

Arlington County Civic Federation

The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years

Newsletter

September, 1997

Volume 82, No. 1

September Meeting: Candidates Night

7:30 pm, Tuesday, September 2nd
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Columbia Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

Separate panels will be formed of candidates for each contested office, presented in this order:

Commonwealth of Virginia

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General

Arlington County

County Board
School Board

~~48th~~ Virginia House of Delegates
~~43rd~~ District
49th District

Unopposed candidates have been invited to attend as members of the audience and speak if time permits. Their attendance will be acknowledged at the beginning of the program. Rules are on page 2.

Civic Association Workshop

*The Nuts and Bolts of Running a
Neighborhood Civic Association*

Sunday September 14 1:30 to 4:30 pm
NRECA Bldg, 4301 Wilson Blvd.

The Federation is sponsoring a workshop for anyone who wants to learn more about fifteen key topics that are important to a civic association. They include Finances, Dues, Newsletters, Meeting Topics, Constructive Debate With the County and Handling Press Coverage. There is parking in the basement of the NRECA building. Call Randy Swart at 521-2080 if you need more information.

Orientation for advisory group Members

On October 6 the County will conduct an orientation course for members of commissions, committees, or ad hoc advisory groups. This course responds to recommendations in the recent League of Women Voter's study and covers County organization, group practices, the role of staff, agendas, dealing with difficult participants and more. For more info call the Arlington Volunteer Office at 358-3261.

Rules For Candidates Night

Floor rules

1. Each candidate on a panel will make a two minute opening statement. The order will be determined by a random drawing.
2. Federation Delegates and Alternates are invited to register to ask questions by completing a name card and placing the card in the appropriate box [located in the Lobby] for each panel. Delegates will be chosen by random drawing to ask their question. Delegates who have already asked a question of an earlier panel will not be eligible in the drawing for subsequent panels.
3. Questions to a candidate MUST be concise and NO more than thirty seconds in length. Statements of position, argumentative or derogatory comments, multi-part, and follow-up questions are forbidden.
4. Each candidate will then have one and a half minutes to answer each question posed to any member of the panel.
5. Signs, banners, and audio-visual presentations are not allowed in the Conference Center lobby, hallway, auditorium, or on the exterior of the Hospital buildings, or on the Hospital grounds. Literature may be distributed in the lobby ONLY.
6. ONLY authorized press and ACCF representatives may tape or photograph the proceedings.
7. Candidates and their supporters are expected to respect the Hospital's rules as well as the sensitivities of patients and visitors during the evening.

Community Heroes Wanted

Nominations Close on September 2nd!

On September 27th, in conjunction with Neighborhood Day, the *Northern Virginia Sun* and Ballston Common Mall will honor Arlington heroes: people who make exceptional contributions to our community. Nominations will be judged by a panel of business and community leaders on factors including: need addressed, action, initiative, achievement, impact and challenges. You can nominate an individual, couple, family, group, agency or business. For more information, call the Arlington Volunteer Office at 358-3261. The nominations close September 2nd.

Newsletter Editorial Committee

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ACCF Officers

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Member	Frances Finta
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Arlington's Field House Project

During the summer, the Arlington County Board formed a Work Group to determine candidate sites and size for a Field House to accommodate the various Parks and Recreation Department (Parks & Rec) programs currently using the Gunston gymnasium. Gunston Middle School needs the gym back for student use or the school may lose state accreditation.

Because the Work Group was hurriedly formed during the summer months, when many of Arlington's civic associations are always dormant, the County was unable to adequately *notify* affected residents, Civic Association members or the ACCF membership. This is extremely unfortunate as the Field House may have a major impact on the community in which it is located and is projected to cost County taxpayers between \$1.6 and \$3.2 million. The ACCF and other civic groups suggested that more community review was required.

From more than 20 sites, the Work Group identified four: Barcroft Park on Four Mile Run Drive; Gunston Middle School, sited on the current three school tennis courts and part of a soccer field; Virginia Highlands Park, sited on the two current basketball courts and part of a soccer field, and three properties in the 6000 block of Wilson Blvd., land the County is currently trying to purchase for parkland. The Work Group vote on these sites strongly favored Barcroft Park, eliminating the other three sites. As a second option, some also favored splitting the project, with the second ~~part~~ *part* at the vacant site of Augi's Crabby Pig restaurant at Glebe Road and Old Glebe.

Res At the last Work Group meeting, the Staff Facilitator stated that Staff was meeting with the County Manager on August 22nd and that its position would be "slightly different" from

that of the citizen's Work Group, but that the report would not likely be available for public review until Monday August 25, the day of the Planning Commission hearing. It should also be noted that neither the Transportation nor Environment and Energy Commissions has as yet been included in the siting process.

If you are interested in these issues, please attend these two meetings:

Public forum, Field House Work Group
Monday, Sept. 8 at the Central Library

County Board Hearing
Saturday, Sept 20 at the Courthouse

Are Approved Phased Site Plans in Jeopardy?

You can learn first hand how the process begins when a developer presents a plan to convert the equivalent of about fourteen city blocks from residential to commercial. The proposal is for a strip mall. The location is the green space near Pentagon City.

Come to the Planning Commission's Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting at 7 pm Tuesday, September 9. (Call the County Board Office at 358-3130, for the location.)

The developer, Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT) proposes that the County government overturn a 22 year old Phased Development Site Plan. The other phases built out to date have been built according to the Plan, but now the developer would prefer to build more retail space, with potential impacts on the adjacent neighborhoods. Could successful action by the developer jeopardize zoning, land use, and neighborhood integrity anywhere Phased Development Site Plans are used in the County? The issue merits your attention this fall.

ACCF Committee Chairs

Brighten the day of one of our Committee Chairs by calling to express your interest and willingness to serve! All of the phone numbers in this newsletter are (703) unless otherwise indicated.

Bylaws	Jean Mostrum 532-0452 Scott McGeary, Vice C. 968-7352
Community Relations	David Foster 276-0206
Cultural Affairs	Herschel Kanter 536-6286
Environmental Affairs	Henry Harper 243-4665
Housing	Reid Goldstein 271-0431
Legislation	Nancy Graham 243-4650
Membership	Frances Finta 528-2882
Parks & Recreation	Robert Nester 524-5418
Planning & Zoning	William Gearhart 522-2276
Public Services	Rebecca Gray, Co-Chr 549-3277 Stan Schachne, Co-Chr 522-1358
Revs. & Expenditures.	Robert Atkins 527-8859
Schools	Royce Lowry 671-7796
Special Events	Ann Rudd 536-8270
Transportation	David Jones 549-3277

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