

## **Greater Arlington/Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

**April 13, 2026**

Ed Auston Regional Park, PAL Bulding, 2450 Monument Raod, 32225

### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Member:** CPAC Chair Gary Dickinson, Grove Park HOA; Vice Chair Tim Keeley, Kensington Association; Larry Belge, River Woods-St. Johns Landing HOA; Herbert Ramsdell, Southside Estates Civic Association; Kacy Evans Caroline Forest Homeowners Assoc; Sheila Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Assoc; Pamela Brown, Osprey Point; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbor; Cheryl Brantly, Hidden Hills Country Club Estates; Melvin Peepers, Southside Estates Civic Association; Debi Wagner, Hawkings Cover Owners Association, Wayne Van Doren

**Excused:** Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Point; JoAnne McIntosh, Ashley Green HOA

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Joe Johnson, Executive Council Assistant; Mikayla Batteh, Planning and Development; Robert Bautochka, MCCD; Lieutenant Jamar Smith, JFRD; Eric Soriano, JPL; Commander Valentine, JSO-District 2; James Carroll, Public Works; Jennifer Hinton, Office of Resilience; Martinique Glover, Neighborhood Services; Kenneth Darity, KHA, Dan Durbec, Environmental Programs Specialist

**Guests:** Steve Matchett, Old Arlington Inc, Ryan McShea, Kensington Association, Jane Ramsdell, E. Parsons, Robert Hill, Mary Hill, APCA

**ZOOM Participants:** Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition; Mary Castor, Lenore Hanapel, Delmas Harper, Sharwanda Peek

### **Meeting Summary**

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC was called to order by CPAC Chair Gary Dickinson at 6:35 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2026. Martinique Glover verified that a quorum was present.

Chair Dickinson asked for a moment of silence for our First Responders and government officials.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The Meeting Summary from March 9, 2026 was approved with no amendments needed.
- 3. Presentation- Dr. Jennifer Hinton-Deputy Chief of Resilience**
  - The Office of Resilience is advancing three major initiatives. The Urban Forest Management Plan evaluates Jacksonville's tree canopy, noting a 44% coverage rate and identifying significant loss since 2010; it outlines over 110,000 acres of potential planting

areas, including 51 high-priority public sites in the Urban Core, and seeks community input on planting priorities. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan, funded through grants, focuses on identifying high-risk wildland-urban interface areas and prioritizing mitigation strategies like prescribed burns to improve long-term forest and fire safety management. The Green Infrastructure Prioritization effort identifies and ranks nature-based stormwater strategies such as rain gardens, bioswales, and green roofs, using a framework to guide future investments; the Riverfront Plaza green roof was highlighted as an example.

- Public comments expressed interest in edible landscaping and partnering with community groups on planting and resilience projects.

Jennifer Hinton-[JMHinton@coj.net](mailto:JMHinton@coj.net)

**Elected Officials Report- Joe Johnson Executive Council Assistant, on behalf of Ken Amaro**

- **District Updates-**

- **Arlington Road Bridge:**

The bridge is temporarily reduced to two lanes while the long-term project advances through design and pre-bid stages. Funding is secured for FY 27–28, and construction is expected to begin in roughly 1.5 to 2 years, restoring the full four-lane configuration.

- **Lone Star / Charlton Road Improvements:**

Phase 1, the new roundabout connecting Lone Star to the Charlton/Regency corridor, is complete and improve connectivity and emergency access. Phase 2 involves installing a traffic signal at Lone Star & Mill Creek; it is in final design and permitting, with easement acquisition underway. Traffic Engineering will confirm the final timeline.

- **“Welcome to Arlington” Gateway Sign:**

A long-planned gateway sign project supported by Councilmember Amaro is currently in design. Funding details and construction scheduling are still being finalized.

The Honorable Ken Amaro-[KAmaro@coj.net](mailto:KAmaro@coj.net)

**4. Staff Reports-**

- **ISO- Commander Ricky Valentine- Incident Reporting**

- Monthly numbers are reflected below; Year to date, there have been 1,807 incidents, compared with 1,898 at this time last year.

Sector	# of Incidents	Currently	Past 30 Days
<b>ECHO</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>FOXTROT</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>GOLF</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>HOTEL</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>95</b>

<b>District 2 Overall</b>	<b># of Incidents</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>498</b>

- **Key Crime Issues:** JSO reported several recent burglary cases, with multiple suspects identified and one arrest made. Officers continue urging residents to lock their vehicles and remove firearms to prevent theft. Community members are also encouraged to check the JSO Unsolved Crimes webpage and report to any recognized individuals.
- **Dames Point Bridge Incidents-**Three mental-health crisis events occurred on the bridge in the last two months, requiring full bridge closures for safety. Patrol officers successfully de-escalated the most recent situation.
- **E-bikes and scooters-**are becoming a safety concern due to outdated laws. They are currently treated as bicycles, meaning they may use sidewalks but must follow bicycle rules. State-level legislation needs updating.
- **Teen “Takeover” Events-**These gatherings are increasing and require monitoring due to fights and safety risks. JSO urges parents to be more aware of where teens are congregating.
- A question was raised about whether neighborhoods will be required to purchase the new Neighborhood Watch signs, and JSO will follow up with cost and replacement details. Sheriff’s Watch meets monthly at 9119 Merrill Road on the fourth Thursday, and residents are encouraged to attend, bring concerns, and follow up on case progress

Commander Valentine- [JSODistrict2@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSODistrict2@jaxsheriff.org)

- **JFRD- Lieutenant Jamar Smith**

- Residents were reminded to reduce wildfire risk by clearing debris, trimming vegetation, and maintaining defensible space around their homes. Wildfire activity is common in the Fort Caroline area, and residents are urged to call authorities immediately if they notice smoke or smell burning.
- Encouraged members to attend JaxReady Fest, a two-day event at the Prime Osborn Center featuring interactive activities with partner agencies that teach vital preparedness skills, including effective 911 calling, severe weather readiness, and water safety for the summer season.
- **Event Hours and Location:**  
**Friday, April 17:** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 18:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**Prime Osborn Convention Center**, 1000 Water Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Lieutenant Smith – [JamarS@coj.net](mailto:JamarS@coj.net)

- **Public Work- James Carrol**

- Public Works, represented by James Carroll, explained that the department responds to issues based on resident reports made through 630-CITY. The city is managing over 23,000 active work orders and maintains nearly 4,000 miles of roadway and more

than 1,100 miles of stormwater ditches. Residents can report after-hours right-of-way hazards through JSO dispatch.

- A resident raised concerns about sand entering neighborhood storm drains following a JEA operation on Sweet Cherry Street. Public Works asked for the related emails so they can coordinate with JEA to address the issue.

James Carrol-[JCarroll@coj.net](mailto:JCarroll@coj.net)

- **JPL- Eric Soriano**

- The week of April 19–25 is Jacksonville’s annual Celebrate Reading Week, with the theme “Reading is Magic.”
- o Family Reading Day event at the Main Public Library on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 303 N. Laura Street.
- o The Speak up Jax Youth Poetry Slam will also be on April 25,2026 from 2pm-5pm at the Main Public Library.
- Beaches Library Comic Fest: Free event featuring comics, cosplay, gaming, and special guests. May 2,2026 1–4 PM

Eric Soriano- [esoriano@coj.net](mailto:esoriano@coj.net)

- **MCCD- Robert Bautochka**

- Robert Bautochka provided an overview of recent enforcement and inspection activity within the Greater Arlington area. The department reported the following operational totals:
  - 777 inspections completed during the previous 30 days
  - 5,947 inspections completed fiscal year-to-date
  - 52 litter signs removed during the previous 30 days
  - 611 litter signs removed fiscal year-to-date
- Robert Bautochka also announced that Susan Corbin has been appointed as the department’s new chief. Residents were reminded that campaign signs are allowed on private property only and are prohibited within public rights-of-way

Robert Bautochka – [RBautochka@coj.net](mailto:RBautochka@coj.net)

- **Neighborhood Services- Martinique Glover**

- Announced several upcoming community initiatives, including:
  - “The Cookout” community-building event at James Weldon Johnson Park, Saturday April 18, 2026, 2pm-7pm
  - District 2 Block Party-Saturday April 25,2026 at Ed Austin Regional Park 10am-2pm
  - Search for Jacksonville’s Oldest Senior recognition program, nomination forms are available upon request, winner will be announced May 20, 2026, at the senior expo

- “Seniors at the Ballpark” event offering free admission and meals for participating seniors, this event will take place May,7,2026 at 11 a, at the Jumbo Shrimp Stadium
- Senior Center Open House scheduled for May 27,2026 at 5:00pm at the Mary Singleton Senior Center showcasing all 16 city senior centers

Martinique Glover-[mglover@coj.net](mailto:mglover@coj.net)

## 5. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Government Affairs- Herbert Ramsdell**
  - The subcommittee reviewed two applications and decided to act on one of them. When presented to the full CPAC, members voted in alignment with the subcommittee’s recommendations. Listed below are the applications:
    - **Applications E-26-20 & AD-26-21 Location-10344 Atlantic Circle** The applications requested an exception for a contractor storage yard along with deviations for driveway width and landscape buffers. Due to concerns regarding compatibility with adjacent residential properties, the subcommittee recommended denial, and the CPAC motion to deny the applications passed.
    - **Application Z-6769 Location- 2449 University Boulevard North** The application proposed rezoning for a food truck and permanent dining concept with additional parking and landscaping improvements. No formal CPAC action or motion was required.
- **Beautification Committee- Larry Belge**
  - Mr. Belge noted that spring weather conditions have increased the need for plant replacement throughout community beautification areas. Residents were encouraged to compare pricing among local nurseries currently offering seasonal discounts.
- Environment- No Report
- Membership-No Report
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## 6. Ad-Hoc-

- TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission- No report
- North Florida TPO- No Report
- Parks Safety Council-No Report

- ## 7. Chair’s Report-
- Chair Gary Dickinson reported on the annual Chair and Co-Chair meeting held on April 3. During the meeting, recognition was given to Edwina Henry regarding her transition into a supervisory role, and appreciation was expressed for her

continued service and leadership. The Chair also discussed the success of the neighborhood block party initiative, noting that other community groups are exploring ways to replicate the level of engagement and participation achieved within Greater Arlington.

- 8. Unfinished Business-** Gair Gary Dickinson, encouraged residents to spread the word about the upcoming community block party to local churches, neighborhood groups, and other community organizations. The event, scheduled for April 25 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Ed Austin Regional Park will feature food trucks, vendors, city resources, music, and family-friendly activities including line dancing. Participating agencies will include the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office with K-9 units, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, and Florida Highway Patrol. Community organizations were also invited to participate by hosting informational tables or pop-up booths.

**9. New Business- None**

**10. Public Comments-**

- **Dan Durbec-Jax Litter League**
  - provided an update on the Litter League, a community litter-collection competition organized by Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. The program began at the end of March and continues through July 3, 2026. Teams compete by collecting bags of trash, and the team with the highest total will win access to the city's suite at a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Game. For more information visit: <https://www.jacksonville.gov/mayor/initiatives/keep-jax-cute/jax-litter-league>
- **Kenneth Darity- Kids Hope Alliance**
  - announced that summer camp information is available through the KHA camp locator. Officials also noted that Child Trust Fund grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 are available to support youth travel opportunities for nonprofit organizations and school groups. KHA representatives stated they will continue participating in future community meetings. For more information visit: <https://www.kidshopealliance.org/find-a-program/summer-programs>

**11. Adjournment-**Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm

Next Meeting **May 11, 2026**, at 6:30 pm; the LUZ subcommittee will meet at 5:45 pm Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225.

