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Newsletter

No. 3, 2017

April 2017



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[Like our Facebook page](#) for notifications and check out the [website](#).

Annual Dues for 2017

Send a check for \$10 to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Civic Association Issues

EDITORIAL: DISTURBING VRE PRESENTATION ON STATION (RE)LOCATION IN CRYSTAL CITY

On March 30, VRE offered a presentation of the three options which have emerged for the location of an expanded VRE station on Crystal City. The expansion is required essentially for two reasons: VRE needs increased platform length in order to use longer trains and also wants to be able to carry passengers in both directions during their rush-hour period. For instance, passengers may want to use VRE to travel from Union Station towards Virginia in the morning, and in the opposite direction in the afternoon. This requires having two dedicated tracks with a platform in between. [See the presentation here.](#)

The main positive observation from the meeting was that a fairly large number of Crystal City residents had decided to attend and that, above all, it had been possible to coordinate a joint position between the Civic Association and the two largest Condo Associations (Crystal Gateway and Crystal Park). Our message was that, with two options placing the station flush against a set of two residential buildings, and a third one placing it at an office building, **the latter option would be the only reasonable one**, if VRE and other stakeholders want to show any concern for the quality of life of the Crystal City residents. As was noted by audience members, we may not be VRE passengers, but residents are tax payers in the context of a State-funded project.

HOWEVER, the presentation confirmed the already existing impression that, for VRE and its partners, the opinions and the well-being of the residents appear very far down (if at all) on the list of criteria and considerations, when they now quickly want to zero in on only one option. They will not offer any further community meetings until they are ready to come forward, probably in a month or two, with their recommended option and the related design details. In the meantime, all we can do as Crystal City residents is to reiterate our arguments, through the Civic Association, the Condo Associations and individually. The e-mail address to the project manager Ms. Soneji is: ssoneji@vre.org

It is understandable that the VRE prioritizes the interests of their passengers. **Of those who disembark in Crystal City, over 80% work within walking distance, or continue by local bus for a short distance. So less than 20% transfer to Metrorail, a fact that renders the distance**

from VRE to Metro less important. When many passengers cross the street and enter the 'Underground', this is for the purpose of using it to get to their destinations in or near Crystal City. The Pentagon is another common destination.

The presentation also contained some references to environmental factors in the evaluation process, but that seemed to be more 'for the birds' than for the human inhabitants of Crystal City. There was also a statement to the effect that it would be beneficial to make the rail line more visible and integrated into our public realm. (At least there was no suggestion of a goal to make it more audible...).

Much to our surprise, the project manager also paraphrased statements reportedly conveyed by Arlington County, to the effect that the 'Underground' is an anachronism and that it would be important to support an activation of the streetscape. This brings up the final point, which is critical: in cross-jurisdictional projects such as this one, the local jurisdiction has strong influence on matters which do not really concern other areas. And comments from sources, outside the formal meeting, suggest that Arlington County has already weighed in, with preferences and arguments which are unknown to us. **Clearly, they have not consulted with Crystal City residents, so it is obviously now urgent to ensure that our views and concerns reach the County Board before it is too late:** countyboard@arlingtonvirginia.us

Save the Date: April 19 CCCA Meeting

We will have two very interesting agenda items at our next meeting:

--**A first introduction by JBG Smith**, the developers who are soon taking over from Vornado as the main land-owner in Crystal City. They will offer an initial indication of their thinking regarding development projects and other plans for our community. But at this stage, they are particularly interested in hearing YOUR ideas and suggestions for the future of Crystal City. Since JBG will be in "listening mode," it's important that we have a good turnout to meet with the representatives and let them know that Crystal City residents have definite interests in the future of development here: e.g., things that are missing in Crystal City or inadequate.

--**An introduction by Joshua Nadas, Community Planner with the George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service.** His job is to handle the outreach to adjacent communities. Apart from the Parkway itself, the NPS manages the Mount Vernon Trail and the interface with other parks and trails in our

area. There will also be a Q&A session, to help us better understand the impact of NPS in our area.

Join us at the Crystal Park Condominium community room at 1805 Crystal Drive on April 19 from 7-9 pm.

School Board Candidate Forum

On Thursday March 16, the three 22202 civic associations—CCCA, ARCA, and AHCA—hosted a forum for the three candidates for the School Board: James Lander (incumbent), Maura McMahon and Monique O'Grady.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

We may lose our Connection Pop-Up Library

*It's sad to note, but it seems that Crystal City may again be losing out to other parts of the County with respect to budget and community facilities. This time, despite the outstanding success of the Pop Up Library in the Underground, it's beginning to look like the County Board will not renew the 9 month experiment, but will instead redo the experiment in other parts of the County (e.g., western Columbia Pike and Rosslyn) which they believe are more underserved than Crystal City. Apparently, the proposed budget can only handle one Pop Up library in the County. **Without renewal, the Connection will close in June.***

The survey of usage closed March 31, and we hope that those of you who like and use the Connection did indeed respond positively.

The Budget will not be adopted until April 22, so there is still a chance to urge the Board to reconsider and keep the Connection open. We would urge library supporters to write individually to the 5 Board members, the County Manager and the Library Director:

Jfisette@arlingtonva.us
kcristol@arlingtonva.us
Lgarvey@arlingtonva.us
Jvihstadt@arlingtonva.us
cdorsey@arlingtonva.us
Mschwartz@arlingtonva.us
Dkresh@arlingtonva.us

It would be helpful to comment that you are aware that the CCCA has urged the County Board to agree to a

continuation, but that you as an individual user support this.

Remodeling 12th and Clark Streets

On April 5th, the county is going to hold an information session at our pop-up library from 3-6 pm outlining plans for 12th Street, which is being redone in coordination with planned changes on Clark St. between 12th & 15th. (Demolition of the ramp, with changes on Clark St from what was originally planned.)

The 30% design plans are complete and will be displayed at the session, at which public feedback is invited. The plans also are available on line but are sooo detailed and small (even when zoomed in) that they are difficult to see. So if you are interested in understanding what is now planned, attending the session seems like a good idea.

Roti Mediterranean Grill restaurant

The fast casual rotisserie eatery is coming soon to the ground floor of the Met Arcadia apartment building, at 1211 S. Fern Street, between two recently opened businesses: a Starbucks and an Orangetheory Fitness.

New Retailers, Eateries To Open At Pentagon City Mall

ArlNow.Com has a good write up of the new stores and restaurants coming into Pentagon City Mall. [Read it here.](#)

Kimco Project Proceeds in Pentagon City

As we have reported previously, Kimco is planning a 450-space parking garage, two residential towers with 690 units and 25,000 square feet of new retail space in the area of the current Costco parking lot. [In an article March 28, ArlNow.com](#) reports that the project is on target with a completion date of early 2019. The garage was completed last year, and now attention shifts to building the residential towers. One will be 25 stories, while another will be 11 stories. Originally, Kimco had planned to construct the complex's office space first. But the high office vacancy rate in the county convinced the firm to build the residential portion before.

Arlington County Issues

Arlington County Announces Acting Director of Community Planning, Housing and Development

Following the departure of Steven Cover, Arlington County has named Claude Williamson as Arlington County's Acting Director for Community Planning, Housing and Developer (CPHD). Williamson, who has been with the department for 20 years, will lead it on an interim basis as the acting planning director. Last week County Manager Mark Schwartz said that a search would be starting soon for a permanent replacement for Cover.

[See press release.](#)

Design changes finalized for Reagan National Airport

Going in or through Reagan National Airport will look very different within just a few years, now that designs have been finalized for a new structure to house security checkpoints between the Metro tracks and the existing terminal. The changes, to be presented Wednesday to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board of directors, call for the construction of new security checkpoint areas outside each entrance from the airport's Metro station. Documents prepared for a March 22 meeting show that the final design for the security changes has been completed along with work on how to do the \$245 million project in phases that will allow the airport to keep running smoothly.

According to 2015 plans, the checkpoints would be on the same level as the exits and entrances to the Metro station and would include space for the security lines. Passengers getting dropped off by car would be directed down to that area from the ticketing level. [Read WTOP report here.](#)

South Park Master Plan

Arlington County is undertaking a Park Master Plan for an open space referred to as South Park. The second public meeting was held March 29. Here is a link to view the [park on Google Maps](#): Please see the [project website](#) for more information.

County Manager Offers \$11.1 Million in Optional Cuts to FY 2018 Budget

At the County Board's request, the County Manager has offered options for cutting the equivalent of one cent on the property tax rate from his proposed FY 2018 Budget. The Board will discuss the options in upcoming work sessions, before voting on the Budget at its April meeting. You can provide online feedback on the budget.

<https://budget.arlingtonva.us/fy-2018-proposed-budget/>

Guardian Volunteers Needed

Be a Voice for Someone who is not Heard: Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that will allow you to

make a real difference in the life of older adults or adults with disabilities? Look no further than the Arlington County Volunteer Guardianship Program. Volunteers with our program are trained to become court appointed substitute decision makers for a neighbor who has no one else to help. For more information on this challenging yet highly rewarding opportunity, contact Helen King, hking@arlingtonva.us, 703-228-1700.

If you are looking for more age-related resources, please go to <http://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/>

Annual E-CARE Event

Arlington County's E-CARE event will be held Saturday, April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. E-CARE is an event where residents can safely dispose of hazardous household materials (HHM), recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes, clothing and much more!

HHM are products found in the home that are flammable, corrosive, poisonous or potentially hazardous. They include items such as automotive fluid, car care products, fluorescent light bulbs, corrosives, household cleaners, and propane gas cylinders.

Before you come to the event, talk to your neighbors. Combine your items and save a trip to the collection site. Place all materials in the original container or label materials clearly, overpack any leaking containers, and bring your ID to verify that you are an Arlington resident or employee. For a full list of acceptable items, go to www.arlingtonva.us and search "E-CARE."

The Connection Library

Check out the [website](#) for April events at our Pop Up Library—which may not be with us beyond June. (see editorial above)

Other Issues

Arlington Historical Society Talk

The Arlington Historical Society and Marymount University's Department of History and Politics will host Dr. Cindy Gueli as she discusses her new book "Lipstick Brigade: The Untold True Story of Washington's World War II Government Girls." The event will be held in Marymount University's Reinsch Library Auditorium at 7:00 on Thursday, April 13, 2017.

You've heard of Rosie the Riveter, but do you know about Washington's Government Girls? Almost a quarter of a million adventurous young women swarmed the nation's capital to help America fight World War II. Dr.

Cindy Gueli discusses the captivating, surprising, and often moving first-person stories she collected for Lipstick Brigade, her book of how these incredible women triumphed over the challenges of war and the chaotic, frustrating, and often deadly capital boomtown. This program is free and open to the public. It is part of a monthly series of public programs sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society. For more information, please go to the Arlington Historical Society website at <http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

Expedia Says Arlington Is The Third Hippest City In The Country

For the adventurous among us, taking a Lyft to an American bistro, going shopping for produce outdoors, and seeing a play at a local theater is a mild way to spend a weekend. But these things set the bar in a new Expedia list, which ranks Arlington County, Va. as the country's third [super cool U.S. city](#) for having such "hip" offerings. The list includes small and mid-size places that are "stepping up, giving the big metropolises a run for their trend-setting money," according to Expedia. Out of 21 spots, the number one slot goes to Austin, which hosts one of the country's biggest [film and music festivals](#) of the year though Expedia also gives it cool points for having lesser known cultural events and low crime. Second place goes to Madison, Wisconsin, which I now know is more than just the place Will Hayes ditched for New York in [Definitely, Maybe](#). According to Expedia, it has fine restaurants and a "robust festival season."

But the folks at Expedia aren't the only ones crediting the county lately. As ARLnow points out, it's has been favored in more than a dozen recent lists, which the outlet calls "often contradictory, nonsensical or, at least, highly questionable." For what it's worth, check out the [article here](#).

5K Races Return in April

The DC area's fittest happy hour returns to Crystal City this April with weekly 5K races at 6:30pm every Friday. Presented by the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) in partnership with Vornado/Charles E. Smith and Pacers Running, 5K Fridays offers the perfect opportunity to get a healthy start to the weekend.

The 5K Fridays race route is flat and fast traveling through the heart of Crystal City along Crystal Drive and up past Long Bridge Park. After the race, runners can stick around for a collection of area bar and restaurant specials exclusively for runners.

When: Every Friday in April, starting at 6:30 PM
Location: 2121 Crystal Drive

Registration: Register online at <http://www.runpacers.com>

Early Bird Fees - Through March 31st: \$20 per race; or \$75 for the series (includes technical t-shirt)

Regular Fees - After March 31st: \$25 per race; or \$90 for the series (includes technical t-shirt)

Course: The USATF-certified course runs along Crystal Drive starting and finishing across at the Courtyard along Crystal Drive, Crystal City's main street.

Restaurant/Bar Deals: Information on specials at area restaurants and bars will be available on-site and announced via social media.

Video: First-Person POV of an Underground Bike Race thru March

The underground bike races took place on Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m., on the G3 and G4 underground level of the parking garage at 201 12th Street S., through the end of March. Take a look at [ArlNow.com's video](#).

ArtFest Week (March 31-April 7, 2017)

The 14th annual ArtFest Week is almost here! Our community is invited to take part in this popular week-long celebration of Art in Arlington. Highlights include an art show and sale featuring the works of more than 30 Arlington-based artists, in paintings of many genres, ceramics, sculpture, artists cards, unframed works and more.

Presented by the Arlington Artists Alliance at Fort C.F. Smith Park,
2411 24th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207
Friday, March 31, 6-8pm - Opening Reception
Saturday, April 1, 10am-5pm
Sunday, April 2, Noon-5pm
Tuesday-Thursday, April 4-6, Noon-4pm
Friday, April 7, 10am-Noon
Full schedule available on www.arlingtonartistsalliance.org
Free and open to the public.

Turtle trot 5K

Each year Long Branch Nature Center receives injured turtles and other wildlife that need our help. Proceeds from the Turtle Trot race help give them medical attention and a place to live until they are strong enough to be released back into the wild. The race is chip-timed, on a certified course. Check in is at 9 a.m.; Race starts at 10 a.m. [Register](#)

When: Saturday, May 13
Where: Meet at Bluemont Park
What: 7th Annual Turtle Trot
Cost: \$30, kids 12 and under \$15

Upcoming Parks and Recreation Community Events

Parents Night Out: **Fridays, 6-10pm** @ Walter Reed Community Center. This event is offered each month

FRESHFARM Market

The popular FRESHFARM Market returns on Tuesday, April 4th from 3-7 pm at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers with seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, specialty foods and much more.

Mobile Bike Repair by Velofix

Get those nagging bicycle repairs taken care of while you are at work with Mobile Bicycle Services by Velofix. Simply drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Velofix will be set up at 1900 Crystal Drive from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM every Thursday April through October. Appointments can be made at velofix.com using the Crystal City zip code (22202) beginning April 3rd, but walk ups are always welcome. More info can be found online, by email at DC@velofix.com, or phone 855-VELO-FIX.

Crystal City Spring/Summer Camps

In addition to the Crystal City Art and Technology Camp launching this year, there are a number of other options to keep your child active, engaged, and occupied this summer! Check out this [full list of camps](#) and offerings from TechShop, Synetic Theater, and Earth Treks Crystal City and register today!

Ball Sellers House Opening

On Saturday, April 1, The Ball Sellers House will mark the first day of its opening season with demonstrations and docent tours from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. The Ball-Sellers House is the oldest building in Arlington County and was restored by Arlington Historical Society to what it looked like during the colonial era. Step back in time in a home built in the 1740s. Tour and see how middle class farmer John Ball, his wife Elizabeth, and their five daughters.

The House located at 5620 3rd Street South in the Glencarlyn neighborhood is open free every Saturday afternoon 1:00 - 4:00 PM from April through October.

[Visit the AHS website for more information.](#)

National Walking Day - Wednesday, April 5

In support of National Public Health Week (April 3-9), WalkArlington, Arlington Transportation Partners and Arlington County's Public Health Division are teaming up with local partners to celebrate the most sustainable form of transportation - walking! As part of the week-

long festivities, Arlington County will participate in the 1 Billion Steps Challenge and host four National Walking Day pit stops around Arlington. [See details.](#)

CCCA OFFICERS

Contact us:
board@crystalcitycivic.org

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Established January 28, 2014

Join on our website:

<http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/>

Or send a check for \$10 to:

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