

# Arlington County Civic Federation

*The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years*

## Newsletter

April, 1999

Volume 83, No. 8

*April Meeting:*

### **Community Services Board**

**and**

### **Code Enforcement**

7:30 pm, Tuesday, April 6th  
John T. Hazel Conference Center  
Arlington Hospital  
1701 N. George Mason Drive

**7:30 Call to order**, adoption of agenda, committee reports and announcements.

**7:40 election of Nominating Committee for 1999-2000 officers.**

#### **7:45 to 8:40 Community Services Board**

Judy Connally, who chairs the Arlington Community Services Board, will explain to us the Board's function and relationship to community programs dealing with services for mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse. She will also cover some upcoming neighborhood group house programs for clients in those areas.

#### **8:40 to 9:30 Code Enforcement Workshop**

Has your neighborhood had trouble in the past getting County action on abandoned cars and houses or other violations of County

code? William Brown of the Code Enforcement Section will discuss changes in their operation, including who to call to get action on common complaints and what offenses they can issue tickets for instead of having to take the offender to court.

#### **9:30 Adjournment**

*Please contact President Randy Swart if you have new business to raise.*

### **April 13th: Unusual Day for a County Election!**

April 13th is a Tuesday, but that's where the similarity to most other voting days ends. The special election to fill the seat recently vacated by Al Eisenberg for the rest of 1999 will be held on that day.

After our Candidates Night in March the field has narrowed to two: Republican Michael Lane and Democrat Charles Monroe. Voter turnout will be light, so your vote will count two or three times! Please vote at your normal polling place, from 6 AM to 7 PM. With only one button to press, you'll be in and out in minutes. The only trick is remembering that the date is Tuesday, April 13th.

## Code Enforcement: Why We Should be Interested

If you think a moment about the most annoying problems your neighborhood faces day-to-day (and exclude traffic or airport noise) many of them revolve around "code enforcement issues." Abandoned cars, abandoned houses, knee-high weeds, untrimmed shrubbery choking sidewalks, barking dogs, signs plastered everywhere, late party noise--all are in the category of code violations.

The County's staff for dealing with most of these violations of county code is in the Code Enforcement Section. There have been sweeping changes in that office over past months, including the ability for the first time to issue tickets for code violations rather than having to take each violator to court. To make sure that we are all aware of the changes, and to ask for feedback on how well the office is serving our neighborhoods, Mr. William Brown (228-3241) has been speaking before neighborhood-oriented groups to inform them of the changes and ask for their views on such items as which violations should be addressed with the new ticketing authority. Please be ready at our April meeting to deliver that feedback on behalf of your civic association.

Mr. Brown will bring with him copies of a handout from the Code Enforcement Section describing the enforcement process and the new developments. We will also have paper copies of sections of the county code that are of most concern to civic associations. That handout is available on the Barcroft Web page at [www.bscl.org/bardocs/arlcode.htm](http://www.bscl.org/bardocs/arlcode.htm)

## Non-Partisan School Board Elections?

At the end of our February meeting Tir Wise proposed a resolution putting the Federation on record as opposing partisan School Board elections in Arlington. The resolution was referred to the Executive Committee for study before being brought to the floor for a vote.

Tim has been researching the background to the question, including past Federation positions taken some years back when we endorsed the concept of an elected School Board. In fact, the elections are at least technically non-partisan now, and candidates do not run as the formal representatives of political parties. But the State Board of Elections does permit parties to endorse candidates, as the Democrats regularly do in Arlington and the Republicans have done on one occasion. Do those endorsements impact unfavorably on the elections? Has the end result of the elections in Arlington been less than optimal as a result of party involvement? Is there any realistic prospect of having a truly non-political election for an County office? Would we want that if we could have it?

Tim is continuing his research and refining his resolution to answer some of those questions and plans to have it back for a vote at our May meeting. His proposal will appear in the May newsletter. In the meantime, delegates should be polling their civic associations for views on this subject, and be prepared for a discussion in May.

The Arlington County Civic Federation

# BANQUET

Friday, April 23rd

**Army-Navy Country Club**  
(new location!)

**Speaker: Patrick B. Healy, Chairman**  
**Arlington Health Foundation**  
Again owners and operators of  
Arlington Hospital

**Please mark your calendar.**

**Watch for an invitation and response card soon.**

## **Federation to Have Fair Booth**

The Executive Committee has approved plans for the Federation to return this year to the Arlington County Fair as an exhibitor. If you have ideas for the booth, or would like to volunteer to take a time slot for staffing it in August, please call Randy Swart at 521-2080.

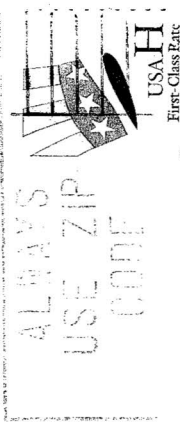
## **Coming Up!**

**April 23 - ACCF Banquet**

**May 4th meeting- State Legislators  
and Y2K County Update**

**August 20-23 Federation booth at the  
Arlington County Fair**

**October 23 - Neighborhood Day**



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

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

**Committee Chairs**

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

**Community Relations**  
 David Foster 276-0206 dfoster@fulbright.com

**Cultural Affairs**  
 Herschel Kanter 536-6286 hkanter@juno.com

**Environmental Affairs**  
 Patrick Smaldore 528-3935 PatrickSmaldore@rocketmail.com

**Housing**  
 Reid Goldstein 271-0431 rgoldstein@stratsight.com

**Legislation**  
 Nancy Graham 243-4650 nagraham@msn.com

**Membership**  
 Frances Finta 528-2882

**Parks & Recreation**  
 Robert Nester 524-5418 105330.3672@compuserve.com

**Planning & Zoning**  
 William Gearhart 522-2276

**Public Services (Co-Chairs)**  
 Rebecca Gray 549-3277 gray-jones@erols.com  
 Stan Schachne 522-1358 schachne@aol.com

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

**Schools (Co-Chairs)**  
 Roger Meyer 671-3655 rdmeier@aol.com  
 Terri Prell 820-3782 prellth@webtv.net

**Special Events**  
 Ann Rudd 536-8270

**Transportation**  
 Vacant (Randy Swart acting)

**ACCF Officers**

President Randy Swart 521-2080 randy@bscl.org  
 Vice Pres. Jim Pebley 525-0766 (email below)  
 Treasurer Frances Finta 528-2882  
 Secretary Tim Wise 243-8345 timwise@dgsys.com

**Executive Committee**

Chairman Jim Pebley jimpebley@worldnet.att.net  
 Vice Chair Rebecca Gray gray-jones@erols.com  
 Member Robert Atkins 527-8859  
 Member Darnell Carpenter 243-5188  
 Member Robert Rackmales rackmary@erols.com  
 Member Ann Rudd 536-8270

**Newsletter Editorial Committee**

Editor: Randy Swart 521-2080  
 Committee: Jim Pebley, Ann Rudd  
 News email: civicfed@bscl.org  
 Fax: 486-0576