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Newsletter

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

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Notices

Reminder to Pay Annual Dues

The 2016 dues of \$10.00 per voting member for membership in the Association were due by **January 1, 2016**. You can 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

CCCA General Meeting January 20, 2016

At our last CCCA meeting, we hosted Arlington County Board member **John Vihstadt** to talk about his goals and vision and participate in a question and answer forum. During the second hour, representatives from the 395 Express Lanes project team **Transurban** provided an update on the state's proposal to convert the I-395 HOV lanes into HOT express lanes. See the summary of the meeting, the brochure on the 395 express lanes and the 395 presentation on our website: <http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/>

CCCA Commentary: *As we emphasized at the RTA hearing last month, we have strong remaining concerns about one item: while we welcome the belated decision to retain the northbound biking lane in Crystal Drive, we are extremely worried that an already existing problem will be worsened with the implementation of the Transitway concept. Bikers frequently, and often very carelessly, prefer to use the sidewalk in the Water Park, i.e., the 'slalom gates between the trees', despite the existing bike lane. This keeps happening, to the horror especially of the youngest and oldest segments of our population, who lament that this makes a mockery of the notion of Crystal City as a safe and 'highly walkable' community.*

We have shared with our community the arguments used by staff last month, namely that 'bikers could just be expected to ignore a prohibition against biking on this stretch of sidewalk', so that a prohibition therefore would be meaningless. At the same time we were told that we should have faith in the staff proposal to put up yield signs and other warning signs, with the expectation that the bikers would somehow pay attention to that... Instead, we are getting reactions from our constituents to the effect that 'this just confirms the prevailing County attitudes of cuddling the bikers and ignoring the plight of the pedestrians.' Citizens who complain to police officials are similarly met with the response that nothing can be done, as bikers are considered to be 'untouchable'. This clearly needs to change!

Finally, we have kept reminding about the absolute importance of a very solid pre-implementation information campaign and a major post-implementation monitoring effort. The stated general intentions in this regard seem to make sense. However, we are being told that nothing

tangible will be available until 60 days prior to the Transitway implementation and, frankly, on the basis of the experience so far, we feel somewhat uneasy about now lending support to your approval of the Ordinance without having clearer indications on this point. So we therefore ask for the full support and direct involvement by the Board and the Manager in ensuring that the promises are kept.

What do you want to know about?

CCCA members are encouraged to send suggestions on future meetings to board@crystalcitycivic.org.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Rules Set for New Bus-Only Lanes in Crystal City, Potomac Yard

The County Board approved an ordinance establishing the rules for how new bus-only lanes in Crystal City and Potomac Yard will be used and enforced. The lanes are being built as part of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway project. [Read the press release.](#)

The ordinance covers two types of bus lanes:

1. **Exclusive lanes** – In Potomac Yard, between Four Mile Run and 26th Street South, these are new lanes physically separated from general traffic. The ordinance states these lanes are for transit and emergency vehicles at all times.
2. **Rush hour lane** – In Crystal City, between 26th Street South and 15th Street South, one lane on northbound Crystal Drive and one lane on southbound South Bell/Clark Street will be dedicated to transit vehicles and right-turning vehicles during peak weekday travel hours. The ordinance establishes these bus-only time periods as 6 to 9 a.m. and 3:30 to 7 p.m. on weekdays only. All vehicles may use these lanes during off-peak times.

Construction Issues:

32nd Street to Permanently Close for ART Facility

The small street connecting S. Eads Street and Route 1 in Crystal City permanently closed January 29 to make way for an upgraded Arlington Rapid Transit (ART) bus facility. The road is between two bus parking lots and the closure will allow construction of the bus facility. The

street closure was approved by the County Board in May 2015 and County staff has communicated this information through community meetings over the past few months. See the County [website](#) for more details.

ART Bus Facility

Despite the recent snow and this week's clean-up process, work continues steadily. In preparation for vertical construction, foundations for the maintenance building will begin placement early next week. Work on the underground onsite utilities (water and electrical) has also begun. With the closure of 32nd Street, the contractor will begin demolition of the street immediately to allow horizontal work to continue throughout the site. [Visit project page](#). Construction photos are available on [Flickr](#).

Crystal City Multimodal Center

The contractor plans to place concrete for the reconstruction of 18th Street South, inside and outside eastbound lanes, by the start of next week. They also completed installing work zone protections in a section of the north side work area, allowing work to occur on the north and south sides of the street concurrently. [Visit project page](#).

Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway

Construction activities for Saturday, Jan. 30 through Friday, Feb. 5 are described in this week's [construction update](#). Crews are scheduled to work on Saturday, Jan. 30. Temporary lane closures will be in place on northbound Crystal Drive, around the stations at 26th Street, 23rd Street and 18th Street, for this work. Access to driveways will remain open.

Accessibility Changes Coming to Crystal City

According to an [ArlNow.com](#) article of January 14, the Crystal City shops are going to become more accessible following an agreement between property owner Vornado and the U.S. Attorney's Office. A citizen's complaint led prosecutors to investigate and determine that some parts of the internal concourse are inaccessible for persons with disabilities in violation of the American Disabilities Act. To comply, Vornado will build ramps and lifts in certain areas, as well as install new signage, accessible parking spaces, and accessible restroom features and update the maps.

Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway to Open Spring 2016

Arlington's Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway, which will complete the area's first dedicated transit lanes, is now expected to be completed in spring 2016. In an update on the project to the County Board made during the Tuesday, Dec. 15 Recessed County Board Meeting,

staff explained that crews encountered a number of issues as they dug into the ground along the Arlington route, including unmarked utilities, poor soils and obstructions such as abandoned railroad structures, which slowed roadway and station work. The project team also was unable to find a supplier for the size and type of roof panel needed for the Transitway station design. Read the full County December 15 [press release](#).

Redevelopment of 400 Army Navy Drive

The "paperclip building" is finally going to get its renovation. LCOR Inc. is expected to begin construction in January on a 20-story residential building in Crystal City after landing \$100 million in construction financing. The Altaire, at 400 Army Navy Drive, will feature dual towers, one with 150 "top of the market luxury" rental units, and the second with 300 high-end units. [Wells Fargo](#) provided the \$100.33 million loan. [Balfour Betty](#) is the general contractor, SK&I the architect and Akseizer Design Group the interior.

Balfour Beatty Construction will begin construction on a water line within Army Navy Drive for "The Altaire" project at 400 Army Navy Drive. This work will take place between South Eads Street and the DoubleTree Hotel. Work in the road will start approximately February 1, 2016 and last for approximately 30 working days and will require a lane closure.

"We Work" Comes to Crystal City

Check out the website with photos of the new reconstruction of the building on the corner of 23rd and Clark Streets.

<https://www.wework.com/locations/washington-d-c/crystal-city>

Tech Firm Shift to Build \$20 Million Hub in Crystal City

Arlington's population of engineers and project managers will grow by 100 by 2017 as San Francisco-based disruptive technology firm Shift builds a technology operation in Crystal City. Shift will invest \$20 million in its East Coast engineering center in Arlington as part of its nationwide expansion. The announcement was made at a reception for Crystal City businesses January 21 at business incubator 1776 where the company will have its headquarters.

Community Meeting Long Bridge Phase II - Rescheduled

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) invite you to attend a rescheduled community meeting for the Long

Bridge Phase II Study **Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, at L'Enfant Plaza Club Room, Promenade Level, 470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington. The community meeting will provide the public an opportunity to express their views on the possible replacement or rehabilitation of the Long Bridge across the Potomac River in Washington, DC. The existing two-track railroad bridge is owned by CSX Transportation (CSXT) and serves CSXT freight, intercity passenger (Amtrak), and commuter rail (Virginia Railway Express). The meeting will focus on recent project activities, next steps in the planning process, and provide a general overview of environmental concerns within the project corridor.

DDOT completed a feasibility study of the Long Bridge in January 2015 (Phase I), which included a preliminary operations plan, visual inspection of the corridor, and initial evaluation of existing and future capacity needs. The Long Bridge Phase II Study, currently underway, will expand on the information from Phase I to advance National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To streamline the NEPA process, the Phase II Study will include the development of a draft purpose and need statement, conceptual alternatives, and evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria will be used to screen and identify alternatives which will be carried forward for analysis in the NEPA study. The Long Bridge Phase II Study will also include the preliminary identification of environmental and sensitive resources within the project corridor. **For more information, visit: www.longbridgeproject.com or call (202) 671-2218.**

Arlington County Issues

New Arlington County Board Chair

Libby Garvey was elected Chair of the Arlington County Board for 2016. **Watch** on You Tube her New Year's remarks in her new position. Other Board members also posted their New Year's remarks on You Tube.

Arlington: We're Small but Mighty

You may have read that "Arlington, Va. is the geographically smallest self-governing county in the United States" – but what exactly does that mean? See the County's December 31 **[press release](#)** for an interesting read.

Competition for County Board in June

Erik Gutshall, a small business owner and Arlington Planning Commission member, announced on New Year's Day that he will be running against Garvey in the June Democratic primary. Garvey is nearing the end of her first four-year term on the Board. Gutshall, who lives in Lyon Park and previously served as that community's civic association president, said he intends to run a positive campaign against Garvey, who drew the ire of the local Democratic establishment after successfully campaigning against the Columbia Pike streetcar project and endorsing independent County Board member John Vihstadt in his two races against Democrat Alan Howze.

Arlington County Solids Waste Plan, "The Remains of the Day"

On December 15, 2015 Arlington County hosted a community feedback session on updating the Solids Master Plan at the Water Treatment/Water Resource Recovery Facility on Glebe Road. The last plan was done in 2001 and enabled the total removal of phosphorus and nitrogen and included 465 miles of sanitary pipes to support 40 million gallons per day for 400,000 people. The earlier plan concentrated on liquids, while the new plan will emphasize solids. Other goals include greenhouse a gas reduction plan and a capacity of 100 gallons per person per day. Our Crystal City Civic representative addressed current and planned uses of the South Arlington County properties such as the natural gas bus facility and possibly capturing gases and reusing for the buses. For more information, see the final pdf presentation on the **[CCCA website](#)**.

Arlington Public Schools Community Meetings

Arlington Public Schools is seeking input at a series of community forum meetings as it develops its ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) during spring 2016. The CIP process will result in recommendations to the School Board for enhancing instructional opportunities and addressing capacity challenges in APS schools due to projected steady enrollment growth. Community members are encouraged to participate in these important community discussions, as the CIP adopted by the School Board in June 2016 will affect students and families at all grade levels. The first three meetings will be similar in content and will be designed to engage all of the school communities that feed into the three APS comprehensive high schools. The last two meetings will be community-wide opportunities to provide additional feedback.

All meetings will be at 7 p.m. on these dates at the locations listed below

- Wednesday, Feb. 3 – Yorktown HS Auditorium
- Wednesday, Feb. 17 – Wakefield HS Auditorium
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Washington-Lee HS Auditorium
- Wednesday, Mar. 30 – Washington-Lee HS Auditorium
- Wednesday, Apr. 13 – Thomas Jefferson MS Auditorium

For more information about the CIP process, please visit the APS More Seats for More Students webpage at www.apsva.us/moreseats.

Arlington Taxicab Fares, Fees Changed Jan. 1, 2016

On December 12, the County Board approved increasing the initial charge for taxi fares by 25 cents – to \$3 from \$2.75. The per mile rate rose from \$2.10 to \$2.16, the waiting per hour fee from \$22.50 to \$23.14. In addition, the current footlocker fee of \$2 was dropped and a \$25 cleaning fee added if passengers dirty or foul a cab enough that the cab must be removed from service. This is the first increase in Arlington County taxicab rates and other changes in fees in nearly four years. Arlington's current taxicab rates are among the region's lowest. Read more in the [press release](#).

Arlington Reaches Goal of Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

In January 2015 Arlington, along with 74 other communities nationwide, formally committed to ending veteran homelessness by the end of the year. Twelve months later it's "mission accomplished," as Arlington moved 20 homeless military veterans from the streets and shelters into permanent, stable housing and achieved functional zero for veteran homelessness in 2015.

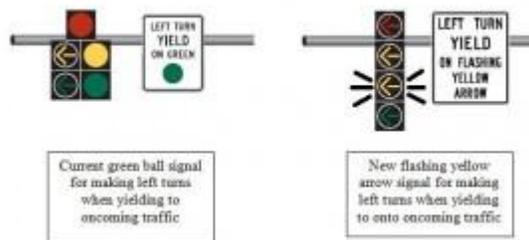
<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-reaches-goal-of-ending-homelessness-among-veterans/>

DMV on Four Mile Run to Remain Open

Thanks to the efforts of state representative Alfonso Lopez (D), the DMV has canceled its plans to close the office on Four Mile Run and move to the Barcroft Plaza shopping center in Falls Church. This is good for Arlington and for us in Crystal City.

Flashing Yellow Lights Are Coming to Arlington

New turn signals are about to make Arlington traffic safer. The blinking yellow arrows help motorists know when to yield to oncoming traffic while attempting a left turn and support recommendations from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.



Studies show that the flashing arrow signal is better understood by drivers than the more common circular green and yellow lights. The flashing yellow arrow has been proven to increase compliance and reduce collisions. It's already in use in other parts of Virginia. The new signals also provide traffic engineers with more flexibility in the way left turns are directed if traffic conditions change. The County is set to begin rolling out the new signal along portions of Arlington Boulevard, Glebe Road, Lee Highway with additional installations following soon.

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/see-the-light-flashing-yellow-traffic-arrows-are-coming/>

Good News on Helicopter Noise Issues

County Board Member Libby Garvey chaired a Community Meeting regarding helicopter noise on Wednesday, December 16th from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the County Board Room. Our problem in Crystal City has been the orange colored helos of the Coast Guard which fly near residential buildings in northern Crystal City. Well, kudos to the US Coast Guard since things have improved. Following our CCCA intervention at the December 16 meeting on helicopter noise, Commander Todd Fisher was very responsive in seeking ways to mitigate the noise of the orange helicopters over the north part of Crystal City. Here is his positive response: "Thank you again for your question and for voicing your concerns at the County meeting last week. I have reviewed our flight processes here and you should be noticing a reduction in the number of Coast Guard flights passing by your apartment complex/condominiums. We'll do our best to stay wide as we're passing by as well, subject to other air traffic that may be in the area and departing/arriving jet traffic from DCA. I appreciate your

patience, and we'll do our best to continue to fly neighborly."

I-66 Public Hearings To Be Rescheduled

The Virginia Department of Transportation announced that the I-66 Inside the Beltway Design Public Hearings scheduled for **Wednesday, February 3 and Friday, February 5 are cancelled**. Due to the recent blizzard and snow removal efforts, all hearings will be rescheduled in the near future. Updated information will be provided as soon as the new dates and locations are confirmed. Check Transform66.org for the latest information.

The I-66 Inside the Beltway Design Public Hearings are intended to provide information on how the dynamically-priced toll lanes will operate, proposed locations and design of toll gantries and pricing signs, and an opportunity to view displays and provide public comments.

Other News:

ULI Washington Presents: How the Tech Sector is Reshaping a Neighborhood

2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000

Feb 2nd, 6:30 -9:30pm

Join the [Urban Land Institute Young Leaders Group](#) on a panel discussion on Crystal City's efforts to attract new, exciting tenants to turn the submarket into a technology hub. From the repurposing of older office buildings, the attracting of new retail tenants, and the rethinking of what office space can look like, Crystal City is flipping the script to become a whole new area that will attract workers, residents and visitors alike. Speakers from Arlington Economic Development, Eastern Foundry, WeWork, SineWave Ventures, and Vornado /Charles E. Smith will discuss what has changed, what is still changing, and what the future holds.

Crystal Couture Show & Sale

1750 Crystal Drive

Thursday, Feb 4th – Saturday, Feb 6th

6 PM to 10 PM on Thurs and Fri, 2 PM to 10 PM on Sat

VIP Experience: Sat, Feb 6 from 2 PM to 6 PM

Free Admission / [VIP Tickets \\$20](#)

The [Crystal Couture Show & Sale](#) unites 30+ of the metropolitan area's most stylish boutiques, designers, and fashion retailers. Guests can shop discounted merchandise both on the rack and on the runway as models showcase select offerings at this 360° immersive shopping experience. Crystal Couture is free to attend, but for a \$20 ticket, guests can upgrade for a [VIP experience](#) on Saturday, February 6th from 2pm to 6pm. VIP ticket holders will receive an exclusive VIP gift bag and \$20 of Couture Cash to spend at any retailer at Crystal Couture, plus other VIP benefits.

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 November 30 Newsletter [here](#) and sign up.

Arlington Historical Society Kicks Off 2016 Programming

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) announced a richly diverse series of free public programs for the first half of 2016 that help Arlingtonians explore the rich history of their community. The programming year will kick off on Thursday, January 14, 2016 with Michael Nardolilli's lecture "How the C&O Canal and W&OD Railroad Shaped Arlington." For more information, see their website: www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

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