



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
August 2025 | Volume 110 | Number 2

President's Message

The County Fair is over, schools are opening, and temperatures are dropping, all indicators that the CivFed programming year is about to begin.

We kick off our 110th year right after Labor Day with a Candidates' Forum on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hazel Auditorium at VHC. We have confirmations from the candidates in all of the contested local elections, so join us to hear from the candidates for County Board, School Board, and House of Delegates Districts 1 and 2. See a separate article in this newsletter with a list of the many candidates on the November 4 general election ballot. It's not as far away as it sounds, early voting opens in Arlington on September 19.

We had a booth at the County Fair again this year and I want to thank the volunteers who took the time to staff the booth. They were able to engage with a lot of our neighbors to not only tell them about CivFed, but also to hear their concerns. We have a long list of issues that we will be sharing with our committees for review.

Speaking of our committees, that's where the bulk of our work gets done. So, I encourage you to think about joining a committee that is looking at an issue that matters to you. We are an all-volunteer organization and in order to tackle the tough issues through our thought-provoking general meetings we need committees to discuss, debate, and ultimately tee up the issues. I am pleased to announce that Nicole Merlene Toulouse has agreed to chair and restart the Transportation Committee so that CivFed can provide input into this critical issue. The first meeting is Sept 4. See article below.

In addition to dealing with the important issues of the day, we also want to have some fun events where we can get to know one another.

Coming up soon 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 sign up at this [link](#).

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

I look forward to seeing you at the Candidates' Forum, whether it's in person at VHC or virtually.

Regards,

September General Membership Meeting and Candidates Forum

by Nick Giacobbe

CivFed will host its traditional Candidates' Forum on **Tuesday, September 2 from 7-9 p.m. in the Hazel Auditorium at VHC.**

The format will be hybrid, in person participation is welcome and we will also be broadcasting via Zoom and Facebook. See the meeting registration link below if you are interested in participating via Zoom.

I will be moderating the County Board and House of Delegates contests and Todd Truitt will moderate the School Board debate.

Here are the races and candidates we will be hosting at the September 2 debate:

County Board

- Takis P. Karantonis
- Bob Cambridge
- Audrey R. Clement
- Jeramy L. Olmack
- Carlos "DC" De Castro Pretelt

School Board

- Major Mike Webb
- James Vell Rives IV
- Monique "Moe" A. Bryant

House of Delegates District 1

- Patrick A. Hope
- William J. "Bill" Moher III

House of Delegates District 2

- Adele Y. McClure
- Wendy K. Sigley

If you have any questions, please contact me at President@civfed.org.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and Welcome
- 7:05 - 8:50 Annual Candidates Forum
- 8:50 - 9:00 Other business from the floor and adjournment

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday August 31** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person. See parking instructions below in this newsletter.
2. **Facebook Live (Other Guests): No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).**
3. **Zoom** (Delegates): Registration is required ([link](#)) by Monday, September 1 at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Annual Dues and Recertification

by Richard McNamara, ACCF Secretary

Yes it is that time of year again for each member organization to recertify it has an active membership of at least 20 members and pay annual ACCF membership dues. Also if there are any changes to ACCF Voting delegates it is a good time to notify the ACCF.

ANNUAL MEMBER PROCESSES

Per our bylaws, all member organizations must complete an annual recertification and pay member dues by **20 November** each year.

MEMBER RECERTIFICATION[Annual Member Organization Update and Recertification, FY2026](#) [1 Jul 2025 – 30 Jun 2026; Google Forms] – Recertification the Association has 20 active members.

MEMBER DUES

Annual dues are for **FY2026 remain at \$65.00** per member organization.

DONATIONS

Donations in any amount in addition to member dues are greatly appreciated.

Pay with Zelle:

Pay **with Zelle** right from your bank app or bank website. Please add \$1.30 to your payment to cover the **Zelle** surcharge.

Send your **Zelle** payment to **treasurer@civfed.org**.

Pay with PayPal:

Pay with PayPal (\$2.85 surcharge covers the **PayPal** processing fee)

Pay by Check:

Mail your check to:

Arlington County Civic Federation

Attn: Treasurer

PO Box 42091

Arlington, Virginia 22204-9091

Legislation Committee Update

*Submitted by Dave Schutz, ACCF Board Member and FOG Government
Subcommittee chair*

We are coming to the period of high activity for the Legislation Committee - our big task is generating the two Legislative Agendas for the Board and for the Arlington Delegation, and it's time to do that. Our work is mostly to respond to the approved policy initiatives of other CivFed committees, which have developed resolutions and 'wish lists' for the Arlington delegation and for the County Board. Our Form of Government subcommittee also develops policy initiatives for form of government reform, which can then also inform the legislative priorities lists for our electeds. The Committee and the Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday Sept 22 to discuss these initiatives.

This year the County Board has announced an earlier uptake of input from the County commissions than has been the practice in earlier years. Also, no CivFed committees have submitted priorities to the Legislation Committee for inclusion. For this reason, the chair of Legislation will develop drafts for the Legislative agendas to present to the membership at our September 2 (candidate night) meeting, and for vote by the membership in the October meeting. These will not have been through a collaborative process, but they will be extremely similar to last year's agendas, which were approved by the membership. Readers can review last year's agendas covering governance, tree coverage, and flood resiliency at [2024-01 ACCF LegisComm 2024 Legislative Priorities APPROVED 2024-01-02.pdf](#).

Even though the earlier announced deadline for suggested Legislation priorities has passed, there would be real value in sending suggestions for our advocacy to the chair, and any received will be discussed in the Sept 2 meeting and if received early enough in the announcement of drafts for the agendas in the Sept 2 meeting of the general membership.

Some of our readers will be aware that Board members Karantonis, Spain, and de Ferranti have announced an intention to stand up a County task force on form of government. This seems to be imminent, and you are invited to make your views known both to CivFed leadership and the Board itself.

Vision Zero Action Plan Update – Call for Input

Submitted by John Snyder, ACCF Board Member

Vision Zero is described by the County as “a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.”

Information on the Vision Zero program is available here: [Vision Zero – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government](#)

In anticipation of the five-year update of the County's Vision Zero Action Plan, the County is requesting feedback on the current plan and suggested priorities for the updated plan.

On behalf of your member organizations, you are invited to fill out the questionnaire at this link by September 15, 2025:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BEg1gN8fjkKfX1CR6ZTPVF5RpYuOvYlCl2pCXh6lln1UMlozSk9DSldUVo4xMVVBTE5MWlpUTUk1RC4u&route=shorturl>.

The CivFed representative on the Vision Zero External Stakeholders Group will be John Snyder. Please [contact John](#) with questions, concerns, or input to the update process as it works its way toward approval in the Summer of 2026.

Transportation Committee

Submitted by Nicole Merlene Toulouse, transportation.chair@civfed.org

The Transportation Committee will be reconvening on Thursday, Sept 4 starting at 7:30pm

Please register and join us by zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/UqaHokwQRk2UrYmBx8eXkQ>

The Transportation Committee will focus on 3 main topics:

- 1) provide feedback on two major visions: Arlington's Transportation Future which is being updated for the first time since 2017, and Vision Zero which will receive its first update since 2020;
- 2) Clarifying Arlington's relationship with VDOT and appropriately providing recommendations on areas of planning and investment;
- 3) Provide feedback on site specific or corridor specific recommendations as necessary.

Please join us and provide feedback on topics of interest to pursue for this year and suggest programming for this fall.

Planning and Zoning Committee

General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee

Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, GLUP Subcommittee Chair glup.sc.chair@civfed.org

The first Fall 2025 Planning and Zoning GLUP and Site Plan Review Subcommittee virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening September 25, from 7:30-9:00 pm. Please register

here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7v7W4LQNRQac5AV-pPJj-Q>

Discussion will focus on the ACCF "Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes" adopted in June. Our new CivFed President Nick Giacobbe and others have already been hard at work this summer following up on the resolution, first as a basis for CivFed letters, and secondly engaging County staff on potential strategies for systematic follow up.

The full agenda will include:

1. Updates on County Planning developments and issues (including CivFed letter on Adaptive Reuse).
2. Following up the June 2025 ACCF "Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes,"
3. Developing a P+Z subcommittee 2025-6 Work Plan

Opportunity to Participate in Discussion about Arlington rules for impermeable surfaces at single-family homes

Submitted by Jackie Snelling ACCF Public Services Committee, bod.orgdev@civfed.org

At Board direction, County staff are studying impermeable surfaces for potential changes to its Zoning Ordinance rules through a study identified as the "Low Residential Study."

The ACCF P&Z Subcommittee on Lot Coverage, the ACCF Public Services Stormwater group, the ACCF Housing Committee, and the ACCF Environmental Affairs Committee have been tracking the study in process.

They have also been following the efforts of a group of 21 civic associations and the Arlington Tree Action Group to persuade the County Board that this study fails to address the expanding building footprints of single-family homes and the need to do so on a more expedited timetable.

You can read more about the Low Residential Study objectives on the County site at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability/Stormwater/Low-Residential-Study>

The county will start Phase 1 outreach to the public in September to hear questions about the study and what the public thinks are the important factors for evaluation options for impervious area limits.

The following events are currently scheduled.

- Virtual Q&A sessions on Sept. 5 and 19 at noon with the project leads, Aileen Winquist and Nick Rogers. The Teams link and more information is on this page: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability/Stormwater/Low-Residential-Study/Low-Residential-Study-QA-Session>
- A pop-up at the Green Community Tour event on Sept. 14 at Central Library
- A pop-up at Westover Day on Oct. 4

In Phase 2, in the spring and next summer, the county will propose options and seek public input on the options.

Lauren Rodriguez, a communications specialist for the Department of Environmental Services, encourages people to look at the project page or subscribe to Planning and Building eNews and/or Stormwater Utility Updates to keep track of the study.

Housing Committee

Submitted by Housing Committee Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
housing.chair@civfed.org

Meeting Notice: Join us September 18, 2025, 6:30-8:00 pm, via zoom
Please register in advance at this link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qloSo_yaSW-QM4pnTqhtgA

We will provide an update on the legal standing of several Expanded Housing Options (EHO) or Missing Middle projects that have been allowed to proceed, even as the overall program remains off limits pursuant to a decision of the Arlington Circuit Court David Schell of September 27, 2024 (see the written decision [here](#).) We have invited Deputy County Manager Erika Moore to answer your questions; although she will not get into the details of the county's appeal of the main lawsuit and Judge Schell's ruling, she can explain how certain of the originally approved permits have gone forward or are about to do so.

This will supplement the [County's annual report that covered the first year of EHO](#) (July 2023-June 2024) that was issued in December 2024; it will also provide an overview of the EHO dashboard, particularly with regard to the 10 EHO permits that have been approved. The projects are in various stages of completion and are located in nine civic associations. We especially hope members of the community, inhabitants of the new dwellings, owners of the EHO units, will join the conversation to share their experience.

- We look forward to seeing you there!



CivFed Spring 2026 Banquet

by Jean Henceroth, Board Member

SAVE THE DATE — Friday, April 24, 2026

For the **CivFed Spring 2026 Banquet Celebrating** the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence!

The April 2026 Banquet Committee is seeking volunteers to bring their ideas and expertise to planning this event. Please contact Jean Henceroth at vice-president@civfed.org with your ideas and to join the committee.

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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ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Acting Chair, Dave Schutz
- Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – PoC Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair Nicole Merlene Toulouse

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 Nick Giacobbe if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

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

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

CivFed Calendar FY2026

September & looking ahead:

- 9/2 - Candidates' Forum
- 9/20 - CivFed Fall Picnic
- 10/14 - General Meeting
- 11/11 - General Meeting
- 12/9 - General Meeting

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