Public Arts Commission proposed Public Art Policy. This proposed policy deals with County and privately financed art which will be maintained by the County in public spaces. The Policy will be presented to the Civic Federation at the December 1, meeting prior to its presentation to the County Board later in the month or early next year. Copies of a draft version of the Policy will be available at October meeting.

Anyone (Delegate, Alternate or other interested resident) interested in joining the Cultural Affairs Committee or in more information about the Public Art Policy, should call Herschel Kanter, 536-6286, day or night.

Your Article Could Have Appeared Here!

This is your Civic Federation newsletter. It is the sum of all the parts submitted by ACCF delegates and others who want to be heard through the Civic Voice of Arlington. Please keep us in mind when you embark on new projects or policy questions that would be of interest to the Federation's members. You can send your article to ACCF News, 4611 Seventh Street South, Arlington 22204-1419, fax it to 486-0576 or email to civicfed@bscl.org.



Significant Motor Vehicle Law, Other State Changes

This from Delegate Jim Almand's newsletter:

Seat Belts for Children: Drivers who are transporting children between the ages of 4 and 16 will be required to ensure that they are provided with and are properly secured by seat belts. Violators will pay a fine of \$25.

Passing a Stopped School Bus: The penalty for passing a stopped school bus will increase from \$50 to \$250.

Headlights: When precipitation causes the use of windshield wipers, drivers will be required also to turn on their headlights. This will be enforced as a secondary offense, which means that a driver will not be cited unless he has been pulled over for some other reason.

Disabled Parking Laws Tightened and Fines Increased: The penalty for illegal handicapped parking has been raised to a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$500.

Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange

A news service has opened this fall for neighborhood newsletter editors, sponsored by the Barcroft School and Civic League. The service collects articles from neighborhood newsletters, the County or other sources and emails or faxes them to newsletter editors. (Email works best because no retyping is necessary.) To join the list to receive articles an editor should send email to anne@bscl.org or contact Randy Swart at 521-2080 (fax 486-0576). You can send articles for distribution to any of the same addresses.

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