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Newsletter

No. 11, 2017

December 2017

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

NOTE: There may not be a January Newsletter unless a lot happens in the next month.

Civic Association Issues

For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Membership Dues: Dues are for a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Pay by January 1, 2018, to stay on the mailing list. Send a check for \$10 to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

CCCA Annual General Meeting and Elections

Our Annual General Meeting with elections was held **November 14**.

In **brief elections for new CCCA officers** at the beginning of the meeting, Carol Fuller was elected as President, succeeding Christer Ahl, and Claudia Yarus was reelected for a second term as Secretary. There were no candidates for the position of Membership Liaison. The Executive Committee would welcome interest. We would welcome inquiries from anyone in the community who would be interested in learning more about becoming an officer in the CCCA. We are especially looking for participation from the apartment rental community, in order to increase representation from that sector of Crystal City. A candidate could be appointed temporarily on a trial basis by the Executive Committee to provide outreach to our community and recruit new members. If you are interested, please email board@crystalcitycivic.org.

Following the elections, Taylor Lawch of JBG-Smith, the major developer in Crystal City which took over from Vornado, gave a very interesting presentation of his company's plans for the Crystal Square block bounded




by 15th Street South, Crystal Drive, 18th Street South and Jefferson Davis Highway. Phase 1 will include construction

to install a specialty grocery store (as yet to be decided) in the current driveway space under the building on the

corner of 15th and Crystal Drive. It will also include an Alamo Draft House movie theater. In the next stage, assuming site plan approval by the County, there will be a two-level green plaza along 18th Street and additional levels on the 1770 Crystal Drive building for 360 apartments. JBG Smith hopes to have everything finished by mid to end 2020. The presentation is posted on the [CCCA website](#).

NextDoor: Community Communications

At our June 20 CCCA meeting, the Commander of the second police district and our district Fire Chief Captain  strongly recommended that civic associations use Next Door, a private social networking service for neighborhoods. They use it regularly to inform residents of emergencies and major events. Nextdoor allows users to connect with people who live in their own and nearby neighborhoods. We have started posting information on our meetings on NextDoor and recommend it to our members. So far, there are currently 332 neighbors using this in Crystal City and 2,599 neighbors in Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge and Crystal City. Check it out at <https://nextdoor.com>.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Board Approves Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center Contract



On November 28, the County Board awarded a \$60 million contract to Coakley & Williams Construction, Inc., to complete Phase 2 of Long Bridge Park, including the design and building of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, Arlington's first free-standing aquatic center. The project also will include development of 10.5 acres of the park, including environmental remediation,

continuation of the Esplanade, public gathering areas and casual use space, one or more rain gardens, parking and other associated infrastructure. This new phase of the park is expected to open to the public in late 2020/early 2021. The Board voted 4 to 1 to approve the contract. Board Member John Vihstadt voted no.

This is the first time the County has used the design-build approach to build a new facility. The approach, used across the country, establishes a budget at the outset of the project which the contractor cannot exceed. The culmination of planning since 2001, the aquatics center will visually connect to the Esplanade that is one of the best-loved features of Long Bridge Park, which lies on the north end of Crystal City and offers Potomac views. Coakley & Williams winning design for the Aquatics & Fitness Center featured simple, energy efficient, quality architecture. A deck, up to 18 feet on three sides and 24 feet on the fourth, will surround the 50-meter pool. The pool will offer one, three and five-meter diving, and will be large enough that even when swim events are taking place, lanes will be open to the public. The facility also will include a second leisure/family pool, a fitness center and community rooms.

The Board also awarded a contract for \$550k to Douglas Hollis to design, fabricate and install public art for Phase 2. Hollis is the architect who designed the Wave Arbor art in the current park.

To read a description of the civic engagement and procurement process, [see here](#). View the original design concept video for Coakley & Williams here:

[Coakley Williams/Page](#)

Crystal City to DCA Pedestrian Connection Feasibility Study

The Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) hosted a public information session on November 15th updating the community on the progress on the study investigating the feasibility of a new pedestrian connection to the Airport. Though additional detail will be forthcoming in the final report, the consultant reported that a new



connection would be feasible provided cooperation with relevant agencies including the National Park Service, MWAA, and Arlington County. A number of illustrative renderings were presented of both a bridge and tunnel along the most feasible alignment. The study will also recommend a number of short-term improvements to the existing walking routes used by pedestrians today. Additional information is available at the new project

website, www.cc2dca.com, which is also where the final report will be published in mid-December.

Update on Train Horn Noise

County Board Member Katie Cristol convened a meeting November 21, 2017, of CSX representatives with representatives of the CCCA and Crystal City condominiums to follow up on the Board's September 19, 2017, decision "to engage CSX on mitigating noise from the operation of their rail lines in Crystal City." Discussion focused first on issues of train maintenance noise and the need for advance notice and then on the safety issues for the new VRE station that might facilitate a CSX decision to further mitigate train horn noise.

The group agreed on several follow-up actions, with the County agreeing to encourage a discussion of VRE and CSX engineers about potential safety measures that might facilitate consideration by CSX of further mitigating the blowing of train horns when the VRE station is closed. In the meantime, we have been given a special email address to report "minimal" or "sporadic" violations of the existing train horn rules in place for Crystal City: crystalcitytrainhorn@comcast.net. This is where you should report violations of the current CSX policy that horns should not be blown (except in emergencies) when the VRE station is closed. If the problem increases or becomes more frequent, the issue should be conveyed to [800-TELLCSX \(800-835-5279\)](tel:800-835-5279) for documentation/case assignment on a system level within CSX.

Update on Long Bridge Project

CCCA representatives participated in the November 15 meeting of the Consulting Parties for the for the Long Bridge Project, which is to provide additional capacity, network connectivity, and resiliency and redundancy within the Long Bridge Corridor. The purpose was for all



parties to comment on the Draft Area of Potential Effect (APE).

There will be an Open House for the general public Thursday, **December 14**, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the DCRA Building, Room E200, 1100 4th St SW, Washington, DC 20024. Formal presentations will be made at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (same presentation at both times).

Purpose of the Meeting: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) invite the public to review and comment on the alternatives to be evaluated in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Long Bridge project, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). At this meeting, participants will have the opportunity to provide input on the alternatives. This meeting is also a part of the concurrent consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Exciting new JBG Smith Plans

For those of you who couldn't make the CCCA Annual General Meeting November 14 to hear the full presentation by JBG Smith of their plans for the Crystal Square block, bounded by 15th Street South, Crystal Drive, 18th Street South and Jefferson Davis Highway, you can check it out on our website. Also, please see the link to [CoUrbanize/Crystal City](#) so that everyone has a chance to ask questions, post ideas, answer polls, and receive updates from JBG Smith.



Why JBG Smith is embracing the emptiness that dogged Vornado's Crystal City portfolio for years

According to a Washington Business Journal article November 20, JBG Smith Properties CEO Matt Kelly believes that Crystal City's bloated vacancy rate will actually be an advantage rather than a drag on the publicly traded real estate investment trust's earnings going forward. Vornado Realty Trust, previously the dominant Crystal City landowner, was dealt a series of setbacks over the years that dragged down earnings, including the loss of the Patent and Trademark Office and the Pentagon's 2005 Base Realignment and Closure plan. It contributed to the New York-based landlord's decision to spin off and merge its D.C. portfolio to form JBG Smith earlier this year.

Kelly, who became CEO of JBG Smith when the company was launched in July, said the large blocks of empty office space his company now oversees in Crystal City should be easier to pitch to large users such as Amazon.com Inc. because it won't have to shuffle other tenants around or build costly new infrastructure to support a large corporate tenant.

JBG Smith recently disclosed it's in the hunt for Amazon's second headquarters. The company is courting other prospects as well and advancing plans for

what could be a major redevelopment in the Arlington County submarket, but landing Amazon — and its long-term need for up to roughly 8 million square feet — would be a significant coup for the four-month-old REIT.

Nonprofit to relocate major functions out of D.C., sending 300-plus jobs to Crystal City

The American Institutes for Research is expanding from D.C. into Arlington, investing \$12.5 million in its new Crystal City offices and creating 320 new jobs in Virginia. AIR, a behavioral and social science research and evaluation organization, has agreed to lease three and a half floors at Lowe Enterprises' 1400 Crystal Drive, or roughly 86,000 square feet. [Read more here.](#)

Get ready for Reagan National Airport's 2018 renovations

Big things are happening for Reagan National Airport in 2018, with "Project Journey" renovations including transforming Gate 35X into a new commuter concourse area and adding two security checkpoint spaces above the



roadway for Arrivals. "One of the improvements is to convert 14 outdoor boarding positions for regional jets into a new commuter concourse," Robert Yingling, the Project Journey communications manager, said. "The new commuter concourse will construct a building with 14 aircraft gates with jet bridges to get to those planes." [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City a Likely Finalist for Amazon's HQ2

Arlington County and seemingly every other place in North America is competing to host Amazon's second corporate headquarters. But while the odds seem long, Crystal City actually has a good shot at being one of the finalists in Amazon's search. Specifically, commercial real estate sources tell us, Crystal City and Potomac Yard are, in combination, regarded by many as the region's best chance at landing HQ2. [Read more here.](#)

However, Amazon received 238 proposals from cities and regions in 54 states and provinces across the U.S. and Canada. All are vying for the project's 50,000 jobs with an average salary of \$100,000 and \$5 billion worth of investment for the second headquarters. The only timeline Amazon has confirmed is that the company will make its decision on HQ2 sometime in 2018. Oct. 19 was the deadline to submit proposals. [Read an update here.](#)



Water Main Maintenance on S. Clark Street

As a part of Arlington's asset management program, water distribution mains are regularly evaluated for renewal or replacement. The condition of water mains in your area meets Arlington's criteria for replacement. Consequently, a construction project is scheduled in your immediate area consisting of the installation of a new water main: South Clark Street from 20th Street to 23rd Street.

The water main contractor will mobilize and begin main replacement **the week of December 11, 2017**. This work is anticipated to take between 30 – 45 working days. The contractor will temporarily stop work and remove equipment from the site during the week of December 18. Construction will resume on January 2, 2018.

Residents should expect inconveniences such as: dust, mud, noise, debris, possible reductions in water pressure, short interruptions in water service, temporary traffic and parking restriction. We will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience and we greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Residents should look for temporary "NO PARKING" signs, which will be on the streets a minimum of two days before parking is enforced. Once the signs are posted, the parking area must be cleared of all vehicles. Failure to do so will result in your vehicle being towed. If your vehicle is towed, please call the Arlington County Police Department at (703) 558-2222.

If any residents have questions, please contact our construction manager, Louis Robinson (571) 274-2257 or lrobinson@arlingtonva.us. For any after-hours emergency, please call our 24-hour Water Control Center at (703) 228-6555.

TechShop Closed in Crystal City, Company Filing for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

High-tech workshop TechShop filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy November 15, with all its locations, including in Crystal City, now closed. TechShop, which had a 20,000-square-foot space at 2110-B Crystal Drive, opened in Arlington County in 2014. The company was founded in 2006, and at one stage had 10 locations in the United States and four more overseas. [Read more here.](#)

BB&T Closing Crystal Arcade Financial Center

BB&T Bank will close its Crystal Plaza financial center at 2113 Crystal Plaza Arcade on January 26, 2018. It will be consolidated with the Crystal City financial center at 2221 S. Eads Street.

Cookie Dough Store Sophie's Dough Coming to Pentagon City Mall

A store selling safe-to-eat cookie dough is coming to the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Sophie's Dough Gourmet Cookie Dough is set to open on Friday, November 24 – Black Friday – at a permanent kiosk on the third floor of the mall, near the soon-to-open Superdry clothing store. [Read more here.](#)

Superdry Now Open at Pentagon City Mall

A British-based clothing store is now open at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Superdry opened a 5,600-square-foot store next to Kate Spade New York on the mall's second level earlier this month. [Read more here.](#)

The Connection Library

For more events at the Pop Up Library, see the [calendar page.](#)

BRING YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m.

The only book club with NO REQUIRED READING! Just bring the book you're enjoying (or not) at the moment and tell other readers about it.

STRATEGY GAMING

Wednesday, **Dec. 20, 6:00 p.m.**

Build your empire! No experience required. Ages 18+
MAKE IT TUESDAY

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

Upcycle old materials and work on crafts in a fun and relaxed environment. Ages 18+.

FICTION WRITERS GROUP

Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

A fun and informal weekly support group for fiction writers.

TECH TUTORING (BY APPOINTMENT)

Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.— 5:00 p.m. en Español

Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.

STOP IN FOR STORIES

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

A fun and interactive story time. Ages 0-5 years.

Arlington County Issues

Congratulations Voters!

Great turnout for elections November 7.

But there was great confusion in Crystal City over polling precincts. To clarify, Precinct 050 in Crystal Plaza for the southern part of Crystal City did not move. But our poor Precinct 006 Crystal City for the northern part of Crystal City has



moved twice in the last two years. Why? None of the managers in the apartment and condo buildings suitable for polling stations were willing to host elections--bad civic duty!

So we were located in the Gallery Underground at 2100 Crystal Drive, next to Au Bon Pain and across from the Tech Shop and the Connection Library. Great cultural venue with lots of art! We had a 92-year old handicapped voter and two blind voters find us, so if you didn't or got confused, check <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/> for "Where do I vote?" See you next year.

Arlington County Office Building to be Named After Ellen M. Bozman

The Arlington County Board voted unanimously November 18 to name the County Office Building at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard for Ellen M. Bozman, the six-time Board Chair who served on the Board through some of Arlington's most transformative years, and who died in 2009. [Read more here.](#)

Schools Boundaries Update

An Arlington Public Schools (APS) process will soon determine which students will remain in Oakridge Elementary School during the 2018-19 school year (and beyond), and which will be bussed to an under populated school west of I-395. As most residents are aware, Oakridge is currently bursting at its seams. Once the new elementary school under construction on the Thomas Jefferson site opens next autumn, it will not just relieve crowding in nearby schools, but it will also likely open space at Drew and possibly other schools to our west that can relieve the crowding at Oakridge. But which of our neighborhood children will be transferred to a new school? Also, a new middle school planned for 2019; The Education Center Site will see 500-600 high school seats built by 2022; and The Career Center Site expanded to accommodate an additional 700-800 high school students by 2022.

County Board Directs Manager to Prepare Proposed FY 2019 Budget Within Existing Tax Rate

The Arlington County Board on Tuesday, Nov. 28 directed the County Manager to propose a budget for Fiscal Year 2019 within the existing tax rate. The Board said that the budget should be balanced and reflect current economic conditions, while honoring the County's vision. The County expects to see moderate revenue growth, but the Board noted it will not be enough to meet budget pressures. A budget gap of \$10-\$13 million is projected for Fiscal Year 2019, which begins July 1, 2018. The Board also noted that there is

uncertainty regarding the impact of the state and federal budgets on the County, and that it is providing its guidance to County Manager Mark Schwartz while real estate assessments are still unknown.

The Board also voted 4 to 1 to close-out Fiscal Year 2017's Budget, and allocate \$11.1 million in funds surplus not needed for reserves, restricted funding, allocations already approved by Board action, or for continuing projects that straddle fiscal years. Board Member John Vihstadt voted no. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Receives "All-Star" Rating for LGBTQ Protections

Arlington County has again been named one of 41 American "All-Star Cities" for its high standards of inclusiveness and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. Arlington scored 93 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (MEI). HRC is the country's largest LGBTQ-rights group. Its annual MEI measures the effectiveness of local governments in ensuring LGBTQ inclusion through their laws, policies and services. [Read more here.](#)

County Board Votes to Encourage More Accessory Dwellings

The Arlington County Board voted 4-1 at its November 28 meeting to loosen the rules around homeowners adding "accessory dwelling units" to their properties. [Read more here.](#)

County Board Approves Off-Street Residential Parking Guidelines for Metro Corridors

On November 18, the Arlington County Board adopted off-street residential parking guidelines for new, multi-family residential projects approved by special exception in Arlington's Metro corridors. The guidelines are not requirements or expectations. They update and standardize the practice of recent years for new developments in the Rosslyn-Ballston and Route 1 corridors to be approved with less parking than in the past. Any parking reduction will only be supported if the staff and Board validate that the existing transportation system can handle the reduction or, if necessary, that additional transportation investments or incentives are provided for a particular project. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Announces Human Rights Award Winners

Two community groups, two businesses, and an outstanding individual have been selected as winners of the 2017 James B. Hunter Human Rights Award, Arlington's highest human rights honor. Honorees include Eric Schaeffer, Building Bridges, Saint George's

Episcopal Church, Café Sazón, and Freddie's Beach Bar. Public award ceremony on Thursday, Dec.14. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington County Police Officers Deploying to Puerto Rico to aid in Hurricane Relief Efforts

Twelve Arlington County Police officers have volunteered and will deploy to Puerto Rico to assist with law enforcement resources in the wake of Hurricane Maria. The officers will deploy in three staggered teams between November 10 –



December 18, 2017 and serve the Puerto Rico community for sixteen days each. The request for assistance came through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is the national emergency management mutual aid system that facilitates state-to-state disaster assistance.

Protect Yourself from Holiday Phone Scams

With the holiday season upon us, many are planning their year-end charitable donations. While there are many legitimate organizations that fundraise by phone, the Arlington County Police Department is reminding citizens that representatives of the police department have never and will never call to solicit funds or collect fines. The holiday season is also a time when criminals aim to take advantage of the public's generosity through creative scams designed to steal money and personal information. [Read more here on how to protect yourself.](#)

Put the "I" in C_vic

Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m. at Central Library



Giving back to community & creating a more just world

Get your photo taken at Put the "I" in C_vic by artist Linda Hesh. The letter "I" is purposely missing so that you can pose for a photo standing in the artwork. Photos and captions about the meaning of civic engagement are

then posted to reimaginecivic.com.

Arlington County's First African-American Police Officer Has Passed Away

On Thursday, November 23, 2017, retired Officer Irving Comer, the first African-American to be sworn in as a

police officer for the Arlington County Police Department, passed away at the age of 74. Officer Comer began his career in Arlington County in September 1967 as a Communications Specialist. At that time, the Chief of Police had not been successful in recruiting minority officers and asked Mr. Comer to join the force. He initially rejected the Chief's request, fearing he would be limited to patrolling minority neighborhoods. He took the position in December 1967, only after the Chief assured him he would serve the entire community. [Read more here.](#)

Other Issues

I-66 toll lanes inside the Beltway start Monday. Here's everything you need to know.

New rules are coming to Interstate 66 inside the Beltway on **Dec. 4**, when the Virginia Department of



Transportation's High-Occupancy Toll — or HOT — Express Lanes go live. They cover a nine-mile stretch between I-495 and Lee Highway near the

Roosevelt Bridge split in Rosslyn, as part of VDOT's effort to manage traffic during rush hour.

The major difference from the highway's existing structure? People driving alone can use it — if they're willing to pay. Up to this point, single-occupancy vehicles haven't been allowed to enter during peak periods, as its lanes have been restricted to carpools.

But there's a bit more to it. Here are the details: how to prepare, what to expect and how the new system will work. [Read more here.](#)

Is your VA drivers license a REAL ID?

Heads up if you have one of the old, colored VA licenses which will not meet the REAL ID standard October 18. Virginia has an extension till then for air travel, but no guarantee after October 2018. [Read more here.](#)

2017 Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk for Arthritis

The Jingle Bell Run/Walk 5K will take place on Saturday, **December 2, 2017**. The Arlington County Police Department will conduct the following road closures to accommodate the event:

--South Joyce Street, between South 15th Street and Army Navy Drive, will be closed from 5:30 AM until 11:00 AM.

--Army Navy Drive, between South Joyce Street and South 25th Street, will be closed from 7:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

Race attendees are encouraged to use Metro, however, if driving as a participant or spectator please utilize the parking garage at the Pentagon City Mall. Street parking in the area will be restricted and motorists should be on the lookout for temporary "No Parking" signs. Illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed or towed. If your vehicle is towed from a public street, call the Emergency Communication Center at 703-558-2222.

Public Invited to Attend Operation Santa Performance

The public is invited to join the men and women of the Arlington County Police Department for a public performance of the Operation Santa 'All I want for Christmas' holiday show. To celebrate the holiday season and give back to the Arlington County community, members of the police department perform in the Operation Santa holiday show, which features many popular characters including, Santa, Rudolph, the Grinch, and others. This event will offer members of the public an opportunity to experience the show, get to know the officers who make it happen each year and take photos with the characters and officers following the performance.

WHAT: Operation Santa Holiday Show

WHEN: **Saturday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m.**

WHERE: Nottingham Elementary School parking lot, 5900 Little Falls Road

NOTE: This event is free to attend. Toys will not be distributed at this performance.

Therapeutic Recreation: Winter 2018 Adult Classes

Winter Class Registration Begins Wednesday, December 6th, 7 a.m. for Gymnastics, 7:30 a.m. for ALL OTHER Classes. Aquatics classes fill quickly, be sure to register early to ensure a spot in the class! Don't let fees be a barrier to registering for classes! [See our fee reduction page.](#) Learn More at the Winter 2017 [Enjoy Arlington Catalog.](#)

Survey: Residents Want to Bike More, Have More Protected Bike Lanes

[The survey](#), conducted by the county's local transportation research group Mobility Lab and county bicycle education program BikeArlington, found that 89 percent of respondents said they would like to bike more often, and 62 percent said that more separated bike lanes would help them do that. More than 1,200 people

took the survey at a series of events in August and September, including the Arlington County Fair and Nauck Civic and Community Pride Day. Of those people, 94 percent reported being Arlington residents. [Read more here.](#)



President	Carol Fuller
Vice President for Policy and Planning	Judy Freshman
Secretary	Claudia Yarus
Treasurer	Diane Oksanen-Gooden
Communications Director	Carol Fuller (acting)
Membership Liaison	Vacant

Established January 28, 2014

Join on our website:

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

Or send a check for \$10 to:

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Arlington, VA 22202