



# THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 98, Issue 8 March 25, 2014

## It's Budget Time!

The Revenues and Expenditures Committee will present a written report on the 2014-15 Arlington County Budget. The committee will also present a report on Federation member Tim Wise's resolution to reduce the county's real estate tax rate by 3 cents, a potential tax payer savings of 15-18 million dollars. The Housing and School's Committee will also present their reports of their respective budgets at the meeting.

## ACCF 98th Annual Banquet

The Arlington County Civic Federation's 98th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony is Friday, April 4, 2014.

Our guest speaker is Mr. John Shooshan CEO and President of The Shooshan Company, a management and construction firm. Mr. Shooshan was recognized as Washington DC Metro Area Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals 2013 Outstanding Philanthropist of the year for his active and dedicated leadership in generating business opportunities and fostering community relationships.

Invitations to the banquet have been mailed to every association's president, delegates and alternates at the end of February. If you do not get an invitation you can print one from our website: go to Latest News - Arlington County Civic Federation's 98th Annual Banquet. **Your RSVP with a check MUST be received no later than March 27.**

If you have any questions contact Pete Olivere at [peterolivere@civfed.org](mailto:peterolivere@civfed.org) or [703-626-2520](tel:703-626-2520)

## GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

7:30 p.m.

Hazel Auditorium  
Virginia Hospital Center  
1701 N George Mason Drive  
Arlington VA 22205

## Agenda

- 7:30 Meeting Called to Order
- 7:35 R&E Committee Rpt
- 8:05 Schools Committee Rpt
- 8:35 Housing Committee Rpt
- 8:50 Zoning Ordinance program
- 9:30 Announcements
- 9:35 Old & New Business
- 9:25 New Business

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## From the President

*Mike McMenamin*

Come one come all to the most lively Federation meeting of the year, the annual budget. We have a

Resolution to reduce the tax rate on the agenda. The Schools, Revenues & Expenditures and Housing Committees are scheduled to report on the 2014-15 budget.

We will also have an informative presentation on the proposed changes to the county's zoning ordinance.

Please remember to send in your RSVP to the banquet by March 27, 2014. We have a great speaker this year and very deserving awardees, so please plan to attend.

Finally, the filling of vacancies of Committee Chairs is a still a top priority, as we currently have vacancies on the Audit, and Revenues and Expenditures Committees. We also seek one executive committee member. If you are interested in serving or know of someone who might be interested, please contact me at: [mike@civfed.org](mailto:mike@civfed.org).

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## News From the Executive Committee

*Terri Prell, Acting-Chair* [terri@civfed.org](mailto:terri@civfed.org)

The Executive Committee met on March 9, 2014, to plan the agenda for the April 1, 2014 general meeting and discussed future meetings.

([www.civfed.org/officers.htm](http://www.civfed.org/officers.htm)). The Executive Committee will meet again on April 6, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at **4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2)**, to coordinate committee work, plan future meeting programs. **In addition to**

**officers and Executive Committee members, we ask Committee Chairs with business to come before the Federation soon to attend this meeting .**

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## Video Taping of Federation Meetings

Arlington Independent Media did a great job last month video taping the School Board and the Candidates debate. I would like to again thank them, as they did this pro bono for the Federation.

The Federation Executive Committee was alarmed to see that many attendees in the audience were also videoing the debates from their phones. It is Federation policy that we ban video or audio taping of meetings without prior approval of the President. If this behavior occurs again, we will ask those individuals to leave the meeting.



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## ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

ACCF

1209 N Fort Myer Drive Apt 3B

Arlington, VA 22209

[www.civfed.org](http://www.civfed.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arlington-County-Civic-Federation/519681588064729>

<https://twitter.com/CivFed>

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/CivFed>



## County Board Action on Noise Control Code Revisions

On Tuesday March 18th, the County Board voted unanimously to defer advertising staff's revised Noise Control Code. Board members indicated that more time was needed to tweak the language of a new provision related to noise from groups of four or more people. A somewhat-revised version will be on the County Board's April meeting agenda for advertisement, with a final vote in May.

## Staff Presentation on Proposed Changes to the Arlington Zoning Ordinance

The April ACCF meeting will include a 20-minute staff presentation about changes to the Zoning Ordinance that would directly reflect on current practices by the Zoning Administrator. The presentation will be followed by a 20-minute member Q & A. Please refer to the following site for more detail:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/planning/studies/page87562.aspx>

## Housing Committee Recommendations on Housing Funding in FY '15 Budget

The Civic Federation has long supported funding for affordable housing in the County budget. Several Federation members have served on housing task forces and commissions over the years. The County Manager's proposed FY '15 budget states:

*...Arlington continues to experience losses in its market rate affordable housing units, due to redevelopment and increased rents.*

Arlington County dedicates about 5% of its budget to support various housing programs. The ACCF Housing Committee focuses its recommendations of support for level funding in the Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF), Housing Grants,

Permanent Supportive Housing, and the allocation for the Comprehensive Homeless Services Center.

1) The Arlington County Civic Federation Housing Committee applauds the County Manager for including \$9.66 million in her base budget for the **Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF)** and her recommendation to earmark \$2.8 million from projected one-time additional funds to make the FY '15 AHIF funds level with FY '14.

2) We also applaud the County Manager for budgeting \$7.9 million for **Housing Grants** and for increasing the "ongoing" portion of this amount to \$7.4 million. The committee notes that the increase in demand for Housing Grants has lessened and is fairly level.

3) The Committee commends the County Manager for funding **Permanent Supportive Housing** at the level (\$2.064 million) to support current and expected clients. Here we note the high success rate in having households in the program stay in their dwelling units.

4) We commend the Manager's FY'15 \$1.731 million allocation as a strong commitment to the **Comprehensive Homeless Services Center** which will result in comprehensive and efficient delivery of services to our most vulnerable population. We look forward to the opening of the Center in February 2015.

## **Proposed Resolution to Cut the Real Estate Tax Rate**

### **Arlington County Civic Federation**

**March 20, 2014**

Whereas in November 2013, the Arlington County Manager anticipated a budget deficit of \$20 million to \$25 million;

Whereas the Arlington County Manager subsequently noted that increases in real estate assessments means the anticipated deficit “no longer exists;”

Whereas the Arlington County Board advertised no increase in the CY 2014 real estate tax rate for FY 2015;

Whereas maintaining the current tax rate would result in an increase in the overall tax and fee burden for the average household of 5.3%;

Whereas the most recent annual inflation rate was 1.58%.

Whereas total residential taxes and fees for the average Arlington household increased by 15.2% from CY 2010 to 2014;

Whereas the inflation rate from January 2010 to January 2014 was just 7.24%;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Civic Federation recommends that the Arlington County Board adopt a real estate tax rate decrease of no less than \$0.03 (3-cents).

## **Federation Priorities Survey**

After our successful fall hearing from you about the priorities that the Federation should engage in, we have now completed the survey. The survey can be accessed directly at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ArlCivFed2014>.

The survey can also be accessed at the Federation website: [www.civfed.org](http://www.civfed.org).

Please fill out the survey, as we plan to use it for our forthcoming strategic plan and agenda for the remainder of 2014-15. This is your Federation and we want to represent the priorities of our members.

## Civic Federation Tentative Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2013 - 2014

Meeting are the 1st Tuesday of each month (except November)

**April 1st-** Budget; Residential Zoning; Election of Nominating Committee.

**(Note - Friday, April 4 - Civic Federation Award Banquet)**

**May 6th-** State Legislative Delegation

**June 3rd -** Election of officers

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## Arlington County Civic Federation

*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 Mike McMenamain at [mike@civfed.org](mailto:mike@civfed.org)

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Terri Prell (Acting chair)	terri@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at the December 2013	
Audit		luddite2003@yahoo.com
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	
Community Relations	James Schroll (POC)	james@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Karen Rosenbaum	TBD
Environmental Affairs	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Housing	Kathryn Scruggs	kathryn@civfed.org
Legislation	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Membership	Kim Klingler	kim@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Jim Pebley	jim@civfed.org
Nominating	Elected at the April 2014	
Parks and Recreation	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore, Larry Mayer	martha@civfed.org larrymayer@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed, Burt Bostwick (POC)	burt@civfed.org
Schools	Michael Beer, Sandy Munnell	michaelbeer@civfed.org smunnell@gmail.com
Special Events	Peter Olivere	peterolivere@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org