

The Arlington Heights Civic Association meeting held at the Alice West Fleet Elementary School cafeteria on May 18, 2026 was opened by Brian Sigriz at 7:05 PM.

Attendees: Ted Black, Ellen Campana, Mahender Dudani, Evan Farley, Stephen Hughes, Eileen Janas, Andrew Martin, Marilyn Marton, Tia Scales, Carly Sfregola, Brian Sigriz, Tom Wacker, Melinda Wuellner

Visitors: Bethany Zecher Sutton, Arlington County School Board

The minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting were approved.

Brian Sigriz gave the treasurer's report: 66 families paid dues, \$3669.94 in our account.

**Presidents Report:**

Work continues on **South Walter Reed Drive Complete Streets Improvements** project at Walter Reed and 9th Street South. Improvement of the 9th Street /Walter Reed intersection is on schedule for completion by August 2026, prior to the start of school. There will be a joint meeting with Penrose during the summer to address any issues and receive status reports.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Transportation-Projects/South-Walter-Reed-Drive-Complete-Street>

In response to neighborhood concerns, temporary safety improvements have been made ahead of the VDOT **Arlington Boulevard Safety Improvements in Arlington County** project, scheduled for construction in 2029. Yellow flex posts have been installed on Route 50 to prevent left hand turns and reduce auto accidents along the stretch of road from S. Fillmore to S. Glebe. No Left Turn signs have been posted on the signal arms at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Irving streets. Traffic traveling westbound on Rt. 50 will not be allowed to turn left to South Irving street. Traffic traveling eastbound on Rt 50 is no longer allowed to turn left to North Irving Street. The restrictions will remain until the dedicated left lanes are constructed as part of the safety project.

<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/arlington-boulevard-safety-improvements-in-arlington-county/>

333 S. Glebe - **Dominion apartments addition** of 4 story, 124 unit building. AHCA will have a representative on the Site Plan Review Committee. There was an issue with zoning for Ruthie's, which had to change to ensure it could remain on the site. The issue has been resolved.

**The Toll Brothers project** replacing the Fillmore Gardens Shopping Center, is moving ahead. The row of shops (former CVS, Salsa Room, restaurants etc.) will be torn down soon.

The new owner at the Elkins Building (corner of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed) has tabled the redevelopment proposal and is advertising retail spaces for lease.

Mr. Sigriz had no updates from developers on the following projects:

Bank of America site

Goodwill (See the meeting minutes addendum)

Sunrise Assisted Facility at the Methodist Church on S. Glebe Rd. (See the meeting minutes addendum)

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Site-Plan/716-South-Glebe-Road>

### **Incidents Involving Police:**

There have been three recent incidents involving the Police in or near Arlington Heights:

May 8, 2026: an officer involved shooting at the 7-11 on the corner of Columbia Pike and South Monroe Street:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2026/CIRT-Investigates-Officer-Involved-Shooting-on-Columbia-Pike>

May 8, 2026: Lockdown at Alice West Fleet Elementary School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School as a result of threats made by telephone.

<https://www.arlnow.com/2026/05/08/threat-prompts-brief-lockdown-at-two-arlington-schools/>

May 9, 2026: A stabbing inside a home in the 300 block of S. Fillmore Street.

<https://www.arlnow.com/2026/05/09/man-stabbed-in-neck-during-fight-inside-arlington-heights-come/>

Staffing shortfalls prevent the police from attending civic association meetings. Instead the ACPD Community Engagement Division holds quarterly community meetings.

Eileen Janas, AHCA representative to the Arlington Neighborhoods Program Advisory Committee, announced that the “**Sidewalks on South Highland Street between Route 50 and S. 2nd Street**” project has made it to the top of the waiting list. Hannah Nicely, Arlington Neighborhoods Program, has been assigned as our planner for the project. This is one of the last blocks in Arlington Heights without a sidewalk on either side of the street, which forces pedestrians, cars and cyclists to share the road.

The 1st Road South project is still waiting for a construction date.

### **Planning Community Events:**

Brian asked attendees to consider volunteering to plan a community event. We have sufficient money for a picnic or other get-together but need people willing to coordinate an event. Please contact Brian if you are willing to help.

### **County Fair:**

Mr. Dudani asked if we plan to have an AHCA table at the County Fair. Mr. Sigriz said there are no current plans to do so. Last year AHCA had a joint table with Penrose at the Blues Festival.

### **2026 Blues Festival:**

The 2026 Blues Festival has been relocated to Penrose Square, due to the construction occurring on Walter Reed at 9th Street.

### **Guest Speaker: Bethany Zecher Sutton, Arlington School Board**

Bethany Zecher Sutton gave a briefing on issues facing and projects planned by the Arlington School Board. She outlined the structure of the School Board and school administration, funding issues, and staff reductions and challenges. She talked about the plans to renovate Thomas Jefferson Middle School, which will be in the 2028 bond request. The plan is to construct the addition first, move students into the new classrooms and then renovate the

current building. Swing space will not be needed for the project. Student population will remain at 1200 students.

The School Board vote to renovate the current Career Center and to move Montessori Public School of Arlington to the renovated building will occur June 18, 2026. Ms. Sutton has been a strong advocate for our neighborhood, reminding board members of the promises made by previous school boards to restore green space and limit the site to two buildings.

Mr. Sigriz will send Ms. Sutton's briefing to the listserv.

The meeting was adjourned about 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Janas  
AHCA Secretary

### **Addendum to the Minutes:**

May 19, 2026, 2:50 PM

**Brian Sigriz via groups.io** <ahca.bsigriz@gmail.com@groups.io>

to Ahca

Hi everyone - I wanted to follow up on two questions I got during last night's meeting.

I checked with the county regarding the status of the proposed [Sunrise Senior Living building](#) at 716 South Glebe (former home of Arlington United Methodist Church). This is the site in Alcova Heights that has been fenced off for a couple of years now. My contact in the county checked with the Sunrise team and they said they are now fully engaged in the design process with the plan to submit for building permits later this year and to start construction next year.

I also checked on the status of the [Goodwill site](#). My contact heard Goodwill successfully closed on their financing last month and are actively working on their building permits.

Please let me know of any questions - Brian

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Brian Sigriz  
President, Arlington Heights Civic Association  
[arlingtonheightsva.org](http://arlingtonheightsva.org)