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Newsletter
No. 7, 2018



July 2018

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For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Civic Association Issues

What do you get for your \$10 annual dues?

Your small contribution of \$10 funds primarily: our website, dues in the Arlington County Civic Federation (required); advertising for meetings; snacks for meetings. All Executive Committee members are volunteers who spend many hours working on behalf of Crystal City residents—and producing this Newsletter!

Sign up on the "Join" section of the CCCA website and send a check for \$10 to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

CCCA Meeting June 28

Good timely meeting on **"Internet Safety: How to Protect Yourself."** Two cybersecurity experts—Shane Gainer and Herman Williams—provided an overview of a variety of issues ranging from Internet security and concerns to privacy and safety measures, to issues in the news. Their outline and handouts will be posted on the CCCA website when available. They reminded us to reboot and/or upgrade our routers in addition to proactively protecting our computers and internet accounts.

The Cybersecurity 202: Only YOU can prevent a VPN Filter malware attack. That's a problem for the FBI

The FBI's move to seize control of a network of half a million wireless routers and other devices infected with malicious software threw a wrench into a massive hacking campaign by a group linked to the Russian military. The fix the FBI is pushing is relatively simple: All people have to do is reboot their router or other devices. That will direct information from the infected routers to the FBI, instead of the hackers. As my colleague Hayley Tsukayama notes: "Simply hitting the power button without updating their router would leave users at risk, software experts warned. As a next step, they should download the latest firmware for their devices and change their password to further guard themselves against infection." The FBI and security researchers are issuing instructions, and they will also pressure Internet service providers to notify users about what they need to do, according to Thakur. [Read more here.](#)

Social Media Resources

See the full list on our [website](#).

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

THE CONNECTION LIBRARY WILL STAY OPEN!

The Connection, the County's popular Crystal City pop-up branch library, will stay open through December 2019 with the County Board's unanimous approval June 16 of



amendments to the current lease with JBG Smith. The County was offered by the landowner (JBGS) such favorable conditions (not just not paying rent, but also having JBGS absorbing operating

costs, utilities, etc.) so that for the County it was then easy to accept the offer of an extension. Board Chair Katie Cristol noted that "the library started as a 'pop-up' arrangement but has become more of a 'fixture.'" She noted that it had become very popular and a real asset in the community. It would be very helpful if some of you would email the County Board and County Manager, expressing thanks and appreciation.

Whither Crystal Square Redevelopment?

Until now, JBG-Smith has been moving forward quickly on planning for two phases of development of the Crystal Square block (15th to 18th Streets and Crystal Drive to Clark/Bell).

Phase I is to include a specialty grocery store and Alamo Draft House. Phase II was to convert office space in 1750 to residential and an 18th Street park (with or without a controversial two-story retail building to be constructed in the park over the proposed new Metro entrance).

After extensive review by the Planning Commission and Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC), JBG started requesting delays before seeking County



Proposed Plan - Figure 3.3.6

Board approval. Then JBG put the office to residential conversion on hold. Now JBG has requested a delay until September for both Phase I and II.

Looking ahead to the likely County Board decision in September, the proposed two-story retail building remains a major concern. Throughout the whole County review process, our CCCA representatives strenuously tried to resist this idea. As many of you are aware, when the Crystal City Sector Plan was developed, the main outcry from our community was caused by the scarcity of open space. This made the County commit that in every new project, efforts should be made to maximize open space. Regrettably, JBGS ignored this commitment by having a substantial building intrude into what could (and should) be reserved for open space. Amazingly, the County appears to have become swayed. Even worse, against all practices for such issues, this proposal was pursued without a full public outreach process with opportunity for input. An ominous start for JBGS in our area. We will continue to object.

County Scores \$83 Million in Funding for ART Facilities, Pentagon City Improvements

Arlington is now in line to receive nearly \$83 million in funding to help the county afford four major transportation projects over the next six years, including the construction of two bus maintenance facilities and a major expansion of transit options in Pentagon City:

- \$39 million for two new Arlington Transit operations and maintenance facilities
- \$28.8 million for Pentagon City road improvements and Transitway expansion
- \$10 million for improved traffic signals around the county
- **\$5 million for a second entrance to the Crystal City Metro station**

The \$5 million for the second entrance at the Crystal City station is also substantially less than the \$87 million the county requested to complete the project. County Manager Mark Schwartz has previously warned that Arlington's funding challenges will make it difficult for the county to build both second entrances without the NVTa's help, but the \$5 million will help the county complete additional design, engineering and environmental work.

In Pentagon City, the NVTa money will help the county fund a \$46.6 million effort to improve the area running from Army Navy Drive near the Pentagon City mall to the Crystal City Metro station off Route 1. The project will involve adding new bike lanes and turning lane throughout the area, as well as an expansion of the

Transitway service to the Pentagon City Metro station and Army Navy Drive. [Read more here.](#)

VRE Proposed Train Station Update



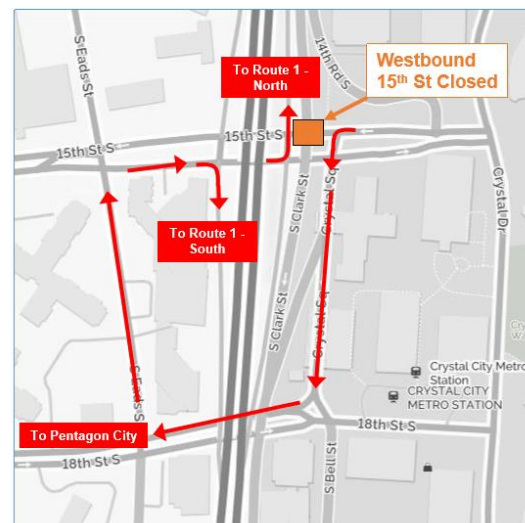
VRE hosted an Open House June 6 to share the concept design for the project. The meeting materials are posted on [VRE's project page](#). Comments

on the station's design and its access from Crystal Drive may be submitted by **July 1** via their [online comment form](#). VRE anticipates presenting an interim report to the County Board in September.

Construction Update: Elevated Clark Street demolition

Demolition of the Clark Street structure above 15th Street South is scheduled to begin on Monday, July 9. This work will require periodic eastbound and westbound detours on 15th Street at Clark Street and Route 1 for approximately two weeks:

Clark Street Demolition
Planned Detour for Westbound 15th Street Closure



- **July 9-10:** Detour on eastbound 15th Street South – See alternate routes (pdf)
- **July 11-19** (including the weekend): Detour on westbound 15th Street South – See alternate routes (pdf)
- During the last two days of work, on **July 18 and 19**, drivers should expect occasional 15-minute closures of both directions of 15th Street South at Clark Street. Flaggers will be in place to help direct traffic around the closure.

Construction Update: Long Bridge Drive

Construction of the Long Bridge Drive street improvements project is now complete with the exception of energizing the streetlights, which will occur later this summer. The project undergrounded utilities and added new bike lanes, sidewalks, shared-use paths, crosswalks, storm drainage improvements, and a bus stop pad. The project also constructed the future aquatic center's driveway entrance. With the realignment of Long Bridge Drive, [the adjacent I-395/Boundary Channel Drive interchange project](#) can move forward. Planned landscaping and street tree plantings for the project have been incorporated into the design of the aquatics center. As a result, the plantings are anticipated to be done in spring or fall 2020. [Visit the project page](#)

The Boundary Channel Drive Interchange project is still a few years out from starting construction. The project is



tracking toward a start of construction date in 2021, which will work out well because the I-395 Express Lanes project,

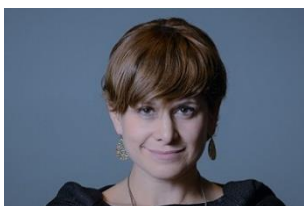
currently staged at the Boundary Channel Drive interchange, will be complete in 2020 and the exterior work for the DCA airport expansion project will be complete by 2021. We expect the Boundary Channel Drive Interchange project to be constructed by the end of 2022.

The project's next steps are summarized below:

- Submit final version of the Interchange Modification Report (IMR) to FHWA for approval (July 2018)
- Prepare Preliminary Design plans and Bid Documents (Summer 2018 – Fall 2019)
- Advertise project to Design-Build contractors – the winning bidder will both design and construct the project (late 2019)

Crystal City BID Names Tracy Gabriel as Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) announces that Tracy Sayegh Gabriel has been hired as the new president and executive director of the organization. She will begin at the BID in August.



A nationally recognized urban planner and city-builder, Gabriel brings 15 years of planning, development, and place-based economic development experience in government and private consultancy in the Washington, D.C. and New York City markets. She is former vice president at the New York City Economic Development Corporation under the Bloomberg Administration overseeing neighborhood transformations and managing large-scale public projects. She is currently associate director at the District of Columbia Office of Planning, where she has led a design-forward, equity-driven planning practice since 2012 including neighborhood plans and place-making throughout the District and directing Anacostia Waterfront development. Her work has typically focused on mixed-use development and neighborhood revitalization, integrating real estate, infrastructure, and capital planning initiatives.

Future Cities Project To Position Crystal City As D.C.'s Second Downtown

The Crystal City Business Improvement District is exploring the area's continued economic growth as a downtown hub in its strategic planning process called the Future Cities Project. Launched in April, the effort recognizes the relationship between Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard, and will act as a blueprint for strengthening economic development and planning initiatives. [Read more here.](#)



Timeline

April 2018: Steering Committee Kick-Off

May – June: Public Input

June: Steering Committee Meeting #2

July – August: Public Input

September: Steering Committee Meeting #3

September: Public Input

October: Final Steering Committee Meeting

November: Final Action Agenda is made public

Learn more and comment on the [Neighborland Future Cities Project website here.](#)

Champion of the Month: Crystal City BID

The Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) hasn't just been focusing on what's outside of their office space. See how they've created a commute-friendly

work environment with the help of ATP's Champions program. What you don't see is that the changes don't stop there. While making Crystal City an exciting place to walk or bike around and explore, the Crystal City BID has also been internalizing this and making their own workplace an example of what companies can do for employees to make the most of the area's walkability and bike friendly culture. [Read more here.](#)

Hello, Amazon? The 1,550 Residential Units Coming to Crystal City

The mounting anticipation for Amazon's second headquarters (and now Apple's new campus search) has resulted in an acute development focus on Northern Virginia, and more specifically Crystal City. While we are still several months away from the behemoth corporation narrowing down its list of finalists, several developments in and around Crystal City are in various stages of planning and completion. Many of the projects planned are infrastructural in nature, such as the efforts to realign 15th Street, or aspirational, like the proposal to construct a pedestrian bridge to National Airport.

[Read more here.](#)

Periodic Nightly Closure of Terminal B/C Arrivals Roadway

From June 26, as needed for several months, from Midnight to 9 a.m. sections of the Arrivals (lower-level) roadway of Terminal B/C (Gates 10-45) used by private vehicles will be closed for construction. Private vehicles will follow detours through slip-ramps to access the Arrivals level passenger pick-up zone. Drivers should use extreme caution navigating the detour route and obey the 15-miles-per-hour work zone speed limit. As an alternate, private vehicles can pick up passengers on the Departures (upper-level) curb. Construction activity related to the building of two New Security Checkpoints will take place in the work zone.

Guidance for drivers will be continuously broadcast on AM1640, the airport's roadway advisory radio station.



To manage congestion, the airport is offering up to 60 minutes of free parking in Terminal Garages and is deploying teams of police officers to direct traffic through the work zone during peak periods. Use Metrorail (strongly recommended). Don't drive to

Terminal B/C curbs — go to Terminal Garages and park free up to 60 minutes. For longer stays, normal rates will apply. Use navigation apps, such as Waze, for guidance to your destination. [Read more here.](#)

Airport Construction Project Journey



See the Reagan National Airport Project Journey Fact Sheet [here](#). Don't forget to sign up for Construction Advisories on the [Project Journey webpage](#).

Restaurant Openings/closings

Basic Burger is officially open in Pentagon Row (1101 S. Joyce Street) after moving out of its Courthouse location at the end of last week. Noodles & Company on Crystal Drive has closed.

Arlington County Issues

Long Bridge Fireworks and July 4th Road Closures

The Arlington County Police Department, Virginia State Police, United States Park Police, and the Virginia Department of Transportation will close multiple roadways on Wednesday, July 4th, 2018. These closures are designed to facilitate the safe passage of large crowds for the Independence Day events and fireworks. See which



roadways will be closed to accommodate the festivities [here](#). Arlington County will not provide shuttle service to Long Bridge Park this year, as no formal programming is scheduled to occur there. The park will remain open to the public as a location to view the fireworks and celebrate the occasion, and police will be on hand to ensure the safety and security of those in attendance.

County Manager Pledges Not to Abandon Planned Construction Projects, Even Amid Community Grumbles

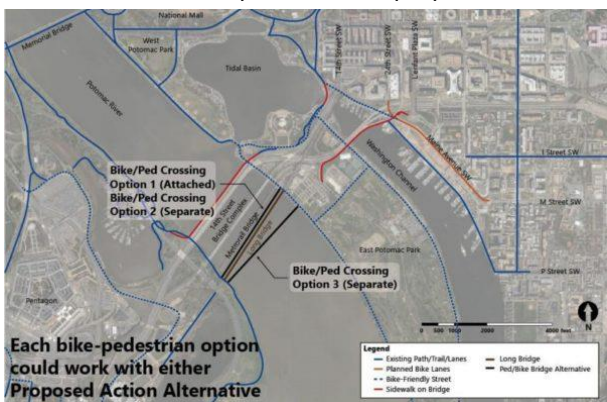
Despite mounting financial challenges, top Arlington officials say they don't plan to walk away from some major construction projects that are already in the works — even if that stance ruffles a few feathers in the community. County Manager Mark Schwartz has stressed repeatedly that his newly unveiled proposal for the next decade of Arlington construction projects, known as the Capital Improvement Plan, will maintain the county's standing commitments to several major facilities around Arlington, even as he's forced to make painful cuts elsewhere.

With the county sending more money to the Metro system, all while dealing with declining commercial tax revenues and rising public school enrollments, Schwartz is adamant that projects like the Long Bridge Park Aquatics and Fitness Center and the new Lubber Run Community Center won't be affected. [Read more here.](#)

Planners Nearing Final Designs for Complex Long Bridge Overhaul

Officials from Virginia, D.C. and an alphabet soup's worth of federal agencies have spent years working on plans to replace the Long Bridge — which runs roughly parallel to the 14th Street Bridge — and improve rail capacity over the Potomac River. *[Members of the CCCA have been regularly attending these meetings.]*

Officials say they are almost ready to commit to more concrete plans to guide the redesign. The project still needs millions of dollars in funding to move ahead, and construction wouldn't start until 2020 at the earliest, yet planners are pushing to have engineering and environmental analyses drawn up by summer 2019.



State rail officials told the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission at a meeting June 7 that they've managed to narrow down a long list of alternatives for replacing the bridge, which stretches from near the Pentagon in Arlington to Southwest D.C., to two final possibilities. Both plans involve building a new, two-track bridge alongside the existing structure, which was first built

back in 1904. One alternative calls for the current bridge to stay in place; the other would involve fully replacing it. The project will also require extensive conversations about how exactly officials can include bike and pedestrian options alongside the new bridge, a key point of concern for Arlington's representatives on the commission. Officials are considering two options for bike and pedestrian crossings that would not be attached to the Long Bridge, running closer to the bridge for Metro trains nearby, but still included in the overall project. But he said planners could decide to add bike and pedestrian options on the new bridge itself, though that could prompt some "security concerns." Whichever option officials choose, Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol urged Allen to keep bicyclists, walkers and runners in mind throughout the planning process, given the unique opportunity this project presents. After all, she noted, the current crossing along the 14th Street Bridge does not offer a connection to the regional trail network on the D.C. side. [Read more here.](#)

Will the Long Bridge Project consider bicycle and pedestrian access?

Although not part of the Project's Purpose and Need, the Project will explore the potential opportunity to accommodate connections that follow the trajectory of the Long Bridge Corridor to the pedestrian and bicycle network. The feasibility of this opportunity will be assessed as the Project progresses, and will consider whether a path can be designed to be consistent with railroad operator plans and pursuant to railroad safety practices. Future efforts to accommodate connections to the pedestrian and bicycle network may be advanced as part of the Project, or as part of a separate project(s) sponsored by independent entities.

Four bike-pedestrian crossing options have been retained for further analysis. Options shown at the public and agency meetings in December 2017 did not show the crossing connecting across the GWMP to Long Bridge Park. However, following significant feedback received from the public and agencies (CFA, NCPC, and Arlington County) that each emphasized the importance of a connection to Crystal City, the potential to cross the GWMP will be evaluated as part of all four options.

County Funds New Study to Help Solve DCA Aircraft Noise Woes

Dear Resident:

We are writing to let you know of an important new step the Board is taking, in partnership with Montgomery County, to advance our efforts to respond to the increased commercial aircraft noise experienced in our community

over the last few years to and from Reagan National Airport (DCA).

As you know, the Arlington County Board and County staff have been working in earnest on the issue of increasing levels of aircraft noise in our community since the implementation of NextGen for the D.C. Metroplex in 2014. We continue to hear loud and clear from our residents that the noise impacts have worsened significantly since this action and have had a substantial negative impact on their quality of life.

Since October 2015, the County has participated in the [DCA Community Working Group](#), convened by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), as the venue for a regional discussion on aircraft noise impacts and solutions. This effort mirrors those supported by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which are being undertaken across the country in other communities facing the same issues that we face here.

Despite what look like promising recommendations for operations south of the airport, the fact remains that we do not appear to be any closer to a solution today for those communities north of the airport than we were when this effort was initiated.

In order to advance this effort, Arlington County and Montgomery County have committed the funding necessary to jointly engage a technical consultant to examine these issues. As County staff takes the necessary steps to execute this contract and complete the project in Fiscal Year 2019, we will keep you apprised of the project scope, timeline, and major milestones.

Simply put, our goal with the study is to quantify the noise impacts on our community, to determine what specifically is driving the increase in those impacts in recent years and to identify and evaluate all actions that could reasonably be taken to reduce and mitigate them. It is our hope that this study will result in concrete recommendations to achieve the County's and the region's goal of reducing aircraft noise where possible and to equitably share it where necessary. These findings and recommendations will then be sent to the FAA through the DCA Community Working Group for their consideration and action.

Please keep current on our efforts by visiting the [County's aircraft noise webpage](#), which also provides the ability to sign up for email updates. As this initiative moves forward, we will provide updates via the website and email. In addition, you may continue to receive updates through your civic associations, as we meet regularly with those groups impacted by aircraft noise in order to provide information to, and receive feedback from, our residents.

Thank you for your continued interest in and advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,
John Vihstadt
Libby Garvey
Arlington County Board Members

VIDEO: 2018 State of the County

Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol delivered the State of the County Address June 28 at Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport. In her address, Cristol surveyed the County's economic horizon, including positive trends in housing, transportation and economic development, and also discussed her main initiatives, which include affordable housing, child care accessibility, transportation, and the



development of Lee Highway. [Watch the speech in its entirety here.](#)

Kendra M. Jacobs Named Clerk to the Arlington County Board

On June 26, the Arlington County Board named Kendra M. Jacobs the Clerk to the County Board. She will join the County Board Office in her new role on Monday, July 9. Jacobs comes to Arlington County Government from the City of Alexandria, where she has managed the Department of Planning and Zoning's Boards and Commission Unit since 2003. In that role, she



supported the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, two Boards of Architectural Review and the Carlyle/EE design review board. She also served as Clerk of the Planning Commission. In support of the commissions, Jacobs and her staff provided oversight of systems used to create and certify hundreds of legal notices annually, managed administrative, legal and logistical requirements for multiple public meetings monthly, responded to citizen inquiries and established procedures to ensure transparency. [Read more here.](#)

NVTC Names Arlington County Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey Virginia representative to Metro Board



The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission appointed Arlington County Vice Chair Christian Dorsey as one of Virginia's two principal members on the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors. Dorsey

has served as an alternate on the WMATA board since 2016. He assumes the term of Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, which expires in 2021. [Read more here.](#)

Police Community Outreach Teams

The South Community Outreach Team will host a quarterly meeting July 18 at 7 pm, which will cover community issues, crime prevention tips, and address resident concerns. ACPD's Financial Crimes Unit will present on fraud prevention. We encourage you to attend to meet and interact with the Outreach Team serving your neighborhood at the Fairlington Community Center, Room 134, 3308 S. Stafford Street. **Email: ACPDOutreachSouth@arlingtonva.us | Phone: [703-228-4306](tel:703-228-4306)**

The Roads of Arlington (Now) Paved with Better Preventions

It's the end of the road for bricks and brick-like ornamentation embedded in the streets of Arlington. The County is phasing out the use of brick pavers, along with similar nostalgic looking "street print," an asphalt-pavement product used to define pedestrian crosswalks, medians and neighborhood boundaries. The cost to maintain such features had become particularly prohibitive when compared with more flexible, resilient and traditional materials. Paver and street-print markings — often in dark, clay-like hues — also failed to generate significant reductions in traffic speeds and demonstrated poor visibility in low light and during precipitation. They also often lost their quaint appearance when street and underground repairs were necessary. [Read more here.](#)

Paper Shredding

Saturday, July 7. 8 - 4:30.

Earth Products Yard
4300 29th St S

Paper shredding is for residents only (sorry, businesses are not allowed). Limit of two boxes (no larger than 18 in. x 11 in. x 10 in.), or two paper bags per customer.

Acceptable: paper (including staples, paper clips), checks/checkbooks.

Unacceptable: magazines, catalogs, credit cards, three-ring binders or phone book-sized material.

Inert materials include:

- Asphalt
- Ceramic tile
- Concrete
- Earth
- Masonry block
- Rock
- Sand

Only a small pickup truck load or 3 cubic yards of material can be accepted. Brush material is not accepted in the Inert Material Drop-Off Program. [More information.](#)

Share your thoughts on parking in Arlington

County staff is reviewing the purpose and function of Arlington's residential permit parking (RPP) program. As the first major review in over 10 years, it is an opportunity to consider changes that improve the program's efficiency, user experience, and fairness. Complete our online comment form and [provide your input](#) through Sunday, July 16.

New CEB Observation Deck

Arlington County adult residents will receive one



complimentary admission with valid proof of residency at the Observation Deck at CEB Tower. Children of Arlington County residents under the age of 18 will receive admission when accompanied by

a parent or guardian who has valid proof of residency. For out-of-town guests, we hope that residents will be encouraged to bring them to see the best view of Arlington County and the nation's capital and enjoy the perk of complimentary admission for themselves. The box office is located at Central Place Plaza, on the 1700 block of North Moore Street, across from the Rosslyn Metro Station. [Read more here.](#)

I-66 will get a third lane inside the Beltway. And the work starts very soon.

Virginia business leaders have clamored for it for years, and now they'll get, well, part of it: On June 28, the widening of Interstate 66 inside the Beltway will begin. The Virginia Department of Transportation is embarking on a two year-plus project that will add a third lane eastbound along four miles of I-66 between the Dulles Connector Road and Fairfax Drive. The work will also include a new bridge for the Washington & Old Dominion Trail over Lee Highway and direct access from eastbound I-66 to the West Falls Church Metro station by connecting two existing ramps at the Route 7 interchange. The trail bridge and ramp connection are scheduled to open first in summer 2020, and the third lane a few months later in the fall of 2020. [Read more here.](#)

Construction Kicks Off on Eastbound I-66 Widening, New Lane to Open in 2020

Construction kicked off June 28 on a persistently congested section of eastbound I-66 with a ceremonial groundbreaking on Fairfax Drive. The estimated \$125 million project will add a lane to stretch approximately



four miles inside the Beltway — from the Dulles Connector Road to Fairfax Drive — while mostly maintaining the existing right of way. VDOT plans to complete construction of the lane in fall 2020. There will be night time lane closures along the project route throughout the summer to accommodate construction, according to information presented at a June 5 community meeting. Night time closures will continue on a more limited basis through summer 2019. By the end of this summer, VDOT plans to begin primarily conducting work during the day without lane closures.

[Read more here.](#)

Award-winning Initiative Will Bring Free Broadband to More Than 150 Arlington Children

As the school year winds down for students, a new effort in education and digital equity is picking up behind the scenes. Arlington's Digital Inclusion Initiative, [announced in December 2017](#), will leverage the County's fiber-optic network, ConnectArlington, to bring free broadband Internet access to low- and moderate-income households in Arlington, including those with school-age children. Arlington Mill Residences, a low- and moderate-income residential development, will serve as the demonstration project for the initiative, which is being carried out in collaboration with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) and other supporting organizations. The 122-unit APAH-owned building is home to 159 children. [Read more here](#)

Bird's Dockless Electric Scooters Now Available in Arlington

Dockless electric scooters have now made their way to Arlington. The electric vehicle company Bird scattered dozens of its scooters across the county on Sunday (June 24), becoming the first company to offer the vehicles in Arlington. Bird's operated in D.C. for the past few months, in addition to several other electric bike and scooter "ride sharing" firms like Lime and Skip. Company spokesman Nick Samonas says Bird scooters are now available in Ballston, Clarendon, Crystal City, Pentagon City and some areas along Columbia Pike, and he noted that "as ridership grows, the company will expand its fleet to serve all of Arlington's residents and communities." [Read more here.](#)

Despite Hefty Rent Prices, Arlington Ranked Among Top Places for Solo Renters

Arlington has one of the highest median rent prices in the entire country, yet the county still ranks among the top places people can afford to live alone. That's according to a new study of 100 of the nation's largest cities and counties by the financial data research firm [SmartAsset](#). The company ranked Arlington 17th among that group for places where renters have the financial wherewithal live alone, largely because of the robust median income level of the county's workers.

The county's median monthly rent of \$1,657 was also the most expensive of any other city on the company's top 25 list, yet Arlington still ranked ahead of other large cities for renters looking to live alone, including San Francisco and Denver. For context, the median income in D.C. is just over \$75,500 a year. SmartAsset didn't immediately have median rent prices available for the District, but real estate listing firm Zillow found that the median rent in the city was about \$2,146 a month last year. [Read more here.](#)

Going Native: Flora and Fauna of Arlington, Virginia on the Arlington Arts Truck

Going Native: Flora and Fauna of Arlington, Virginia created and illustrated by artist Kate Samworth, is a folding, pocket-sized manual of some of Arlington's native plant, mammal, and insect species of Arlington. Using her artwork as a reference, enjoy a quick hands-on art project examining and recreating the shapes and patterns found on selected species of plants, insects, and butterflies by using collage, watercolor and drawing. By doing this project it will help participants to identify these species and the ecosystems they support in their own backyard. Community partner: Plant NOVA Natives, is the joint marketing campaign of a grand coalition of non-profit, governmental, and private groups, all working to reverse the decline of native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia. Check out Going

Native on the Arlington Arts Truck **July 10 - Crystal City Farmer's Market, 18th and Crystal Drive, 3-7pm.**

Park Service Selects Location Near Rosslyn as Preferred Site for Boathouse

A decades-long effort to build a boathouse along the banks of the Potomac River is lurching forward once more. Officials with the National Park Service have



wrapped up an environmental analysis of the project and settled on a preferred alternative near Rosslyn for its construction, in the latest bit of forward momentum for an initiative that has long bedeviled county leaders. NPS took control of Arlington's portion of the Potomac shoreline after the construction of the GW Parkway, and the federal agency has spent years working off-and-on with the county to find a way to give local rowers easier access to the river. Arlington officials helped jump-start the process in 2014 by buying a parcel of land along Lee Highway just south of the Key Bridge, giving the NPS some added flexibility as it evaluated several options where the boathouse could be built. In the meantime, however, NPS is accepting comments on the environmental analysis through July 30 on its website. The agency also plans to hold a July 12 open house at Washington-Lee High School on the project, starting at 6 p.m. [Read more here.](#)

2017 Annual Water Quality Report Now Online

Arlington's newest water quality report is now [online](#). The County is required by law to prepare and publish the Consumer Confidence Report annually. Based on sampling data taken throughout the year at our treatment plant and distribution system, the report confirms that Arlington's high-quality drinking water meets and exceeds all federal and state requirements. It is also filled with facts about the sources of your water and what makes it safe.

Other Issues

Alexandria publicly apologizes for Potomac Yard Metro secrecy

Alexandria, City Manager Mark Jinks has said — and said again Thursday — was under the impression it was sworn to secrecy on all aspects of the procurement process for the \$320 million station. It was not. [Read more here.](#)

Alexandria renames Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway

The Alexandria City Council unanimously and finally decided Saturday to rename Jefferson Davis Highway to Richmond Highway, after three years of discussion. The name change will take place Jan. 1. The name of the road, also known as U.S. Route 1, has long irritated many in the liberal town but it took the Charleston church shooting in 2015 for the council to start the process. It will cost the city \$27,000 to change the signs, and the portion of the road that splits into Patrick and Henry streets will not be renamed. A community task force unanimously recommended the name Richmond Highway, from among hundreds of suggestions, because that is what the road is called in adjacent Fairfax County.

Arlington County's portion of the road remains named after the Confederate president. The county does not have the legal authority to change the name on its own but if the General Assembly were to clear a name change, county officials have indicated they would go along with whatever Alexandria chose. [\(source: WashingtonPost\)](#)

Metro reminds customers of upcoming summer improvement projects that will affect rail service

Metro is reminding customers to plan for two upcoming summer capital improvement projects to keep Metro on its current path of improved safety and reliability. The work will impact customers who use the Red, Orange, Blue and Silver lines. During the 10 commuting days of the Orange, Blue and Silver line work in particular, customers who use these lines are being encouraged to plan alternate routes now and use Metro only if absolutely necessary.

Blue, Orange and Silver line customers are advised:

- The capital improvement project will run from **Saturday, August 11, through Sunday, August 26.** For 10 commuting days, all Orange, Silver and Blue line customers are encouraged to use alternate

transportation, as rail service will be significantly reduced.

- Orange and Silver line trains will single track between McPherson Square and Smithsonian, with trains running only every 20 minutes at all times of the day.
- During rush hours, additional Yellow Line trains will operate every 16 minutes between Franconia-Springfield and Greenbelt, in addition to Blue Line trains running every 16 minutes between Franconia-Springfield and Arlington Cemetery.
- Rush Hour Promise will not be in effect for trips on the Blue, Orange or Silver lines.

[Read more about closures for the rest of the year.](#)

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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