

# Arlington County Civic Federation

*The civic voice of Arlington for 84 years*

## Newsletter

April, 2000

Volume 84, No. 8

### *April Meeting:*

#### **Public Safety: Police and Fire**

**7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 4th  
John T. Hazel Conference Center  
Arlington Hospital  
1701 N. George Mason Drive**

Our program for this month will feature an update on new directions for our police and fire departments. We will be visited by Fire Chief Edward Plaughter and Deputy Police Chief John Haas. We have asked them to bring us up to date on their strategic plans for the coming year, and to address several issues that have arisen recently and been mentioned in the press. Deputy Chief Haas will also give us a brief rundown on experience to date with the speed monitoring program described inside as it was inaugurated by Lyon Park in March.

Our April meeting always begins with the election of the Nominating Committee who will nominate a slate of officers for our 2000-2001 season.

#### **Please Come to Our Banquet!**

Last week you received in the mail your invitation to the Federation's 84th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. This year the banquet will be held on April 28th at the Hilton Arlington and Towers in Ballston. That's the new Hilton facility located at 950 N. Stafford Street (not 450 as the invitation said), between Wilson and Fairfax Boulevards. That's the building where the Ballston Metro station is located. If you drive and don't see a space on the street, the Hilton has agreed to a special \$5 parking rate. (Bring your parking ticket inside with you to be stamped.)

Our Guest Speaker will be Alan Ehrenhalt, the Executive Editor of *Governing* Magazine. He is an interesting speaker whose national professional scope and Arlington roots enable him to bring some fresh perspective to our view of who we are and what we are doing. And finally, your envelope goes back to Tommye Morton, just returning to active duty after a bout of illness. You can scribble a note to welcome her back on your response card. Or even on your check!



## Budget Surprise: We voted for a whopping tax increase!

If you missed the March meeting, you missed an historic occasion. After presenting its budget recommendation for FY 2001, the Revenues and Expenditures Committee asked for delegates to decide what, if any, increase in the tax rate they were willing to recommend to improve retirement benefits for all County employees, including police, fire, schools and civil workers. Everyone understood that Arlington taxes will rise anyway as assessments are rising, but we were deciding on how much to raise the tax *rate* in addition.

To the surprise of many, the delegates voted to recommend a 5 cent tax increase. This was well beyond the 1.7 cent increase recommended by the County Manager. Talking to those who voted for the increase later indicated that many felt that the improvement in retirement benefits had been deferred too long, and that a substantial effort was necessary now. (If you believe that your neighborhood would not have supported that view, be sure to join the R&E Committee next year and come to the budget meeting in March!)

Our final budget recommendations were delivered to the County Board at its tax rate hearing on March 9th. Several raised eyebrows were noted in the room.

## ACST Meets on April 6th

The Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation will meet at NRECA, 4301 Wilson Blvd., on Thursday, April 6th at 7PM to discuss issues related to the proposals for I-66.

## Lyon Park Inaugurates New Traffic Calming Technique

Condensed from a *Lyon Park Citizen* article by LPCA Traffic Committee Chair Taylor Caswell

Lyon Park inaugurated the police department's Community Speed Monitoring Program in March. This program lends citizens a radar gun to monitor speed on residential streets. Speeders receive a warning letter from the police.

Ten residents attended a radar training class and began monitoring speed on March 24. We worked with the Arlington County PD and hosted a joint press conference covered by TV and radio newscasters, the press and the CBS Morning Show. In addition to the media, decision makers who attended included Arlington County Board Chairman Barbara Favola and Board Member Chris Zimmerman, Arlington Police Chief Ed Flynn and District 2 Police Commander Tom Hoffmann. LPCA President Lisa Nisenson participated actively, and the Ashton Heights President, Patrick Smaldore, attended to show support. We stressed that the issue is now one of safety for Lyon Park's children as well as quality of life.

Over the first weekend, residents clocked 51 motorists on Fillmore Street exceeding 35 MPH in a 25 MPH zone, including several over 40 MPH and one exceeding 50 MPH!

*Note: This program is available to your neighborhood. Please contact your District Police commander or call the Arlington County Police Department 2nd District at 703-228-4150 for the right contact number for your neighborhood.*



## Northern Virginia Conservation Trust: An Answer to Open Space Needs and Infill Development

by Elinor Schwartz, NVCT Arlington Board Member

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) is a non-profit land trust that preserves green space and protects it from development. It can buy land, options and protective easements in Arlington. Those concerned about making sure that their property is not subdivided in the future can use the Trust to attach a conservation easement to all or part of their deeds. This protects the property and provides tax benefits. It can also be a tool to help a neighborhood resist infill development.

In addition, the Trust can assist Arlington County with land acquisitions and can work with developers and realtors in Arlington to structure land deals to maximize open space. This year the County Manager has proposed that Arlington contribute \$75,000 for purchases and legal support. This will help to preserve open space, using the County's approved Open Space Master Plan as a guide.

In some cases the Trust may be able to move more quickly than the County to take advantage of opportunities to purchase options on properties that the County has targeted for later purchase. In other cases the NVCT could buffer or improve access to existing public open space, particularly along stream corridors. Conservation easements could also have a role in maintaining the open space in cluster development. With funds from Fairfax County the NVCT has protected 93 acres

of land in Northern Virginia from development by either outright purchases or by leveraging federal and state tax deductions and credits. NVCT has over 1400 members and other supporters, a volunteer Board of Directors and a paid Executive Director.

NVCT has information about the benefits of conservation easements and will come to your civic association to explain its program. You can contact the NVCT at 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, Virginia 22033 or by phone 703-354-5093 or fax 703-354-5169. You can also contact the Arlington Vice President, Michael Nardolilli, evenings at 703-536-4058 or by sending him an email to pavonia@gateway.net

## Is Your Neighborhood Day Event Planned Yet?

Ready for Neighborhood Day on May 13th? This year the three co-chairs of the event (ACCF, County Council of PTA's and NCAC) are still encouraging joint events with your neighborhood school. And the parade in the afternoon will be bigger and better than ever, beginning in Clarendon and marching down Wilson Boulevard to the Courthouse. This is a fun event!

For ideas on events to hold in your neighborhood to celebrate the day, or for instructions on building a float for the Big Parade in the afternoon, visit the Neighborhood Day Web Page at [www.BSCL.org/neighday](http://www.BSCL.org/neighday). There is also a link from the Federation's page. If you would prefer the information on paper, call Randy Swart at 703-521-2080.



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Coming Up!

April 28 -- ACCF Banquet

May 13 -- Neighborhood Day

## Committee Chairs

### Bylaws

Jean Mostrom, Chair 703-532-0452  
Scott McGeary, Vice Chair 703-968-7352

### Community Relations

Jacqueline Mow 703-528-1112

### Cultural Affairs

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### Special Events

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