

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting held in the cafeteria at Alice West Fleet Elementary School on November 12, 2025 was called to order by President Brian Sigritz at 7:07 PM

Attendees:

Kelly Davison; Mahender Dudani; Stephen Hughes; Eileen Janas; Steven Kleppin; Susannah Keefe; Andrew Martin; Marilyn Marton; Gail Massot; Olivier Massot; Morton Posner; Janet Presswood; Jim Presswood; Tom Wacker; Brian Sigritz; Blaise Scinto, Tony Yang.

The minutes of the August 12, 2025 meeting were approved.

Kelly Davison, Treasurer, reported \$2,351.40 in our account, after recent expenditures for the Halloween decorating contest. Dues for 2026 of \$20 per household can be dropped off at Kelly or Brian's house, or paid by cash, check, or Venmo.

President's report:

Grace Hopper Center

The Grace Hopper Center is on schedule for opening in the fall of 2026.

Grace Hopper Center Phase 2

Phase 2 (renovate the Career Center building for Montessori, tear down the Patrick Henry building, restore green space) is in the APS Superintendent's CIP direction guidance to the school board.

TJ Middle School Renovation:

The Superintendent's guidance also includes a \$150M funding proposal for renovation of Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Swanson Middle School. Many residents remember a previous proposal to build a new elementary school (which later became Fleet) at the corner of S. 2nd St and S. Irving Street. Brian thinks it is unlikely that APS would again try to build a school at 2nd and Irving. That area is county land not school; the county does not want to relocate the County Fair. The funding request is insufficient for construction of a new building. Brian's concern is about an attempt to use the Career Center building to house APS students while other facilities are renovated. There is long standing concern from AHCA about APS using the current career center building as permanent swing space. Brian has relayed these concerns to a member of the County Board.

Walter Reed Complete Streets:

Construction may start this winter on the intersection of 9th St S and Walter Reed in order to have construction completed by fall 2026.

333 S. Glebe Rd., Dominion Apartments development:

AHCA residents have participated in two zoom sessions since August 2025 regarding the proposal to add another building on the Dominion Apartments site. Neighbors raised concerns about traffic, parking, trash collection, shade on the town homes, effects on 7-11 and the auto repair shop, and other issues. Residents of the town homes have sent a letter to the County Board opposing the project.

Brian would prefer that any AHCA response would outline reasons for changes to the proposal, rather than complete opposition. In the next few weeks he will request feedback from AHCA on the proposal.

Fillmore Gardens Shopping Center:

The Toll Brothers hosted a zoom joint session with Penrose regarding the development proposal on Columbia Pike where the CVS was. They have been very responsive to community suggestions and are moving ahead with the next stages of the approval process.

Goodwill:

Project has been approved and is moving forward.

County Fair issues:

The 2025 County Fair had many beneficial changes including moving the beer garden to the upper field. There were traffic issues at the corner of S.2nd St and S Irving. Arlington Police Department staffing issues precluded posting an officer there to direct traffic.

Future Neighborhood Activities:

Brian would like to increase neighborhood activities and would welcome volunteers and suggestions for events.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program:

Eileen Janas reported that the 100% Design documents are completed for improvements on 1st Road South and are being reviewed by VDOT and county staff. There will be a final design meeting sometime in the next couple of months so that neighbors can review the final proposal.

Our next project is sidewalks on S. Highland between Rt. 50 and 2nd St. South.

Please contact Eileen Janas if you have suggestions for other infrastructure projects in AHCA.

Elections:

Stephen Hughes served as the nominating committee for election of AHCA officers. Tom Wacker was nominated to fill the position of 2nd Vice President, replacing Miles Townes, who will continue to assist with website issues. Elected by unanimous consent are:

Brian Sigriz - President
Steve Kleppin - 1st Vice President
Tom Wacker - 2nd Vice President
Kelly Davison - Treasurer
Eileen Janas - Secretary

Columbia Pike Construction:

Sheila Borkar, Arlington County Division of Transportation, provided an update on the construction of Columbia Pike. Brian Sigriz will distribute the briefing slides on the list serve. All of the heavy construction should be finished by December 2025. This was a massive project that rebuilt all of Columbia Pike within Arlington, replacing water, sewer and stormwater pipes that are 50 years old; moving utility cables underground; widening sidewalks; upgrading traffic signals; and doing a full depth reconstruction of the asphalt. Remaining work includes bus shelters, landscaping, and cable installation by Verizon, Comcast, and Dominion followed by pole removal. There will still be short term lane closures as this work proceeds.

Participants asked about a protected left turn at the Columbia Pike/Walter Reed intersection. Frequent traffic back-ups and diversion through the neighborhoods are ongoing problems at this intersection. Ms. Borkar said no changes will be made as part of the Columbia Pike

project. Transportation Division will continue to monitor the intersection and collect traffic data. She suggested residents report it regularly in "Report a Problem."

Participants also reported they frequently saw workers using noisy equipment without using any kind of hearing protection. County safety inspectors had reminded the contractor of their safety responsibilities and the contractor has been fined.

It was suggested that County staff contact the GPS mapping/traffic services as soon as construction is completed. This should reduce diversions through the neighborhoods to avoid the construction areas.

The county has signed a maintenance contract so that the new trees will be watered regularly for two years. Events to encourage people to return to the Pike will occur in the spring.

Additional questions can be addressed to Sheila Borkar: sborkar@arlingtonva.us

Arlington Neighborhood Village

Wendy Zinker provided an overview of Arlington Neighborhood Village, a non-profit that helps people age in place. They have more than 300 volunteers who drive people to medical appointments, help with grocery shopping, provide tech help and other assistance.

See the website at [www. ANVarlington.org](http://www.ANVarlington.org)

Brian will distribute a copy of the presentation on the list serve.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Janas
Secretary, Arlington Heights Civic Association