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### For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

# Happy New Year!

## Civic Association Issues

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

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

**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)

### **Next CCCA Meeting TBD**

Our next meeting has not yet been fixed for topic or date, although it's likely to be late February. We will likely host JBG Smith again to provide us with an overview of upcoming development in Crystal City: e.g., 1770 Crystal Drive (grocery, park, schedule, USPS, etc.); 1900 (demolition, site plan, construction schedule, etc.); 1800 Bell (will Synetic stay? what and when site plan and construction?); 2121's retail pavilions, and the Amazon projects. JBG Smith will be looking for feedback, questions, and comments in reaction to what they are planning, much as they did for the current stage of construction on 1770 Crystal Drive at our November 29 meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

## Crystal City Development and Amazon

### **Kojo Nnamdi town hall on Amazon's HQ2**

Depending on whom you asked December 3, it seemed Amazon's plan to establish part of its new headquarters in Crystal City and Pentagon City was either the cause of, or solution to, all of Northern Virginia's problems. They had nearly three weeks to digest the news that

Amazon.com Inc. had chosen sites in Arlington and Alexandria for part of its new HQ2. At the Town Hall December 3, residents who stand to be most directly affected finally got the chance to sound off at a town hall held at the Synetic Theater in Crystal City. [Full broadcast here.](#)

They weren't carrying pitchforks or burning effigies of



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos during the two-hour event, but neither were they looking through rose-colored glasses at the prospect. The company's pledge to bring up to 25,000

jobs to the area also stands to exacerbate the region's affordable housing problem, add more cars to congested roads and put more students into crowded public schools. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon-Focused Town Hall Reveals Community Concerns Over Tech Giant's Power**

How might lowly local officials be able to bring one of the world's largest companies to heel? That's the prime question on the minds of many Arlington and Alexandria residents worried about how Amazon might soon reshape their communities. [Read more here.](#)

### **Survey: Virginia's Amazon HQ2 deal has support from every corner of the commonwealth**

There may be some angst in Arlington over Amazon.com Inc.'s impending entrance to the market, but overall, the state is feeling good about HQ2. Virginia voters overwhelmingly support the deal that will bring a part of Amazon's second headquarters to Arlington County — none more so than residents of southern and southwestern Virginia, according to a new survey. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with 68 percent overall approving and 30 percent disapproving. In Northern Virginia, the ratio was 72 percent approval to 24 percent disapproval, while respondents from the southern and southwestern portions of the commonwealth — what the survey summary notes is the "most economically challenged region of the state" — came in at 90 percent approval, 8 percent disapproval. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon Plans to Offer Incentives to Push Future Arlington Employees to Use Public Transit**

Amazon says it will offer “transit benefits” to its thousands of employees bound for Arlington, in a bid to incentivize workers to rely on the county’s public transportation options once they arrive. The tech giant has long worked to help employees at its Seattle headquarters afford train and bus rides and ease their commutes, but Amazon officials didn’t initially detail similar plans for the new offices it plans to set up in Crystal City and Pentagon City. Yet county officials have said recently that they’ve received assurances from Amazon that the company would indeed offer similar benefits in Arlington, and the tech firm has confirmed that plan to ARLnow. [Read more here.](#)

### Waiting for scrutiny of Amazon’s headquarters plans? It could happen in 2019.

Residents of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard — or should we say “National Landing?” — will see the first public deliberations over incentives for Amazon in early 2019, as state lawmakers in Richmond and the Arlington County Board vote on a generous package of tax breaks, infrastructure spending and cash grants. Sometime later, the online retail giant will submit plans for a headquarters complex near Reagan National Airport, triggering several rounds of requests for land-use changes and opening the door for Arlington County officials to demand community benefits. [Read more here.](#)

### Despite Amazon Setting Up Shop Nearby, Officials Say DCA Looks Unlikely to Add More Flights

Amazon may be bringing thousands of new workers and a spate of new businesses right to the doorstep of Reagan National Airport, but don’t expect to start hearing too many more planes soaring over Arlington anytime soon. At least, that’s the word from county leaders, airport officials and the airlines themselves. Despite the tech giant setting up shop right across from the airport in the newly dubbed “National Landing,” all parties involved believe that DCA is a bit too crowded to start welcoming passengers bound for the new headquarters. [Read more here.](#)

### Here’s how much Amazon will pay in rent at National Landing

Amazon.com Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN) will pay about \$35 per square foot in rent for its initial leased space in Crystal City, about \$2 below average asking rents in the Arlington County submarket, its future landlord disclosed December 13. [Read more here.](#)

### Kaine, Warner Hope to Lend a Hand on Affordable Housing Issues to Prepare for Amazon’s Arrival

Kaine and Warner both see Amazon’s impending arrival as a huge net positive for the county, and the state as a whole, but they also expressed a desire to take some action to help address [the thorny issue of affordable housing](#) in the area. Kaine sees room for Congress to lend a hand, perhaps by expanding [the federal “Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.”](#) [Read more here.](#)

### Market Moves Happening Behind The Scenes In Northern Virginia Following HQ2 Deal

The month since Amazon announced its HQ2 campus in Northern Virginia has been filled with endless speculation and studies about market impacts, community meetings, panels and other public musings on Arlington’s major economic development win. But amid the Amazon hysteria, key stakeholders in the neighborhood branded as National Landing have been quietly moving chess pieces, from an apartment owner putting a large building on the market to new office and retail tenants seeking space to corporate housing operators scouring the market for available apartments to the area’s largest landlord buying up even more property. [Read more here.](#)

### Amazon bringing its Treasure Truck to the D.C. area

Amazon.com Inc.’s Treasure Truck retail vehicle may be making stops in the D.C. area before long. The e-commerce giant posted a job ad for employees to staff the Treasure Truck, which is a roving retail truck the company launched in Seattle and has expanded to several cities. The job ad has a location of Springfield and notes Amazon is hiring “full-time field ambassadors in your city” whose job will be to drive the truck to pickup locations, greet customers and fill orders, among other tasks. [Read more here.](#)

### After Amazon, Arlington’s Top Business Booster Pitches A ‘Silicon Valley on the Potomac’

Like many other county officials in recent weeks, Hoskins emphasizes that the 25,000 workers Amazon plans to move to Crystal City and Pentagon City will only help replace the similar number of employees who’ve left the area in recent years, as federal agencies and the military have headed elsewhere. That means he sees plenty of room for Arlington to keep adding jobs, and he fully expects that the county’s economic development arm will have a key role in guiding that process.

"We're expecting 25,000 jobs of Amazon, but at least another 25,000 over the same 10-, 12-year time period from all the supportive services or ancillary services to the company," Hoskins said. "That means a few years from now, we could be down to a 12 percent office vacancy rate if everything goes right. But that takes hard work." [Read more here.](#)

### GMU expanding Arlington campus (thanks, Amazon HQ2)

The Fairfax County university, which runs an Arlington campus near the Virginia Square Metro station, is developing new initiatives to help meet employment demand at Amazon.com Inc.'s future Northern Virginia headquarters. Both initiatives — a School of Computing and an Institute for Digital Innovation — were in the works prior to the launch of Amazon's HQ2 search in September 2017, according to Liza Durant, associate dean for strategic initiatives and community engagement at GMU's Volgenau School of Engineering. But the ideas came into focus as the university worked with local officials to bolster to Arlington-Alexandria bid, which featured sites in Pentagon City, Crystal City and Potomac Yard. [Read more here.](#)

## Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

### With Amazon On Board, JBG Smith Prepares to Bet Big on 'National Landing'

JBG Smith is gearing up to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard, arguing that Amazon's impending arrival could make the "National Landing" area nearly as in-demand as D.C. itself. Potential projects could include the redevelopment of 1800 S. Bell Street property once Amazon leaves, or the overhaul of some of its other existing Crystal City and Pentagon City properties; 2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, 223 23rd Street S., 101 12th Street S., and the RiverHouse Apartments (1400 S. Joyce Street) are all listed as possibilities. Essentially, the company is betting that Amazon's arrival will be a "powerful economic catalyst" and "kick-start the development of a technology ecosystem that has long searched for its footing in the D.C.," CEO Matt Kelly wrote to shareholders. [Read more here.](#)

### Friends of Long Bridge Park excited to see proposed expansion of Long Bridge

In a few years, Arlington's Long Bridge, which runs from Crystal City to Long Bridge Park, might be the newest walkable route to D.C. A proposed extension, from a half mile to a mile, would allow easier access to D.C. for pedestrians and cyclists, who currently use the



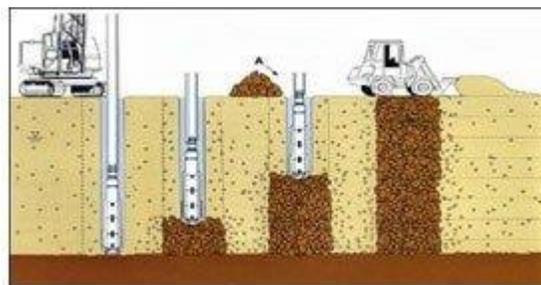
Mount Vernon Trail. Friends of Long Bridge Park's president, Eric Cassel, says the Mount Vernon Trail is especially difficult for tourists to navigate. The straight and wide Long Bridge, Cassel says, would be a better alternative. [Read more here.](#)

### Construction on Long Bridge Aquatics Center

While Arlington no longer has a beach on the Potomac River and the river has pollution problems, the new swimming pools are under construction. This phase of construction is to get the surface at the correct levels. In addition, they are stabilizing the ground by adding hundreds of holes.



The idea is shown below:



A schematic showing the vibro replacement process

This process should be complete by February 2019.

### March of Dimes Moving HQ to Crystal City, Will Get \$150,000 in County Incentives

The County Board approved a deal with the research and advocacy organization at its meeting Dec. 17. The March of Dimes will now move its main offices from White Plains, New York to an office building at 1550 Crystal Drive, bringing 80 jobs to the county in the process.

[Read more here.](#)

### Crystal City is not a city

See historian Charlie Clark's blog ("[Our Man in Arlington](#)") about past and current Crystal City.

## Clark Street demolition update

Using 10 to 15 dump trucks per day, crews continue removing and hauling away soil that supported the elevated Clark Street. To date, the contractor has hauled



approximately 12,000 cubic yards of soil material off-site, out of an estimated project total of 22,000 cubic yards. The contractor has completed demolishing the concrete walls and abutment next to the 15th Street off ramp and the south abutment on 15th Street S eastbound. Crews have advanced their excavation and demolition activities to locations between 12th and 15th Streets. Rough grading activities have begun between 15th and 18th Streets. Subcontractors continue their work to install a new traffic signal and street light equipment at the intersection of Route 1 and 20th Street South and along the median and northbound right shoulder of Route 1 between 15th and 20th Streets.

Next project detours expected in early 2019. 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](#)

# Arlington County Issues

## County Board to Kick-Off 2019 with Jan. 2 Organizational Meeting

The Arlington County Board will elect a new Chair and Vice Chair, and each member will lay out his or her priorities for 2019 at a January 2, 2019, 6 pm Organizational Meeting. [Read more here.](#)

## State Lawmakers Fear Amazon's Arrival Won't Be Enough to Spur Jefferson Davis Hwy Name Change

With Amazon coming to town, Arlington leaders believe the time is ripe to finally change the name of Jefferson Davis Highway — and some of their allies in Richmond are ready to hit the gas on that effort, even as others

look to pump the brakes. But it doesn't look good.

[Read more here.](#)

## Vihstadt Farewell Remarks from Saturday's County Board Meeting

A ceremony was held at the December 15 County Board meeting to honor Vihstadt and his four years of service on the Board. Fellow Board members and members of the public spoke glowingly of Vihstadt's work ethic, commitment to serving constituents and ability to find common ground amid disagreement. [Read his remarks here.](#)

## De Ferranti Sworn In on County Board, Prepares to Confront Amazon Decision and Budget Challenges

The Democrat's swearing-in ceremony December 18 certainly did not lack for bells and whistles. The brief



gathering to commemorate de Ferranti's big win over independent County Board member John Vihstadt last month was highlighted by everything from a

ceremonial honor guard to a choir singing Christmas carols. But, just a few weeks from now, de Ferranti will be spending time in the County Board chambers facing some considerably less pleasant circumstances. Immediately after he officially joins the Board on Jan. 2, he'll face one of the most consequential decisions to ever come before Arlington's leaders: whether or not to approve an incentive package designed to bring Amazon to the county. Then, he'll dive straight into budget deliberations in what's set to be one of the most fiscally challenging years for Arlington in recent memory. [Read more here.](#)

## County Board Adopts 2019 Legislative Package

The Arlington County Board today December 15 a 2019 General Assembly Legislative Package focused on preserving critical funding streams for public education, public safety, human services, transportation and other core services. [Read more here.](#)

## County Readies Update of Cycling Infrastructure Plans, Sketching Out Dozens of Potential Improvements

Arlington transportation planners are weighing major revisions to the guiding document for the future of the county's bike infrastructure, sketching out a wish list of new trails and bike lanes they want to see over the

coming years. County officials have recently begun circulating a draft version of an updated "bicycle element" to Arlington's "Master Transportation Plan." The document was last updated a decade ago, and a working group has spent more than a year crafting potential changes for the plan.

In all, it contains 26 new pieces of cycling infrastructure from the last time the plan was revised, including a bevy of new trail segments, additional on-street lanes and trail renovations. The county is now soliciting public feedback on the draft in the form of a community survey, with additional engagement efforts to come. But the document also includes some broad goals for county officials to pursue to meet the needs of cyclists over the coming decades, with a special focus on how Arlington can make people feel safer while riding their bikes on local streets. [Read more here.](#)

### Share Your Feedback on Bicycling in Arlington

Developed after 15 months of partnership with the [Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element Working Group](#), numerous public engagement activities, and over 1,000 online comments, Arlington County has finalized a draft update to [the Bicycle Element of the Master Transportation Plan \(MTP\)](#). Originally adopted in 2008, the updated plan provides a long-term vision and general guidance for Arlington's Transportation system through 2030. Let us know your thoughts on the draft plan through the [online feedback form](#) by **January 8, 2019**.

Save the date for our public open house on the plan update on **January 14, 2019** at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. hosted by [Phoenix Bikes](#) located at 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Arlington, VA 22204. Stay engaged on the project by visiting the Master Transportation Plan Bicycle Element Working Group project page for updates and future engagement activities.

### Lime to Deploy 150 E-Bikes in Arlington County



Lime, which currently operates rental electric scooters in Arlington, is expanding its local service to include powered bicycles. The company, which says it's the "largest shared bike and scooter provider in the U.S.," announced today that it's bringing e-bike service to Arlington

and northern Bethesda, Md. [Read more here.](#)

### Lyft Becomes Third Company to Offer Dockless Scooters in Arlington

Lyft announced that its scooters will be available in Arlington starting today (Monday), less than two months after the company brought dockless scooters to D.C. Anyone looking for a scooter rather than a driver simply needs to select the option in the bottom left corner of the Lyft app. [Read more here.](#)

### Report Scooter Violations to the County

The County has asked for input on scooter concerns, asking for feedback. According to the permits the scooter companies have with Arlington, they are required to move any that need to be moved within TWO HOURS of filing a report; contact Bird at: **866-205-2442** and [hello@bird.com](mailto:hello@bird.com). Lime can be contacted at **888-546-3345**. The contact info for Arlington on this is: [mobility@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mobility@arlingtonva.us) (and they welcome photos to document these things!).

## Other Issues

### One Year of I-66 Tolls

Year one of the Transform 66: Inside the Beltway project, to add dynamic tolling to the I-66 corridor, is behind us. But the work continues, with the goals of reducing congestion, increasing travel speeds, improving transit options, and transforming commutes for the better. We take a look at some of the highlights of the past year as well as upcoming projects for year two. [Read more here.](#)

### Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service

Join Arlington Neighborhood Village and other service organizations for "A Day On, Not A Day Off" on MLK's Birthday on Monday **January 21**. There will be service and volunteer training opportunities for all ages. Read about the different opportunities at <https://volunteer.leadercenter.org/MLK>.

### History of the Potomac River

Thursday, **January 10**, 7 pm. Author Garrett Peck will guide us along the historic course of the Potomac River as he highlights how the river has impacted Arlington and Northern Virginia. Maryland and Virginia have disputed control of the Potomac for 400 years since the original charters of both states claim the entire river. The river drove the development of the region and the path of a young republic. George Washington saw it as a crucial link to the West. During the Civil War the river divided North and South and offered a last physical defense for the Union capital. Damaging floods in 1936 and 1937 prompted calls for the Army Corps of Engineers

to build a series of dams. The history of the Potomac and its impact on Arlington and Northern Virginia is a thought-provoking mix of national history and natural history.

This program is free and open to the public. It is part of a monthly series of public programs sponsored by the [Arlington Historical Society](#) and Marymount

### **Windows to the Past: Arlington Then and Now**

Ongoing through January 15, 2019, Westover Library  
See the work of local historian, preservation advocate and photographer Tom Dickinson, and view the "windows to our past" that he offers us all. It is a comparative photo compilation showing dozens of homes and buildings in Arlington that have been demolished over the last 40 years and the structures that replaced them in the same location. He used original wood window frames and two porcelain steel Lustron panels salvaged from the demolished homes to mount the photos.

### **Arlington's Holiday Kitchens**

[An Exhibit at the Arlington Historical Museum](#), 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Ongoing through January 2019. The Arlington Historical Museum is raiding the kitchen! We have some of the amazing kitchen implements and tools in our collection. You'll see some tools for when Arlington kitchens had to be totally self-sufficient and families had to make their own butter and prepare their own animals. Plus, we have many implements used by our forebears that are the precursors of some of the kitchen tools we use today—used with and without electricity.

### **National Project Journey Update**

Construction of New Security Checkpoints and a New 14-Gate Concourse is in full swing at Reagan National Airport. During the current phase of construction, traffic backups have become more common as vehicles navigate narrowed roadways near the work zone. The airport is taking measures to keep traffic moving, while advising travelers to minimize trips on airport roads to avoid delays. [Read more on the project page.](#)

### **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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