



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
April 2026 | Volume 110 | Number 9

President's Message

Our April 24th Banquet and Awards Ceremony is just a few weeks away. Ticket prices will increase soon, so I encourage you to purchase your tickets today at this [link](#). Later in this issue, Jean Henceroth's article offers full details on the evening's program, and logistics. This event is always a real highlight and I look forward to celebrating with many of you.

The April General Meeting will begin with a panel on Arlington mental health services. The panel will be moderated by Rebeca Kiessling of NAMI and includes the Sheriff and leaders of DHS, OAR and the Commonwealth Attorney's office to review mental health services provided by their organizations. In addition, Housing Commission Co-Chair Anne Bodine will moderate a discussion with State Senator Barbara Favola on the many housing-related bills that passed the Virginia legislature this session and the potential impact on Arlington County (see article in this issue). Finally, we will discuss draft resolutions on transportation and schools.

Thanks to Todd Truitt for organizing our March meeting and to all members who participated in our annual conversation with Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán and the School Board. This dialogue remains one of CivFed's most valued traditions, offering a direct forum for community questions and perspectives on the future of Arlington Public Schools.

[Arlington HistoryFest 250](#) on May 9 at Kenmore Middle School is quickly approaching, and CivFed will be proudly representing our community at this countywide celebration. We are seeking volunteers to help staff our table throughout the day ([link](#)) and we are also seeking to borrow a 10' X 10' weighted tent (drop me a line). Details are in an article in this issue and I hope you will consider pitching in.

We were pleased to see the County Auditor release a new report on *Site Plan Community Benefit Administration*, an area CivFed has long championed. The report is well worth reading and underscores the importance of sustained public engagement to ensure that negotiated community benefits are delivered and maintained throughout the life of each project. You can access the report here ([link](#)).

See also the article later in this newsletter submitted by the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Our May General Meeting will feature a candidates' forum for those running in the August 4 primary for both the County Board and the U.S. House of Representatives. Depending on the outcome of the April 21 referendum, we will host either the 8th Congressional District candidates or both the 7th and 8th District candidates. With a large field expected, we anticipate a lively and substantive discussion. This will be an important opportunity for

members to hear directly from those seeking to represent Arlington at the county and federal levels.

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to strengthening civic dialogue and community participation in Arlington.

Sincerely,
Nick Giacobbe
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

April 2026 General Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [March](#) minutes approval
- 7:05 - 8:05 Panel on mental health and wellbeing
- 8:05 - 8:30 State Senator Barbara Favola with Housing Co-Chair Anne Bodine on housing legislation passed in the 2026 legislative session
- 8:30 - 8:40 Second reading and vote on [transportation resolution](#)
- 8:40 – 8:50 First reading of [schools resolution](#)
- 8:55 - 9:00 Other business from the floor and adjournment

Date: Tuesday, April 14th 2026 @ 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 April 12th** 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, April 13th 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.

Mental Health Services in Arlington: Community Working Together

Submitted by Allan Gajadhar, Wellness Committee Chair
bod.member1@civfed.org

At CivFed's April General Membership meeting, we are hosting a panel discussion on Arlington's integrated mental health services. The panel will be moderated by Rebecca Kiessling, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI Northern Virginia).

Rebecca will discuss mental health needs, crisis response, and what happens when mental health meets the criminal justice system. An important goal is to ask if and how treatment can replace punishment?

Panelists will include:

- Sheriff Jose Quiroz

- Dr. Richard Malish, Chief Medical Director, Office of the Sheriff
- Deb Warren, Community Service Board (CSB) Executive Director
- Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) Director
- Grace Woodward, Diversion Program Coordinator, Commonwealth Attorney's Office

There is a framework used by Arlington and communities nationwide called the Sequential Intercept Model that shows where people intersect with the justice system, including:

- Community crisis response
- Law enforcement contact
- Court / detention
- Jail-based services
- Reentry to the community

The panelists will review examples of Arlington's collaborative approach:

- Behavioral health services through the CSB
- Mental health services inside the detention facility
- Mental health team within the jail
- Transition to self-operated medical care
- Jail mental health restoration pilot
- Restoration and diversion programs
- OAR reentry services

An important takeaway from the panel is that when communities treat mental illness as a health condition across every part of the system, we improve outcomes for individuals, families, and the entire community.

We look forward to an informative presentation, and an interactive Q&A session with our delegates.

Update on Housing Bills Passed in 2026 Legislative Session

Submitted By Anne Bodine, Housing Co-Chair

housing.chair@civfed.org

Housing Committee Co-Chair Anne Bodine will update us on several bills that passed the House of Delegates and State Senate, which require action by the Governor by April 13. The bills are intended to address a statewide housing gap; however, many of them overlap or impede authorities that have been delegated to local governments, in our case, the County Board. State Senator Barbara Favola, herself a former County Board member, will discuss the housing bills, some of which have already been signed by Governor Spanberger, and others which are pending. We have also invited a representative of the County Board to speak about likely effects of these bills in Arlington. If they are not amended or vetoed, they will take effect in September 2026. The bills would allow certain non-profits (such as churches) to put market rate plus 60% affordable housing on their properties, would eliminate parking requirements for certain projects, would ease permission for manufactured housing, among other new policies.

Arlington County Civic Federation 2026 Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Early Bird Ticket Sales

Submitted by Jean Henceroth, Banquet Chair

Mark your calendars for the 2026 ACCF Banquet!

Friday, April 24, 2026 -- 6:00 PM

Spates Conference Center Ballroom, 214 McNair Road

Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall

Join your fellow Arlingtonians for the 2026 ACCF Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 24, 2024, in the Ballroom of the recently renovated Spates Conference Center on Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall. The banquet is open to our members, their guests and government and civic leaders from across the County (including ACCF member delegates, alternates, officers, board members, and other active participants in Arlington's civic life).

Tickets are available online at <https://bit.ly/40maK0c>.

April 10: Ticket prices increase -- Buy yours now!

April 20: Reservations close

Be a Sponsor!

Sponsorship includes a table of eight and a listing in the program.

Cocktails will begin at 6:00 PM (Cash Bar) and the Buffet dinner will be served at 7:00 PM.

The program will include the presentation of the 2026 ARLnow Cup and the ACCF 2025-2026 awards.

Base Access: at least 24 hours before the Banquet, please request a visitor pass online, using a real ID (DL) at this link:

https://pass.aie.army.mil/steps/branch_selection,

Choose ARMY and then JBMHH

- Entrance is via Second Street S to Hatfield Gate; stay in the left lane and show your real ID.
- Parking is across street from Spates Conference Center, on McNair Road. There is no public transportation; carpooling is an option. Access is limited to privately owned vehicles.

Please write to me at banquet@civfed.org with any questions about the event or tickets. I hope you will join us.

Transportation Committee

Nicole Toulouse, Committee Chair, transport.chair@civfed.org

The final reading and vote on the Transportation Resolution will occur at the next Civic Federation meeting on April 14th. You can [read the resolution here](#). This resolution will provide feedback for major transportation-related planning documents currently underway including Arlington's Transportation Future and Vision Zero, provide ongoing support to civic associations engaging in Site Plan Reviews, and recommend a clearer path forward between Arlington County and Virginia's Department of Transportation regarding state-owned roads and maintenance.

The next Committee meeting will be held on Thursday April 23rd at 7 p.m. Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/EozTYSV2SeS-eO_q83i4ZA

Schools Committee Resolution on Preventing Crumbling School Buildings

Submitted by Todd Truitt, schools.chair@civfed.org

The CivFed Schools Committee recently approved the proposed Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution, which concerns significant unfunded capital commitments and the need for transparency in the upcoming Capital Improvement Plan for the Arlington Public Schools.

That proposed resolution is [here](#).

The April CivFed meeting will feature the first reading of that proposed resolution, and CivFed's approval vote for it is tentatively planned for the May meeting.

If you have questions or comments, please reach out to Schools Committee chair Todd Truitt at the email address above.



Countdown to VA250

Submitted by Duke Banks, AHS delegate to CivFed

The AHS team is working diligently to ensure that HistoryFest, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from 10 AM to 5 PM at Kenmore Middle School, is a success. We have received word from CivFed President Nicholas Giacobbe that CivFed plans to set up a table at the fair. AHS very much

appreciates this participation.

HistoryFest will feature live reenactments, musical performances, and historical storytelling, hands-on demonstrations, children's activities and crafts, and local food vendors. HistoryFest will also host the VA250 Mobile Museum. The traveling exhibit will be on-site at Kenmore for several days, showcasing Virginia's role in the Revolution.

We also look forward to being at the CivFed Banquet on April 24th where AHS President Peter Vaselopulos will be the featured speaker of the evening with reflections on our nation's 250th birthday.

AHS has several programs already planned to commemorate our 250th which can be viewed at <https://arhist.org/events/category/va250/>.

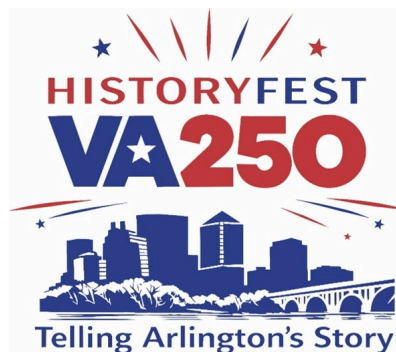
As we get closer to July 4th, more events will be scheduled. If your civic association is planning any activity, such as a local neighborhood parade, or picnic let us know about it so we can post it on our events page. Send us an email with details to info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

We look forward to seeing members of the CivFed family at the various events scheduled to commemorate our 250th.

Join Us at Arlington HistoryFest: Represent the Civic Federation!

By Nick Giacobbe, ACCF President

The Arlington County Civic Federation has been a cornerstone of local advocacy and neighborhood leadership for over a century. On May 9th, we have a unique opportunity to showcase that legacy at the [Arlington HistoryFest 250](#), hosted by the Arlington Historical Society at Kenmore Middle School.



This event marks the 250th anniversary of our nation and the Civic Federation will be front and center. Our table will highlight the pivotal role our organization has played in shaping Arlington's development. To make this a success, we need volunteers to help staff our table, engage with the public, and share the impact of civic participation. A good reference to prepare for volunteering is the booklet put together for our 2016 centennial ([link](#)).

Volunteer Details

We are looking for members to staff the Civic Federation table in two- or three-hour shifts between **10:00 AM and 5:00 PM**. This is a straightforward way to support the Federation while enjoying a day of local history, interactive exhibits, and community connection. As a volunteer, you will:

- Greet visitors and answer general questions about the Civic Federation.
- Share brief highlights of our history and current mission.

The HistoryFest is designed to be an engaging, outdoor experience. We will have a 10x10 tent and display materials ready to go; we simply need your voice to help bring our history to life. It's a great chance to catch up with fellow members and meet neighbors who are interested in the future of our county.

How to Sign Up

Please visit our SignUpGenius ([link](#)) to select a time slot that works for you. If you have any specific questions about the event or what to expect, please reach out to me directly.

Have a Tent to Loan?

We are also looking for a 10' X 10' weighted tent that we can borrow for the day. If you have one we can borrow, please let me know (president@civfed.org)

Let's ensure the Civic Federation is well-represented as we celebrate Arlington's past and look toward its future.

Recap of County Board Actions

Submitted by Dave Schutz, Legislation Committee Chair
legislation.chair@civfed.org

In its March meeting, the County Board gave the Civic Federation half a loaf – it considered whether to establish ranked choice voting permanently in general elections for County Board, and decided instead to put it in place for the next two years, then revisit the issue after the second election. CivFed in its TiGER report advocated for ranked choice voting as the mechanism going forward. All but one of the public speakers on the issue favored adopting RCV permanently. This decision means that if RCV is to continue past the 2027 general elections, the Board will have to decide affirmatively to do so.

On a second election-related issue the Board similarly chose a middle path, between citizens who wanted a ban on median-strip signs for electioneering and citizens who wanted to continue the relatively “wide open” current practice of allowing two signs per candidate and issue per median strip and citizens who wanted to bar median signs all together. By a 4-1 vote (Coffey opposed) the Board decided to cut the number of signs allowed per issue/candidate to one. Recommendation from staff had been for a total ban, on grounds of tidiness and waste. Those opposed to the recommendation made a free speech claim and said the signs are important for participation of people who aren't living in single family houses/neighborhoods. Those favoring said the signs are messy and wasteful.

Form of Government Update

Submitted by Dave Schutz, Legislation Committee Chair
legislation.chair@civfed.org

A proposed resolution was submitted by ACCF delegate Michael Beer about the County intent to examine our form of government (FOG) which aims to ensure that adequate attention is paid to schools governance issues. The resolution is posted [here](#).

At the last meeting it was referred to the Schools and Legislation committees. It has been reviewed by the Schools Committee with a proposed amendment to remove the sixth Whereas clause and will be considered in the coming month by ACCF Legislation Committee.

After both committees complete reviews and report their recommendations to the president it will be presented with proposed edits to the membership. Delegates not on either committee and who have views are warmly invited to communicate them to either or both Todd Truitt, Schools Chair at schools.chair@civfed.org, and Dave Schutz, Legislation Chair at legislation.chair@civfed.org.

Possible Revenue Shortfall in FY2026, Proposed Cuts and Tax Hike in FY2027

*Submitted by Suzanne Smith Sundburg
Revenues & Expenditures Committee POC
rev.expend.chair@civfed.org*

With everyone's attention focused on proposed budget cuts and a tax hike for the fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget, it's useful to review what is happening now in FY2026 (which ends on 6-30-2026).

At a March 11 public forum, County Manager Schwartz warned that if revenues for FY2026 come in below projections, then “we will have to shut down some of our services’ and temporarily send staff home. Any cutbacks likely wouldn’t hit until the last two months of the fiscal year...” [1]

This potential revenue shortfall may occur even though the County Board passed a 2-cent tax rate increase in calendar year 2024.[2]

The mid-year report, which tracks revenue collections for the first six months of the fiscal year, hasn't yet been released (as of this article's deadline), but should be released soon. In the meantime, County Treasurer de la Pava has been shifting revenue earmarked for FY2026 into short-term investments to ensure that the county can continue paying its bills.[3]

However, the Manager has further cautioned that homeowners (and by corollary renters) will likely continue to see annual real estate tax hikes (on top of assessment increases) as more of the tax burden shifts away from commercial properties and nonresidential revenue sources and toward properties with residential uses (except hotels).[4]

Essentially, residential and multifamily revenue sources aren't producing enough revenue to offset the loss of nonresidential commercial revenue and any new spending/cost increases, *without a tax-rate increase*. Thus, the county is essentially living on a “fixed” income — trying to absorb new spending and cost increases while its income remains static or declines.

The lack of growth in the county's income has made it challenging for department heads to balance their budgets. Below are two examples.

For FY2027, the Fire Chief proposes to cut four (4) full-time equivalent (FTE) vacant firefighter positions and to “consolidate” specialized rescue and HAZMAT units into a single location, even though it would almost certainly impact response times for those units. These cuts/changes could help the Chief begin to cover the added costs of a 10.7% salary increase negotiated by the fire bargaining unit, an increase described by the Manager as being “essential to complete hiring to fill vacancies.”[5]

Likewise, Dept. of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director Rudolph has proposed to “repurpose” or shutter (as no new purpose is specified) Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center (thus eliminating its gymnastics programming) along with making other cuts to help offset Boeing’s declining financial support of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center as well to cover salary and other cost increases. The “repurposing” of Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center eliminates 22.75 FTE positions out of a total 31.85 FTEs to be cut or frozen departmentwide. [6]

In a sort of fiscal *deja vu*, we have seen DPR previously divert funding from other popular programming to support the ill-fated Artisphere, which was finally shut down in 2015.[7]

We must recognize that Arlington’s circumstances have altered since the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) hiked office vacancy rates in Crystal City in 2005–2006 and Metro was extended out to Dulles Airport.[8] Recent events have accelerated the loss of surplus revenues generated by commercial office and similar space while county costs and spending have continually increased. At some point, these two opposing financial forces must be reconciled in the budget.

Sources:

[1] <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/03/16/service-cutbacks-staff-furloughs-possible-in-arlington-depending-on-tax-revenue/>

[2] Attachment II: [https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/DownloadFileBytes/ 2 - Item Attachment - ATTACHMENT I-III - 30688315.pdf?](https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/DownloadFileBytes/ 2 - Item Attachment - ATTACHMENT I-III - 30688315.pdf?documentType=1&meetingId=2727&itemId=57650&publishId=86286&isSection=False&isAttachment=True)

[3] <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/03/18/treasurer-shifts-toward-short-term-investments-as-arlington-budget-picture-worsens/>

[4] <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/03/16/service-cutbacks-staff-furloughs-possible-in-arlington-depending-on-tax-revenue/>

[5] pp. 3, 7, 8, 44: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2027/proposed/feb-21-2026-docs/1-fy-2027-managers-message-combined-all-in-one.pdf> and <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/03/26/fire-chief-offers-to-reevaluate-controversial-plan-to-consolidate-rescue-units/>

[6] pp. 14–17, 46–48: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/budget/documents/fy-2027/work-sessions/fy-2027-dpr-worksession-presentation-final.pdf> and <https://www.arlnow.com/2026/02/25/gymnastics-boosters-press-county-board-to-save-barcroft-youth-programs/>

[7] <https://www.arlnow.com/2015/04/15/looking-back-the-early-promise-of-artisphere/> and

<https://www.arlnow.com/2015/04/22/budget-approved-artisphere-to-close-tax-rate-stays-steady/>

[8] <https://www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com/News-Resources/Blog/Economic-Development-Trends-that-Shaped-A-Decade-Diversification-of-Arlington-Economy>

Housing Committee

Anne Bodine and Matt Hall, co-chairs, housing.chair@civfed.org

The Housing Committee is changing its meeting dates to the fourth Monday of the month, and will meet on Monday, April 27 at 6:30pm. Please register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2lOCg52FT0WtSiLQzH_LbQ

to join us as we continue our **discussion of of the Key Bridge Marriott redevelopment by KBLH, LLC.**

We’ll be looking at comps and a possible valuation of the bonus density for this project, which currently has a base floor area ratio allowance of 2.5, and seeks to obtain approval for 8.5 FAR, and we’ll review the discussion at the April 19 Long-Range Planning Commission that will be recommending a Special GLUP Study that would bring the site into the Rosslyn Coordinated Redevelopment District of 2015 (RCRD).

CivFed's Full Planning and Zoning Committee meeting

Submitted by Brian Harner, Chair, Planning and Development

Committee plan.zone.chair@civfed.org

CivFed's Planning and Zoning Committee will meet **Wednesday April 29, at 6:30 pm** EST. Please register at this link:

Zoom Registration link <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/71BMzoHITayAfv77qcWrA>

The April 29 agenda will focus on two key action items:

1. Seeking comment on a draft CivFed resolution, urging the County Board to conduct a more comprehensive study of its lot coverage, height, and setback rules for single-family homes, consistent with the Board's commitments in the 2023 Forestry & Natural Resources Plan, which the Board modified in 2025. The Committee is looking to finalize the draft resolution for a first reading at the May 2026 CivFed General Meeting.
2. Following up the County Auditor's recommendations for strengthening Arlington's Community Benefits process. The [Audit](#) confirms a number of the key concerns and proposed remedies that CivFed put forward in its June 2025 "Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy." County staff have proposed an action plan and timeline to address the Audit's findings and recommendations. We will explore ways to work productively with County leadership and staff on the action plan and other critical steps to improve Arlington's Community Benefits system. See the article below for additional information.

Planning and Zoning Committee Chair Brian Harner will lead the discussion, supported by Subcommittee Chairs Jack Spilsbury and Bill Richardson. See: [Planning and Zoning Committee Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes \[Jun 2025\] APPROVED Resolution](#)). The Committee also continues to actively track the pending update of the County's comprehensive plan that guides planning and zoning.

We hope that you can join us on Wednesday April 29 to help develop CivFed policies and strategy on these P+Z priorities. Brian Harner, Chair, Arlington CivFed Planning and Development Committee. For questions contact Brian plan.zone.chair@civfed.org

Audit of Site Plan Community Benefits

Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, Planning & Zoning GLUP Subcommittee chair
glup.sc.chair@civfed.org

Link to Report: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/county-board/documents/county-auditor/audit-reports/final-community-benefits-dch2025pf001.pdf>

Intro: Community Benefits are a key element of Arlington's strategy for incentivizing higher density, funding infrastructure required to support the higher density, and coordinating planning to match density and infrastructure. With pushes for density in new areas and lower budgets, accountability in how this works is critical. The Civic Federation and members have long been concerned with the definition, standards, and process of the Community Benefits that are negotiated through site plans. The ACCF Planning and Zoning resolution adopted in June 2025 included a call for improvements – especially, in transparency, consistency and tracking. This was also addressed by ACCF in our Feb 2026 Work Session with the County Board. We are encouraged to see a professional audit report that details and confirms these concerns and many of our recommendations. The Planning and Zoning Committee will be closely tracking the responses and implementation of the recommendations. We will also

consider recommendations for a follow-on audit to review the process for negotiating Community Benefits prior to Board approval that was outside the scope of this audit.

Scope: The recent Community Benefits Audit reviewed the County's process from the point of County Board approval onward, to determine how those benefits were/were not implemented and whether they met the stated objectives. Specifically, it assessed a sample of 8 completed site plans approved in 2014 or later.

Key Findings:

- 1. Changes to Benefits lack transparency.** Policies and regulations governing community benefits need tightening. Arlington's Policy and Zoning Ordinance permits staff/developers to make changes with limited scrutiny or transparency.
- 2. Standards not clear.** Arlington's Zoning Ordinance should be amended to provide clear standards for when changes can be made. Staff/board reports and presentations were inconsistent in how community benefits were defined. The relationship between bonus density and community benefits was often unclear.
- 3. Tracking and documentation are inconsistent and incomplete.** CPHD lacks policies, procedures, and checklists to track implementation of community benefits. Documentation was inconsistent and incomplete. Technology being used (Excel spreadsheet) was not adequate for project management.
- 4. Most Benefits were obtained but the lack of regular monitoring puts some benefits at risk.** In 2 cases, community benefits were NOT implemented as approved by the County Board, but most were. Two were incomplete and one more was at risk of being lost. The Auditor assessed that the other 90 Community Benefits related to the eight reviewed Site Plans were largely achieved.
- 5. Lack of public knowledge and lack of publicly available information make it difficult for civic associations and the public to track community benefits.**

Key Recommendations

- CPHD should provide clear guidance to link site plan community benefits to measurable outcomes.
- CPHD should develop policies and procedures for checklist development/use to document community benefits.
- CPHD should review alternative technology options w/DTS to improve tracking/monitoring of community benefit implementation.
- CPHD should improve site plan Community Benefit language to strengthen enforcement.
- CPHD should improve its site plan project page to better identify Community Benefits for each project,. And consider creating a searchable Community Benefits public database.

CPHD Response Highlights:

CPHD prepared a point-by-point response and implementation.

It concluded that the Audit confirmed that the community benefits (for the 8 site plans reviewed) were actually achieved, demonstrating significant benefits obtained by Arlington County. Out of 94 benefits, 90 were delivered, worth around \$40M.

CPHD commits to:

- post administrative site plan changes online
- implement invoices for cash contributions made by developers
- develop a list of acceptable documentation of community benefits, etc.
- consider improvements to the IT systems for tracking and consult with DTS
- Provide written guidance to standardize reports and presentations.

In a few cases, CPHD did not agree there were gaps or did not plan to implement a recommendation. They also stated that some recommendations, primarily the integrated tracking system software, would require funding for implementation.

Of note to ACCF and Civic Associations: During the Audit Committee discussion, the Auditor, Shirley Brothwell, and several committee members highlighted the importance and potential formal role of civic associations to help provide ongoing monitoring and inform staff/the board when benefits are in jeopardy or failing.

The Planning and Zoning Committee will provide more information next month for tracking implementation of the recommendations.

March 23 Meeting CPHD slides:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6Q0cZajK4s&list=PLG4RcwV9VbMRcKv7NScNRZF6dWDuTIKbg>.

You are also welcome to submit comments in writing by sending them to AuditCommittee@arlingtonva.us.

Other materials available:

• **The final Community Benefits Audit Report**

(DCH2025PF001): <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/commissions/documents/audit/2026/march-2026/4b.-final-community-benefits-dch2025pf001.pdf>.

The YouTube playlist of Audit Committee meetings is found here (and the March 23 meeting tape should also be uploaded here very soon (Arlington's YouTube channel): [Audit Committee \(AuC\) Meeting | January 22, 2026](#)

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


Looking Ahead:

- 04/14/26 - General Meeting
 - 04/23/26 - Transportation Committee Meeting
 - 04/24/26 - CivFed Banquet
 - 04/27/26 - Housing Committee Meeting
 - 04/29/26 - Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting
 - 05/09/26 - HistoryFest
-

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