



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## The Civic Voice

**The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation**  
**July 2025 | Volume 110 | Number 1 (revised)**

### President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and finding a way to stay cool. We have a lot going on in CivFed despite our traditional general meeting hiatus for the summer.

First, let me thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for the next year. We got a lot of good work done over the past year, looked at some tough issues facing the County, and prepared thoughtful resolutions proposing a path forward. That's what CivFed is all about, bringing everyone around the table for frank and civil discussions about the issues of the day. Working together we can achieve better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents.

As we begin our 110th year, I hope to continue that tradition and that you will join us. After all, we are a member-based organization, and the issues and solutions come from our membership. Over the next year, together we can tackle the tough topics of the day, including planning and zoning, housing, transportation, transparency, and fiscal affairs. They are clearly not easy issues.

We have a couple of fun events I'd like to get onto your calendars. The first is the County Fair, which will be the weekend of August 15-17. CivFed will once again have a booth in the cool gym at TJ and we need volunteers to staff our booth. It's a great chance to meet your neighbors, tell them a bit about CivFed, and learn about what they consider to be the important issues of the day. Signup is easy, just go to [this link](#) and pick your time.

Another fun event on the horizon is our annual picnic. It's a good chance to get together informally and chat over a casual lunch. We will once again be hosting it in the pavilion at Fort Scott Park on Saturday, September 20 from noon to 4:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining, you can sign up at this [link](#).

We will start our programming year immediately after Labor Day with a Candidates Forum on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hazel Auditorium at VHC. We have a fairly full slate of candidates this time around, with contested races for County Board, two of our three House of Delegates seats, and the School Board. Prepare your questions and let's have a lively discussion.

Finally, I want to thank my predecessor, John Ford, for his outstanding work in leading CivFed for the past few years. John's steady hand, calm demeanor, and insightful questions guided many contentious meetings and kept the organization focused on the mission. I look forward to John's continued wise counsel as a

member of the Board.

At our June meeting we elected a new slate of officers, and I am pleased to announce that David Smith will be returning as Board Chair. Filling out our leadership team are Vice President Jean Henceroth, Treasurer Ben Watts, and Secretary Richard McNamara; other Board members include Jackie Snelling, returning in the Organizational Development role, former President John Ford, David Schutz, Allan Gajadhar, Mike McMenamin, Matt Gloudeman, Ron Haddox, and John Snyder.

I wish you a safe and pleasant summer.

Regards,

Nick Giacobbe  
ACCF President

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## **June General Membership Meeting Outbrief** *by Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary (Outgoing)*

### **PROGRAM**

ACCF was honored to welcome Arlington County government and civic leadership to discuss a range of topics including a vote on ACCF's Planning & Zoning Resolution, a vote on ACCF Officers & Directors for FY25-26, a briefing from Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn, and several committee presentations detailing their accomplishments over the course of FY24-25. We included time for the audience to ask questions throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion topics included:

- **Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Resolution second reading and vote** - Jack Spilsbury, Co-chair of the P&Z committee, led a second reading of the updated Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy & Processes.
  - Questions from the audience included:
    - How does the resolution recommend the County accounts for CA engagement & other stakeholders?
    - Have you considered recommending the County incorporates SPRC votes?
    - How do we ensure planning committees have a higher proportion of local residents participating?
    - How are you defining transit corridors? How do you define adequate infrastructure/capacity?
    - How can we increase accountability with the county as they're making GLUP-related decisions?
  - A motion was made to approve the P&Z Resolution To Improve Planning & Zoning Policy and Processes, which was circulated in the May and June 2025 newsletters, shared with member organizations, and updated based on ACCF Committee and member feedback. The motion was moved, and seconded. The vote to adopt the resolution was approved (58 Yea, 3 Nay, 4 Abstentions). The approved resolution can be found [here](#).
- **Arlington Historical Society presentation on Virginia 250 Plans** - Peter Vaselopulos, President of the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), and Sean Denniston, Vice President of AHS, shared an overview of AHS's plans for commemorating America's 250th anniversary next year. You can review AHS's presentation [here](#). Questions included:

- Are you working with the Black Heritage Museum?
  - Are you considering Native American history in your Virginia 250 planning?
- **Briefing from Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn**  
Chief Penn discussed crime trends in Arlington County, including an increase in shoplifting in 2024. ACPD is collaborating with the DC Police Department in support of the Army parade this weekend. Sergeant Sarah Butzer from ACPD's community engagement team previewed quarterly community events and meetings. ACDP will be hosting community conversations on August 7th and 12th focused on pedestrian traffic and school safety. ACPD is also hosting several summer kids programs and camps that are already fully subscribed.
- Questions from the audience included:
- How are you collaborating with ICE regarding their deportation activities?
  - How would you recommend we address rising graffiti in our neighborhood?
  - What were the leading causes of the rise in crime across the county?
  - How effective are the speed cameras installed near school zones this spring?
- **ACCF Awards presentation** - John Ford announced winners of ACCF's 2025 community awards. Scott McCaffrey from ArlNow presented the Arlington.Now Cup award to Portia Clark. You can find all the award winners here and pictures of the event here.
  - **Vote on ACCF FY25-26 Officers & Directors** - Jean Henceroth, Nominating Committee Chair, briefed the audience on the nominating and election process. You can review these rules here. A vote was taken. Results below (officially validated after the meeting):
    - Officers
      - President - Nicholas Giacobbe - 100%
      - Vice President - Jean Henceroth - 100%
      - Secretary - Richard McNamara - 100%
      - Treasurer - Benjamin Watts - 100%
    - Directors at Large
      - Allan Gajadhar - 93%
      - David Schutz - 100%
      - David Smith - 100%
      - Jackie Snelling - 96%
      - John Ford - 96%
      - John Snyder - 98%
      - Matt Gloudeman - 100%
      - Mike McMenamin - 100%
      - Rod Haddox - 100%
  - **ACCF Committee Year-in-Review Presentations** - Six committees shared an overview of progress and key accomplishments throughout FY24-25. Committees that briefed include:
    - Schools
    - Environmental Affairs
    - Housing
    - Public Services
    - Planning & Zoning
    - Legislation

**ADJOURNMENT** – 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved by acclamation.

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

Please contact Richard McNamara, ACCF Secretary, at [secretary@civfed.org](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) with any questions.

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## **ACPD Invite Public to Summer 2025 Quarterly Community Meetings**

*Submitted by Michael McMenamin, Public Safety Committee Chair*

The Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) Community Engagement Division invites the public to its summer quarterly community meetings. ACCF strongly encourages civic associations and members to attend a meeting for an opportunity to learn about and discuss information with ACPD.

These meetings will discuss community issues, crime prevention, and quality of life topics, including:

- Identifying and reporting scams
- Back-to-school safety tips
- A Vision Zero transportation safety presentation
- Responses to community questions.


Attendees can submit questions via the ACPD's Quarterly Community Meeting Question Form at least three business days before the meeting. Meetings will rotate locations and be available virtually through a Teams link. Both sessions will cover the same content.

### **Meeting Details:**


- Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Fairlington Community Center, Room 118, [August 7 Quarterly Community Meeting Teams Link](#)
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Lubber Run Community Center, Oak Room, [August 12 Quarterly Community Meeting Teams Link](#)

For complete information and a flyer for Community Associations to send to their members, please visit the ACPD website:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/3e9cado>



**PRE-REGISTER & SUBMIT QUESTIONS:**



**ACPD QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Join the Arlington County Police Department's Community Engagement Division at our Quarterly Community Meetings to learn more about recent crime trends, safety tips/resources and hear from officers regarding pre-submitted questions and concerns from community members. All are welcome to attend in person or virtually using Teams.

**Upcoming Community Meetings**

- Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:30-8 PM**  
Fairlington Community Center  
Room 118  
3308 S. Stafford Street
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 6:30-8 PM**  
Lubber Run Community Center  
Oak Room  
300 N. Park Drive

Includes a special presentation from:  
**VISION ZERO**  
ARLINGTON COUNTY

? ACPDCED@arlingtonva.us    arlingtonva.us/police

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**Lyon Park Community Center commemorates its 100th year  
Join the Celebration**



PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE

*The Lyon Park Community Center  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Laying of the Cornerstone of the Community House  
1925-2025

*July 26<sup>th</sup> 4-9 pm*

Live Music, Games, Homemade Ice Cream  
BYOP- Bring Your Own Picnic

• **Presentation at 6 PM** •

LYON PARK COMMUNITY CENTER • 414 N. FILLMORE STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

**July 26th, 4-9pm  
Lyon Park Community Center  
414 N. Fillmore Street  
Arlington, Virginia**

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## **Need Volunteers for Booth at County Fair**

*By Nicholas Giacobbe, President*

The [Arlington County Fair](#) will be August 15-17 at TJ Community Center. As part of our long-standing outreach efforts, CivFed will once again have an indoor booth at the County Fair and we need help staffing the booth. We have organized a prominent corner location and will need people to bring it to life. Come join us in promoting the Civic Federation and our committees and in getting feedback from the public on their priorities for CivFed action for the future. It's a fun way to meet your neighbors from across the County. Please click this [link](#) to sign up to volunteer for time slots.

Please contact Nick Giacobbe at [president@civfed.org](mailto:president@civfed.org) if you have any questions or would like to help with our booth.





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## Save the Date: Fall Picnic on September 20

CivFed members and families are invited to join us for a Fall Potluck BBQ Picnic. See below for details:

**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 12 - 4 pm

**Location:** Fort Scott Park Picnic Shelter, 2800 Fort Scott Drive

**Purpose:** Socialize and get to know each other

The Picnic Committee will once again bring plates, cups, silverware, condiments, and soft drinks. We'll light the charcoal grill in advance.

Please mark your calendars and sign up at this [link](#).

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## 2025-2026 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)

Vice President, [Jean Hencerroth](#)

Secretary, [Richard McNamara](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

### Board of Directors

Board Chair, [David Smith](#)

Director at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Director at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Director at Large, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Director at Large, [John Ford](#)

Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Director at Large, [John Snyder](#)

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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.orgdev@civfed.org](mailto:bod.orgdev@civfed.org)
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair Cory Giacobbe (Parks)
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair TBD
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact [bod.orgdev@civfed.org](mailto:bod.orgdev@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 FY2026

### July & looking ahead:

- 8/7 & 8/12 - ACPD Quarterly Community Meetings
- 8/15-17 - Arlington County Fair
- 8/10 - Board Meeting



- 9/2 - Candidates' Forum
- 9/20 - CivFed Fall Picnic
- 10/14 - General Meeting

## Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

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

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



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