

Potomac Yard Arlington Civic Association December Newsletter

Civic Association Dues

At our November meeting, we approved updated bylaws that authorize the Association to set membership dues each fiscal year. These dues are used solely to support Association operations, including website and domain expenses, the annual fee required to maintain our nonprofit status, and membership dues for the county-level civic association we plan to join.

Dues for the current fiscal year are \$10.

Membership dues may be paid by check payable to **Potomac Yard Arlington Civic Association**, or via Zelle using the instructions below.

To pay via Zelle:

1. **Access Zelle:** Log in to your bank's mobile app and open the Zelle feature.
2. **Add the Association as a recipient:**
 - Name: Potomac Yard Arlington Civic Association
 - Zelle tag / email / phone: **PYARLCA**
 - When prompted, confirm that the recipient name displayed is Potomac Yard Arlington Civic Association.
3. **Select recipient type:** Choose the option indicating you are sending money to an organization or company (not a friend or family member).
4. **Select payment type:** Choose the option indicating payment for an existing service or fee.
5. **Acknowledge the security notice:** Confirm that you have verified the recipient's identity and understand that Zelle payments are not refundable.
6. **Enter Payment Details:** Enter the dues amount. In the memo field, include:
 - Enter the dues amount.
 - **In the memo field, include your full name, the word "Dues," and the year.**
 - Example memo: Jane Smith – 2025 Dues
7. **Review and Send:** Verify the recipient name, amount, and memo, then submit the payment..

If you would like to pay dues via other means, please feel free to reach out at dadeyemi@gmail.com, and we can work something out.

Arlington County Civic Federation

One of the key short-term goals I've set for our organization is to seek membership with the Arlington County Civic Federation. This county-level body brings together dozens of civic associations across Arlington into a single, coordinated voice. Positions taken by the

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Federation are often given greater weight by county officials because they reflect countywide priorities rather than solely hyperlocal concerns.

In addition to providing more direct engagement with county policymakers and stakeholders, Federation membership would strengthen our credibility as a recognized civic association. We have already completed several of the required steps, including adopting bylaws and electing leadership. The remaining requirements include certifying a minimum of 20 members, paying annual membership dues, and confirming that our boundaries do not overlap with those of existing civic associations.

Reaching the 20-member threshold will likely be the final step towards Federation membership, and your participation directly supports our ability to advocate more effectively on behalf of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Block Party

Arlington County's Neighborhood Mini Grant Program seeks to strengthen the Arlington community by supporting activities and events that build broader, more inclusive neighborhoods and enhance civic life. The program provides funding for projects that promote community building, racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.

This year, several civic associations were awarded \$1,000 grants through the program to host neighborhood block parties. I would like to explore the possibility of hosting a block party in Potomac Yard next fall. If the application timeline mirrors this year's cycle, grant applications would need to be submitted between April 1 and June 30, 2026.

If you have experience writing grants, planning events, or are simply interested in helping bring a neighborhood gathering to life, please reach out and let me know you'd like to be involved.

Vacant Treasurer Position

Ranya has kindly agreed to serve as Treasurer on an interim basis. We are currently seeking a member willing to take on the role for the remainder of the term. This position is primarily responsible for overseeing the Association's finances. Additional details regarding the Treasurer's responsibilities can be found in the bylaws most recently updated at our September meeting.

Seeking a Civic Association representative to the ArNAC

The **Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee** (ArNAC) helps guide the development of neighborhood plans and recommends neighborhood capital improvement initiatives for funding by the County Board.

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If you have ideas for infrastructure improvements in our neighborhood, or a broader interest in capital projects and how they are implemented across the county, you may be a good candidate to represent our Association. Please let me know if you are interested.

New Trees Planted in Potomac Yard

A few weeks ago, Arlington County planted several new trees that are approximately 5 to 10 years old along the grassy area beside the Eclipse Condominiums near Potomac Avenue. Transplant shock is the leading cause of failure for newly planted trees.

Until these trees are well established, it is important to avoid activities in their immediate vicinity such as standing on the soil, parking bicycles, stacking objects, or allowing pets to urinate near the tree bases. Taking these simple precautions will help ensure the trees establish successfully and remain a long term benefit to the neighborhood.

The Deer Management Program

The Deer Management Program aims to address deer overpopulation and its negative impact on Arlington County's forest ecosystems. Following a two-year study by the Department of Parks and Recreation's Natural Resource unit, the program's approach is based on extensive data collection, public engagement, and expert consultation.

The findings are clear: overpopulation of white-tailed deer is harming Arlington's forests. Starting in February 2026, the County will begin managing its deer population through professional sharpshooting in select natural land parks. This method has been conducted across the nation for decades with no reported injuries to bystanders.

The Arlington Deer Management Program will be:

- Conducted by trained sharpshooting professionals firing downward from tree stands.
- Carried out in the evenings while parks are closed and secured.
- Conducted with parks secured and monitored by Arlington County Police and Park Rangers.

While the Deer Management Program has been informed by multiple years of research and public engagement, many of us are learning about it for the first time.

Residents are invited to attend a virtual information session to learn more:

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting: [RSVP here](#)

Items below will be covered as well as your questions:

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- Why professional sharpshooting is being used.
- How operations will be carried out and what safety protocols are in place.
- How the program protects forest ecosystems over time.

Low Residential Study

The County Board has directed staff to [study potential amendments to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance \(ACZO\) to support better stormwater and tree canopy outcomes in low density residential neighborhoods](#) over time. Despite Arlington's existing lot coverage and stormwater management regulations, impervious area is increasing Countywide. The majority of this increase in impervious area is happening in [low density residential neighborhoods](#) in Arlington.

To help mitigate these risks and improve climate resilience, Arlington's County Board has established a goal of adopting a maximum impervious area requirement in residentially zoned areas of Arlington. This would help support Arlington's goals to:

- [Improve the stormwater system](#)
- [Expand Arlington's tree canopy](#)

Opportunities Grant

The FY 2027 Arlington County Opportunities Grant is intended to support nonprofits in implementing programs or projects which will create opportunities for Arlington residents to thrive, while reducing, eliminating, or preventing inequities in direct response to demonstrate community or human services needs. The Opportunities Grant is the result of a multi-year effort to align County Board-awarded funding with community-defined needs—with a collaborative, racial equity based and transparent process. All proposals will be reviewed by community focus groups and subject matter experts. Submit a proposal or learn more here: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Equity/Equity-Based-Grant>