December Meeting:

School Board Visit + Traffic Calming

7:30 pm, Tuesday, December 1st
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

We are pleased that the members of the School Board have again accepted our invitation to speak at the December meeting. For this program the Schools Committee has prepared a series of questions, and in a break from tradition we have asked the Board Members to lead off with responses to the questions, rather than a more general presentation, to provide a more issues-oriented discussion. The second part of our program will be devoted to a discussion of the Traffic Calming Program Final Report that each of you has received from the County. Please come prepared to vote on a resolution taking a position on the report and the program. We are planning the meeting to start promptly at 7:30 PM and end as close to 9:30 as possible.

Questions for School Board

1. The State accreditation of the Arlington Public Schools (APS) plus the accreditation of individual schools in particular will depend on how successful APS are in raising the academic performance of those students who fail the Standards of Learning. What plan has the School Board for those students who fail? What are the budgetary implication of that plan? There is a continuing concern about the lack of improvement in the academic achievement of children from African-American, Hispanic, and non-English speaking backgrounds. Is there a system wide or overall guidance for addressing this issue? What can APS do that has not already been done to improve the academic achievement of minority students? What specifically has been done to implement the Superintendent’s annual priorities?

2. The most recent effort to improve academic performance of Hispanic children has been the inauguration of an experimental first-language support program in four schools. What are the goals of this program and what is the time line for their achieve-
ment? How does the school day differ for a child enrolled in this program from that of a child enrolled in an ESOL program or that of a child in a regular classroom? What was the entry criteria, was there a before entry English language assessment? What is the exit criteria? What is the evaluation plan? Will participants in this program be expected to take the Stanford 9 and State SOL examinations in grades 3 and 5?

3. As part of the new budget process (Comprehensive Program Budget Review) the exemplary programs will have some level of review. Has the School Board established a schedule to evaluate all academic programs on their effectiveness? Will all future programs have an assessment component to evaluate effectiveness?

4. The newly passed school construction bond for $50.7 million will add many schools to the existing list of planned or ongoing renewal or expansion projects. This means that many neighborhoods and civic associations will be facing land use issues as well as educational consideration relating to the schools within their boundaries. Explain the recently revised Arlington School Directive 50-4.08 (as of April 1998). Much of the responsibility for communication and initiation of cooperation rests with individual school principals, are they aware of this role? How has the School Board implemented this ASD? Is it doing it retroactively as well as with new committees? How is this information disseminated to civic associations, schools, PTA’s, and principals?

5. The number of identified Gifted students varies widely across the county and the importance of like peers is very important component of education. How do the schools address this critical piece of a student’s education? What is the school system doing to insure that Gifted students are receiving the same level of challenge across the county?

6. Is the current compensation package for teachers sufficient to attract and maintain the highest quality teachers needed to provide the finest education possible for the children of Arlington? What should be done to improve it?

7. What efforts are being made to find economies that may be made by consolidating certain school and county functions? Why is outsourcing not being considered at the same time as collaboration with the county is being planned? Is the joint use of facilities

**Legislative Package Adopted**

The Legislation Committee report was adopted unchanged at our November meeting. Chairman Nancy Graham has transmitted our recommendations to the County Board, our State legislators and our Members of Congress. We will be following up at County Board and State Delegation meetings to present our package.

**Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange**

Neighborhood newsletter editors can swap articles with other editors by email by joining the Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange. Your editor can join by sending an email to anne@bscl.org. The same address receives articles from other sources for forwarding to the editors who are members.
Traffic Calming Report
Distributed to all Delegates

By now you should have received your copy of the green-cover report to the County Board issued by the Ad hoc Committee on Traffic Calming. The Board will take up the report and its recommendations on December 12th, and welcomes comments by civic associations before that time. The Federation will take up the report and adopt a resolution on it at our December meeting. Pending a meeting of the Transportation Committee we do not yet have the proposed resolution, but the Federation’s three members of the Ad hoc Committee that developed the program will be on hand to brief you on the report, and given our input during the process the draft resolution is likely to be supportive.

Thanks to David Jones for A Job Well Done

David Jones has been forced by an expanded business travel schedule to resign as Chairman of the Civic Federation Transportation Committee. We would like to thank David for his contributions as Chair of this active committee for the past three years, while also working on such issues as cellular transmission towers. Since the committee has a full plate at the moment with issues in traffic calming, airports, bridges and regional transportation, President Randy Swart will act in David’s position until a new Chairman is appointed.

More Federation Members Now Have Web Sites

Alcova Heights Citizens Association
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/
Arlington Forest Citizens Association
www.capaccess.org/com/forest/
Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance
www.agla-va.org/
Arlington County
www.co.arlington.va.us
Arlington County Taxpayers’ Association
http://www.geocities.com/~actawatchdog/
Ballston-Virginia Square
www.bvsca.org/
Barcroft School and Civic League
www.bscl.org
Cherrydale
members.aol.com/cherryva/
Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization
members.aol.com/cpropike/
Friends of Four Mile Run
www.erols.com/wayes/friends/
Glencarlyn
www.glencarlyn.org/
Rock Spring
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/3914/
Waverly Hills Civic Association
http://www.architave.net/waverly/
Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association
www.erols.com/wwcassoc/

Coming Up

January 6th
ACCF Meeting:
County Board Visit
Committee Chairs

Bylaws  Jean Mostrum 532-0452
Scott McGeary, Vice Chr. 968-7352

Community Relations
David Foster 276-0206

Cultural Affairs
Herschel Kanter 536-6286

Environmental Affairs
Patrick Smaldore 528-3935

Housing
Reid Goldstein 271-0431

Legislation
Nancy Graham 243-4650

Membership
Frances Finta 528-2882

Parks & Recreation
Robert Nester 524-5418

Planning & Zoning
William Gearhart 522-2276

Public Services
Rebecca Gray 549-3277 &
Stan Schachne 522-1358 (Co-Chairs)

Revenues and Expenditures
Robert Atkins 527-8859

Schools
Roger Meyer 671-3655
Terri Prell 820-3782

Special Events
Ann Rudd 536-8270

Transportation
Vacant (Randy Swart acting)

ACCF Officers

President Randy Swart
Vice President Jim Pebley
Treasurer Frances Finta
Secretary Timothy Wise

Executive Committee

Chairman Jim Pebley
Vice Chairman Rebecca Gray
Member Robert Atkins
Member Darnell Carpenter
Member Robert Rackmales
Member Ann Rudd

Newsletter Editorial Committee

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