

Arlington County Civic Federation

The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years

Newsletter

September, 1998

Volume 83, No. 1

September Meeting:

Candidates Night

7:30 pm, Tuesday, ~~June 2nd~~ ^{Sept 1st}
John T. Hazel Conference Center
Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

Candidates for the two contested offices will speak and answer questions in two separate groups. We will begin with Congressional candidates first followed by County Board candidates. Both candidates for both offices have accepted our invitation to attend. Following these groups we have invited the unopposed School Board candidate to speak and answer questions in the same manner as the other panels. Please see the Candidates Night rules inside.

We will also have, time permitting, brief descriptions of the Constitutional questions and bond issues on the November ballot, which we expect to take up in more detail in our October meeting. Printed summaries will be available at the sign-in table and brief listings are included inside this issue.

Many Associations Plan Neighborhood Day Activities

Planning continued over the summer for the events many associations will be holding in their neighborhoods on October 3rd. This year's Neighborhood Day celebration is being sponsored by the Civic Federation, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee and the County Council of PTAs. It will feature joint events held by neighborhood civic associations and their neighborhood schools, and a big parade at 3 PM from the old Sears lot to the Courthouse.

The theme is "Our Youth - Our Future" and after the parade there will be a program featuring high school bands and performing groups. So far we are aware of neighborhood programs including fall cleanups of school grounds, a school landscaping project, park cleanups, a breakfast program, an issues forum, a health and safety fun fair, a parade, making floats for the 3 o'clock parade, senior programs, voter registration and more. If you need suggestions for a program, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080 for a list of ideas.

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*Schools -
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Roger Meyer
Co. Chairs*

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*Notes amended
to appear in
July letter*

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.

Constitutional Amendments on the November Ballot

Proposed Amendment 1: Permit persons employed overseas, and their families, who are qualified to vote in Virginia except for having given up a home in Virginia, to continue to vote in Virginia while overseas subject to the conditions and limits set by law.

Proposed Amendment 2: Delete the present requirement that the proceedings of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission concerning charges against judges shall be confidential so that the General Assembly can provide by law to what extent the Commission proceedings and documents will be confidential.

Proposed Amendment 3: Authorize agreements among localities for sharing the revenues and costs of a specified land area and establishing a special governing body for the area, and to provide that fiscal commitments related to the land area will not be deemed local debt.

Proposed Amendment 4: Allow a combination of localities to contract debt as part of an agreement to share the revenues, tax base, or the benefits of economic growth and exempt this class of debt from the ceiling on local debt for cities and towns and from the requirement for a local referendum for counties.

Proposed Amendment 5: Authorize the General Assembly by general law to give local governments the option of eliminating, in whole or in part, either the business, professional or occupational license tax or the merchants' capital tax or both.

Bond Issues on the Ballot

The ballot in November will ask for Arlingtonians to vote on the following bond issues:

- 1. Schools. \$50.7 million** For construction of a new elementary school, rebuilding or expanding other facilities to relieve overcrowding of classrooms, renovating heating and air conditioning, replacing roofs and other structures, complying with ADA access requirements, installing cabling for data connections, fire alarms and emergency power.
- 2. Renovating Westover and Shirlington Branch Libraries. \$8 million**
- 3. Parks \$17 million** For renovating parks, acquiring land and demolishing existing structures, renovating the Arlington Arts Center at Maury School, providing Arlington's contribution to regional parks.
- 4. Roads and Community Conservation \$24 million.** For streets, highways, bridges, culverts, gutters, bikeways, sidewalks, and other pedestrian ways including neighborhood traffic calming efforts, and for Neighborhood Conservation projects.

Comments Due Now on Traffic Calming Study

Now is the time for your Civic Association to give the County comments on the traffic calming study you received earlier this summer. It's with the stuff you put aside to read at the beach. The County Board reviewed the report but did not make any decisions on the program yet, so there is still time for your association to review it and submit comments as the task force resumes its work in the fall.

Neighborhood Day Program List as of Press Time

Please note that some of these may still be subject to change, and the list is not complete.

- Alcova Heights** Park Cleanup
Arlington Mill Center Open House, First Anniversary
Ashton Heights Bicycle Helmet Fit Clinic (not confirmed)
Aurora Highlands Picnic
Ballston Common Mall various events
Barcroft Barbecue
Cherrydale Parade
Claremont School Grounds Day (Fall cleanup, planting)
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Forum
Glencarlyn Pancake Breakfast
Lyon Park Yard sale/bake sale and spaghetti dinner
New Arlington Douglas Park Park cleanup
Safeway Voter Registration
Stonewall Jackson (Arlington Traditional School) Health and Safety Fair
Waycroft-Woodlawn - Park cleanup and Helping Hands for Seniors
Yorktown Landscaping at Yorktown High

Coming Up

**October 3rd:
Neighborhood Day**

**October 6th
October ACCF Meeting:**

USA 32



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- Parks & Recreation**
Robert Nester 524-5418
- Planning & Zoning**
William Gearhart 522-2276
- Public Services** Rebecca Gray 549-3277 &
Stan Schachne 522-1358 (Co-Chairs)
- Revenues and Expenditures**
Robert Atkins 527-8859
- Schools**
- Special Events**
Ann Rudd 536-8270
- Transportation**
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