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Newsletter  
No. 6, 2016

July 2016



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

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### Notices

#### **Reminder to Pay Annual Dues**

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

#### **For Quick Updates on Issues and Events**

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

# Civic Association Issues

## July Meeting: Pop Up Library for Crystal City?



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

During a lively question and answer period, many speakers supported the innovative idea of a "pop up" library—a temporary space in one of the vacant areas in the Crystal City underground. The CCCA is now discussing with Arlington County planners and library staff a meeting in July for an exchange with the community on the specifics for establishing a pop-up library.

Watch our Facebook page and emails for notice of the time, place and date of the meeting. We look forward to another lively exchange on modernizing and advancing library access for Crystal City residents and workers.

### What do you want to know about?

CCCA members are encouraged to send suggestions on future meetings to [board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org).

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

## CIP Meeting Highlights

On June 22, the County Board held a public meeting to hear input from Arlington residents on the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which is to be voted on July 19, 2016. Four work sessions have been scheduled on individual agenda items, with the last one July 12 before the final vote. In the meantime, you can read the [CIP survey comments](#) or visit [Engage Arlington](#) for more opportunities to give online feedback on other topics.

There were approximately 44 interventions, about half of them urging the Board to approve Phase 2 of the Long Bridge Park plan, in order to meet core community needs. The facility would include two bodies of water (a 50-meter X 25 yard pool and a combined teaching pool/family pool), health and fitness space, and support of the core program elements with two (2) wet classrooms, a community room, spectator seating, facility administration and locker facilities. The building will be approximately 73,000 SF in size, which is a reduction of approximately 37% from the previous design and has associated reductions to capital and operating costs. The project also includes 10.5 acres of park development including parking, continuation of the esplanade, public art, event lawns, rain gardens, and environmental remediation. The revised project will be designed and built within existing funds.

Speakers on the LBP plan came from Crystal City residents; soccer, swimming, and diving associations; and the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID). All were positive. Several supported Board efforts to seek partners in order to add the more expensive elements not included in the existing budget for Phase 2: the 10 meter diving pool and a therapy pool.

Other Crystal City residents urged the Board to consider an alternate route for the Transitway in northern Crystal City, to circle around 15th Street and S. Clark Streets--the western, commercial side of the megablock between 15th and 12th Streets--instead of the residential side on Crystal Drive. The Crystal Gateway Condo Board Vice President presented a petition with over 300 signatures from residents and workers/visitors to Crystal City and Long Bridge Park supporting the alternate route. County Board member Christian Dorsey had suggested

at the last CCCA general meeting that such a petition might help Board consideration of the alternate route.

One speaker noted that Crystal City residents will be interested in seeing the proposed design for the development of the 15th Street mini park and the Gateway park entrance to LBP, which local residents hope will remain a passive park, not a noisy, active one.

Other interventions dealt with non-Crystal City issues. The meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on the County's [website](#).

### WMATA SafeTrack

Metro's SafeTrack program in effect. Know your options by checking out the full [SafeTrack schedule](#) as well as Arlington County's mitigation efforts. You can also find a wealth of alternative transportation information at [www.commuterpage.com](http://www.commuterpage.com). Of particular note for the Crystal City area are two full Blue/Yellow line segment shut-downs:

- July 5 to 11 between National Airport and Braddock Road
- July 12 to 18 between Pentagon City and National Airport

### Surge 3 Starts Next Week

Metro's [SafeTrack Surge #3](#) will shut down the Blue/Yellow lines between National Airport and Braddock Road from July 5 through July 11. Free shuttle buses will operate via [Metroway](#), and National Airport will be accessible by rail. Blue/Yellow customers are encouraged to consider alternate travel options and avoid traveling during rush hour if possible; expect significant crowding on Blue & Yellow line trains due to [service reductions](#).

### Highlights of Arlington's response plan

Arlington County is supplementing Metro's efforts to assist travelers during this SafeTrack work. View our plan for Surges 3 and 4, which includes:

- Continuing supplemental ART bus service started in Surge 2 - New midday, evening and weekend service for [ART 43](#) offers a direct connection from Crystal City to the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor
- Making temporary street changes around the Pentagon City Metro station
- Continuing to encourage alternate work/travel options

### DCAWalk Challenge: SafeTrack Edition

In light of airport access issues related to WMATA's Safetrack Surges 3 and 4, the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) is bringing back the

#DCAWalk Challenge through the end of the summer. Designed to showcase how easy it is to walk (or bike) to Washington National Airport, the Challenge invites participants to post their experience getting to the airport on foot or two wheels on social media for a chance to win a Crystal City Weekend Stay-cation and other prizes.

Crystal City is the only neighborhood in the country with an airport in walking distance. Serving more than 20 million yearly passengers and 84 non-stop destinations, Washington National Airport pilots, flight attendants, airport employees, and "in-the-know" travelers can be spotted taking the Mount Vernon Trail or walking along the sidewalk of Route 233 on their way to work or destinations beyond. From Crystal Drive, Terminal A and Terminal B/C are both less than a mile away. That takes about 10-15 minutes and 20-25 minutes to walk, respectively.

The #DCAWalk challenge is open to anyone, not just those taking a flight, so take a look at the map and directions below, give it a try and post your experience on social media with the hashtag #DCAWalk via Instagram (@ccbid), SnapChat (@ccbid), Twitter (@ccbid), or Facebook (Like and Tag Crystal City). Submissions may include a hyperlapse of your walk, a mini-documentary, pictures of the scenic views, fun selfies, a blog post, or countless other ideas. As always, be safe and only cross streets at designated cross walks. Most importantly, have fun and be creative!

### #DCAWalk Details:

- [Airport Access Map & Walking Directions](#)
- [Airport Access Map & Biking Directions](#)
- [View Walking Routes \(Google\)](#)
- [View Biking Routes \(Google\)](#)

Post your experience on social media with hashtag #DCAWalk via Instagram (@ccbid), SnapChat (@ccbid), Twitter (@ccbid), or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CrystalCityVA](http://www.facebook.com/CrystalCityVA)) to win a special prize!

### Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan

The County's Long Range Planning Committee held a public meeting June 28 at the Aurora Hills Community Center. Anthony Fusarelli, County Planning Director for the 22202 area (Crystal City/Pentagon City) provided a fascinating review of the Pentagon City PDSP over the years: 1976-2016. Following feedback on the presentation from participants and others, the PowerPoint will eventually be posted on the County website, perhaps as a one-hour video.

A few highlights:

- There have been 8 versions of the PDSP, which was never developed as a Sector Plan, like the 1996 Crystal City Sector Plan or Ballston, which was adopted in 1977.
- There are five "parcels" of 116 acres in the PDSP, excluding the central plot currently owned by Kimco and occupied by Costco, which has never been part of the plan but developed separately.
- Development approvals over time included: Claridge House/Southampton Condos/Nursing Home (1977); Lincoln Place (1982); Pentagon City Mall (1984); Pentagon Row (1997); Metropolitan Park Retail on ground floor (2009); PenPlace (2013); Pentagon City Mall Street Retail (2013).
- Except for PenPlace and Phases 6-8 of MetPark, the PDSP is almost fully built out.
- Highest density has been maintained primarily in the north and eastern areas of the PDSP, as planned in 1976.

## Whole Foods Opens June 29

Whole Foods Market opened the doors of its new Pentagon City store at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29.



The public was invited to join team members and community leaders in a bread-breaking ceremony that began at 8:45 a.m. and included the presentation of a \$2,000 check to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The first 500 shoppers who spent \$50 received a limited edition Whole Foods Market Pentagon City canvas tote bag. The 36,800-square-foot store is located at the corner of 12th Street South and South Eads, just two blocks from the Pentagon City Metro stop adjacent to the I-395 commuter corridor. The new facility is Green Globes Certified for energy and sustainability.

On Thursday, June 30, the store held its first 5% Day, splitting a donation of 5% of the day's sales between two local organizations – Blue Star Families, based in Falls Church, VA (supporting military families in the DC metro) and the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. In keeping with Whole Foods Market's quality standards, every product in the store will be free of artificial flavors,

colors, sweeteners, preservatives and hydrogenated oils. Whole Foods Market Pentagon City will also feature:

- A full service coffee and juice bar with nitro dispensed cold brew coffee, hemp milk lattes, cold brew teas, breakfast and lunch sandwiches, and acai bowls
- The first Whole Foods Market in the Mid-Atlantic Region to offer the Farmstand Freeze. Fruits and veggies are frozen overnight, put in a Pacojet machine and shaved while injecting air to create a light, fluffy, fruity frozen dessert. Low sugar, only sweetened with honey and dates, and also non-dairy.
- The Basin Barroom, offering 15 beers and one flavor of kombucha on tap, as well as wine and cocktails. The "battered versus broiled" seafood-focused menu includes a must-try lobster roll served on local favorite LeoNora Gourmet Bakery's split top roll.
- Paper Horse, ramen master Erik Brunner-Yang's latest venue.
- In-house smoked and dry-aged meats.
- Eight varieties of scratch-baked bread daily.
- More than 2,500 organic offerings in the grocery aisles.

Follow news about this store's opening and all of Northern Virginia Whole Foods Market happenings through social media: Twitter @WholeFoodsNoVa; Instagram: @WholeFoodsNoVa, and on Facebook: Whole Foods Market NoVa.

## 2016 July 4th Celebration @ Long Bridge Park



The 5th annual **July 4th Celebration @ Long Bridge Park** will be held on Monday, July 4, 2016 from 5-10 p.m. at **Long Bridge Park**. Event-goers can take part in the various activities happening at the park that day, including a food truck rally, drop-in kickball games and contests, drop-in lawn games, free face painting, moon bounces (weather permitting) and balloon art, live music from exciting acts and great views of the Washington, DC fireworks display.

[View the event flyer \(English\) \(Espanol\)](#)

## Long Bridge Park Playgrounds Open



As part of the July 4th Celebration @ Long Bridge Park festivities, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. to celebrate the completion of Phase 3A of the Long Bridge Park project. This phase of the project focused on the 6th Street S side of the park and included new children's play features. To learn more about the project, visit the [project page](#).

# Arlington County Issues

## Arlington July 4 Alert Notification

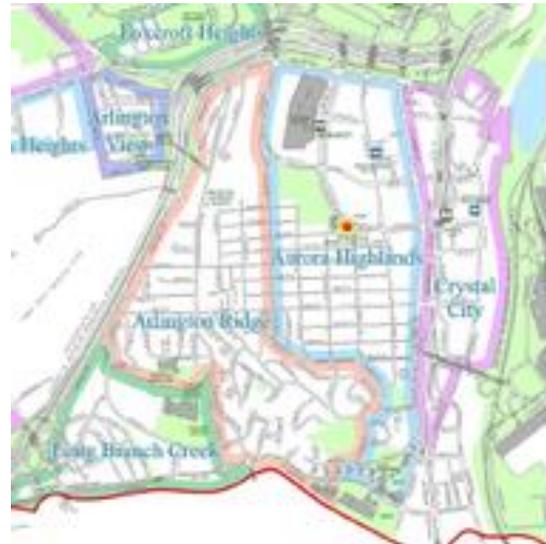
Stay informed about our July 4th celebration with text updates from Arlington County Parks and Recreation. To subscribe, text ARL4th to 888-777. Subscribers will

automatically be removed after the event on July 5th. To end the July 4th alerts, text STOP to 888-777.

## Arlington 10-Year Bus Plan

On June 8th Arlington County Transit and Planning employees met with the Crystal City Business Improvement District and the Crystal City Civic Association to discuss the results of a year of transit planning including the 10-year bus plan (Transit Development Plan). Both METRO and Arlington Rapid Transit (ART) service was discussed and the Draft Final Recommendations. The County conducted three outreach sessions in Spring 2015, Fall 2015, and February/March 2016 and received 3400 survey responses. The Premium service will improve routes and give faster ride times with an emphasis on "one seat" service. Amenities will include: off-vehicle fare collection, transit signal priority, new transit stations, and branding the service. The traffic signals are proposed to first consider the pedestrians, second vehicular traffic, and third transit buses. [See press release.](#)

## 22202 Transportation and Planning Data Released



In September 2015, the County Board asked for a report on past, present and projected vehicle traffic and transit ridership for the Crystal City/Pentagon City/Aurora Highlands/Arlington Ridge areas (aka the 22202 zip code). Staff from multiple County departments have been working to compile planning and transportation data related to the 22202 zip code, and that [data is now available online.](#)

In early fall, it's anticipated that the County will embark on a community conversation about what this data tells us – stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, County staff will be presenting a briefing on the 22202

data at the July [Planning Commission](#) and [Transportation Commission](#) meetings, which can be viewed live online.

### School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program

Beginning July 1, vehicles that illegally pass an Arlington Public Schools (APS) bus that is stopped for students are at risk for receiving a traffic ticket through the school district's CrossingGuard School Bus Stop-Arm Safety Camera Program. The county's program was temporarily paused while the state legislature passed legislation improving the operation of the student-safety focused program.

More than 20 Arlington school buses are outfitted with the CrossingGuard system, supplied by American Traffic Solutions. The system is used to reduce the number of vehicles that wrongfully pass stopped school buses and endanger children walking to or from the bus.

APS operates 165 buses that transport about 10,000 students to and from school each week. During the first four weeks of this school year, the CrossingGuard Program recorded 216 school bus stop arm violations across 19 days of operation.

The CrossingGuard school bus stop-arm safety solution mounts cameras and sensors on the side of the school bus. When the stop arm is deployed, the sensors automatically detect a vehicle illegally passing the stop arm in either direction or captures video of the violation including the vehicle's license plate. The video is then reviewed by the Arlington County Police Department for approval prior to a citation being issued. In Virginia, the penalty for a stop-arm violation will warrant the vehicle's owner a civil penalty of \$250.

CrossingGuard is a completely automated, turnkey system that allows school bus drivers to focus on what is most important – the safety of their passengers. Answers to frequently asked questions about the program and Virginia traffic laws pertaining to school bus stop arms are available on the APS website at [www.apsva.us/stoparmcameras](http://www.apsva.us/stoparmcameras).

### Arlington is the best place to live in America

It seems that Arlington County has a lot going for it. A solid public-school system, a healthy population, ample nightlife venues and accessible public transit. All of this makes the Northern Virginia county the best place to live in America, according to a new report.

[The ranking from Niche](#), a website that helps people find which neighborhoods and cities are the best fit, looked at 227 cities, counties and jurisdictions, then ranked them based on the area's amenities, crime rates, school options and more.

Arlington got an A+ for its schools, family life, nightlife, and health and fitness, which looks at obesity rates and access to health resources. The county received a B+ in the jobs category, which accounted for factors such as the unemployment rate and the ratio of the median monthly housing cost for homeowners to the median monthly household income.

### Potomac Yard Metro Station Final EIS Now Available for Review

On June 8<sup>th</sup> Arlington County Transit and Planning employees met with the Crystal City Business Improvement District and the Crystal City Civic Association to discuss the results of a year of transit planning including the 10 year bus plan (Transit Development Plan). Both METRO and Arlington Rapid Transit (ART) service was discussed and the Draft Final Recommendations. The County conducted three outreach sessions in Spring 2015, Fall 2015, and February/March 2016 and received 3400 survey responses. The Premium service is supposed to improve routes and give faster ride times with an emphasis on "one seat" service. Amenities will include: off-vehicle fare collection, transit signal priority, new transit stations, and branding the service. The traffic signals are proposed to first consider the pedestrians, second vehicular traffic, and third transit buses. [See the home page.](#)

#### Final EIS Available for Review

The Final EIS is available for public and agency review. FTA will respond to any new substantive comments on the Final EIS received by July 11, 2016. The document compares the No Build Alternative with the Preferred Alternative identified by the City of Alexandria, identifies impacts, states how public comments received on the Draft EIS were addressed, incorporates further refinement of the project, and describes measures for mitigating adverse impacts. Click [here](#) to view report and click [here](#) for information on how to provide comments.

#### NPS Draft Statement of Findings Available for Comment

In conjunction with the Final EIS, the National Park Service has prepared a Draft Statement of Findings (SOF) for Floodplains and Wetlands that analyzes the impacts of the proposed Potomac Yard Metrorail Station to floodplain and wetland within the George Washington Memorial Parkway and adjacent Greens Scenic Area easement. The public is invited to provide input on the draft SOF; comments will be accepted from June 10 through July 11, 2016. The draft SOF is available for

review [here](#). For instructions on providing comments, please visit the NPS project website [here](#).

### Non-Profit to Manage Volunteer Arlington

Arlington County has chosen [Leadership Arlington/Leadership Center for Excellence \(LA/LCE\)](#) — a local non-profit known for developing leaders and fostering community, partnerships and collaboration — to operate the County's Volunteer Arlington program for the next five years. Volunteer Arlington is the County's clearinghouse for volunteerism, matching volunteers with non-profits and government programs that rely on volunteers in carrying out their work. [Press release.](#)

### Two Companies Announce Arlington as New Home

According to the Arlington Economic Update of June, two companies announced in recent weeks they chose Arlington as their new base. Governor Terry McAuliffe announced last week that Grant Thornton LLP, a leading U.S. professional-services firm, will invest \$15.75 million to consolidate its Northern Virginia offices and relocate to Arlington's Rosslyn neighborhood. The project will retain 994 jobs and create 348 new jobs. Government consulting firm ByteCubed also formally opened its new Arlington headquarters in Crystal City with a ribbon-cutting ceremony earlier this month. ByteCubed, which specializing in reimagining and replacing government systems in an effort to increase government efficiency, brings about 150 employees to Crystal City in their 17,000 square feet headquarters. ByteCubed was recently recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in the region by Arlington Economic Development and as a Best Place to Work by Virginia Business Magazine.

### Arlington County Board Reassures Immigrants

On June 22, the Arlington County Board reiterated its commitment as a welcoming community that recognizes, respects and supports the contributions of all of its members. The Board [reaffirmed](#) the long-standing County law enforcement "policy against racial profiling which prohibits our deputies and officers from taking action based solely on that individual's race, ethnicity or national origin." And noted that "a person's right to file a police report, participate in police-community activities, or otherwise benefit from police services is not contingent upon citizenship or immigration status." In a statement read by Board Member Katie Cristol, the Board said it was responding to "increased anxiety, fear and panic among our region's immigrant community," which the Board attributed to "a number of factors, including federal immigration enforcement actions currently being conducted around

the country, as well as the more recent national debate sparked by the 2016 Presidential Election cycle and the United States Supreme Court's review of the Obama Administration's Executive Actions on immigration."

### Arlington Celebrates Centenarians

On June 29 there were speeches, proclamations from the County Board and state legislature, cake and historical photos of Arlington. But the question on every audience member's mind at Tuesday's celebration of Arlington's centenarians was: "What's the secret to reaching 100 years of age?"

Arlington's Department of Human Services hosted the [event](#) — which was organized by its Arlington Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Services Division — and hopes to make it an annual tradition. Proclamations sponsored by County Board Chair Libby Garvey and State Delegate Patrick Hope emphasized how much the County values older adults and appreciates what they bring to the community.

### Visit Our Animal Hospital

On Fri., July 15 from 2-3p.m., bring your young, aspiring veterinarian's to [Long Branch Nature Center](#). Come visit our rescued animals and see how we medically treat them. We have recovering small animals that need care and your help. Ages 8 – 12. For information: 703-228-6535. Registration Required. [Register online](#) using Activity Code 642926-C.

### Recreation on the Move!

Summer is soon upon us and so is our [Family Evening Summer Park program](#). Arlington County's Mobile Recreation Van brings recreation to your neighborhood weekday evenings all summer long. Our experienced staff will be coming to parks throughout the Arlington to facilitate fun activities for the whole family. Check out our [schedule](#), weeknights in July from 6 – 8 p.m.

## Other News:

### Vintage Crystal: Wine in the Water Park - Continues through July

**Fridays in July - 6:00pm to 10:00pm**

**Crystal City Water Park - 1750 Crystal Drive**

Crystal City's popular pop-up wine and beer garden has been extended through July! Featuring live music, hand-selected beer and wine from the Washington Wine Academy, and a free outdoor ArtJamz session, Wine in the Water Park returns every Friday in July from 6 PM to 10PM.

### Crystal City Twilighter

**2121 Crystal Drive**

**Saturday, July 23rd - 8:30pm**

Bypass the height of the heat and make your midsummer night's jaunt more fun than ever. Come out for the Crystal City Twilighter! After all, summer nights are made for racing the streets with thousands of your

closest running pals. You can even cool down with them at select Crystal City establishments using the drink tickets you'll find attached to your race bib. Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

### Mobile Bike Repair

Thursday, June 30, 2016

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

The weekly Mobile Bike Repair station will be open at Food Truck Thursdays for bike service every week starting April 7th. If you need a bike repair or simply a tune-up, show up onsite where walk-ups are welcome. You can also schedule an appointment by emailing [roman.m.semenov@gmail.com](mailto:m.semenov@gmail.com).

### Crystal City BID News

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

# CCCA OFFICERS

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

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

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

Established January 28, 2014

Graphics Designer: Colleen  
Zellmer

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

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

Treasurer, CCCA  
1200 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202