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# Civic Association Issues

## CCCA Annual Meeting: The Future of Crystal City and Amazon

What a great meeting! Some 130 folks turned out November 29 to hear Tracy Gabriel (BID President and



Executive Director), Andy Van Horn, JBG Smith VP for Development, and County Board Chair Katie Cristol talk about what the Amazon decision means for our area.

If you missed it, read the many articles below on Amazon. Or attend one of the upcoming public meetings:

**Dec. 3** Kojo Nnamdi Road Show at Syntec is sold out, but you can listen on NPR from 6-8 pm.

**Dec 12** Two BID-hosted meetings 1-2 pm and 6:30-8pm at 241 18<sup>th</sup> Street (suite entrance facing west plaza)

The best place to see all of the County sessions in one place is [arlingtonva.us/amazon](http://arlingtonva.us/amazon). Except for the Civ Fed meeting, folks can get more information and RSVP at there.

**Dec 6** [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Transportation \(Facebook Live\)](#) 6:30 pm

**Dec 11** Civic Federation, Amazon in Arlington with Victor Hoskins, Director, Arlington Economic Development and Stephen Moret, Director, Virginia Department of Economic Development, 6:30 pm

**Dec 17** Amazon in Arlington: Community Listening Session (IN person-Location TBD), 6:30 pm

**Dec 19** [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Schools, Higher Education and Workforce \(Facebook Live\)](#) 6:30 pm

**January 12** Amazon in Arlington: Community Listening Session (IN Person-Location TBD) -6:30 pm

**January 16** [Virtual Learning Series on Amazon: Housing](#) -6:30 pm

Not before February 23: County Board Public Hearing (Will be formally announced once confirmed)

## CCCA Elections

New officers were elected for a two-year term:

**Vice President Judy Freshman**

**Treasurer Eric Cassel**

**Communications Director Stuart Mize**

The position of **Membership Liaison** remains vacant as there were no candidates and the duties will be assumed by other officers until the position can be filled. We are particularly looking for young, apartment dwellers to fill this position. Please email us if you'd like to know more about serving in this position:

[board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org).

Many thanks to CCCA founding member **Diane Oksanen-Gooden** who served for four years as Treasurer for all her assistance. Sadly, she is moving out of Arlington, but we won't forget her.

# Crystal City Development and Amazon

**Here's a smattering of the most relevant articles since the November 13 announcement that Amazon is coming here.**

## Northern Virginia's National Landing Selected for Major New Amazon Headquarters

With the [announcement November 13](#) that Amazon will be coming both to Crystal City and Queens, we enter a new era of development. JBG-Smith has dubbed the combined area of Pentagon City/Crystal City/Potomac



Yard "National Landing." National Landing is the newly defined interconnected and walkable neighborhood that encompasses Crystal City, the eastern portion of Pentagon City and the northern portion of Potomac Yard.

Initially Amazon will lease office space in 1770 Crystal Drive, 241 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and 1800 S. Bell Street. Then they will buy from JBG Smith the remaining pieces of MetPark 7/8 and also PenPlace, so that the latter combo

will become the real Amazon campus beyond the initial stages. Other properties are highlighted in this map.



[Read the CCCA editorial and FAQ sheet here, as well as the letter from JBG Smith to the CCCA.](#)

See the JBG site [NationalLanding.com](#) for a virtual tour of the area and their [press release](#) here.

Read [Governor Northam's announcement here](#).

Read the full Arlington County [press release](#) here.

Read a [letter to Arlington residents](#) from County Board Chair Katie Cristol here.

Join for a series of [County virtual learning sessions](#) to find out more about how the announcement from Amazon and the State of Virginia benefits our community. The next ones are:

Transportation | **Dec. 6**, 6:30 p.m.

Schools, higher education and workforce | **Dec. 19**, 6:30 p.m.

Housing | **Jan. 16**, 6:30 p.m.

## Did Amazon just change Crystal City to 'National Landing'? Not quite. Here's the story

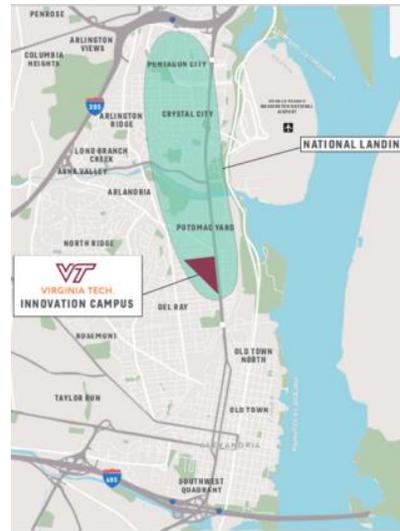
Relax, the old names are not going away. National Landing officially includes the Crystal City and Pentagon City neighborhoods in Arlington and Potomac Yard in Alexandria. National Landing is a new name for the growing Central Business District of Northern Virginia that encompasses existing neighborhoods in both Arlington and Alexandria - including Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard. The name was introduced by the Commonwealth of Virginia in its bid for Amazon and helps unify the distinct districts that comprise Virginia's largest walkable downtown. Through the gradual arrival of Amazon and the investments in transportation infrastructure and new parks, and development of new offices, retail, residences and a

multi-billion Virginia Tech Innovation campus, National Landing will become a seamless urban corridor full of dynamic and vibrant neighborhoods and communities. Rep. Don Beyer's office confirmed it is not an official name change but a new brand for a region that encompassed several existing areas. [Read more here.](#)

## Virginia Tech to open \$1B innovation campus 2 miles from Amazon HQ2

Virginia Tech announced November 13 it will build a \$1

billion innovation campus in Alexandria as part of the investment package that's bringing part of Amazon.com Inc.'s second headquarters to Arlington. The 1 million-square-foot campus, to be located at 480 Swann Ave. in National Landing — the newly dubbed area that includes part of Pentagon City and Crystal City in



Arlington and Potomac Yard in Alexandria — will sit fewer than 2 miles from what Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) has designated as its 150-acre Crystal City site. The project is part of a higher education package that was "cited as a key reason" for the e-commerce giant's decision, the university said.

## Virginia Tech making quick work of its proposed Alexandria campus

Virginia Tech isn't wasting much time on its proposed \$1 billion innovation campus in Alexandria. The university's board of visitors gave unanimous approval on Monday at a special meeting held in Richmond to a resolution backing the creation of the campus. [Read more here.](#)

## Is securing only half of HQ2 'a better outcome'? Some say it is.

Landing the Amazon HQ2 project will help change the perception that Greater Washington's economy is built on the government. Some suggested that a smaller headquarters could be a good thing for the region, which is already known for traffic congestion and high housing costs. The strain on the labor market — not just the private sector looking for tech talent but the federal government as well — won't be as pronounced, nor will the strain on Northern Virginia's housing stock and

infrastructure. It's a "nice-sized win" and "an appropriately-sized win" for Crystal City. [Read more here.](#)

### Is this HQ2's new home? Get to know Crystal City.

Suddenly, Crystal City is all over the national headlines as a front-runner for at least part of Amazon's HQ2. So, courtesy of the team at the Washington Business Journal, here's a short explainer about this little enclave with the funny name. [Read more here.](#)

### National Landing BID? Could be a possibility

The Crystal City Business Improvement District said it would consider a name change if the organization expands to include Pentagon City and the Arlington section of Potomac Yard. [Read more here.](#)

### Exclusive: Here's what Virginia spent to woo HQ2

Virginia officials spent about \$2 million to woo Amazon.com Inc. to the commonwealth, more than half of which was spent on a single consultant. Stephen Moret, the partnership's president and CEO, said the expenditures were in line with what he expected for an "enormous undertaking" to attract HQ2, which Virginia secured this week when Amazon announced that Crystal City and Pentagon City won half of HQ2, a project that is expected to yield 25,000 jobs and a \$2.5 billion investment over the next decade. [Read more here.](#)

### Think defense hiring is already competitive? Wait until Amazon puts HQ2 in Crystal City

An expanded presence in Greater Washington — home to thousands of government contractors — would put a strain on a market stretched by a dearth of workers holding proper security clearances. [Read more here.](#)

### Half of the 25,000 Amazon jobs coming to region won't be tech related

Half will be tech-related. The other half will be "administrative jobs, custodial staff, HR, all those things," Eleni Bourinaris-Suarez, EDC vice president of government and community relations, told [The Wall Street Journal.](#)

### Potential HQ2 announcement puts homebuyers and sellers on notice

It's a common refrain across Northern Virginia: Realtors say some of their clients want to buy a house in anticipation of Amazon choosing Crystal City, or the region generally, for HQ2. The problem? There are very few homes on the market. [Read more here.](#)

*And for a negative take on Crystal City:*

### C Crystal City, Va., is boring, corporate, and perfect for Amazon's HQ2

If Amazon is looking for a blank canvas on which to create a second headquarters, this is it. No, there is nothing "cool" about Crystal City. It's charmless and utilitarian. And yet, it's poised to win at least a half-share of a massive economic development prize: Amazon HQ2. [Read more here.](#)

### It's What Crystal City Doesn't Have That Makes It Perfect For Amazon's HQ2

This lack of a cohesive community, and the high-turnover that can come with so many renters living in one place, means Amazon can move in with very little likelihood of residents banding together to protest. If the estimates are true that it will bring 25,000 jobs to its new locations the already-horrendous traffic situation is going to get much worse. The almost-at-capacity rental units are going to go up in price and developers are going to come flocking to build even more on the scarce land that is left. But Amazon can set up shop without too much hassle and perhaps that is what it needs most of all. [Read more here.](#)

### As HQ2 arrives, throwback Americana Hotel ponders its future

[Read](#) about the history of this iconic hotel and the pressure it will be under (again) to sell.

### How this Amazon policy could springboard Crystal City's restaurant scene

It's a question many restaurant and bar owners will likely be asking in the coming months as Crystal City and Pentagon City prepare to host parts of Amazon.com Inc.'s HQ2 and its eventual 25,000 employees. But it's not so much a question of how do you get "in." [Read more.](#)

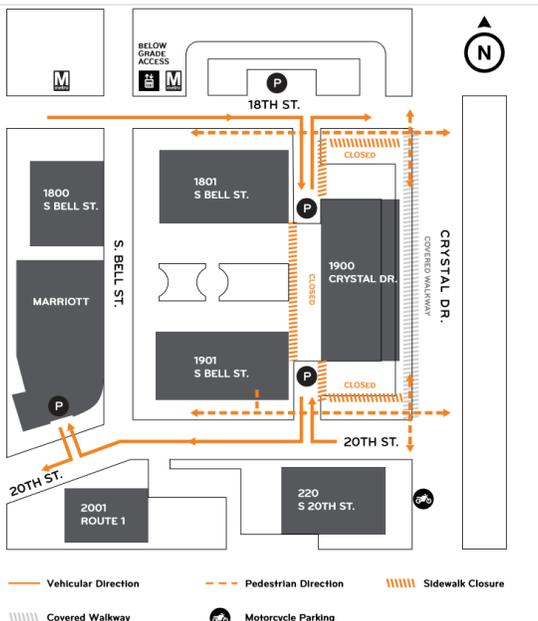
### As Amazon looms, owners of Crystal City's 'restaurant row' look to create arts district

The trust wants to build an open-air park and plaza on a parking lot and site of a Greek restaurant the trust owns behind some of the 23rd Street restaurants. It would have artist spaces tucked below, facing onto 22nd Street. [Read more here.](#)

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

## Demolition/Construction of 1900 Crystal Drive

On December 3rd, JBG SMITH will start demolition at 1900 Crystal Drive making way for new residential and retail offerings in our neighborhood. It's exciting and we know that construction can create changes for our everyday routines. Here's what to expect in the next few months:



- The garage entrances on 18th and 20th Streets will remain open.
- The west side of the sidewalk on Crystal Drive will remain open, and will have a covered walkway for your safety.
- The BID Events will continue, and will be moved to new locations - be sure to check out the BID website for the new spots!
- The motorcycle parking will be relocated to Crystal Drive and 20th Streets.
- The games will be relocated to the plaza.

## Crystal City US Post Office to Move

The USPS held a public meeting November 13 to inform residents that the post office must move from what has been a temporary location in the Crystal City Underground at 2180 Crystal Drive pending Crystal

Square redevelopment. They are currently negotiating with JBG Smith to (hopefully) return to Crystal Square. Most of us are happy with this possibility. But if you are not, you have 30 days from November 13 to voice opposition to leaving its current location: Richard.a.hancock2@usps.gov. We are not/not being asked to vote on where it should go, only whether it should leave its current location or not.



## Transitway Extension to Pentagon City

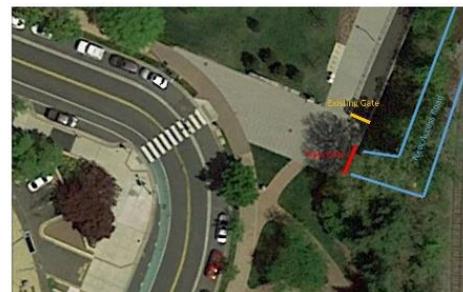
Arlington County Transportation held an open house Nov. 8 about the project to extend the Crystal City



Potomac Yard Transitway to Pentagon City. This extension will run from Crystal Drive and Clark Street along 12th Street South to South Hayes Street and Army Navy Drive. It will add 0.75 miles of bus-only lanes to the Transitway corridor, along with 7 new stations serving high-quality, high-capacity, frequent bus service. Staff are currently working to prepare the project's traffic and operations analysis and complete design for the project's first segment by summer 2019. The long-term plan is to extend the Metroway to Columbia Pike. [Visit the project page](#)

## New CSX Access Road

CSX has submitted plans for County permits to install an



access gate at the 12<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to Long Bridge Park and an access road along

the tracks. This replacement is needed since the current access at the northern end of Long Bridge Park will end when the County's construction of the Aquatics and Fitness Center starts.

CSX has shown that the gate and road will be built on its property. There will be no changes to the entrance to the park, 12th Street, or Crystal Drive. Beyond the end of the map shown, the road will run parallel to the tracks for about a half mile up to the signals. It will be asphalt

from the gate down to the track level and gravel the remainder to the signals.

CSX designed the project with the goal of disturbing as few trees as possible, but due to the limited property parallel to the tracks, some removal on CSX Right of Way is unavoidable. However, the plan includes extensive tree and shrub replanting after construction with more trees and shrubs than are there today. After construction, the new access road (which will be on CSX ROW parallel to the tracks) will be used by light pickup trucks for the signal maintainers and track inspectors. Under normal circumstances, they would probably use the access road 2-3 times a week.

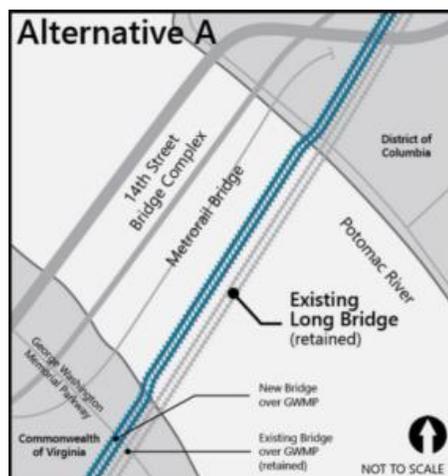
### Uber/Lyft Lot on S. Eads Street Update

On Nov. 1, 2018, County staff collected additional traffic data by counting vehicles entering and exiting the TNC lot at the two entrances on South Eads Street. Compared to the September 2018 traffic data, collected through the same method, daily traffic exiting the lot on South Eads Street has been reduced by 73%. This reduction is the direct result of the lot's new signalized exit to Route 1, implemented by County staff in October. Traffic volumes entering the TNC lot remain at the same level. [Read more on the project page.](#)



### New DC-Va. bridge plan would add more trains, bike paths over Potomac

In a crucial step toward expanding train service for D.C.-area commuters and longer-distance travelers avoiding



Interstate 95 traffic, the District Department of Transportation has chosen a preferred layout to double the number of tracks over the Potomac River to Arlington, Virginia, and also add a new way to walk or bike across the river. The preferred alternative revealed November 29 would retain and repair the existing two-track Long Bridge built in 1904, while adding a new two-track bridge just to the north between the existing bridge and Metro's Yellow Line bridge. The new bridge is projected to take five years to build once construction

starts. Final federal approvals for the project are currently expected in early 2020, which would allow for contracting to begin then if funding is available. [Read more here.](#)

### Transit Advocates, Neighbors Urge Inclusion of Bike and Pedestrian Trail Along New Long Bridge

A coalition of businesses, neighborhood groups and transportation advocates urged planners to include a bike and pedestrian trail along the long-planned replacement for the Long Bridge, a key railroad connection from Virginia into D.C. A total of 15 organizations from Arlington, the District and the rest of the metropolitan Washington region penned a new letter last Thursday (Nov. 1) to both local and federal transportation officials working on the project, calling the inclusion of a trail alongside the bridge part of "a once in a generation opportunity to transform our regional transportation network."

The organizations — which include the Crystal City Civic Association, Friends of Long Bridge Park, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, and Greater Greater Washington — stressed that any new trail crossing the Potomac River would provide "crucial links to several important regional trails." The current crossing along the 14th Street Bridge does not offer a connection to the regional trail network on the D.C. side of the bridge, and the friends group supporting the Mt. Vernon Trail co-signed the letter. [Read more here.](#)

### Clark Street demolition update

The next detours for this project will occur during removal of the Clark Street bridge over 18th Street South. This work has not yet been scheduled, but there will be a two-week advance notice before the detour starts. [Visit the project page](#)

### Major Pentagon City Redevelopment Nears Opening, Just in Time for Amazon's Arrival

The first phase of the Pentagon Centre redevelopment project, backed by New York-based developer Kimco Realty, should start leasing apartments as soon as spring 2019, according to a news release. The company hopes to open "The Witmer," a 26-story residential tower complete with 440 apartments and 7,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, by the second half of the new year. The new building will be the first of many new changes to come for the shopping center, located between S. Hayes and Fern Streets and 12th and 15th Streets S., as the developer embarks on a decades-long effort to redevelop the area. [Read more here.](#)

## New Restaurants

**Aabee Express** is now serving Mediterranean cuisine in the former Nkd Pizza storefront in Pentagon Row. The diminutive restaurant, next to the F45 gym, opened on Nov. 1. [Read more here.](#)

**Fiona's**, an Irish pub with a location in Kingstowne, is taking over the Tortoise & Hare space on 23rd Street.

## New Pentagon Fashion Center Stores

The Fashion Centre at Pentagon City announced Nov. 15 that it would be welcoming the new retailers, with some opening right away and others rolling out in the coming weeks. Per a press release, those additions include:

**JD Sports:** The England-based sports-fashion retail company will open in a 4,700-square-foot space near the Macy's on the third level in late November.

**Last Stop:** The chain offering clothes and accessories will open on the mall's third level near Life in DC in a 4,500-square-foot space.

**ME2:** The store, offering "authentic African garments and accessories," is now open in a 1,000-square-foot space on the first level, near NYX Professional Makeup.

**On1E Fashion:** The women's athleticwear shop is now open in a 1,200-square-foot storefront located on the third level near The Athlete's Foot.

**Why Not Men's Boutique:** Offering men's clothing and accessories, the shop is now open in a 500-square-foot space on the second level, next to Tumi.

As part of the moves, the mall also announced that the salon and spa **K & I Beauty** will be relocating to a first level near Godiva Chocolatier. A new pop-up cake shop is on the way as well.

# Arlington County Issues

## Arlington Sees Record Turnout in 2018 General Election

More registered voters in Arlington cast votes in the 2018 general election on Nov. 6 than in any other non-presidential election in the County's history. In all, 107,406 voters, or about 71 percent of those registered, cast ballots. Absentee turnout was also record-breaking, with just over 20,000 ballots cast — again, the highest ever for a non-presidential election. The most significant increases in turnout were in precincts along Columbia Pike and in the Rosslyn-Ballston and Crystal City Metro corridors, and among younger voters. More complete

demographic data will be ready for analysis in about a week. [Read more here.](#)

## County Board Provides FY 2020 Budget Guidance

The Arlington County Board directed the County Manager November 27 to provide options for tax increases and service and personnel cuts, if necessary to prepare a balanced Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

[Read details here.](#)

## More Scooter Companies Coming to Arlington As Safety Concerns Linger

Arlington officials say the first month of the county's dockless vehicle pilot program has largely gone smoothly, though enforcing rules about where to ride the pervasive electric scooters remains a challenge. Two companies — Lime and Bird — have been offering their dockless scooters around Arlington ever since the



County Board signed off on a "demonstration project" for the vehicles in late September. Though Bird previously operated in the county

without any explicit government involvement, the Board's pilot program was designed to set some standards for dockless vehicles and allow companies to operate hundreds in the county at a time. County commuter services bureau chief Jim Larsen told the Transportation Commission Nov. 1 that two more scooter companies could soon enter Arlington as well: Skip and Lyft, which only recently began offering scooters in addition to its ridesharing service. Then, by January, Larsen expects that Jump could also make the move from D.C. into Arlington and offer both electric bikes and scooters in the county.

Larsen added that, since Oct. 1, county police have responded to a total of nine crashes involving scooter riders, though he noted that there's been "nothing major" among the accidents so far. Larsen also noted that the top public complaints the county has received about the program relate to "illegal sidewalk and train riding, improper parking, unsafe riding, underage riders and speed." [Read more here.](#)

# Other Issues

## Memorial Bridge Set for Second Full Shutdown Next Weekend, With More Closures On the Way

The Arlington Memorial Bridge is now set for a second full shutdown next weekend, as the lengthy rehab work on the aging structure inches forward. The National Park Service announced November 27 that the bridge will be completely closed to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians starting **at 9 p.m. Dec. 7 through 5 a.m. the following Monday (Dec. 10)**. The NPS commissioned a similar shutdown in late September, and says another could be on the way in January. [Read more here.](#)

## National Project Journey Update

The holiday season at Reagan National can be very busy, especially on airport roads. This year, Project Journey construction has reduced lane capacity on the Arrivals (lower-level) roadway at Terminal B/C, which can create backups on other airport roads during busy travel periods. Learn more on how to navigate the airport during construction by [watching this video](#) and [downloading these tips](#). [Read more here.](#)

## Impulse at Crystal City

You are invited to experience Impulse, an interactive work comprising a series of 15 seesaws that emit light and sound that changes when in motion, creating an ever-changing experience. By playing on the seesaws, you create a dynamic light and sound wave giving a pulse of warmth to the winter's short days and dark nights. Impulse, located at The Grounds in Crystal City, 12<sup>th</sup> and S. Eads Street, will be free and open to the public starting on **Friday, December 7th** with an opening reception from 4-8pm, and will be open from 11am - 8pm (10pm on Fridays and Saturdays) every day until Monday, January 7th. [Read more here.](#)

## Beware of Scams this Holiday Season

As the end of the year quickly approaches, many of us are preparing for the holiday season with increased spending, donations, and distractions. This makes the holiday season a prime time for criminals as they aim to take advantage of the public's generosity and spending through creative scams designed to steal money and personal information. That's why the Arlington County Police Department is urging residents to remain alert for scams this holiday season. [Read here for General Tips to Prevent Being a Scam Victim.](#)

## Biking, Boating Changes Approved for Theodore Roosevelt Island

The National Park Service announced yesterday November 19 that it will move ahead with a variety of construction projects on the island, located off the George Washington Memorial Parkway near Rosslyn, after settling on some final designs and certifying they'll have minimal environmental impacts on the island. Some of the changes will be relatively small, like the addition of some new signs and markers detailing Theodore Roosevelt's legacy — the island is home to the lone memorial to the nation's 26th president in D.C. Others will be more substantial, such as the total overhaul and realignment of a boardwalk-style bridge on the Mt. Vernon Trail, which runs from underneath the Roosevelt Bridge to just south of the island's parking lot. [Read more here.](#)

## Celebrate This Holiday Season with The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City

The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City will offer festive holiday activities to celebrate the coziest time of the year with friends, family and loved ones. The hotel greets the upcoming season with spirited brunches, delightful holiday teas and an engaging workshop to create lasting memories. Festivities include:

Breakfast with Santa — Saturday, December 1

Gingerbread House Workshop — Sunday, December 9

Christmas Day Brunch — Tuesday, December 25

## The Connection Library

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

## Crystal City BID Updates

You can subscribe to our newsletter, follow us on twitter or instagram (@ccbid), and Like Us on [Facebook](#) for the most current information.



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Membership Liaison	Vacant

Established January 28, 2014

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

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