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Newsletter
No. 7, 2016

August 2016



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

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Notices

Reminder to Pay Annual Dues

The 2016 dues are \$10.00 per voting member for membership in the Association. Use the form on the website "Join" page or just send a check to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

For Quick Updates on Issues and Events

Like our Facebook page for notifications and check out the website. Both are updated regularly and can keep you well informed.

Civic Association Issues

Exciting News: “The Connection” Library



Crystal City has been chosen as the prototype for Arlington County's innovative pop-up library format designed to integrate the library into the daily lives of residents, geared to our community dwellers. Technology, DIY information, tool lending library, events, meetings, etc.

This is a **direct result** of the November 2015 CCCA meeting where Diane Kresh, Director of the Arlington County Libraries, raised the concept and met with an enthusiastic response from participants. The County Board approved a lease in July with Vornado for 1,222 sq. ft. of space inside the building located at 2100 Crystal Drive, within Crystal City Shops at 2100, 2117 Crystal Plaza Arcade. The space is located just across the corridor from the Tech Shop and immediately across from Au Bon Pain

CCCA Board members met with Diane Kresh and her staff in the new space to see the plans and provide some feedback on what Crystal City residents might need. But your input, participation, and support are essential if this temporary library is to succeed--and continue beyond its 9-month trial period.

The CCCA is co-sponsoring an informational presentation **August 16 from 7-9 in the Tech Shop**, right next to the library under construction in the underground. Be sure to join us to add your input on what we need in this new temporary library. The space will open in mid-September, and this is a chance for us to make the library the "beacon" for Crystal City. The online survey closed July 29 but see the announcement for the meeting [here](#).

Innovative “Connection” Library for Crystal City



At our Annual General Meeting last November, Guest speaker Diane Kresh, Arlington County Director of Libraries, presented her general/countywide topics and visions for high-density areas in Arlington, like Crystal City. She then applied that to Crystal City, where we have no library, and discussed with us what might be possible to do to improve our situation. Our local library is the small Aurora Hills Library, which has only one small room serving as a "community center" for three areas: Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge, and Crystal City. See the [summary](#) for a full description of the meeting.

During a lively question and answer period, many speakers supported the innovative idea of a "pop up" library—a temporary space in one of the vacant areas in the Crystal City underground. **It's going to happen!** The CCCA has been following up on the issue and is pleased that negotiations between Vornado and the County have led to a positive outcome.

Ms. Kresh announced July 19 that a temporary "pop-up" library will open this September in Crystal City next to the Tech Shop in the former Mens Wearhouse space at 2117 Crystal Drive: "Connection: Crystal City." Library Director Diane Kresh sees the pop-up facility as a low-cost way to push library services into more neighborhoods and introduce people of all ages to the wide scope of what the County's public library system has to offer. In addition, the Crystal City pop-up branch is expected to help enliven the Crystal City Shops. "We chose Crystal City as the first neighborhood to experiment with a pop-up library both because we have found that Route 1, which runs through Crystal City, poses a physical barrier to access for many people to the nearest community library, **and because people in the neighborhood expressed interest in the approach," Kresh said.**

Next CCCA General Meetings:

September 21: We will have three important speakers:

Michael McGurk of Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's private partner on the I-95 Express Lanes project, the Virginia Department of Transportation's private partner on the I-95 Express Lanes project, will give an update on plans. He also wants to share with the community a more concrete proposed design at Eads Street and get feedback. This project will convert today's two HOV lanes into three Express Lanes within the existing roadway. As public input from communities is key during the project development phase, Transurban wants to ensure Crystal City residents are kept in the loop from the very beginning. Your feedback is critical to advancing the project's final design and scope.

Mitch Bonanno of Vornado, will brief the community on the Site Plan they have filed for the purpose of creating a Metro Market Square along the northern side of 18th Street, between Crystal Drive and the Metro entrance: a plaza area and green space between the buildings and 18th St. There will also be some retail additions to the buildings on that plaza level. He will present the preliminary ideas and seek your feedback on how the space could be designed. This could be an exciting addition to Crystal City.

Stefanie Echeveste, Vornado's Placemaker Officer, will give a short explanation of plans to install a colorful light display at the Water Park, as a lead-in to a short visit to the Water Park for a brief demonstration of the lights. Vornado will be seeking feedback on these plans, and you may want to offer your opinions, especially if you live in buildings where the lights could be seen.

November Annual Meeting: week of November 14: [Atlantic Gateway Project and Crystal City](#)

Have you heard about the federal grant of \$165 million Virginia has received for its Atlantic Gateway program? It will be a set of rail, highway and bridge projects meant to ease some of the worst travel bottlenecks on the East Coast. The overall budget for Atlantic Gateway is \$1.4 billion, a combination of the federal grant, \$710 million in other public financing pulled together by the state and \$565 million in private investment. Much of the spending would be on projects in Northern Virginia.

While great for transportation in Northern Virginia, there are two aspects of Atlantic Gateway that could have major impact on residents in Crystal City:

-- Extend 95 Express Lanes seven miles north to the Potomac River and improve access to the Pentagon at the Eads Street interchange.

-- Build 14 miles of new track to ease the movement of VRE and Amtrak trains as well as freight. This rail part of Atlantic Gateway will include initial steps to rebuild the Long Bridge, the span that takes rail traffic across the Potomac River, as well as the widening of track segments in Northern Virginia.

The CCCA is planning to invite speakers to brief us and seek community feedback. Stay tuned for more information in coming weeks.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Quick County Updates on Development:

-- The 'multimodal' construction at/around 18th and Clark-Bell on target to be completed in Jan 2017

-- Two-way traffic at/on Crystal Drive and 27th: construction likely to start late 2017

-- Long Bridge Drive undergrounding during 2017 and realignment during 2018

-- Removal of Clark St. overhead/fly-over: demolition starting late 2017

-- Clark St extension across 15th, and separating east/westbound of 15th to create space for median park: design through 2017; procurement during 2018; construction 2019-21. This would allow park construction to start some time in 2021. It would be preceded by a design effort, where the CCCA would be consulted; a Parks project, not a Transportation project

-- 18th between Crystal Dr. and Clark-Bell: improvements for pedestrians and bikers: design ongoing through 2017; construction starting in 2018; to be coordinated for plans along northern side of 18th

-- 18th between Eads and Fern: design through 2017; construction starting in 2018

-- 12th St between Clark and Eads: design mid-2017 to mid-2018; construction 2019-20

Crystal City BID Updates on Development:

- The Crystal Gateway Marriott is about to embark on a \$30M overhaul project to modernize the property
- The 'Paper Clip' building at 400 Army Navy has started to come down; demolition is expected to be finished by late Aug or early Sept
- The demand for rental apartments in CC/PC is improving so much that, even with the new projects coming on line, the occupancy rate (and income situation for the property owners) keeps inching up towards traditional levels

MetPark6



The Arlington County Board approved July 16 the Phase 6 site plan for the Metropolitan Park development in Pentagon City. Developer Vornado plans a new apartment building with of 577 units and 9,665 square feet of ground floor retail space. The building will incorporate multiple rooflines with a maximum height of 22 stories. The community will gain three new open space areas, including the completion of the Metropolitan Park Central Park, a public courtyard open space and an enhanced streetscape treatment along S. Eads Street.

Crystal City: "Sweets and Sips"



Four Movies
Tues. Sept. 6 - 27 at 1901 S. Bell St.: Willy Wonka, Bottle Shock, Chocolat and Sideways.

Water Park Light Display Project



Vornado is working with the [Crystal City Business Improvement District](#) to install a light experience this fall/winter in the Water Park. The programming is fully adjustable and lights will not be on all the time. Vornado has offered to adjust timing/lights/programming based on feedback from the community and on an ongoing basis. They only plan to install lights in one section of the park (Southeast corner to the east of the food kiosk), not the entire park.

At the September 21 CCCA meeting, they will present a questionnaire for reactions, after a walking demonstration in the park. In the meantime, take a look at the various possible iterations of the lights. These are just "samples" as the final design is not fixed.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ajkshkinoizmi44/ABtRA1A1yW639cZJT3JthKla?dl=0>

Aurora Hills Community Center Renovation

The County has fixed firm dates for the closing of the Aurora Hills Community Center (AHCC) for renovation. AHCC's last day of activity will be Oct. 21. Senior programs at AHCC will continue to operate through that date, and a schedule of planned programs should appear in the next 55+ Guide published by the County. The renovations are expected to take approximately 8 months. Senior Center programs will be moving to Gunston while AHCC is closed and will start operations at that site on November 7.

Arlington County Issues

Board Approves \$3.3 Billion 10-Year Infrastructure Plan

On July 19, the Arlington County Board [approved](#) a \$3.3 billion combined County and Schools 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2017-2026. The plan funds County capital projects and infrastructure of \$2.8 billion and Arlington Public Schools' (APS) adopted \$510.29 million CIP, for a total of \$3.3 billion in planned capital projects and infrastructure investment over the next decade for both County and Schools.

From County Board Guidance & Notes to Accompany the Adopted FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan:

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Facility & Park

The County Board confirms the scope for the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Facility and Park that was presented at the April 2016 worksession here and is within existing available funding. This includes the following key items in the revised scope:

- Reduce from three major bodies of water to two and adjust the building size accordingly
- Combine teaching pool and family pool into one space
- Provide health and fitness space
- Support the three core program elements
- One community room
- 2 wet-classrooms
- Approximately 300 spectator seats or as building design dictates
- Appropriate facility administration & locker facilities
- Complete the 10.5 acre park

The County Manager will report back in fall on any partnership or sponsorship opportunities that could be realized and how such partnerships could impact scope and / or funding plans, including both construction and operating costs. The Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee will also provide its input into any partnership and sponsorship opportunities as part of this process. As part of discussions with potential partners and sponsors, the County Manager will pursue, where feasible, a balance between offsetting operating and / or capital costs associated with the current project scope and adding new amenities.

The County Manager will undertake a community engagement process on the design of the facility once the project delivery method (e.g., construction manager at risk or design-build) has been determined and the design team has been selected.

Fourth Field at Long Bridge Park and Bridge Connection to the Mt. Vernon Trail

- Additional PAYGO funding of \$2.5 million is added in 2023 – 2024 to facilitate advance planning & design of the fourth synthetic field and parking structure at Long Bridge Park. Construction funding will be considered as part of future CIPs.
- Direct the Manager to aggressively work with the National Park Service, VDOT and other partners involved in the current planning effort to modernize and expand the Long Bridge so as to include a bridge connection between the Long Bridge Park Esplanade and the Mt. Vernon Trail.

County Board Approves 10-Year Plan for Bus Service Improvements

More frequent bus service, more late night and weekend service, better north-south connections, and a new Premium Transit Network along Columbia Pike — this is the new vision for bus service in Arlington. On Saturday the County Board officially adopted a new Transit Development Plan that provides a road map for Arlington Transit and Metrobus service improvements through 2026. A major feature of the plan is creation of a Premium Transit Network connecting Columbia Pike, Pentagon City and Crystal City. The premium network will offer bus service that is fast, frequent, reliable and easy to use, with features including simplified routes, increased weekday and weekend service, and a new one-seat bus ride from Skyline to Pentagon City-Crystal City.

Note: Although members of the CCCA and representatives of several condos have urged the County for months to consider an alternative to the Metroway route extension up Crystal Drive to 12th Street, our efforts did not succeed. Over 300 residents, visitors to Long Bridge Park, and slugline users signed a petition proposing an alternative that would place the Transitway on the to-be-reconstructed Clark-Bell Street rather than on the proposed streets -- in other words, on the commercial west side, rather than the residential east side, of the 15th - 12th Street mega-block. This alternative would have provided a stop at the same intersection as the proposal (12th & Clark-Bell), according workers, visitors, and residents the access and convenience already planned, but avoiding the dangerous 12th Street curve where vehicles almost routinely veer out of lane. It would have helped

preserve the safety of the crosswalk into Long Bridge Park's popular esplanade by not adding a third, faster-moving traffic lane. It would not have disrupted or eliminated slug lines. It would have maintained the safety of the crosswalk on 12th Street that links workers, residents, and visitors from buildings north of the megablock to the underground and a shortcut to the subway station. And it would not have eliminated scarce parking spaces for visitors to the park, businesses, and residences; and does not increase noise for residents living close to the proposed pathway.

We made a good faith effort to urge acceptance of this alternative, but, according to the County, "there is no alternative to putting the transit way down Crystal Drive."

Read the [press release](#).

Arlington County Detailed Bond Issue

Read the [Washington Post article](#) July 25 on how the Arlington County Board and school officials will spell out in unprecedented detail this fall how they plan to spend borrowed money for long-term capital projects — a response to several years' demands from residents for more transparency.

Voters will be asked in November, as they are every two years, whether to allow the county to borrow money by issuing general obligation bonds to pay for new schools, facilities, transportation and parks projects.

But while in 2014 a typical ballot question sought \$105.8 million in bonds to "fund the design and construction of various school facility projects including new elementary schools, building additions for additional classroom space and maintenance capital projects," a question on the ballot this fall for \$138.8 million in school construction will spell out five specific schools or projects, with costs attached to each one.

Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group Starts Up

The first meeting of the Arlington County Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group will be held from 7-9 PM on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 2100 Washington Boulevard in Lower-Level Conference Room D. The Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group is a limited-term advisory body appointed by the Arlington County Manager to provide commission, community, consumer and advocate perspectives on possible future changes to the Real Estate Tax Relief Program in Arlington. For more information, please visit:

<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/real-estate-tax-relief-retr-working-group/>

Arlington on hunt for election workers

The Arlington Electoral Board is in search of additional pollworkers for the Nov. 8 general election. About 900 residents are appointed to work the polls on Election Day across Arlington. It's a long day – those working need to be available from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. or later – and comes with a stipend of \$175 to \$230. Applications and information can be found at www.vote.arlingtonva.us. Those appointed are required to attend a two-hour training class.

Volunteers Needed for Crowd Managing Exercise

The Health Department is testing its mass medication dispensing plan on Saturday, August 20 and needs volunteers.

Who: Any willing volunteers and their families

What: Help Arlington test their ability to manage a crowd (hopefully!) while operating a rapid, non-medical Point of Dispensing (POD). We will be using two different types of candy/treat as a substitute for oral medication.

When: Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Where: Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St, Arlington, VA 22206

Why: Because we all need to practice how to do this and it's very difficult to get enough people together to actually test the "crowd" aspect at a dispensing exercise! (in other words, we need your help!)

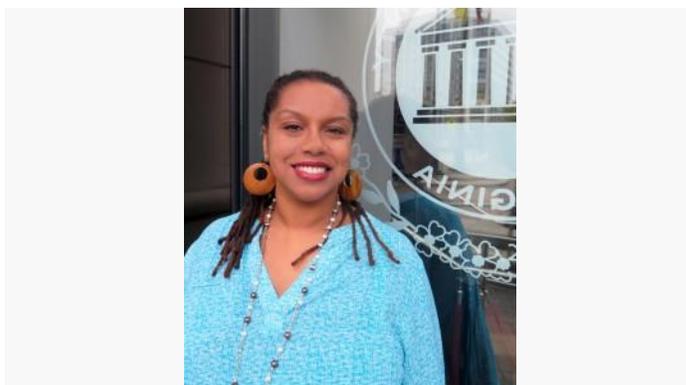
Additional Information:

- Please enter through Door #10 (or as indicated on the day of the event)

- There will be plenty of free parking

Contact: Kurt Larrick | Asst. Director - Communications and Public Engagement, Arlington County Department of Human Services, 2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor, Arlington, VA 22204, 703-228-1775 (office), 571-259-2463 (cell).

Arlington County Hires Zoning Administrator



Arlington County **announced** July 27 that it has named its Acting Zoning Administrator, Arlova Vonhm, permanent Zoning Administrator. Vonhm, who joined the County in 2012 as a principal planner, leads a team of 30 Zoning staff. Her team collaborates with Inspection Services and other County staff to process and approve building permits, while actively enforcing the County's Zoning Ordinance.

Arlington Named Nation's Top Digital County

The Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties has named Arlington the No. 1 digital county in the nation for its size. The **Digital Counties Survey** for 2016 recognizes Arlington's best technology practices in areas of open government, transparency, citizen engagement, security and operations. A top-ten finisher in past years, this is the first time Arlington has received the highest award for counties in the 150,000 – 249,999 population category.

Task Force to Review Real Estate Tax Relief Program

Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz **reported** July 19 to the County Board on the official charge for a Real Estate Tax Relief Working Group that will perform a comprehensive review of the County's program, including: addressing needs of low-income senior households; and reviewing income and asset limits, exemption and deferral criteria.

Arlington County Fair

Wednesday, August 17, through Sunday, August 21, Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. South, Arlington 22204. "Groovy Since 1977," the theme of this year's fair, celebrates the first fair and subsequent fairs that have showcased the best of Arlington.

VCE Master Gardeners will provide staffing and judges for the Open Flower Show and the Open Herb, Fruit and Vegetable Competitive Exhibits. Together with members of Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, Master Food and Energy Masters volunteers, VCE Master Gardeners will staff the all-VCE booth on Thursday, August 18, from 5 to 10 p.m.; Friday, August 19, from 4 to 10 p.m.; and Saturday, August 20, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. More information is available at <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us/>

Airport Noise

Note: *The CCCA has been following the issue of increased noise at Reagan National Airport and participating in meetings of the Airport Noise Working Group. With the exception of the MD80 planes flown mostly by Delta, the most significant noise increase has not been in the Crystal*

City area, but south in Alexandria and north over the Palisades in DC. However, we remain vigilant with concerns for our area as well.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) convened a public meeting June 27 at Reagan National Airport to discuss changes that have been made in flight frequency and routing that impact various communities in Alexandria. In the last year, morning and evening flights have increased, coinciding with the airport activating a new air traffic control program called Next Generation Air Transportation System, or "NextGen." Citizens as well as local elected officials including Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg and Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said the changes in flights and patterns have drastically increased airplane noise over and around the Potomac River, and that community members weren't involved in the process whatsoever.

Residents who live south of Reagan National Airport **spoke out** at the packed meeting. Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg said that increasing nighttime noise that disturbs sleep is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Ditto for communication between the FAA, MWA and communities. Mayor Silberberg called for a follow up meeting later this year.

News items on airport noise are compiled by Mark McEneaney, Arlington, Virginia. To subscribe, unsubscribe or suggest news items, send email to dca.noise.news@gmail.com. The problem of increasing aircraft noise will not be solved without engagement from residents. If aircraft noise is a problem for you, you can let your elected officials know. In Arlington, elected officials include: [John Vihstadt, Arlington County Board Member and Airport Liaison](#), [Rep. Don Beyer](#), [Sen. Tim Kaine](#), [Sen. Mark Warner](#), and [Gov. Terry McAuliffe](#). Complaints [filed with the airport](#) are summarized by zip code and passed on to local governments and elected officials.

Arlington Cited for "Walkability"

[America Walks](#) and the [Every Body Walk! Collaborative](#) has just released "[America's Walking Renaissance](#)," a new book that takes readers on a journey across the United States looking at walkable cities of all shapes and sizes and providing resources and firsthand accounts of the growing "walking movement."

Arlington is one of nine communities featured in the book. Lauded for decades of visionary leadership, progressive transportation planning and engaged citizenry, Arlington's "smart growth journey" is held up as a walk friendly model for other communities to follow. With quotes from former County Board member Chris Zimmerman, Transportation Director Dennis

Leach and [WalkArlington](#), the book outlines Arlington's recipe for walkability and celebrates the County's multi-modal pathway to success.

Written by Jay Walljasper, Kate Kraft and Heidi Simon of America Walks and with a forward by Tyler Norris of Kaiser Permanente, "America's Walking Renaissance" examines nine cities, suburbs and towns nationwide that have embraced walking, highlighting local efforts undertaken by passionate individuals to get more people walking in more walkable places more of the time.

Arlington Has its Very Own Poet Laureate

Katherine E. Young has been selected the first Poet Laureate of Arlington County, and will be installed during the County Board meeting at 3pm July 19. The Poet Laureate position is jointly managed by Arlington Cultural Affairs and the Library. Ms. Young is the author of numerous books of poetry, and her work has appeared in many poetry magazines. She is also a literary translator, and has worked in Arlington schools in the Pick-a-Poet program. Arlington has long embraced poetry as an art form through its Moving Words program, that places poems by local poets on ART buses throughout the year.

Vornado To Resubmit River House Zoning Plans

Vornado plans to resubmit its plans for up zoning the River House property to accommodate a large addition to its current apartment complex, this time without the necessity for a change in the GLUP (General Land Use Plan).

"Fight the Bite": Arlington's Mosquito Information Center

Arlington has a webpage devoted to everything you need to know about mosquitos and how to defend yourself against them and the diseases they carry. It includes the latest updates on the Zika virus, effective ways to reduce your exposure, the mosquitos life history, West Nile Virus, what the County is doing in public parks to combat the mosquito, and more.

[Information](#)



Other News:

I-66 HOT lanes setup about to begin

[Dr. Gridlock in the Washington Post](#) writes that drivers on Interstate 66 inside the Capital Beltway this summer are going to notice the first signs of the project that will bring tolling to the rush-hour lanes next year. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) is scheduled to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the project August 1. As a construction project, the inside-the-Beltway work is much less complicated and should be less disruptive than what will eventually happen during the outside-the-Beltway phase, when lanes will be added between the Beltway and Gainesville. That construction is scheduled to begin in 2017. Also, this part of the inside-the-Beltway work is not the phase that will add an eastbound lane along four miles between the Dulles Connector Road and the Ballston exit. That is scheduled to start construction in 2018. This part is mostly about setting up the gantries and other support equipment for the tolling system. All drivers using this portion of the Beltway at rush hour will wind up needing an E-ZPass to pay the variable toll or an E-ZPass Flex set to "HOV" to claim the toll exemption for two-person carpools.

Metro invites public to preview the new wmata.com

Following the July 19 release of real-time train data to app developers, Metro General Manager/CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld invited the public to preview an entirely redesigned wmata.com, which is entering the final stages of development. For the first time in eight years, Metro is overhauling its website and, during a multi-week beta period, customers are being asked to try out the redesigned site and provide feedback before the site formally launches later this summer. Nearly half of Metro customers visit wmata.com at least once a month to plan a trip, and 60 percent of those users visit the site via mobile device, a dramatic increase from just two years ago. To respond to this trend, the new website is designed to look great on today's smartphones and tablets, seamlessly adapting to the user's environment based on screen size and orientation.

Customers can access the test site by navigating to [beta.wmata.com](#) from their web browser and provide feedback to Metro at feedback@wmata.com. Metro is advising customers that the website is in beta stage, meaning portions of the site are still under development, and some pages and features may not yet be available. The current version of wmata.com will remain available to riders until the beta stage is completed.

Beat The Heat with the FEMA App

It's hot across the U.S. and folks are out traveling for summer break. Download the FEMA app for free on

the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#) to stay cool and know ahead of time when extreme heat and other severe weather is on the way. Add up to five locations to include your upcoming travel destinations, and watch over family and friends out-of-town. The FEMA app also provides other safety tips to help you stay prepared:

What to pack in an emergency kit with an interactive checklist.

What to do to stay safe before, during, after each type of emergency.

Where to go with directions to open shelters and where to talk to FEMA in person if disaster strikes.

<https://www.ready.gov/fema-app-toolkit>

Providing your Input on Transportation in Northern Virginia is as easy as 1,2,3,4!



The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is updating TransAction, the long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia. As part of the public engagement process, the NVTA has created a [four-question survey](#) and share your input. Your involvement is essential in developing the plan. Please visit NVTATransAction.org/contact to share your comments at any time.

Crystal City BID News

If you're not yet set up to receive the weekly Newsletter from the Business Improvement District (BID) of happenings in Crystal City, you can view the newsletter [here](#) and sign up.

CCCA OFFICERS

Contact us:
board@crystalcitycivic.org

President
Vice President for Policy and
Planning
Secretary
Treasurer
Communications Director
Membership Liaison

Sandra Borden
Christer Ahl
Claudia Yarus
Diane Oksanen-Gooden
Carol Fuller
Teresa Rusin

Established January 28, 2014

Graphics Designer: Colleen
Zellmer

[Join on our website:](http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/)
<http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/>

[Or send a check for \\$10 to:](#)

Treasurer, CCCA
1200 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202