



# Arlington County Civic Federation

## The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation  
June 2026 | Volume 110 | Number 11

### President's Message

Our May General Meeting brought together the three candidates who will appear on the August 4 primary ballot for County Board. For those who were unable to attend, I encourage you to watch the meeting recording ([link](#)) and stay current with local reporting on the race. As always, I urge every member of our community to make a plan to vote on August 4 and to remind neighbors and friends to do the same. Early voting begins on June 18, so there is plenty of time to vote before that summer get away. Participating in our local elections is one of the most direct ways we shape Arlington's future, and your vote truly matters.

I also want to extend congratulations to member organization [Arlington Historical Society](#) for a highly successful [Arlington HistoryFest 250](#) on May 9. It was an excellent opportunity to look at our history and how it has shaped our lives today. The event drew well over a thousand attendees, and our CivFed booth saw steady interest throughout the day. Many thanks as well to [Arlington Neighborhood Village](#) for lending us a tent, its shelter was especially welcome during the intermittent drizzle. Moments like these remind us how much we accomplish when our civic groups support one another.

Looking ahead, our June meeting will cover a broad set of topics, including the election of our leadership team for 2026–2027, final votes on two pending resolutions (from the public safety and planning and zoning committees, see agenda below for links), and updates from Rich Dooley on the climate project as well as from Police Chief Andy Penn. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a full and informative session.

Wishing you a safe, enjoyable, and restorative summer.

Sincerely,

Nick Giacobbe  
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

### June General Membership Meeting Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [May minutes](#) approval
- 7:05 – 7:20 Membership vote for 2026-2027 leadership team
- 7:20 – 7:35 Rich Dooley – County Climate Project Update
- 7:35 – 7:50 Public Safety [Resolution](#) second reading and vote

- 7:50 – 8:10 Planning & Zoning [Resolution](#) second reading and vote
- 8:10 – 8:25 Annual Review by CivFed leadership and committee activity
- 8:25 – 8:45 Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn
- 8:40 – 9:00 Other business and adjourn

**Date: Tuesday, June 9th 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](mailto:secretary@civfed.org) by **Sunday June 7th** 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, June 8th 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.

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**Nominating Committee  
for CivFed FY27 (July 2026 - June 2027)**  
*Submitted by John Ford, Nominating Committee Chair*

Election of CivFed officers and directors are held each year at the annual meeting. The 2026 annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The ACCF bylaws require a 3-7-person nominating committee selected by the general membership each year. The following individuals are serving on this committee: John Ford, David Smith, Lois Koontz, Ron Haddox, Dixie Duncan.

All positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, at-large seats on the Board of Directors) are open.

We have received several nominees; **but we continue to encourage members to nominate qualified candidates**. Our latest status report is available on the [Nominating Committee webpage](#). To qualify for ACCF leadership, the nominee must be a Delegate or Alternate of an ACCF member membership organization in good standing.

**Nominations will continue to be accepted online through Friday 5 June 2026 at 2100/9p EST.**

To submit your nomination, please contact John Ford at [hcc19@aol.com](mailto:hcc19@aol.com) While we encourage advance nomination, the CivFed bylaws permit nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

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**Environmental Affairs Committee**  
*Mary Glass, Chair for Environmental Affairs Committee*

**Important public engagement opportunities on Arlington's Climate Action Plan.**

• **Now until June 26 – Online public engagement** to define the **vision and framework** for developing the new Plan at <https://publicinput.com/b54246> .

Your opinion is solicited on specific climate impacts as well as offering open-ended questions that allow you to say in your own words what's important to you and how they should pursue drafting the Plan.

- **June 1 - Arlington Climate Together Open House – Central library 6:00 to 8:00 pm** to learn more about the Climate Action Plan (CAP) engagement process and share your ideas. Location: 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA, 22201. [View map](#).

- **Additional opportunities to participate:** There will be many engagements over the next year. For an overview of the planning documents and timeline, and updates on events go to the Arlington County website at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/CMO/Climate-Action-Plan>. At the bottom of that page, you can sign up to receive updates on the planning as it moves forward.

A Climate Action Plan Advisory Group (CAPAG) has been established to advise on the CAP. ACCF will be represented in the CAPAG by Mary Glass, Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee. She welcomes your comments at [environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org](mailto:environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org) on the following three questions that were given to Group members to share with their organizations:

1. What are the goal areas missing from the current Community Energy Plan (CEP) that should be included in the future Climate Action Plan?
2. What does your organization see as the top three climate change challenges facing Arlington?
3. What does your organization see as the top three opportunities for climate change action in Arlington?

Any ACCF members wishing to become more involved with the CAP discussions are welcomed and can contact Mary Glass at [environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org](mailto:environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org). If you would like to take a deeper dive into the initial documents that Advisory Committee Members received as background, please go to [this page](#) on the ACCF website.

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## **Schools Committee Resolution on Preventing Crumbling School Buildings**

*Submitted by Todd Truitt, [schools.chair@civfed.org](mailto:schools.chair@civfed.org)*

The final reading and vote on the Schools Committee Resolution on Preventing Crumbling School Buildings occurred at the May 12 Civic Federation meeting, where it was approved as amended (30 Yea, 6 Nay, 1 Abstain). You can read the approved resolution [here](#).

This resolution provides detailed feedback and recommendations to the Arlington Public Schools (APS) School Board on improving transparency, prioritization, and accountability in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for school facilities. Resolution #6 was added on the floor of the May meeting via an amendment, which states the Civic Federation may consider basing its support for the fall school bond referendum on whether APS clarifies its prioritization and equity basis for outstanding projects in the finalized CIP.

The Superintendent released his proposed CIP the following day, which does not address all of the issues raised in the resolution. ArlNow [reported](#) on both the Superintendent's proposal and CivFed's resolution. The proposal will now undergo a month-long review by School Board members, with final approval of the package scheduled for June 18. The Civic Federation leadership is trying to set up a meeting with some School Board members to discuss the resolution prior to the CIP's approval.

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**Save the Date!**

## **CivFed Fall Picnic - September 26**

*By Nick Giacobbe, Picnic Committee*

Mark your calendars, CivFed members and families are invited to join our annual Fall Potluck BBQ and Picnic on **Saturday, September 26, noon – 4:00 p.m.** The Picnic Committee will once again bring plates, cups, silverware, condiments, and soft drinks. As in past years, we'll light up the charcoal grill in advance.

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### **Recap of the very successful Arlington VA250 History Fest**

*Submitted by Peter Vaselopoulos, AHS President*

HistoryFest is now history. However, its impact will continue to be felt as over 1,500 people came out to Kenmore Middle School on May 9, 2026, to learn more about Arlington's history. HistoryFest, sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), set the one-day attendance record for the VA250 Mobile Museum with at least 1,200 visitors. Thankfully, the weather cooperated, and more than 40 historic and civic organizations set up tents, along with dozens of reenactors and living historians. A highlight of the event was the drill demonstration put on by the Old Guard from Fort Myer.

HistoryFest was the Arlington VA250 committee's signature event to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The event allowed Arlington residents to connect with history and each other. AHS wishes to thank all participating organizations, reenactors, living historians, speakers, performing groups, and, most especially, the many volunteers who contributed to HistoryFest's success.

Upcoming VA250 events include:

"Projecting History," a movie night at the Ballston Quarter Regal theater on June 30 at 7 PM, showing the "1776" movie. For more info, visit: <https://arhist.org/1776-movie/>

Bell Ringing Ceremony": As part of America's 250th birthday celebrations, the Arlington County, VA250 Committee encourages local churches, schools, or anyone with a bell to ring it thirteen times (once for each of the original thirteen colonies) at 2:50 p.m. on July 4, Independence Day. For more info, visit: <https://arhist.org/bell-ringing-ceremony/>

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### **Applications Open for Neighborhood Mini Grant Program & We Can Help As Needed**

*By Nicholas Giacobbe & Jackie Snelling ([membership@civfed.org](mailto:membership@civfed.org))*

Arlington County's [Neighborhood Mini Grant \(NMG\) Program](#) is now accepting applications through **Friday, July 17, 2026**. Grantees will be announced by August 28, 2026, and all projects must be completed by June 30, 2027.

The program's goals are to provide Arlington neighborhoods funding to encourage community building through a variety of activities, programs, events, and projects that promote racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. The NMG Program will grant up to \$25,000 and the maximum grant is \$1,000 per applicant. Each organization may apply once per year.

Eligible activities will be programs, events, or projects that increase neighborhood connections, build capacity, and support resident-led action by:

- Promoting neighborhood pride and building community
- Addressing a pressing neighborhood need or opportunity
- Improving the neighborhood's capacity to build civic and social capital
- Strengthening relationships and improving communication between residents, community leaders, and other community organizations to benefit neighborhoods

Potential projects could include, but are not limited to:

- Community events (e.g., block parties, festivals)
- Community engagement or outreach to promote inclusion and encourage involvement in community efforts and activities
- Public health and safety activities (e.g., education, neighborhood clean-ups, walking, biking, yoga, safe routes to school)
- Small-scale projects that encourage volunteerism and community building (e.g., beautification, building a little free library, community gardens)

Grant funds can only be awarded to 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) organizations, civic associations, and community groups with tax identification numbers (EIN) located in Arlington County. If your organization is interested in applying but does not have 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) status, consider partnering with a qualifying organization. CivFed will once again be available to help partner members with organizations with 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) status who can serve as fiscal sponsors or co-applicants. Please contact Jackie Snelling at [membership@civfed.org](mailto:membership@civfed.org) for assistance.

Note that this is a reimbursable grant. Eligible project expenses paid by the grantee or the co-applicant / fiscal sponsor may be reimbursed by grant funds. For a list of last year's successful grants, see this [link](#), and for the prior year see this [link](#).

The application is available on the [County's website](#), which also includes submission requirements and an overview of the process. For questions, [email](#) or call the Neighborhood Services Division office at 703-228-3830.

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## **Planning & Zoning Committee Resolution on Study of Lot Coverage/Height/Setbacks Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance Applicable to Single-Family Homes**

*Bill Richardson, Chair, Lot Coverage Subcommittee, Planning & Zoning Committee*  
[lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org)

At the May 12 membership meeting, the Planning & Zoning Committee introduced a draft resolution, which would recommend that the County Board expand its current charge to staff to require a more comprehensive study of potential reforms to these provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. The draft resolution is scheduled for discussion and a vote at the June 9 membership meeting.

Here is the [link](#) to the current draft of the resolution. It asks the County Board to address a range of concerns arising from the proliferation of teardowns of single-family homes, which have replaced these homes with much larger ones. These concerns include clearcutting the property of its mature trees to facilitate these redevelopments (with associated climate impacts), depleting our diminishing stock of more affordable homes, disrupting neighborhoods with construction of much larger building footprints (particularly on oversized lots), increasing stormwater runoff, and depriving adjacent homeowners of access to solar energy alternatives.

The background leading to this recommendation, and the specific topics requested for study, are set forth in the draft resolution and summarized in last month's newsletter. Some 27 civic associations in diverse neighborhoods, the Arlington Tree Action Group, the Forestry &

Natural Resources Commission, and others have urged the Board to study these problems for a number of years.

Please direct any comments to Bill Richardson at the e-mail address above.

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## **Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee**

*Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, Subcommittee Chair, [glup.sc.chair@civfed.org](mailto:glup.sc.chair@civfed.org)*

**CivFed's Planning and Zoning Committee will hold its last pre-summer meeting via Zoom next Wednesday evening June 3, from 6:30-8:00 pm.**

Please register at this Zoom Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/Y\\_AYk7zVQ3-cq\\_ChzEb5FA](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/Y_AYk7zVQ3-cq_ChzEb5FA)

### **Agenda:**

#### **(1) Site Plan/Community Benefits:**

Follow up the County Auditor's recommendations for strengthening Arlington's Community Benefits site plan process for Developer contributions. The Audit validated key concerns and remedies put forward by CivFed in its June 2025 "*Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy*" ([link: 6-2025 CivFed P+Z Resolution](#))

- The Committee is tracking implementation of an action plan and timeline proposed by County staff in response to the Audit's findings. We will focus on next steps to take with County leadership and staff to strengthen oversight, transparency, and public input.
  - The County's Audit Report can be found here: "[Final Community Benefit Audit Report](#)"
- See also my [April 2026 Civic Voice](#) article on the "Audit of Site Plan Community Benefits" (it includes links to the Audit Committee's meeting video, slides, and a portal for providing comments).

#### **(2) CPHD 2026 Special GLUP Study, Recommendations and Administrative Changes:**

Develop CivFed's response to the County Planning Division's recently-posted report on "Special General Land Use Plan Studies." This County Staff report makes several immediate changes to the County's process for reviewing Special GLUP requests (i.e., Developer-initiated proposals to amend the County's General Land Use Plan). In general, such requests seek GLUP Amendments that would permit construction of projects with additional density or height that is otherwise incompatible with the County's existing planning policy and/or zoning regulations. (See links below and brief summary of the staff report below in this email):

- Website link to Staff Report on Special General Land Use Plan Studies (CPHD Planning Division February 2026)
  - [Arlington CPHD Special GLUP Study Staff Report study-report-2026](#)
- Long-Range Planning Commission April 29, 2026 meeting on the Planning Commission's web-page
  - Video of [4/29 LRPC Meeting on Special GLUP Report](#)
  - LRPC Meeting Summary [LRPC Meetings and Related Documents](#)
  - Staff Report: [4/29/26 Staff LRPC Presentation](#)

#### **(3) Comprehensive Plan Update:**

Develop CivFed's position on the proposed new Comprehensive Plan principles outlined in County staff's May 13 LRPC progress briefing. Discussion will include consideration of prospective CivFed input to any proposals to update Arlington's General Land Use Plan, including the role of neighborhood civic associations in the public engagement process. See links below:

- ([https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/commissions/documents/lrp/2026/may-2026/5-13-26\\_cpu-staff-presentation.pdf](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/commissions/documents/lrp/2026/may-2026/5-13-26_cpu-staff-presentation.pdf)),
- For further background, See Jackie Snelling's presentation on Updating Arlington's Comprehensive Plan here: [Oct 2025: CivFed Presentation on Updating Arlington's Comprehensive Plan](#)

#### **(4) Lot Coverage:**

Seek further comments on the 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. This resolution was introduced at the May 2026 general membership meeting for consideration and a vote on adopting it at the subsequent meeting in June 2026 general membership meeting.

· Link to Draft of the proposed resolution: [Resolution: Regarding a Study of Lot Coverage/Height/Setback Provisions of the Zoning Ordinance](#)

The Committee also welcomes updates on other County Planning developments and issues of concern to CivFed members. We hope that you can join us next Wednesday evening (June 3) to develop CivFed policies and strategy on these P+Z priorities,

**Additional Note on Agenda Item 2:** AI Summary of the Special GLUP Staff Report, including new Administrative Changes to the County's Special GLUP Process being adopted pursuant to the Staff Report:

- The 2026 report reviews Arlington's Special GLUP Study process, highlighting its evolution since 2008 to improve efficiency, community engagement, and land use guidance. Key refinements include introducing hybrid review tiers, streamlined documents, an appeals process for developers, and new provisions to provide for "overlapping studies" to be conducted simultaneously with review of Site Plan development proposals. Other recommendations call for further refinement of procedures to provide for "ongoing Special GLUP process adaptation," including updates to the County's General Land Use plan GLUP "to align with Arlington's Comprehensive Plan."
- [Link to April 29, 2026 LRPC Discussion](#)

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### **Housing Committee Meeting**

*Submitted by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee Chair, [housing.chair@civfed.org](mailto:housing.chair@civfed.org)*

On Monday, June 22, please join the Housing Committee as it continues to examine the Key Bridge Marriott. The site encompasses 5 acres at 1401 Langston Blvd and involves a Special GLUP review with possible integration into the Rosslyn Sector Plan and a site plan redevelopment for approximately 1700 new apartments (and hotel use). Our committee aims to review the project in real time and integrate the voice of the Civ Fed into the community benefits calculation. The project involves extensive bonus density, a change in land use, and has Implications for other site plans for residential development across Arlington.

ACCF Housing Committee Monday June 22 at 6:30

Monday June 22 at 6:30

Registration link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1F6EcJuOT4COEarVhpWilg>

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**Annual Committee Reports  
for FY2026 (July 2025–June 2026)**

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# Revenues & Expenditures Committee

## Annual Report

*Prepared by Suzanne Smith Sundburg, R&E Point of Contact*

In fiscal year (FY) 2025, Revenues and Expenditures (R&E) Committee member included Jerry Auten, Duke Banks, Rick Epstein, Dixie Duncan, Juliet Hiznay, Dick McNamara, Roger Morton, Terry Showman, Mona Steffen, John Tuohy, John Vihstadt, Tina Worden, and committee point of contact Suzanne Smith Sundburg. [Noted: member John Tuohy (see bio on [p. 5](#)), a former Deputy County Treasurer, passed away in early 2026.]

Primary topics discussed by R&E: Online committee discussion/review included the impacts of job federal cuts (employees and contractors); elimination of federal offices/agencies in the region; and federal grant cuts on the local budget, regional economy and state finances. Also reviewed were the FY2025 budget's [closeout report](#) (with carryover funds for FY2027) in addition to the County Manager's [FY2027 proposed budget](#) and tax/fee increases. Other topics were the gloomy [FY2026 mid-year report](#), the ballooning taxpayer support of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, and a brief overview of the [County Manager's proposed FY2027–FY2036 CIP](#).

Throughout the year, the Revenues & Expenditures Committee provides notice of county meetings, reports, program/policy changes and other fiscally related matters to the ACCF president, board chair and applicable committee chairs. R&E provides ongoing analysis and responds to members' queries to help the organization as a whole better understand the county's voluminous budget and complex fiscal matters as they relate to Arlington residents and businesses.

- Please see the Revenues and Expenditures Committee Activities/Highlights in FY2026 found [here](#).

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## SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

### Annual Report

**Chair:** Todd Truitt

**Other Members:** Lois Koontz, Alex Stevens, Allan Gajadhar, June Prakash, Greg John, Claire Noakes, Dima Hakura, Sasha McNickle, Cynthia Hilton

**Main CivFed Events:**

- Drafted schools-related questions for fall Arlington Public Schools (APS) School Board candidate forum
- Todd was the MC of the fall School Board candidate forum
- Assisted with preparing for CivFed joint appearance by the Superintendent and School Board
- Todd worked with the Superintendent's office and the School Board's secretary to schedule their CivFed appearances, also coordinating with the CivFed president and Board Chair
- We prepared questions that we sent them in advance, with a focus on the APS Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Todd was the MC of the portions of the CivFed meeting with their appearances, including conducting audience Q&A
- We generally received very positive feedback from CivFed delegates on the joint appearance by the Superintendent and the School Board
- We proposed and revised, and CivFed passed, the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution on the CIP

**Schools Committee Meetings:**

- We met to prepare questions for the Superintendent and the School Board at their CivFed appearances based on topics of interest to the community, and especially the CivFed membership
- We also prepared such questions outside of these meetings via email
- For the questions for the candidate forum visit, we prepared such questions via email
- We met multiple times regarding the drafting, revisions and implementation of the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution

**Plans for Next Year**

- Continue work following up on the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings resolution
- Address other emergent APS issues
- Prepare for joint appearance by the Superintendent and the School Board at CivFed

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**Environmental Affairs Committee****Annual Report**

*Submitted by Mary Glass, Chair for Environmental Affairs Committee*

**Environmental Affairs Committee Report - 2025-2026**

Continuing the focus of the previous year, the Committee was most concerned about Climate Change and the roles natural resources could be playing in mitigation strategies.

Documenting the many natural resource options available to address climate change, especially trees will be continued next year.

With a new Arlington County [Climate Action Plan](#) in development now, ACCF can help members voice their concerns and wishes. The committee chair, Mary Glass, will represent ACCF on the Climate Action Plan Advisory Group. She is actively seeking all perspectives on how to approach the planning as well as specific recommendations on climate change issues, mitigation measures, resource allocation, etc. All ACCF members, delegates and organizations are encouraged to participate.

Other topics discussed included:

- The need to continue to support zoning and permitting measures that help preserve trees and slow the decline of the tree canopy on private lands
- The need for a better County-led strategy to retain and enhance our urban forest on public lands
- The importance of natural resources to mitigate the negative heat island, flooding, health, and well-being impacts from climate change in Arlington
- Measurable progress in implementing the Forest and Natural Resources Plan adopted by the County Board in 2023.

No meetings are scheduled currently. To receive notice of future meetings, contact [chair.environmental.affairs@civfed.org](mailto:chair.environmental.affairs@civfed.org)

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**Public Services Committee****Public Safety subcommittee****Annual Report**

*Submitted by Mike McMenamin*

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) Public Safety Committee is collaborating with the Arlington County Police Department's Community Outreach Unit (Community Outreach Unit) to strengthen community relationships and enhance public safety. This potential partnership allows for open dialogue, addresses safety concerns, and shares crime prevention tips.

The Community Outreach Unit's current Key Initiatives - Quarterly Community Meetings: Officers present local crime trends and provide transportation safety tips, encouraging resident participation. - Immersive Academies: The Community Police Academy educates participants about patrol operations, while summer safety camps promote youth awareness. - Informal Socials: Events like "Coffee with a Cop" facilitate relaxed conversations between residents and police personnel. - Safety Campaigns: Local participation in National Night Out helps promote neighborhood camaraderie and home security awareness.

In a recent meeting with Deputy Chief Dave Giroux, the Public Safety Committee discussed planning another forum for the Community Outreach Unit at an upcoming ACCF meeting this fall. This forum will address crime-related topics and give the Community Outreach Unit an opportunity to engage with ACCF members and residents, answer questions, and foster a discussion for a safer Arlington by highlighting community issues.

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## **Public Services Committee Stormwater subcommittee Annual Report**

*Submitted by John Ford*

Civ Fed's stormwater committee, formed in the wake of the catastrophic July 2019 floods that inundated many areas of Arlington County, serves as the principal point of contact between county planners and the broader community.

Members of the Civ Fed stormwater committee continued this past year to meet at regular six-week intervals with key members of the county Department of Environmental Services staff to review DES projects and initiatives throughout the major watersheds in the county.

The stormwater committee also facilitated and attended periodic meetings between DES staff and representatives from civic associations affected by stormwater planning, including SPRC meetings and watershed-wide information sessions.

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## **Planning and Zoning Committee Annual Report**

*Submitted by Brian Harner*

The Planning and Zoning Committee was active in 2025-2026 with review of the Arlington County Comprehensive Plan and the Low Residential Study. In particular, the two subcommittees of the full P&Z Committee were successful in tackling several key issues during the year.

At the November 2025 Civic Federation meeting, the P&Z Committee participated in preparation for and moderation of a developer roundtable discussing the current environment for commercial real estate in Arlington, challenges facing new project development, and how community members can effectively participate in project reviews. Participants included Marie-Clare Burick of Rosslyn Renaissance, Marc McCauley of the Arlington County Department of Economic Development, Kedrick Whitmore, land use attorney with Venable, LLP, and Casey Nolan, CRC Companies and President of the Clarendon Alliance.

In 2025, the Planning and Zoning committee, led by Jack Spilsbury [of the General Land Use Plan subcommittee](#), drafted a comprehensive Civic Federation resolution to "Improve Planning and Zoning Policy and Processes." This resolution outlined recommendations for more open and transparent Arlington County development review processes, including strengthening community participation and input, posting of materials, and staff reporting on community input. The resolution also calls for a more direct discussion of the proposed

changes in the principles of the Comprehensive Plan. The resolution was adopted at the June 2025 General Membership meeting.

In 2026, the Lot Coverage, Height, and Setbacks Subcommittee, led by Bill Richardson, has worked to draft a resolution “Regarding A Study of Lot Coverage/Height/Setback Provisions of Zoning Ordinance” to address community concerns about the on-going Arlington County Low Residential Study and the critical need to examine residential lot coverage standards relative to environmental protection and control of excessive building bulk. This resolution was introduced at the May 2026 general membership meeting for consideration and a vote on adopting it at the subsequent meeting in June 2026 general membership meeting.

In Spring 2026, the Planning and Zoning Committee supported CivFed leadership in preparing letters to the Arlington County Board and Virginia Governor Spanberger on SB388 which limited local planning and zoning authority over certain local properties used for the development of affordable housing.

The Planning and Zoning Committee is grateful for the participation of all Civic Federation members in committee and subcommittee meetings over the past year, and the input and refinements to the two important draft resolutions adopted in the past year. We look forward to continuing work on process transparency in the Comprehensive Plan principles and process,, input to Arlington County’s updates to its General Land Use Plan, and improvements to the Low Residential study, among other important issues, through the remainder of 2026 and into 2027. The General Land Use Plan subcommittee will track the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development’s action plan in response to the County Auditor’s recent report on community benefits required of developers. The action plan responds to the audit’s recommendations for strengthening oversight, transparency, and public input into the County’s system for delivering public benefits, We also hope to work in coordination with other Civic Federation committees to provide input to the County Board on its implementation of a number of new laws enacted by the General Assembly in 2026 that affect local planning and zoning authority.

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## **Transportation Committee Annual Report**

*Submitted by Nicole Toulouse, Chair; [transport.chair@civfed.org](mailto:transport.chair@civfed.org)*

August – The ACCF President Nick Giacobbe appointed, and the Board confirmed Nicole Toulouse to chair a newly re-constituted ACCF Transportation Committee.

Sept 4 – The chair of the ACCF kicked off the rejuvenated Transportation Committee with an agenda and discussion of the priorities for the year and implementation by developing a draft resolution to establish the ACCF transportation policy framework. Committee meetings throughout the year focused on identifying priorities and drafting a resolution.

**Oct 14 Presentation on Transportation to the General Membership** – by Hui Wang, Chief Deputy Director – Public Works, Utilities and Transportation [Presentation \[PDF, 4,2 MiB\]](#) the presentation provided an overview of the department and how the public can engage on areas of interest. The Committee supported the planning for the presentation that was moderated by Chair Nicole.

**Feb 17 Work session** with the Board – Representing the committee, the chair asked questions and stimulated discussion with the board members on the status of coordination with VDOT, and the importance of improving the planning and transparency of implementation timelines and funding related to identified needs in Vision Zero and follow up with neighborhoods on these identified needs.

**March 10 Resolution introduced** – At the March 2026 General Membership Meeting, the committee introduced a new draft resolution on Safe, Equitable, and Accountable Transportation. It addressed major transportation planning efforts that are underway including Arlington's Transportation Future and Vision Zero. It also provided general recommendations on transportation related feedback for site plans and the many projects and plans involving VDOT-owned roads.

**April 14 Resolution adopted**– At the April General Membership Meeting, the Committee presented an updated resolution that was adopted as amend by the General Membership.

**April 2024** – The Committee facilitated the president in drafting and sending a letter to County Board re the CIP priorities based on the adopted resolution

**Next year:** For 2027, the Committee will focus on follow up to advocate and support the County and VDOT implementation of the priority actions in the adopted resolution including application to specific priorities and locations with transportation and safety factors.

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## **Legislative Committee Annual Report**

*Submitted by Dave Schutz*

In September the Legislative Committee reviewed the previous year's legislative requests and the County recommendations and solicited recommendations from CivFed committees and members.

Based on the review and recommendations, the Committee prepared a resolution with the 2026 recommendations that was introduced at the October 14 General Membership Meeting and adopted at the November 11 meeting. The legislative requests in the resolution included:

- Request to give Arlington authorization to make changes in the form of government at a level of authorization comparable to other jurisdictions such as on the number of County and School Board Members and their terms of office;
- Seek authority for Arlington to adopt building and land use codes to support climate action for stormwater mitigation and for greater authority for reforestation, preservation, and management of urban trees and forests; and
- Seek authority to put speed cameras in any location in the county

The Committee supported transmitting the ACCF legislative agenda to both the County Board and the legislative delegation and advocacy for the requests.

The Committee actively advocated through multiple presentations to the county board and the community for consideration by the board and engagement of the community on the Form of Government. The county Board adopted a six-month time frame for studying the issue and how to proceed. The Committee will follow up to get the board response and will develop a response for ACCF when the board provides their plan.

Looking forward, the Committee will focus now on developing the 2027 legislative requests. The 'due date' for the legislative agenda is effectively mid-Fall, in order to influence the legislative priorities of the County and School Boards.

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## **Public Services Committee Wellness subcommittee Annual Report**

*Submitted by Allan Gajadhar*

The wellness committee was newly constituted for this year, to cover all aspects of wellness, including mental health and health and human services.

We held an initial meeting to discuss areas of focus, including wellness for seniors/aging adults; children and youth, and overall mental health.

### **CivFed Events**

At the April CivFed membership meeting, we held a panel covering Arlington's mental health services, with a focus on mental health, wellbeing, and their intersection with the justice system. Arlington's Sequential Intercept Model continues to serve as a strong example of cross-agency collaboration.

The panel, moderated by Rebecca Kiessling, Executive Director NAMI Northern Virginia, discussed 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 included:

- 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 Director, Commonwealth Attorney's Office

### **Plans for next year**

We will focus on wellness for seniors/aging adults, and mental health for youth and children, including school-based offerings.

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## **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



## 2025-2026 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)  
 Vice President, [Jean Henceroth](#)  
 Secretary, [Richard McNamara](#)  
 Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

### Board of Directors

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 Director at Large, [John Snyder](#)  
 Director at Large, [Matt Gloudeman](#)  
 Director at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

## ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture - if interested contact [bod.orgdev@civfed.org](mailto:bod.orgdev@civfed.org)
- 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 – Acting Chair, Dave Schutz
- Membership – Chair Jackie Snelling [membership@civfed.org](mailto:membership@civfed.org)
- 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](#)

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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**

### **Looking Ahead:**

- 06/03/26 - Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting
  - 06/09/26 - General Meeting
  - 06/22/26 - Housing Committee Meeting
  - 09/26/26 - CivFed Picnic
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