



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 101, Issue 8 April 2017

April Meeting: This meeting covers many topics from the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) to Solid Waste. The Revenues & Expenditures Committee introduces a new Resolution on Tax Rates for discussion and vote. Resolutions usually require an introduction at one general membership meeting with a vote on the following month to allow for full advertisement and discussion. However, with the budget season an intense, rapid cycle, the R&E periodically requests suspension of rules to address items in time for County Board meeting schedule.

2017 Banquet: Tickets On Sale! Our banquet on Friday, April 7 banquet will feature our various awards and acknowledgments of volunteers. We also have a panel discussion of Metro’s problems and ways to resolve to them with Dr. Gridlock of the Washington Post and Emeke Moneme of the Federal City Council. See page 2 for more information.

Nominating Committee: Please consider volunteering for our nomination committee to recruit officers for 2017-2018. Our treasurer and president will both be stepping down as of July 1, 2017. The nominating committee members will be voted upon during the April meeting. ACCF elections occur at the June 2017 meeting.

March Resolutions: The Resolution: Asking the Arlington County Board To Reconsider Its Policy Of Classifying Consent Agenda Items as “Nonpublic” passed by a vote of 39-0. The Retirement Resolution introduced in March most likely will be postponed to a future general membership meeting to allow time for other topics in April.

Education Focus at March General Meeting: The Arlington County School Board and the Principal of Arlington Tech joined us as our main presentations for March 7 Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) meeting.

Video Recording of Federation Meetings: Thank you to our Arlington County Career Center students Flor Cáceres-Godoy and Alex Pageotte, their Career Center instructor Tom O’Day, and Duane Lomis, an APS Video Systems Specialist, for making a video recording of this Federation meeting. Video link is pending.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

7:00 p.m.

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

Agenda

- 7:00 Meeting called to order
- 7:05 Nominating Committee
- 7:10 Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC)
- 7:50 Residential Parking Working Group
- 8:05 Solid Waste Proposal
- 8:30 R&E Report and Vote on Tax Rate Resolution
- 8:55 New Business
- 9:00 Adjourn

Inside this issue:

Banquet.....	2
Budget Season for County.....	2
Executive Committee.....	2
Funny Water.....	2
Resolution: Real Estate Tax	3
Liability Insurance May Panel	4
Staying in Home Workshop	4
Parking	5
Committee Chairs.....	6

Banquet is Here!

Duke Banks

On **April 7, 2017** the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) will celebrate its 101 Anniversary with its Annual Banquet at the Rosslyn Holiday Inn. Speakers to discuss **The Future Of Metro** will be Mr. Robert Thomson, Transportation Editor of the Washington Post (also known as Dr. Gridlock) and Mr. Emeka Moneme, Deputy Executive Director of the Federal City Council.

The discussion on Metro will center on the [pro-vocative proposal](#) that has been spearheaded by the Federal City Council concerning the need for a new Metro compact among area jurisdictions.

The evening will cumulate with awarding leadership awards and certificates of appreciation for efforts made in the last year to improve the quality of life in Arlington.

The Banquet will be held in the Ballroom between 6:00PM to 8:30PM. Cost is \$40 per person.

Reservations for the banquet can be made online at [Banquet Reservations](#) or at the Civic Federation website: <http://www.civfed.org/>

All are welcome for what promises to be a fun filled and educational evening.

Water Taste and Smell Strange?

Arlington County started its [spring cleaning of our water pipes](#) March 20 through April 17.

Crews at the [Washington Aqueduct](#) will begin the temporary disinfectant switch from chloramine to chlorine. The annual switch in water disinfection is part of a routine program to clean and maintain the drinking water systems. The Aqueduct also adds a corrosion control inhibitor during the switch to prevent the potential release of lead in system pipes throughout the region.

Extensive research in Arlington has never found any lead service lines or lead pipes inside homes.

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

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Arlington, VA 22204
www.civfed.org

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Executive Committee

Jesse Boeding

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, March 12, 2017 to plan the agenda for April 4, 2017 general meeting and discuss future meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, April 9, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2).

The deadline for newsletter articles is Thursday, April 20, 2016 due to the meeting date of Tuesday, May 2. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Budget Season for County

Arlington County FY2018 Budget Season is in full swing. Please refer to the [Arlington County website](#) for additional materials, meeting dates, and submission links.

Public hearings for budget and tax rates will be held Thursday 7pm, March 30. The online links are open at all hours.

The County Board scheduled to vote on budget adoption Saturday, April 22.

Contact our Vice President and member of the Revenues & Expenditures Committee, [Duke Banks](#), if you would like to participate in ACCF budget efforts.

Budget Season for APS

Public comments on the FY 2018 Superintendent's Proposed Budget for the Arlington Public Schools may be made during the School Board's meetings on April 20. Please check the [APS website](#) for the exact times and locations for all of these meetings.

Resolution: Real Estate Tax-Rate Resolution

Revenues & Expenditures Committee

Whereas, the assessed value of residential real property increased by 6.1% in CY 2014, 5.4% in CY 2015, 3% in CY 2016 and 2.5% in CY 2017—a cumulative increase of 16.8% within 4 years (1);

Whereas, the Arlington County Manager proposes a FY 2018 budget with an advertised real property tax of \$1.011 per \$100 of assessed value (a 2-cent increase from FY 2017) (2);

Whereas, under the advertised real property tax rate (with a 2-cent increase) the average homeowner would see his/her tax and fee burden rise from \$8,305 in calendar year (CY) 2016 to \$8,613 in CY 2017—a 4% increase, or about \$492—and will have absorbed a cumulative, 5-year total annual increase of \$1,613 in additional taxes and fees (CY 2013–CY 2017) (3);

Whereas, without a tax-rate increase at the current real property tax rate of \$0.991 per \$100 of assessed value, the average homeowner would already see his/her tax and fee burden rise \$184—a 2% increase—in CY 2017 (4);

Whereas, there is a \$114 million surplus of unspent funds—beyond what the County Board budgeted in FY 2016—that could be reallocated; (5)

Whereas, in May 2016 the Arlington County Civic Federation passed a resolution urging “the Arlington County Board to annually consider setting aside a fair and reasonable amount of any surplus for the reduction of real estate taxes”; (6)

Whereas, the county appropriated \$17.8 million of the surplus funds in the close-out for FY 2016 that could have been used to cut the tax rate in FY 2018 (7); and

Whereas, the Transportation Capital Fund has a current balance of \$157.5 million and will accrue over \$26 million in new revenue in FY 2018 (8);

Therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation:

Urges the Arlington County Board to adopt a

maximum property tax rate of \$0.991 per \$100 of assessed value, the same rate as in FY 2017 (9);

1. Urges the County Board and County Manager to utilize surplus balances to fund additional needs in the FY 2018 budget; and

Urges the County Board to seek revisions in state legislation to increase flexibility in the permitted uses of Transportation Capital Fund revenues to include Metro funding.

Committee Vote

Yea: Burt Bostwick, Duke Banks, Frank Emerson, Jerry Auten, Roger Morton, Terry Showman, Suzanne Sundburg, John Tuohy, Tim Wise

Nay: None

Abstain: Charles Morley (traveling in March), Paul Holland

(1) CY 2017 <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (book p. 97, web p. 205)

CY 2016 <http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/02/FY17-proposed-all-in-one-to-post-compressed2.pdf> (book p. 2, web p. 80)

CY 2015 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2015/02/FY16P_Sec-B-Revenues.pdf (book p. 79, web p. 93)

CY 2014 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2014/02/FY15P_Sec-B-Revenues.pdf (book p. 65, web p. 77)

(2) <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 4) and <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (book p. 139, web p. 147)

(3) CY 2012–CY 2014 https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2015/06/FY16A_Final-All-in-One-Adopted-File.pdf (p. 116)

CY 2015–CY 2017 <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 29)

(4) <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/FY-2018-Proposed-Budget-Presentation-2-25-2017.pdf> (p. 29)

(5) https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf (book p. 39, web p. 38)

(6) <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2016-05/RevExp%20Budget%20Closeout%20Resolution%202016-05-03%20PASSED.pdf>

- (7) http://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&event_id=924&meta_id=150600 (p. 2)
- (8) https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/11/CAFR-FY2016_Online-1.pdf (book 131, web 126) and <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (see All Funds Revenue And Expenditure Detail - FY 2018 Proposed Budget table in web version only, p. 75, but page number is not marked)
- (9) <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2017/02/FY-2018-Proposed-All-in-One-WEB-with-footers-updated-2.pdf> (see Comparison Of Northern Virginia Jurisdictions' Real Estate Tax Bill (1) for the Average Single-Family Home (2) table in web version only, p. 152, but page number is not marked)

Workshop on Modifying Your Home to Be Able To Stay

AARP is teaming up with [Arlington Neighborhood Village](#) and [Arlington Central Library](#) to bring you Staying Home: Making Smart Choices for Easy Living. This free community workshop includes a panel of experts will share practical tips to minimize the financial costs of home modifications, avoid frauds and scams, and learn about local resources available.

Saturday, April 1, 2017
10:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Arlington Central Library
1015 N Quincy St, Arlington, VA 22201
RSVP requested as seating is limited. [Register online](#) or call: 1-877-926-8300.

In an AARP survey, eight out of 10 people age 45 and older say they want to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. You will get comprehensive advice, tips, and checklists for getting your home in top form for comfort, safety and long-term livability and you'll hear from experts on how to fund home renovations both large and small.

Light complimentary refreshments will be served.

No products or services will be sold or promoted.

CivFed May Meeting: Non-Profit Organization and General Liability Insurance Panel

Duke Banks

Given questions the Executive Committee has received from several organizations concerning how to organize, and how to minimize exposure to general liability, in May we will feature a panel discussion with a non-profit attorney and an insurance broker. This panel will provide an educational overview to our member organizations of the options that can be considered towards how to best organize your organization to minimize exposure to potential liability issues plus insurance options.

Considering that the County has contemplated requiring umbrella general liability coverage from some non-profits who engage in activities in County facilities or land, this panel will provide answers to the question on what options are available. Likewise, it will provide insight on what organizations should consider from an insurance perspective concerning changes to County procedures that way require a member organization to assume duties and/or functions that County staff presently does.

Given the nature of the subject, the Executive Committee highly recommends that Presidents and Treasures of member organizations come to the May meeting, even if they are not a CivFed delegate or alternate.

Membership Contact Updates Needed

The Civic Federation can't function if it can't communicate. If the Federation doesn't have good email and postal addresses for the officers of its member organizations and their CivFed delegates and alternates, then the Federation can't get its job done. Since January 1, the presidents of most member organizations have been sent a request for updated information on their officers and their CivFed delegates and alternates and along with a form to help them do this. Please contact the Membership Committee at accfmembership@gmail.com.

Arlington Residents and Business Stakeholders Offer Recommendations on County Parking Requirements for Condos and Apartments near Metro Stations

Stephen Crim, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, Parking Planner

Like many communities in the United States, Arlington County's Zoning Ordinance requires developers to build parking for apartment and condominium residents. Yet County studies have found that many buildings in the Metro Corridors have excess parking.

Those unused spaces are valuable: each parking space can add anywhere from \$40,000 to \$60,000 to the cost of building a residential unit. For these reasons, and others, County policy encourages staff and the Board to: ensure that minimum parking needs are met and excessive parking is not built; allow reductions in parking at locations well served by other transportation modes; and reduce parking requirements for affordable housing.

The County Board has been following this policy guidance by approving apartments and condos with fewer parking spaces than called for in the "by-right" requirements of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. However, these approvals have occurred in an "ad hoc" fashion.

Arlington's Residential Parking Working Group

The County is now reviewing the situations in which staff will recommend approving reduced parking (through the Site Plan and Unified Commercial/Mixed-Use Development provisions of the Arlington Zoning Ordinance) for apartments and condos within the Rosslyn-Ballston and Jefferson Davis Metro Corridors.

A County Manager-appointed Working Group, made up of Arlington residents, as well as business stakeholders, is supporting the effort. The Working Group is completing its recommendation to County staff.

Seven Elements for Flexible-Yet-Predictable Parking Minimum Requirements

The Working Group recommends:

- Minimum parking requirements for buildings

that relate to how far the building is from a Metro station.

- For each committed-affordable unit, allow fewer parking spaces than for market-rate units.
- Allowing fewer private-vehicle parking spaces to be built if a developer chooses to provide extra bike parking, bike sharing, or car sharing amenities.
- That the County allow developers to build garages where residential units share parking spaces (at different times of the day) with offices and other uses.
- A policy that allows developers to supply parking for apartments or condos in another building or garage within 800 feet of the building.
- In some cases, letting builders to construct fewer parking spaces if site conditions make building that parking especially difficult.
- That developers must take steps to ensure that the building does not generate excessive levels of vehicle traffic if the building includes more than a certain amount of parking.

Taken together, the Working Group's seven elements would add more predictability to the development-approval process, and they would allow developers more room to match parking supply to parking demand.

The County will not make changes to the [Residential Permit Parking program](#) or parking meters based on the Working Group's recommendation.

What Happens Next?

County staff will take the Working Group's recommendation into consideration along with input from the public, and create a recommendation for the County Manager to approve and send to the County Board for adoption at its June meeting.

Want to Get Involved?

Get more information on the Working Group's recommendation at the [project web site](#). Staff will be posting the Working Group's report there and opening an online survey that you can complete.

Civic Federation Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2016 - 2017

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month at the NEW TIME of 7 p.m.

April 4: Nominating Committee Election; Complete Streets; Residential Parking; Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC); Revenues & Expenditures Resolution on Retirement Discussion and Vote

Friday, April 7: Banquet Speakers: Mr. Emeka Monome, Deputy Executive Director of the Federal City Council, and "Dr. Gridlock" Mr. Robert Thomson

May 2: (Tentative) Community Energy Plan, Complete Streets, Liability Insurance Panel, R&E Retirement Funding Resolution, Introduction of Resolution on Liability Insurance

June 6: ACCF Elections; (Tentative) Virginia Commonwealth Legislative Panel, Inspector General/Internal Auditor Panel, Vote on Liability Insurance Resolution

June 30/July 1: Fiscal Year Closeout and Officer transition

Arlington County Civic Federation Mission

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 Stefanie Pryor at stefanie@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Jesse Boeding	jesse@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at Dec 2016 Membership Mtg	Postponed to January
Audit	Jay Wind	Jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Duke Banks	duke.banks@gmail.com
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Legislation	Ron Haddox	ron@civfed.org
Membership	Chair needed	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Chair needed	TBD
Nominating	Elected at April 2017 Membership Mtg	
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org