

# Arlington County Civic Federation

*The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years*

## Newsletter

December, 1998

Volume 83, No. 4

### *December Meeting:*

#### **School Board Visit + Traffic Calming**

**7:30 pm, Tuesday, December 1st  
John T. Hazel Conference Center  
Arlington Hospital  
1701 N. George Mason Drive**

We are pleased that the members of the School Board have again accepted our invitation to speak at the December meeting. For this program the Schools Committee has prepared a series of questions, and in a break from tradition we have asked the Board Members to lead off with responses to the questions, rather than a more general presentation, to provide a more issues-oriented discussion. The second part of our program will be devoted to a discussion of the Traffic Calming Program Final Report that each of you has received from the County. Please come prepared to vote on a resolution taking a position on the report and the program. We are planning the meeting to start promptly at 7:30 PM and end as close to 9:30 as possible.

#### **Questions for School Board**

1. The State accreditation of the Arlington Public Schools (APS) plus the accreditation of individual schools in particular will depend on how successful APS are in raising the academic performance of those students who fail the Standards of Learning. What plan has the School Board for those students who fail? What are the budgetary implications of that plan? There is a continuing concern about the lack of improvement in the academic achievement of children from African-American, Hispanic, and non-English speaking backgrounds. Is there a system wide or overall guidance for addressing this issue? What can APS do that has not already been done to improve the academic achievement of minority students? What specifically has been done to implement the Superintendent's annual priorities?
2. The most recent effort to improve academic performance of Hispanic children has been the inauguration of an experimental first-language support program in four schools. What are the goals of this program and what is the time line for their achieve-

ment? How does the school day differ for a child enrolled in this program from that of a child enrolled in an ESOL program or that of a child in a regular classroom? What was the entry criteria, was there a before entry English language assessment? What is the exit criteria? What is the evaluation plan? Will participants in this program be expected to take the Stanford 9 and State SOL examinations in grades 3 and 5?

3. As part of the new budget process (Comprehensive Program Budget Review) the exemplary programs will have some level of review. Has the School Board established a schedule to evaluate all academic programs on their effectiveness? Will all future programs have an assessment component to evaluate effectiveness?

4. The newly passed school construction bond for \$50.7 million will add many schools to the existing list of planned or ongoing renewal or expansion projects. This means that many neighborhoods and civic associations will be facing land use issues as well as educational consideration relating to the schools within their boundaries. Explain the recently revised Arlington School Directive 50-4.08 (as of April 1998). Much of the responsibility for communication and initiation of cooperation rests with individual school principals, are they aware of this role? How has the School Board implemented this ASD? Is it doing it retroactively as well as with new committees? How is this information disseminated to civic associations, schools, PTA's, and principals?

5. The number of identified Gifted students varies widely across the county and the importance of like peers is very important com-

ponent of education. How do the schools address this critical piece of a student's education? What is the school system doing to insure that Gifted students are receiving the same level of challenge across the county?

6. Is the current compensation package for teachers sufficient to attract and maintain the highest quality teachers needed to provide the finest education possible for the children of Arlington? What should be done to improve it?

7. What efforts are being made to find economies that may be made by consolidating certain school and county functions? Why is outsourcing not being considered at the same time as collaboration with the county is being planned? Is the joint use of facilities

### **Legislative Package Adopted**

The Legislation Committee report was adopted unchanged at our November meeting. Chairman Nancy Graham has transmitted our recommendations to the County Board, our State legislators and our Members of Congress. We will be following up at County Board and State Delegation meetings to present our package.

### **Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange**

Neighborhood newsletter editors can swap articles with other editors by email by joining the Arlington Neighborhood News Exchange. Your editor can join by sending an email to [anne@bscl.org](mailto:anne@bscl.org). The same address receives articles from other sources for forwarding to the editors who are members.

## **Traffic Calming Report Distributed to all Delegates**

By now you should have received your copy of the green-cover report to the County Board issued by the Ad hoc Committee on Traffic Calming. The Board will take up the report and its recommendations on December 12th, and welcomes comments by civic associations before that time. The Federation will take up the report and adopt a resolution on it at our December meeting. Pending a meeting of the Transportation Committee we do not yet have the proposed resolution, but the Federation's three members of the Ad hoc Committee that developed the program will be on hand to brief you on the report, and given our input during the process the draft resolution is likely to be supportive.



## **Thanks to David Jones for A Job Well Done**

David Jones has been forced by an expanded business travel schedule to resign as Chairman of the Civic Federation Transportation Committee. We would like to thank David for his contributions as Chair of this active committee for the past three years, while also working on such issues as cellular transmission towers. Since the committee has a full plate at the moment with issues in traffic calming, airports, bridges and regional transportation, President Randy Swart will act in David's position until a new Chairman is appointed.

## **More Federation Members Now Have Web Sites**

**Alcova Heights Citizens Association**  
[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/7326/)

**Arlington Forest Citizens Association**  
[www.capaccess.org/com/forest/](http://www.capaccess.org/com/forest/)

**Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance**  
[www.agla-va.org/](http://www.agla-va.org/)

**Arlington County**  
[www.co.arlington.va.us](http://www.co.arlington.va.us)

**Arlington County Taxpayers' Association**  
<http://www.geocities.com/~actawatchdog/>

**Ballston-Virginia Square**  
[www.bvsca.org/](http://www.bvsca.org/)

**Barcroft School and Civic League**  
[www.bscl.org](http://www.bscl.org)

**Cherrydale**  
[members.aol.com/cherryva/](http://members.aol.com/cherryva/)

**Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization**  
[members.aol.com/cpropike/](http://members.aol.com/cpropike/)

**Friends of Four Mile Run**  
[www.erols.com/wayes/friends/](http://www.erols.com/wayes/friends/)

**Glencarlyn**  
[www.glencarlyn.org/](http://www.glencarlyn.org/)

**Rock Spring**  
[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/3914/](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/3914/)

**Waverly Hills Civic Association**  
<http://www.architrave.net/waverly/>

**Waycroft-Woodlawn Civic Association**  
[www.erols.com/wwcassoc/](http://www.erols.com/wwcassoc/)

### **Coming Up**

**January 6th  
ACCF Meeting:  
County Board Visit**

Arlington County Civic Federation  
c/o Swart  
4611 Seventh Street South  
Arlington, VA 22204-1419

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FRANCES FINTA  
D MYWD  
FRANCES FINTA  
3317 23RD ST N  
ARLINGTON VA 22201-4310

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### Committee Chairs

**Bylaws** Jean Mostrum 532-0452  
Scott McGeary, Vice Chr. 968-7352

**Community Relations**  
David Foster 276-0206

**Cultural Affairs**  
Herschel Kanter 536-6286

**Environmental Affairs**  
Patrick Smaldore 528-3935

**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 549-3277 &  
Stan Schachne 522-1358 (Co-Chairs)

**Revenues and Expenditures**  
Robert Atkins 527-8859

**Schools**  
Roger Meyer 671-3655  
Terri Prell 820-3782

**Special Events**  
Ann Rudd 536-8270

**Transportation**  
Vacant (Randy Swart acting)

### ACCF Officers

President Randy Swart  
Vice President Jim Pebley  
Treasurer Frances Finta  
Secretary Timothy Wise

### Executive Committee

Chairman Jim Pebley  
Vice Chairman Rebecca Gray  
Member Robert Atkins  
Member Darnell Carpenter  
Member Robert Rackmales  
Member Ann Rudd

### Newsletter Editorial Committee

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