



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
May 2026 | Volume 110 | Number 10

President's Message

Wow, what a party! Many thanks to Jean Henceroth for organizing a memorable banquet and awards ceremony at Spates Hall and to the many member-delegates and guests who filled the room to honor our deserving awardees. A gallery of photos of the festivities by Alex Sakes Photography is available at [link](#), and a full list of award recipients can be found at [link](#).

In April, Allan Gajadhar convened a thoughtful and informative panel on mental health, wellbeing, and their intersection with the justice system. Arlington's Sequential Intercept Model continues to serve as a strong example of cross-agency collaboration, and if you were unable to attend, I encourage you to watch the recording. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team working across the continuum of care.

We also welcomed Senator Barbara Favola and County Board Member Takis Karantonis for a discussion, moderated by Housing Committee Co-Chair Anne Bodine, on housing-related legislation passed during the recent General Assembly session.

Looking ahead, [Arlington HistoryFest 250](#) is fast approaching on Saturday, May 9, at Kenmore Middle School. We are still seeking volunteers to staff our table and would also welcome member organizations to join us at the table. See the article in this issue.

Headlining our May General Meeting is a candidates forum featuring the three candidates who will be on the August 4 primary ballot for County Board. See the article in this issue with details on the forum and how to submit questions.

Thank you for continuing to show what engaged neighbors can accomplish when we work side by side for the good of Arlington.

Sincerely,

Nick Giacobbe
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

May General Membership Meeting Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [April minutes](#) approval
- 7:05 - 8:05 County Board Candidates Forum

- **8:05 - 8:30** Second reading and vote on Schools Committee [resolution](#)
- **8:30 - 8:40** First reading of Public Safety Committee [resolution](#)
- **8:40 - 8:50** First reading of Planning & Zoning Committee [resolution](#)
- **8:50 - 9:00** Proposed boundary change for Cherrydale Citizens Association
- **9:00** Other business from the floor and adjournment

Date: Tuesday, May 12th 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday May 10th** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

- 1. In-Person (Delegates, Other Guests):** No registration is needed to attend in-person. See parking instructions below in this newsletter.
- 2. Facebook Live (Other Guests):** No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
- 3. Zoom (Delegates):** Registration is required ([link](#)) by Monday, May 11th at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Candidates Forum

Submitted by Nicholas Giacobbe (President@civfed.org)

The centerpiece of our May general meeting will be a debate featuring the three candidates who are running in the August 4 primary for County Board. The three participants will be:

- Matt de Ferranti (<https://mattforarlington.com/>)
- James DeVita (<https://devitaforarlingtoncountyboard.com>)
- Julie Farnam (<https://www.julieforarlington.com>)

Our format will feature a two-minute opening statement, questions from the participants, and then a two-minute closing statement. I will also assemble questions in advance, so if you have an issue you would like to raise, please send it to me at President@civfed.org.

ACCF 2026 Awards Banquet

Submitted by Jean Henceroth

CivFed celebrated individuals who make Arlington one of the best communities in the country at its 2026 Awards Banquet at Joint Base Fort Myer-Henderson Hall on April 24. Sergeant First Class Kyle Tomlin, from the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own," opened the program with a sublime a cappella rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Here is a link to an online photo gallery where you can download the whole gallery or individual images as desired:

<https://alexsakes.smugmug.com/Events/Arlington-County-Civic-Federation-Awards-2026/n-HCPkNZ>. We ask that if you use any of the photos to please give a photo credit to Alex Sakes Photography LLC.

Over one hundred attendees enjoyed the reception and buffet dinner, including State Senator Barbara Favola, State Delegate Patrick Hope, four Arlington County Board members: Board

Chair Matt de Ferranti, Takis Karantonis, Susan Cunningham, and J.D. Span, Sr., as well as Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz, Arlington Commissioner of Revenue Kim Klingler, and several past and present members of Arlington commissions.

Peter Vaselopulos, President of the Arlington Historical Society, spoke with a visual presentation on "Virginia250" about Arlington's heritage and contribution to the area we now call Northern Virginia.



Table sponsors ranged from the Shirlington Civic Association, Board Chair Matt de Ferranti to the newly formed Badass Women of Arlington.

In its 110th year, CivFed focuses today on many of the issues its members pondered in 1916: housing, education, transportation, and public safety. Our Community Impact Awards recognized the following individuals who continue to work in these issues:

- Center for Youth and Family Advocacy (CYFA)
- Arlington Jaycees
- Arlington Food Assistance Center, and
- Celina Penovi & Francine Friedman.

The Civic Hero Award honored Police Chief Andy Penn and recognized his over-34 years of distinguished service to the Arlington County Police Department.



The President's Awards identified individuals whose distinguished contributions to Arlington County promote its general welfare:

- Lizi Papinashvili, Washington-Liberty High School senior, was our first intern in recent memory and heroically managed audio and video at our general meetings. She missed the banquet to attend her Senior Prom.
- Dave Schutz, CivFed Board Member, whose steadfast commitment to his high ideals of the best form of government for Arlington keeps him on the go.
- David Smith, CivFed Board Chair, applied his management skills to implement more efficient procedures in all aspects of the organization.
- Jacqueline Snelling, CivFed Board Member and longest-serving active leader, restored our critical committee structure and supports our member organizations.
- Nicole Merlene Toulouse, Chair of the newly revived Transportation Committee, finalized a transportation resolution to present to Arlington County.
- Todd Truitt, Chair of CivFed Education Committee, brings members of the Arlington County School Board, including the Superintendent, together annually to engage with CivFed members and guests.



The evening culminated with Scott McAffrey awarding CivFed President Nick Giacobbe with the ARLnow Cup. Nearly as old as CivFed, this community tradition of nearly 90 years was previously known as the Washington (Evening) Star Cup (1938-1982), Journal Cup (1983-2004) and Sun Gazette Cup (2004-22).



Long an influential force and consensus builder in his Aurora Highlands community, Nick joined the Civic Federation's board of directors three years ago. His initiative, vision and leadership have marked him for executive positions, and he has rapidly risen to vice president and now president of CivFed. But even as he has led our county-wide organization,

he continues to ably advocate with the county for local issues across Arlington. His wife, Cory, works alongside him.

Schools Committee Resolution on Preventing Crumbling School Buildings

Submitted by Todd Truitt, schools.chair@civfed.org

The final reading and vote on the Preventing Crumbling School Buildings [resolution](#) will be at the May CivFed meeting.

The next CivFed Schools Committee meeting will be on Sunday, May 17th at 7:30 pm. The link to register for the meeting is [here](#).

In response to feedback from various CivFed delegates, the Schools Committee adopted revisions to the proposed resolution on Sunday, April 26th. The revised proposed resolution is [here](#). Notably, the resolution no longer addresses the referendum on the upcoming bond and now asks Arlington Public Schools (APS) to provide a public capital improvements projects (CIP) dashboard addressing open work orders, project timelines and other relevant maintenance information.

For background, after the first reading of the proposed resolution at the April CivFed meeting, the APS School Board circulated a [memo](#) to the Schools Committee of CivFed, the Arlington County Council of PTAs (CCPTA) and others noting the recent presentation that the School Board made at CivFed's March 10, 2026 meeting, and agreed with the importance of maintaining aging school buildings, recognizing near- and long-term prioritization of needs. The memo objected to delays of bond funding and acknowledged that the public has found it difficult to understand the process of prioritizing maintenance. The memo offered clarifications of the following concepts: Long-Range Plan, Deferred Maintenance, Cost Aggregation, Renovations vs. System Repairs, and Board Direction vs. Decision.

On April 22nd, the CCPTA circulated a [response](#) that acknowledged the magnitude of the School Board's challenge in addressing deferred building maintenance needs, underlining the importance of a clear, transparent plan in advance of committing spending to particular projects. The CCPTA emphasized the importance of discussing this issue in a collective forum because individual conversations leave the impression that needs will be met, but there is not enough funding to go around to every school. Finally, the response suggested amendments to the Resolution, which the CivFed Schools Committee later adopted.

Proposed boundary change for Cherrydale Citizens Association

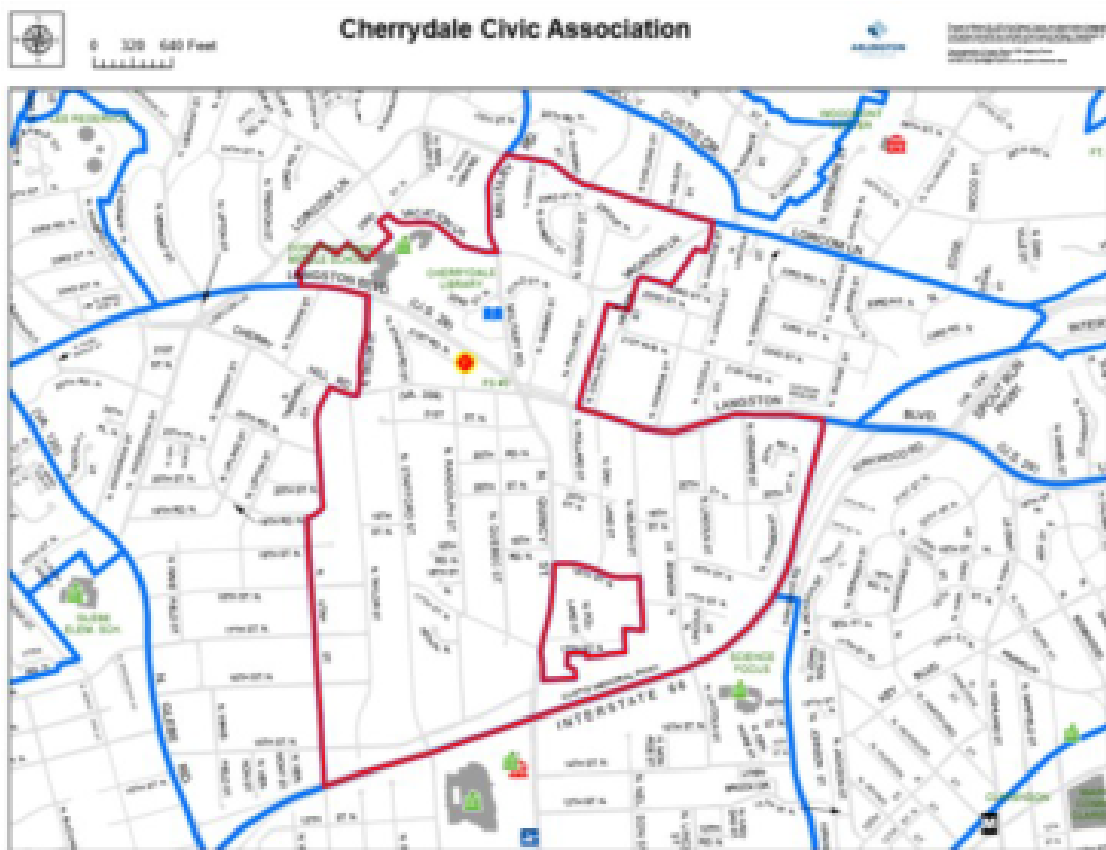
Submitted by Jackie Snelling, Membership Committee Chair, membership@civfed.org

The Board received a request from the Cherrydale Citizens Association for a boundary change to incorporate the area known as the Cherry Valley Nature Area Neighborhood Association within the Cherrydale Citizens Association.

See map below.

The Membership Committee has reviewed the application according to the ACCF bylaws and the adopted procedures for boundary changes and found that the application meets the criteria for change. Based on this review, the Membership Committee recommended that the Board send the request to the general membership for a vote at the May 12 meeting. The ACCF Board has approved sending the request.

At the May 12 General Membership meeting the members will be asked to vote on this requested change. Please contact Jackie Snelling, Membership Chair for any



Why Celebrating the 250th Matters!

Submitted by Peter Vaselopoulos, AHS President

Thanks again for inviting AHS to the Civic Federation Banquet on Friday, April 24th. The event was a great opportunity to highlight the importance of commemorating our nation's 250th anniversary. As I mentioned in my presentation, Arlington County's signature event will be the VA250 HistoryFest scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 10 AM and 5 PM at Kenmore Middle School.

Programming for the HistoryFest will feature live reenactments, musical performances, and historical storytelling, hands-on demonstrations, children's activities and crafts, and local food vendors. We hope to see many CivFed folks at the HistoryFest!

Besides the HistoryFest, AHS has several programs already planned to commemorate our 250th which can be viewed at <https://arlhistor.org/events/category/va250/>.

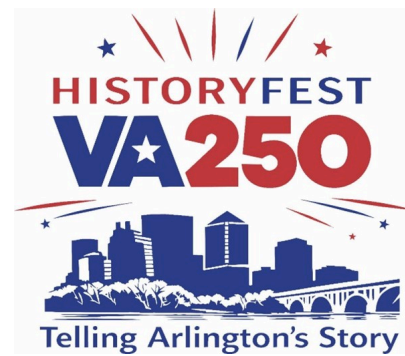
As we get closer to July 4th, more events will be scheduled. If your civic association is planning any activity, such as a local neighborhood parade, or picnic let us know about it so we can post it on our events page. Send us an email with details to info@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

The Arlington Historical Society looks forward to seeing members of the CivFed family at the various events scheduled to commemorate our 250th. I also want to thank CivFed for its continued support of AHS efforts to promote Arlington's history.

Join Us at Arlington HistoryFest: Represent the Civic Federation!

By Nick Giacobbe, ACCF President

On Saturday, May 9th, we have a unique opportunity to showcase the 110-year legacy of the Civic Federation at the [Arlington HistoryFest 250](#), hosted by the Arlington Historical Society at Kenmore Middle School. We also welcome member organizations to join us to celebrate their role in Arlington's history.



As we heard Peter describe it at the banquet, this exciting event marks the 250th anniversary of our nation and the Civic Federation will be front and center. Our table will highlight the pivotal role our organization has played in shaping Arlington's development. To make this a success, we need volunteers to help staff our table, engage with the public, and share the impact of civic participation. A good reference to prepare for volunteering is the booklet put together for our 2016 centennial ([link](#)).

Volunteer Details

We are looking for members to staff the Civic Federation table in two- or three-hour shifts between **10:00 AM and 5:00 PM**. This is a straightforward way to support the Federation while enjoying a day of local history, interactive exhibits, and community connection. As a volunteer, you will:

- Greet visitors and answer general questions about the Civic Federation.
- Share brief highlights of our history and current mission.

The HistoryFest is designed to be an engaging, outdoor experience. We will have a 10x10 tent and display materials ready to go; we simply need your voice to help bring our history to life. It's a great chance to catch up with fellow members and meet neighbors who are interested in the future of our county.

How to Sign Up

Please visit our SignUpGenius ([link](#)) to select a time slot that works for you. If you have any specific questions about the event or what to expect, please reach out to me directly.

Let's ensure the Civic Federation is well-represented as we celebrate Arlington's past and look toward its future.

Environmental Affairs Committee

Mary Glass, Chair for Environmental Affairs Committee

Arlington County has embarked on a year-long effort to draft a new Climate Action Plan (CAP) that will be "replacing the Community Energy Plan, building on its existing elements while updating and expanding the scope. The Climate Action Plan project is currently underway with target completion set for late Winter 2027/2028."

An overview of the planning documents and timeline, and updates on events go to <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/CMO/Climate-Action-Plan>. At the bottom of that page, you can sign up to receive updates on the planning as it moves forward.

A Climate Action Plan Advisory Group has been established with a charter to advise on the CAP as a key element of the Comprehensive Plan. The CAP will attempt to create a roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality and enhance community resilience, building on the strong foundation of previous planning efforts. The CAP will focus on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. The Advisory Group will work to ensure clarity and actionable outcomes. A

successful plan would help stakeholders understand the co-benefits and feasibility of proposed strategies, and organize actions by implementation timeframe (e.g., 1–2 years, 3–5 years, 5+ years) and noting the authority(ies) responsible for implementation.

ACCF will be represented in the Advisory Group by Mary Glass. Over the next month, all interested ACCF committees will be contacted to ensure full representation of their perspectives going forward. Any ACCF members wishing to become more involved with the CAP discussions are welcomed and can contact Mary Glass at environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org.

If you would like to take a deeper dive into the initial documents that Advisory Committee Members will be reviewing for background, please go to [this link](#).

Budget Growth & Fiscal Challenges Facing Arlington

*Submitted by Suzanne Smith Sundburg
Revenues & Expenditures Committee POC
rev.expend.chair@civfed.org*

On April 22, the Arlington County Board approved a \$1.69 billion budget with a 2-cent tax-rate increase for fiscal year (FY) 2027.[1] The new, higher rate will apply retroactively to real estate as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Despite claims that the FY2027 budget is smaller, ongoing budgeted expenditures actually increased by 1.7% in the County Manager's proposed FY2027 budget.[2] This, even though the overall assessed value of real estate (commercial and residential) dropped from a 2% increase in calendar year (CY) 2025 down to 1.1% overall increase in CY2026.[3]

Whereas increased spending of 1.7% may sound insignificant, in dollar terms that percentage equals roughly **\$28.7 million in new spending**. This figure represents nearly 3 cents added to the tax rate, if the tax rate alone had to be raised to cover the bill.[4] Instead, the County Manager proposed a combination of a 1.5-cent tax-rate increase, some fee increases, and modest cuts of \$10.6 million.[5]

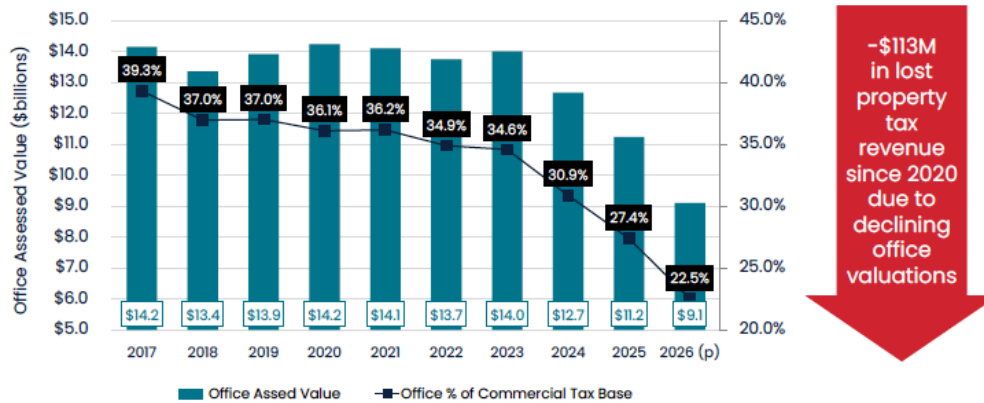
Though the County Manager proposed a budget balanced with a 1.5-cent tax-rate increase, the County Board advertised and then approved the higher 2-cent rate increase to cover additional spending beyond what was recommended by the County Manager. The additional half-cent tax-rate increase is anticipated to raise revenues by another \$4.95 million.

Only County Board member Susan Cunningham voted against the 2-cent increase.[6] Why? Because, as Cunningham noted, Arlington homeowners and business owners are already under significant financial stress resulting from federal government layoffs, tariffs, program cuts and now war-induced inflation.

Increasing the tax rate (on top of any assessment increase) comes at a cost: For homeowners, the average cost for this year's real estate tax bill will be \$466 higher; renters could see, on average, a \$317 increase that landlords may pass along in the form of higher rent.[7]

With surplus revenues from commercial office buildings continuing to decline, budget increases of any amount will, going forward, be passed along to residents, increasing the cost of housing for everyone. Since 2020, Arlington has lost \$113 million in annual real estate tax revenue that normally would have been contributed by office buildings.[8]

TAX BASE: OFFICE 2017 – 2026 YTD



Note: Commercial includes office, general commercial, hotel and apartments
Source: Arlington County Department of Management and Finance; CoStar

ARLINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

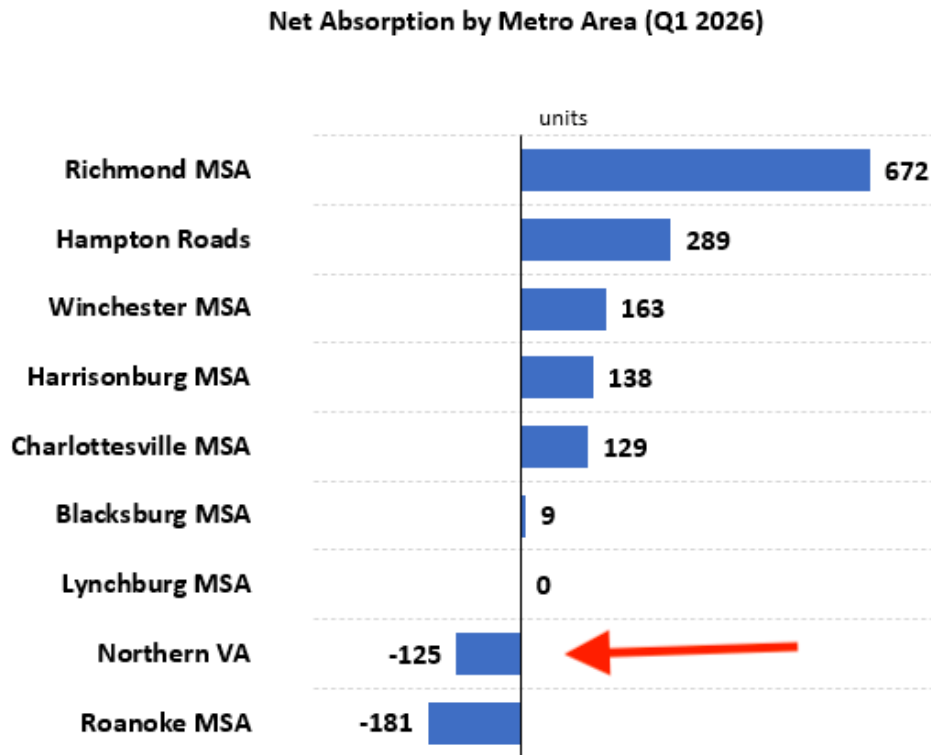
8

Though multifamily housing (aka apartments), which is technically classified as “commercial” real estate, has provided an alternate commercial real estate revenue source, it isn’t a replacement for commercial office revenues.

Multifamily revenues are offset by increased spending needed to provide services (and infrastructure) to support these residents. After decades of building thousands of expensive apartments, we are now seeing a worrisome uptick in apartment vacancies, even as the pace of construction slows.[9]

Along the Rt. 1/Richmond Hwy. corridor in Crystal City/National Landing, the first quarter 2026 vacancy rate was 11.1%.[10] And regionally, Northern Virginia has built far more expensive apartments than it can fill.[11]

Figure 2: Net Absorption by Metro Area (Q1 2026)



<https://virginiarealtors.org/2026/04/15/three-multifamily-market-trends-from-the-first-quarter-of-2026/>
 Source: CoStar

Waning demand for expensive Arlington apartments would seem to be following in the footsteps of waning demand for expensive Arlington office space. Should higher multifamily vacancy rates drive down assessed values, then a further contraction in revenue growth can be expected.

Spending beyond what the tax base can support is unsustainable. Inflicting successive tax-rate increases to offset various drops in assessed value offers only temporary, short-term relief. And it increases the risk of residents and businesses choosing to vote with their feet—leading to a further erosion of Arlington’s tax base.

NOTES

- [1] 4-23-2026 Arlington County news release, “Arlington County Board adopts FY 2027 Budget”: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2026/Arlington-County-Board-adopts-FY-2027-Budget>.
- [2] Manager's "Message," FY2027 Proposed Budget (1.7% and 1.1% figures), p. 4: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2027/proposed/feb-21-2026-docs/1-fy-2027-managers-message-combined-all-in-one.pdf>.
- [3] Meeting attachment, “Change in Assessed Value of Real Estate in Arlington County, Calendar Year 2025 to Calendar Year 2026” (2% figure), p. 1, <https://meetings.arlingtonva.us/CountyBoard/Documents/DownloadFileBytes/ 2 - Item Attachment - REAL ESTATE ATTACHMENTS I II III - 28493601.pdf?documentType=1&meetingId=2591&itemId=54714&publishId=60989&isSection=False&isAttachment=True>.
- [4] \$28.7 million = 1.7% (spending increase) x \$1.69 billion (total budget in FY2026 and FY2027). Each 1-cent increase in the tax rate is projected to generate \$9.9 million in new revenue. Thus, a 3-cent tax-rate increase would be expected to generate \$29.7 million in new revenue.
- [5] 2-21-2026 County Manager’s presentation overview of the FY2027 proposed budget, slides 4 and 6 : https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2027/proposed/county-managers-proposed-fy-2027-budget-overview_feb-21-2026.pdf.

[6] McCaffrey, “Split County Board approves 2-cent tax hike as part of \$1.7B budget,” 4-23-2026:

<https://www.arlnow.com/2026/04/23/split-county-board-approves-2-cent-tax-hike-as-part-of-1-7b-budget/>.

[7] Arlington County news release, “Arlington County Board adopts FY 2027 Budget,” 4-23-2026:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2026/Arlington-County-Board-adopts-FY-2027-Budget>.

[8] AED presentation, 3-26-2026 County Board work session, FY2027 Proposed Budget, “TAX BASE: OFFICE, 2017–2026 YTD,” slide 8: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2027/work-sessions/fy27-aed-budget-work-session-presentation-final.pdf>.

[9] AED presentation, 3-26-2026 County Board work session, FY2027 Proposed Budget, “Arlington Multifamily Trends Signal Slowdown, 2010–2025,” slide 7:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/budget/documents/fy-2027/work-sessions/fy27-aed-budget-work-session-presentation-final.pdf>.

[10] Arlington County Quarterly Rent Report, First Quarter Rental Market Summary: January-March 2026,

Richmond Hwy.: [https://app.powerbi.com/view?](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMDEjOTg5YzZmMTZiMC00Yjc1LTgwNjItOTFjOWM1ZTJkNW4iwiwidCI6IjgwMzU0ODA0LTFmZGYtNDI4ZS05ZjVmLTUwOTFOTk0Y2Y1NCIsImMiOiJF9)

[r=eyJrIjoiMDEjOTg5YzZmMTZiMC00Yjc1LTgwNjItOTFjOWM1ZTJkNW4iwiwidCI6IjgwMzU0ODA0LTFmZGYtNDI4ZS05ZjVmLTUwOTFOTk0Y2Y1NCIsImMiOiJF9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiMDEjOTg5YzZmMTZiMC00Yjc1LTgwNjItOTFjOWM1ZTJkNW4iwiwidCI6IjgwMzU0ODA0LTFmZGYtNDI4ZS05ZjVmLTUwOTFOTk0Y2Y1NCIsImMiOiJF9).

[11] Virginia REALTORS[®], “Three Multifamily Market Trends from the First Quarter of 2026,” Figure 2: Net

Absorption by Metro Area (Q1 2026), published 4-15-2026: <https://virginiarealtors.org/2026/04/15/three-multifamily-market-trends-from-the-first-quarter-of-2026/>.

Want to help keep *Reclining Liberty* in Arlington?

Submitted by Tina Worden, MoCA Board Chair

MoCA Arlington is launching a fundraising campaign to keep the beloved sculpture *Reclining Liberty* in Arlington!

[Reclining Liberty](#) has graced the museum’s front lawn since July 2023, quickly becoming an iconic landmark in Arlington. Since then, the sculpture has generously been on loan from nationally recognized artist Zaq Landsberg. Last fall, Arlington County gave the museum permission to keep the sculpture in its place within Maury Park. Now for the sculpture to stay in Arlington, the museum needs to raise the funds to acquire and care for it.



MoCA Arlington is an independent nonprofit organization that leases its main facility from Arlington County. If you’re interested in supporting the museum and the [Keep Liberty in Arlington campaign](#), please visit the museum’s website or stop in to make a donation!

Donors will receive special artist-designed acknowledgments, such as pins, t-shirts, and prints! And, stay tuned for [special programs](#) to help the museum keep the momentum going

and celebrate the semiquincentennial of the United States with *Reclining Liberty* as its inspiration later this summer!

If you have a photo of you with Reclining Liberty that you'd like to share with the museum for inclusion on its social media or website during the campaign, please email it to Executive Director Catherine Anchin at director@mocaarlington.org.

Planning & Zoning Committee Resolution on Study of Lot Coverage/Height/Setbacks Provisions of Zoning Ordinance Applicable to Single-family Homes

Submitted by Bill Richardson, Chair, Planning & Zoning Subcommittee on Lot Coverage, lotcov.sc.chair@civfed.org

The CivFed Planning & Zoning Committee will be introducing a new resolution to the general membership at the May 12 General Meeting. The current draft for this resolution on lot coverage, height and setback provisions is [here](#). CivFed's approval vote for the resolution will be at the June meeting.

The impact of increasing lot coverage has been an issue of concern for decades. Application of the current zoning rules for lot coverage and other dimensional standards, including building height and setbacks, has resulted in concerns for decreasing tree canopy, increasing impervious surfaces, impacting stormwater, reducing the County's inventory of more affordable homes, disproportionately impacting much smaller adjacent homes, and impeding residents' access to solar energy. There have been several recent reports that highlight these concerns and propose studies to examine impacts and potential mitigation. The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) adopted by the County Board in December 2023 specifically required staff to conduct a study of lot coverage limits. While the board initially called for the study, they subsequently decided to do a more limited analysis of impervious surfaces only, without specifically addressing building footprint.

The proposed ACCF lot coverage resolution calls on the County to take the following actions to address the lot coverage, height, and setback problems in the existing Arlington County Zoning Code, to forestall continuing irreparable damage from these problems, as follows:

1. Return to the Board's prior commitment to undertake a comprehensive study of lot coverage for single-family homes, as it directed in the December 2023 FNRP;
2. Revise the Board's charge to the staff to mandate such a study and include the following additional questions:
 - a. whether to reduce the building footprint limits in the lot coverage provisions of the Zoning Ordinance,
 - b. how to address oversized lots,
 - c. whether to eliminate or modify the 3% and 5% extra lot coverage now permitted for front porches and detached rear garages,
 - d. whether to exclude for lot coverage purposes steeper unbuildable portions of the lot, where applicable,
 - e. whether to revise the height calculation for single-family homes, and
 - f. whether to amend the setback provisions of the Zoning Ordinance applicable to single-family homes to preserve and protect tree canopy and the viewsheds of adjacent homes;
3. Direct staff and their consultants to engage ACCF, builders, and other representative stakeholders during the course of this study; and

4. Complete the revised study by December 2026, coupled with recommendations to the Board on how to address these issues in proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, including whether and how to grandfather existing structures or modifications thereof from the application of any such amendments, with consideration of how the Board addressed these issues in its 2005 amendments.

For questions, please contact Bill Richardson at the email address above.

Looking for Speakers for your Civic Association Meeting?

Submitted by Nicholas Giacobbe

To educate and empower the community through partnerships, the Arlington County Commissioner of Revenue, Kim Klingler, and her team are available to present topics including:

- **Overview of the Business Tax and Vehicle Personal Property Divisions**— functions, processes, and support available to taxpayers.
- **Arlington County Government Structure**— how the Office of the Commissioner of Revenue fits within the county's organization as a Constitutional Officer.
- **Roles and Responsibilities**— what the Commissioner of Revenue does and how the office serves residents and businesses.
- **Recent Achievements**— highlights from the past year and key community initiatives.
- **Plans for the Future**— upcoming programs and improvements designed to better serve Arlington County.

For scheduling or inquiries, contact Susan Anderson at sanderson@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-4436.

Planning and Zoning Committee General Land Use Plan (GLUP) and Site Plan Subcommittee

Submitted by Jack Spilsbury, Subcommittee Chair, glup.sc.chair@civfed.org

The Planning and Zoning GLUP and Site Plan Review Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday June 3, from 6:30-8:00 pm. The registration link is:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Y_AYk7zVQ3-cq_ChzEb5FA

The meeting agenda will focus:

(1) Site Plan/Community Benefits: Follow up the County Auditor's recommendations for strengthening Arlington's Community Benefits process. The Audit confirms key concerns and remedies that CivFed put forward in the June 2025 "Resolution to Improve Planning and Zoning Policy." County staff have proposed an action plan and timeline to address the Audit's findings. We will be finalizing next steps with County leadership and staff.

- The County's Audit Report can be found here: [Final Community Benefit Audit Report](#).
- See the [April 2026 Civic Voice](#) article on the "Audit of Site Plan Community Benefits" (with links to the Audit Committee meeting video, slides, and a portal for providing comments).

(2) Staff Special GLUP Study: Develop CivFed's response to the County Planning Division's just-posted report on Special General Land Use Studies. The [Staff report](#) makes recommendations going forward -- including some immediate process changes. (A video of the Long-Range Planning Commission's April 29 meeting on this will be posted on the Planning Commission web-page.)

(3) Next steps on Phase One of the Comprehensive Plan Update: The Committee continues to track the pending update of the County's Comprehensive Plan that guides planning and zoning.

We hope that you can join us to develop CivFed policies and strategy on these P+Z priorities.

Please contact Jack Spilsbury, chair of P&Z GLUP Plus Subcommittee, at glup.sc.chair@civfed.org for additional information.

Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.

The VHC Director of Security has advised CivFed that we should begin to park in Parking Garage C (map below). You can then walk across to the Oncology entrance and gain admittance until 8 p.m. **After the meeting, you MUST EXIT via the Women's and Infant lobby.**

ENTER (until 8 p.m.): Zone C Ground floor Oncology entrance (only open until 8 pm, Monday-Friday)

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Take a right at the double doors by the visitor kiosks
- Take a right at the single door
- Go to elevators and take to lobby floor
- Exit elevators and go left to hall directly behind welcome desk in lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead

ENTER or EXIT (24/7): Zone C first floor Women's and Infant lobby entrance (please use this entrance to exit after 8 pm, open 24/7):

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Walk to hall directly behind the welcome desk in the lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead



2025-2026 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [Nick Giacobbe](#)
 Vice President, [Jean Henceroth](#)
 Secretary, [Richard McNamara](#)
 Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [David Smith](#)
 Director at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)
 Director at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)
 Director at Large, [Jackie Snelling](#)
 Director at Large, [John Ford](#)
 Director at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)
 Director at Large, [John Snyder](#)
 Director at Large, [Matt Gloudeman](#)
 Director at Large, [Ron Haddox](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Acting Chair, Dave Schutz
- Membership – Chair Jackie Snelling membership@civfed.org
- Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – POC Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair Nicole Merlene Toulouse

Any delegate, alternate delegate, or member of a member organization may participate on any public interest or support committee. Please contact the applicable committee chair, point-of-contact, or President Nick Giacobbe if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting, and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a link to our website for more details.

joinus@Civfed.org

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)


CivFed Calendar FY2026


Looking Ahead:

- 05/09/26 - HistoryFest
 - 05/12/26 - General Meeting
 - 05/17/26 - Schools Committee Meeting
 - 06/03/26 - Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting
 - 06/09/26 - General Meeting
-

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