Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

May 2012 Volume 96, Issue 9

## **Meeting Notice**

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 7:30 p.m. Hazel Auditorium /irginia Hospital Cent

Virginia Hospital Center 1701 N George Mason Drive Arlington, VA 22205 www.civfed.org

## Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
  Approve agenda
  Officer reports
  Member delegate announcements
- 7:40 Housing Committee Program
- 8:20 Commission on the Aging Program
- 9:00 Arlington Villages program
- 9:15 Unfinished Business

# Resolution Regarding Proposed Changes to the County Ordinances Affecting Agriculture

- Presentation by representative from the Arlington Egg Project (5 minutes)
- 5 minute presentation from opponents of Arlington Egg Project (5 minutes)
- Q&A from delegates (5 minutes)
- Consideration of the P&Z Committee Resolution (15 minutes)
- 9:45 New Business
- 9:50 Adjourn

## **Content Summary**

Banquet Award Winners1
Executive Committee News3
Committee News3
Meeting Program4
Unfinished Business5
2011-2012 Topics and Meeting Schedule6
Committee Chairs6

### **Banquet Award Winners**

The following individuals were given awards at the 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arlington County Civic Federation Banquet and the corresponding text for each award is listed below:

Larry Finch, Sun Gazette Cup Winner Glenda Blake, Certificate of Appreciation Eileen Corbet, Certificate of Appreciation Judah Dal Cais, Certificate of Appreciation Chris Nixon, Certificate of Appreciation

#### **Larry Finch:**

Tonight we recognize a person who is remarkable for his many accomplishments and contributions to Arlington. If we were to try to see his "carbon footprint", it would require the use of a microscope, as he has for decades fought against green house gases, stream pollution, and any threat to Arlington's tree canopy.

It was Larry Finch that, through the Donaldson Run Civic Association, led the movement to create the one and half mile long Donaldson Run Walkabout. One of the highlights of this walking tour is the Zachary Taylor Park where one can see a prime example of how a stream bed can be restored without rocks or concrete. Within the Arlington County Civic Federation he has served on the Executive Committee and decades as Chair of the Environmental Committee.

He represented the Arlington County Civic Federation on the Arlington County Community Energy and Sustainability Task Force in 2010 and 2011. The task force worked to reduce per capita green house gas emissions by as much five times over the next forty years.

Larry is a leader within the Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) where he was instrumental in the Arlington Tree Canopy Fund. He played an important role in raising funds for the continued operation of the Gulf Branch Nature Center.

He is the Chair of the Urban Forestry Commission and was instrumental in the *Natural Heritage Resource Inventory* (NHRI) which provides Arlington County with specific data of our streams, wetlands, trees, and open lands. Arlington's *Public Spaces Master Plan* is also one of Larry Finch's contributions to a better Arlington.

To Arlington's own Johnny Appleseed and dedicated member of the Civic Federation we salute you, Larry Finch, for your tireless efforts.

#### Glenda Blake:

The Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residence opened in November 2011, and an Open House, held on February 15; was covered by the Washington Post. The 52-bed residence is an innovative community-based facility for seniors with intellectual disabilities and mental illness. It was financed in part by an Assisted Living Conversion Program grant from Housing and Urban Development and a Section 8 contract provided by Arlington County. The project, operated by Volunteers of America, takes referrals from County agencies and other agencies. 100% occupancy is anticipated by May 1. The Residence is a most worthwhile venture of Arlington County and much appreciated operation of the Volunteers of America. Congratulations to Glenda Blake, Arlington County staff, for her valuable work for the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Residences.

#### **Eileen Corbet:**

Volunteers of America Chesapeake's Residential Program Center, located on Columbia Pike near the Pentagon, provides three crucial services – non-medical detoxification, substance abuse recovery and homeless services for single adults – all under one roof. Within this unique program, funded by Arlington County, a 12-bed

Detoxification Unit provides social model detoxification services for up to 14 days; a 10-bed Early Recovery Unit provides intensive post-detoxification treatment services for up to three months; and a 44-bed homeless shelter provides hi-intensity case management, education, training and referral services for single adults. Since its inception in 1994, the Residential Program Center is the only 24-hour program of this caliber in Arlington County.

Congratulations to Eileen Corbet, Director of the Residential Program Center.

#### **Judah Dal Cais:**

Judah is completing eight years as President of the Bluemont Civic Association. He has also been a delegate from Bluemont to the Arlington County Civic Federation for most of that time. He began his civic involvement over a decade ago when he sought to get curbs and gutters for his block through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Commission and has since devoted much effort to improving his neighborhood and this community.

During his tenure, Judah reinvigorated Bluemont's role in the Federation and in a wide range of County government activities involving the Association. He increased the Association newsletter space devoted to Federation activities and the time at Association meetings devoted to Federation news. He chaperoned adding new Neighborhood Conservation projects and the full update of the Plan now nearing completion. He oversaw many planning and zoning activities along the Association's eastern borders as well as the Reevesland Farm along the western borders.

In particular, he worked on the Peck-Staples site plan, a multiyear effort; the third major building is now nearing completion. The second building is the Jordan – the largest new affordable housing project constructed in Arlington. The whole site plan blended the Ballston Sector Plan's goals with an updating of a twenty year old West Ballston planning process including

setting important precedents for "edge development" in the County. Judah oversaw implementation of a major arterial traffic management set of improvements on Wilson Boulevard in the heart of the Association' boundaries. He began the process for planning for the redevelopment of the Association's business core.

Judah has also been involved in a number of local charitable events and has convinced his wife to edit the Association's newsletter this past year.

#### **Chris Nixon:**

Most of us are familiar with the programs of the Neighborhood Conservation Program and its Advisory Committee which was initiated by the County Board in 1964. Since its inception, literally hundreds of neighborhood projects – sidewalks, curbs and gutters, streetlights, neighborhood parks and beautification -- amounting to millions of dollars, have been approved and implemented.

The program gives neighborhoods the opportunity to identify desired improvements, go through a peer-related review, comply with all applicable country rules and regulations and have their projects presented to the County Board for approval. Funds for these programs are approved by voters as part of the County's Capital Improvement Program.

Forty-nine neighborhoods compete to have their projects approved and funded by the County. Balancing the demands of competing neighborhoods while educating them in the nuances of County code and regulations, and finally coordinating with the County departments responsible for implementation is a challenge.

All of this has been done with a remarkable degree of diplomacy and competence. Fortunately for Arlington, we are lucky to have such a dedicated and competent individual to serve not only as the NCAC Coordinator since 1997, but as Chief of the Neighborhood Services Division since 2006.

It is therefore with particular pride and pleasure that we acknowledge the service of Chris Nixon in making Arlington and its neighborhoods some of the best in the country. Former State Senator, Mary Margaret Whipple, was the keynote speaker at the Federation's Annual Banquet and County Board Chair, Mary Hynes presented the proclamation that April 2012 be the 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arlington County Civic Federation. Scott McCaffrey, the Managing Editor of the *Sun Gazette* newspaper, presented the Sun Gazette Cup to Federation delegate, Larry Finch. We were honored to have these wonderful guests with us to share a fun evening.

# **Executive Committee News**

Jim Lantelme, Chair <a href="millottime">jim@civfed.org</a>
Burt Bostwick, Vice-Chair <a href="millottime">burt@civfed.org</a>

The Executive Committee met on April 9, 2012, to discuss the May 1 general meeting. (<a href="https://www.civfed.org/officers.htm">www.civfed.org/officers.htm</a>).

The Executive Committee will meet on May 7, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work, plan future meeting programs, and organize the January Civic Voice newsletter.

### **Committee News**

#### **Nominating Committee**

Pursuant to Section 2 of Article IV of the Civic Federation's Bylaws, Stan Karson, Larry Finch, Mark Antell, Gerry Auten and Jim Pebley were elected as members of the Nominating Committee at the April 3 general meeting of the Federation. It shall be the duty of this Committee to nominate at least one candidate for each office, and at least five members to serve on the Executive Committee. The nominees for office and for the Executive Committee shall be delegates or alternate delegates of the Federation and shall maintain the status of delegate or alternate delegate during their term of service. The Nominating Committee shall submit its report in writing to all the delegates through the newsletter, or by other appropriate means, and shall report at the annual meeting in June, at which time nominations from the floor shall be permitted with the consent of the nominee.

If you are interested in serving in a greater role with the Federation, please contact Stan Karson at Dcstan@aol.com.

#### **Housing Committee**

Founded in 2003, the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) educates, facilitates and advocates in support of affordable housing in Arlington County and Northern Virginia. The Alliance has been a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation for two years. In May, with the support of its community partners, AHS is launching a six-month education campaign to help our community better understand the need for affordable housing. The campaign will also describe various bricks-and-mortar approaches to providing affordable housing. All are invited.

The State of Affordable Housing in Arlington, 2012 on Wednesday May 16 @ 6:30-8pm at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 South 16th Street, 22206 [off Walter Reed Dr.]

## **Meeting Program**

# Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study Program

Columbia Pike is the second most populous urban corridor in Arlington. The area is characterized by close geographic proximity to major metropolitan job centers, a unique cultural and socio-economic diversity and a uniquely mixed built environment. The Pike is the largest repository of affordable housing in our County. While Arlington's economic and urban growth has been driven by the expansion of the metro-rail system, Columbia Pike as a non-Metro corridor has experienced relative stagnation and in some cases disinvestment. In 2002 Arlington County adopted the Columbia Pike Initiative which consisted in a series of policies serving a new vision of a revitalized, diverse and vibrant Columbia Pike.

The initiative was successful in jumpstarting development in four predominantly commercial target areas considered revitalization nodes. The 2012 Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study focuses on the residential areas between the original nodes and addresses new challenges on housing and urban planning. The study identifies

and analyzes these challenges and will propose long term policies aimed to preserve affordable housing and improve living along the corridor by engaging all stakeholders according to the community's goals.

Website: <a href="http://www.columbiapikeva.us/revitaliz">http://www.columbiapikeva.us/revitaliz</a> <a href="mailto:ation-story/columbia-pike-land-use-housing-study/">http://www.columbiapikeva.us/revitaliz</a> <a href="mailto:ation-story/columbia-pike-land-use-housing-study/">http://www.columbiapikeva.us/revitaliz</a> <a href="mailto:ation-story/columbia-pike-land-use-housing-study/">http://www.columbia-pike-land-use-housing-study/</a> <a href="mailto:study/">http://www.columbia-pike-land-use-housing-study/</a>

This program is 40 minutes in length and does contain questions.

## Commission on Aging **Program**

The Commission on Aging will present the following program at our May meeting:

#### Maimoona N. Bah-Duckenfield, LCSW,

Customer Services Center Supervisor, Arlington Aging and Disability Services, will present a high - level overview of the types of services and programs that are available to older Arlington residents to help them safely remain independent in their homes and discuss possibilities for when they are not.

**Jessica Vasquez**, Senior and Adult Outreach Supervisor, Office of Senior Adult Programs, will then introduce the fitness, sports, learning, mental workouts, the arts, recreation, social wellness, and travel programs available to 55+ and the volunteer opportunities at our senior centers and on committees.

These two supervisors are the most knowledgeable and articulate folks imaginable on this topic. The Arlington Commission on Aging appreciates the opportunity to let your members know about the many services available to older residents in Arlington that too few know about.

This program is 40 minutes in length and does contain questions.

### **Arlington Villages Program**

The May meeting will include a short presentation by Andrea Walker of the Arlington Villages Project Team. A village is a community based, grass roots organization that provides the support services needed to help older adults stay in their homes and remain active in their

communities as long as possible. Villages are rooted in the principle of neighbors helping neighbors and provide a range of services to maintain the health and well-being of their members. The Team's approach is to create a network of neighborhood villages across Arlington, partnering with County agencies and other service providers to avoid duplication of effort. They are looking for participation from the community in developing the model. They also want to begin to build interest in the concept throughout Arlington. Their website is arlingtonvillages.org and email arlingtonvillages@gmail.com.

Civic Federation contact - Peter Olivere peterolivere@civfed.org.

#### **Unfinished Business**

The unfinished business before the Federation is consideration of the following resolution introduced by Jim Pebley, from Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association:

WHEREAS Arlington County has formed a task force on urban agriculture that may likely include findings and recommendations regarding agriculture, including the raising livestock and poultry in Arlington; and

WHEREAS there may be benefits to increased urban agriculture in Arlington; and

WHEREAS, the current zoning ordinance for R5, R6, R8, R10, and R20 zoned properties requires, for example, that the raising, housing, or sale of livestock and poultry must be maintained at a distance of no less than 100 feet from any street or lot line; and

WHEREAS a substantial effort is underway by members of the Arlington Egg Project advocating relaxation of such poultry provisions of the code to permit "backyard hens" for the purposes of locally producing chicken eggs; and

WHEREAS relaxation of such restrictions on poultry may result in impacts on neighboring properties, may pollute rainwater runoff, attract rodents, spread odors and, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, may introduce salmonella; and

WHEREAS similar concerns are likely to exist for relaxation of other regulations affecting agriculture in Arlington; and

WHEREAS the task force was not charged with reaching a consensus outcome, and instead will take votes that may fail to represent the views held by the majority of Arlingtonians; and

WHEREAS there is no assurance that the concerns of neighbors will be raised by the task force, much less incorporated into their recommendations; and

WHEREAS the County Board did not appoint a Civic Federation representative to the aforementioned task force, therefore representation of the Civic Federation's position on the relaxation of residential zoning ordinances should be expeditiously adopted to advise the County Board and the task force;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation is opposed to relaxing the current restrictions in the Arlington County ordinances that relate to agriculture activities in Arlington, including the raising, housing, or sale of livestock or poultry, without a more expansive and inclusive public process.

Consideration of the resolution will be governed as outlined below:

## <u>Informational Presentation - Backyard Hens (15 minutes)</u>

- 5 minute presentation by representative from the Arlington Egg Project
- 5 minute presentation from opponents of Arlington Egg Project
- 5 minutes for Q&A from delegates

Consideration of the P&Z Committee Resolution (15 minutes)

## **General and Executive Committee Meeting Dates**

Month	Primary Program Topic	General Meeting	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>
May	To be determined	Tuesday 1	Monday 7
June	To be determined & Civic Federation election	Tuesday 5	Monday 11

Executive Committee meetings will be held on the Monday following the General Meeting. They will be held at 7:30pm at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2).

#### Civic Federation Committee Chairs

Civic Federation committees study community-wide policy issues in their jurisdiction and report to the Civic Federation's member organization delegates. All Civic Federation delegates and alternate delegates should serve on a committee. If you are not already serving on a committee, please review the jurisdictions (<a href="https://www.civfed.org/committe.htm">www.civfed.org/committe.htm</a>) and email the committee chair to sign up.

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Chair Jim Lantelme; Vice Chair Burt Bostwick	jim@civfed.org; burt@civfed.org
Airport	Steve Geiger	steveg@civfed.org
Awards	Elected by membership December 7, 2011	to be determined
Audit	Robert Atkins	to be determined
Bylaws	Jean Mostrom	703-532-0452
Community Relations	Sharon Rogers	sharon@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Barbara Olivere	barbara@civfed.org
Emergency Preparedness	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Housing	Kathryn Scruggs	kathryn@civfed.org
Legislation	Chair(s) needed	to be determined
Membership	Mileva Hartman	mileva@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Jim Pebley	jim@civfed.org
Nominating	Stan Karson, Larry Finch, Mark Antell, Gerry Auten, and Jim Pebley.	to be determined
Parks and Recreation	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore and Larry Mayer	martha@civfed.org, larrymayer@civfed.org
Public Services	Sal D'Itri	sal@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Wayne Kubicki	wayne@civfed.org
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Chair(s) needed	to be determined
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org