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# Newsletter

No. 5, 2017

June 2017



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### Notices

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

### **Annual Dues for 2017**

Send a check for \$10 to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

# Civic Association Issues

**Next CCCA Meeting June 20: "911--What's your Emergency?"**

**"911 –what's your emergency? "**

In our next CCCA meeting, representatives from our Police District and from our nearby Fire Station at Aurora will join us for presentations followed by Q&A. They will each offer an overview of how they see the main issues in our area, comment on preventive measures, and advice on how to handle both emergency and routine situations. And of course, it will be a good opportunity to get your questions answered; please mark your calendars!

**Metro's BLUE Line: finally an end to discrimination and frustrations!**

*Editorial: As many of you are only too well aware, for a number of years now, Blue Line riders in our area have been angered and discouraged by the 'Cinderella treatment' which the Blue Line has suffered in comparison with the rest of the Metrorail system. Trains have been running less frequently, so that crowding and delays have resulted. Often it has been necessary to take the Yellow Line and then backtrack to destinations in the West End of Downtown, or it has been unavoidable to go by car/taxi. From the Civic Association, we have kept pestering the Arlington County Board, who are represented on the Metro Board, and we have also made representations directly to Metro.*

*Finally, we are now, quite literally, seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Metro has just announced that, effective June 25, all Metrorail lines will have the same intervals between trains, eight minutes during rush hour. (Currently, the Blue Line has 12 minute intervals, compared with six minutes for the other lines). However, we cannot relax; we need to keep up the pressure. It is a matter of concern that the improvement for the Blue Line was feasible only at the expense of all the other lines. There is a 'zero sum game,' in the sense that bottlenecks, such as the tunnel from Rosslyn to Foggy Bottom, impose overall limits. And it is conceivable that riders on other lines may now want to claim that they have become the 'squeaky wheel'.*

*Also, effective June 25, Metro is changing the overall hours of operation, and you should also be ready for fare increases, [as described in the document released by](#)*

**Metro.** *Let us now hope that the SafeTrack work, which is soon coming to an end, will also lead to increased reliability.*

## Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

**VRE Crystal City Station: Important Public Meeting June 7**

The public is invited to community meetings **Wednesday June 7** for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Crystal City Station Improvements project in Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive.  
**12 to 1:30 pm & 6 to 7:30 pm (Presentations at 12:30 and 6:30 pm)**

The VRE Crystal City station, one of the busiest in the system, experiences crowding on the platform. The length and location of the platform causes an operational bottleneck on the railroad. The current phase of the project will identify a location in Crystal City for an expanded station with a longer platform served by two tracks. There are three options under consideration for the extended track and train station: 1) south from entrance to Long Bridge Park to current station location; 2) from current station location to south of Crystal Park; 3) surrounding a commercial building at 2100/2200 Crystal Drive. More VRE information is posted on [the project webpage](#).

**These are important meetings to meetings to learn about the evaluation of proposed options for the location of the new station, so you will want to come and explore the options.**

*From the CCCA perspective, there are two issues:*

**1. Train Horn Noise:** *The CCCA has been advocating for two years that Crystal City should be a "quiet zone" where the incoming trains (VRE, Amtrak, and CSX) do not have to blow their horns. We negotiated with CSX that horns would not be blown when the VRE station is closed, and that has made a major difference. However, CSX says that until safety controls are installed at an upgraded VRE station, they cannot tell train engineers not to sound a warning horn. VRE promised two years ago to take this into consideration when the station is upgraded, and we*

need to urge them to follow through on this, regardless which location option is chosen.

**2. Location of VRE Station:** VRE will be presenting three options for location of the new station and extended platform on June 7. It was for this reason that they were monitoring noise recently close to the tracks. The first two options will definitely impact Crystal City residents, whereas the third will affect office buildings.

## Public Meeting on the Long Bridge Project: May 16



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) held a public informational meeting **May 16** to review the preliminary concept screening results for the Long Bridge Project. The key briefing is that they have narrowed the options under consideration for the bridge from 10 to 6 + 1: i.e., 3, 4, or 5 tracks with or without a bike/pedestrian path (the +1 option is a “no build”). The tunnel option was dropped because CSX said its freight trains would be unable to access it. This is key for Crystal City because no additional car traffic would be added to the bridge. There are plans, however, for a major increase in train traffic by 2040: a 150% increase in aggregate for VRE/Amtrak/CSX and with some MARC service and Norfolk Southern freight being expected; (NS currently go around Manassas/Hagerstown to avoid hefty Amtrak charges if going through our area. For more information about the Long Bridge Project, [please visit the project page.](#)

## South Park at Potomac Yards - Online Feedback Opportunity

After a series of public meetings, we have developed three draft park concepts for the community to evaluate. The three concepts were developed based on community feedback, guidance from the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan and Design Guidelines, careful consideration of the site constraints and sensitive environmental areas, need for improved pedestrian/bicycle circulation, and the projected budget.

An online feedback form was available to help gather additional input until May 31.



If you want a closer look at the three concept plans, and additional context as to how they were developed, please refer to the most recent presentation:

<https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2017/05/South-Park-Meeting-3-Presentation-05-03-17.pdf>

The next public meeting will provide a summary of the survey results and feature one draft park concept plan for the community to evaluate. This meeting will be in late June or early July. Notifications will be sent out once the date is finalized.

## A Day in the Life of Crystal City



Washingtonian Magazine published on May 19 a series of vignettes on life in Crystal City. They are generally positive and

well worth taking the time to read.

Washingtonian staffers spent one full day in Crystal City to find out everything they could about the Arlington neighborhood you’ve heard is cool but don’t know why. [Read them all here.](#)

## Metro announces June 25 effective date for new hours, fares, schedules

On May 12, Metro announced that changes to fares, schedules and rail system hours will take effect Sunday, June 25, 2017. The changes, approved by the Board of Directors earlier this year, are part of an effort to rightsize service, close a budget gap and provide needed time for new categories of preventive maintenance to improve safety and reliability.

Among the changes taking effect, most fares on Metrobus and Metrorail will increase between 10-25 cents; some low-ridership bus routes will be discontinued; trains will arrive slightly less frequently

during rush hour; and Metrorail system hours will be adjusted to provide an additional eight hours of track access weekly to improve safety and service reliability.

To ensure customers are prepared for the changes, Metro will conduct extensive outreach in the weeks leading up to the June 25 change day, including signage aboard vehicles, at rail stations and key bus stops, MetroAlerts email and text messages, social media, and handouts distributed to customers at high-traffic locations. Information can also be found at [wmata.com/changes](http://wmata.com/changes). [Read more here.](#)

### Celebrating New Crystal City Multimodal Center



Arlington County Board Chair and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) member Jay Fissette, along with NVTA Chairman Martin E. Nohe, county officials

and representatives from the NVTA, celebrated the completion of Arlington's new Crystal City Multimodal Center May 18 at a ceremony outside the Crystal City Metrorail Station. Located on 18th Street South under the U.S. Route 1 bridge, the center expands bus capacity around the Metro station with the addition of four new bus bays that provide both regional and local bus service. The project also creates a safer and more efficient area for the more than 20,000 people who travel to and from this Metro station each day, with new designated curb space for shuttles and kiss-n-ride, new bus shelters and bicycle racks, improved sidewalks and crosswalks, and new lighting. [See press release.](#)

### Crystal City Office Building to Get Bold New Paint Job



A building adjacent the Crystal City Metro station is getting a bold new red paint job.

Property owner Vornado will be adding color to its currently beige office building at 251 18th Street S. The painting is expected to begin soon. The new color "will create an iconic new landmark at [the Metro station] and at the gateway to Crystal City at 18th Street," according to the Crystal City Business Improvement District, which

has been "adding color, vibrancy and art to Crystal City" via projects like Artomatic, Art Underground and various murals around the neighborhood. [See more at ArlNow.com.](#)

### Fast-Casual Korean BBQ Restaurant Closed in Crystal City

[According to ArlNow.com](#), around six months after it opened, a fast-casual Korean barbecue restaurant has closed in Crystal City. KBQ Korean BBQ & Bar at 2450 Crystal Drive opened last November, next to Buffalo Wild Wings. But the eatery closed its doors earlier this month and now sits empty.

### New Restaurant in Pentagon Fashion Center

Famed eatery and candy shop, Sugar Factory American Brasserie, opens its first location in Northern Virginia in Pentagon City, bringing the internationally-renowned celebrity sweets and signature treats it's known for to the Washington, D.C. metro area. Sugar Factory American Brasserie offers an extensive lunch, dinner and weekend brunch menu, and also has a grab-and-go bulk candy store, an ice cream and coffee shop and outdoor seating by the sidewalk at 1100 S. Hayes Street.

## Arlington County Issues

### The Connection Library

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

### Police Release 2016 Annual Report

The Arlington County Police Department has released the [2016 Annual Report](#), highlighting the many endeavors the men and women of this department undertake to maintain Arlington County as a safe place to live, work and visit. Last year the agency adopted three key initiatives to guide staff as we continue to deliver professional police services to our community. These initiatives are community engagement, transportation safety, and crime prevention and control. In recognition of our commitment to keeping the Arlington community informed and engaged, this annual report reflects accomplishments in each initiative. Read more analysis on [ArlNow.com's article of May 23.](#) Arlington's crime rate dipped by almost 3 percent in 2016, but the number of pedestrian-involved crashes rose slightly according to new data from the Arlington County Police Department. It is the third consecutive

year that crime has declined in the county. In 2015, the crime rate dropped by about 6 percent, while in 2014 it dropped by 8.22 percent.

***Come to the June 20 CCCA General Meeting to hear more from the Arlington Police.***

### Police Warn of Home Repair Frauds

Each spring as the weather begins to improve and homeowners assess damage from the winter season, the need for home repairs arise. While the majority of work is completed by legitimate contractors, this is also the season when the Arlington County Police Department receives an increase in reports of tree trimming and home repair frauds. The police want homeowners to remain alert and understand your rights as consumers so you don't become a victim.

Homeowners should be suspicious of any contractor who:

- approaches you at home unannounced
- pressures you to make an immediate decision about the proposed repairs
- claims that they have leftover materials or that they happen to be working in the area
- refuses to provide copies of their insurance certificates and/or license numbers
- accepts only cash payment for services rendered.

Read the rest in the [press release](#).

### Click It or Ticket Campaign Starts May 22, 2017

The Arlington County Police Department is once again reminding motorists to Click It or Ticket. As part of the national seat belt enforcement campaign, law enforcement agencies around the country will be stepping up enforcement from May 22 to June 7, just ahead of one of the busiest travel weekends of the year. Every day, unbuckled motorists are losing their lives in motor vehicle crashes. As we approach Memorial Day weekend and the summer vacation season, we want to make sure people are doing the one thing that can save them in a crash, buckling up.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of the 22,441 passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2015 were unrestrained. At night from 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., that number soared to 57 percent of those killed. That's why one focus of the Click It or Ticket campaign is nighttime enforcement. Participating law enforcement agencies will be taking a no-excuses approach to seat belt law enforcement, writing citations day and night. In 2015, the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles saved an estimated 13,941 lives of occupants ages 5 and older

according to the NHTSA. That's why motorists are encouraged to buckle up every time on every ride.

For more information on the Click It or Ticket mobilization, please visit [www.nhtsa.gov/CIOT](http://www.nhtsa.gov/CIOT).

### New Accessory Homestay Permit Fee

Starting July 1, 2017, there will be a \$63 filing fee for all [Accessory Homestay Permit applications](#). This new fee is in accordance with the County Board's adoption of a revised zoning fee schedule on April 22, 2017. The Accessory Homestay permit allows residents to host overnight guests for stays of less than thirty (30) days in residential dwelling units that they reside in as their primary residence. Accessory Homestays are a means for residents to utilize online booking platforms such as Airbnb, Craigslist or Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBO).

### County Resource Protection Map

[An update to the County's map of resource protection areas](#) will be considered by the County Board in July. An update to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area map is currently underway. This map depicts the location of Resource Protection Areas, or stream and wetland buffers, in Arlington. Periodic updates must be made to the map to comply with state law and the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance.

### Arlington Sells Bonds at 2.50% Interest Rate

On May 31 Arlington County issued \$185 million of Series 2017 General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds. Sold in a competitive sale this morning, the bonds received a total of seven bids. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC was the winning bidder with a 2.50 percent average interest rate. Proceeds of the sale will finance projects approved by the County Board, including the County's capital contributions for Metro; Neighborhood Conservation; Paving; Trail Maintenance, Parks Land Acquisition; Lubber Run Community Center, Nauck Village Center Action Plan, Maintenance Capital; and Arlington Public Schools projects. [Press release](#).

### Point-in-Time Homelessness Count Up in Arlington

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) has released its 2017 report on homelessness for the region, showing a nine percent decline in homelessness. While Arlington has shown a significant decrease in numbers since 2013, it saw a slight rise in 2017. Arlington's 2017 Point in Time Count, conducted in January, showed an increase from 174 people in 2016 to 232 in 2017. The number of people in families who were homeless increased from 50 to 85. The number of single individuals who were homeless increased from 124 to 147.

## County Board Honors Neighborhood College Graduates

The Arlington County Board honored the 2017 graduates of [Neighborhood College](#) at the start of its 6:30 p.m. session of the May 23 Recessed County Board Meeting. Twenty-six residents graduated May 4 from the free program that helps participants become more effective community activists and leaders. The program teaches communication and listening skills, consensus building and planning. Some 342 Arlingtonians have graduated from the program since its inception in 2000. County staff and leadership from the County Board, School Board and law enforcement officers spoke at the sessions. For more information on Neighborhood College, [visit the County website](#).

## Free Paper Shredding and Inert Material Drop off

**Saturday, June 3.** 8-4:30. 2900 29th St south. Trades Center. 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. [Details.](#)

## Green Home and Garden Tour

**Sunday, June 4,** 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - 5 pm.

Come on this tour to get inspiration and ideas to go green at home! The 15th annual tour will include a mixture of new green homes, green renovations, and watershed-friendly gardens. See homes featuring energy efficient technologies, solar elements, water-saving technologies, native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, wildlife habitat, and more! There are two options available for taking part in the tour: a self-guided tour and a guided cycling option.

The suggested donation is \$5 per person for the self-guided tour and \$10 per tour for the bike tour. The tour

booklet with addresses of locations will be available online after May 15. This tour is sponsored by ACE, the [Arlington County Department of Environmental Services](#), and BikeArlington.

## Four Mile Run Restoration Project

The project location is along Four Mile Run between Mt. Vernon Avenue and Route 1. The work in the stream will include naturalization of the stream bank and construction of living shoreline features along the edge of the stream. Living shorelines are small stone breakwaters with wetland plants behind them, and they are a more environmentally sensitive way to protect streambanks and coastal areas. They provide numerous benefits including reducing erosion along the bank, improving water quality by capturing sediment and utilizing nutrients, and providing habitat for fish and waterfowl. [More information.](#)

## Shirlington Dog Park Plans Go Back to the Drawing Board

After significant community push-back, the County Board rejected plans to dramatically shrink the Shirlington Dog Park and urged further study. At a work session last night of the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group, Board members said that staff must return with new options that would either keep the 109,000 square foot dog park the same size or reduce it slightly. Previous alternatives put forward by staff would have cut the park's size by as much as 75 percent to comply with stormwater management requirements in the area of Four Mile Run. But County Board members said more study is required on other possible options to comply with stormwater management and not lose what vice chair Katie Cristol said is a "well-loved" dog park. [See ArlNow.com May 31 article.](#)

## Spraygrounds

Spraygrounds are open Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend.



## Arlington Named 'Best City for Millennials'

Arlington County is now the No. 1 best "city" for millennials in the entire country, according to new rankings from the website Niche.com. Last year

Arlington ranked second on the same list. This year, as also noted by the New York Times, Arlington is at the top, ranked highly for nightlife, diversity, public schools, and being “good for families.” Nearby Alexandria was ranked No. 4 on the list. [See ArlNow.Com article.](#)

### National Trails Day

Trails are for more than just hiking. Trails provide access to waterways and popular activities such as birdwatching and geocaching. Celebrate Arlington’s fantastic trail network on National Trails Day—June 3. Rated the top outdoor recreation amenity by residents, we have nearly 49 miles of paved multi-use trails and additional hiking trails. [Explore our trails here.](#)

### Champion Trees Bike Ride

Marvel at some of Arlington’s most spectacular trees on this leisurely ride while stopping at points of natural and environmental interest along the way. Join us for a great ride Sat., June 17, 10 a.m. - noon. Bring your own bike, water, snacks and repair kit. Free, but [register here](#) so we can support everyone who comes. Use Activity #642947-C.

## Other Issues

### Visa Processing Issues Could Close Local Pools

[ArlNow.com reports May 31](#) that Local pools could be at risk of indefinite closure due to visa processing issues for potential lifeguards. According to a resident of the Barkley Condominiums (1016 S. Wayne Street), on Sunday a notice posted to the building’s bulletin board said the pool would be closed indefinitely, due to the pool service company having difficulty getting lifeguards into the country because of visa issues. The notice also reportedly said the issues would hopefully be resolved within the next week, but that timing was unclear.

Another source who lives in the building confirmed the pool’s closure. The condo’s property manager declined to comment. Many local pools rely on young, foreign lifeguards who come to the U.S. during summer months through a non-immigrant visa program.

### The Armed Forces Cycling Classic

This year’s Armed Forces Cycling Classic, proudly brought to you by The Boeing Company, will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, June 10th and 11th, 2017.** The Armed Forces Cycling Classic is the region’s premier cycling event, open to cycling enthusiasts of all abilities. Cyclists with USA Cycling licenses are invited to race in Arlington on both days. Racing will feature the nation’s

top Pro men and women. Amateurs of all abilities will also be able to participate on Sunday morning’s Armed Forces Cycling Classic Challenge Ride! The Challenge Ride is an amateur, non-competitive, participatory ride, open to cyclists of all abilities. The ride takes place on a course closed to traffic, starting and finishing in Crystal City traveling past the Pentagon and up to Rosslyn and back. The course opens at 7:00am and closes at 10:00am. You can participate as a Standard Registrant or as a member of a Thales Corporate Challenge Team.

[Register here.](#)

### TechBUZZ Summer 2017

**Tuesday, June 13 ~ 1:00pm to 7:30pm**

The Mid-Atlantic Venture Association (MAVA) comes to Crystal City this June to shine the spotlight on the hottest up-and-coming early stage technology companies in the Mid-Atlantic. A diverse and experienced cross-section of Early Stage Investors, VCs, and experienced CEOs will provide valuable feedback in response to the TechBUZZ presentations. Whether on stage or in the audience, the insight of our investor panels is always informative and thought-provoking.

### FitFam Summer Jam

Crossfit South Arlington

**Saturday, June 17 ~ 9:00am to 4:00pm**

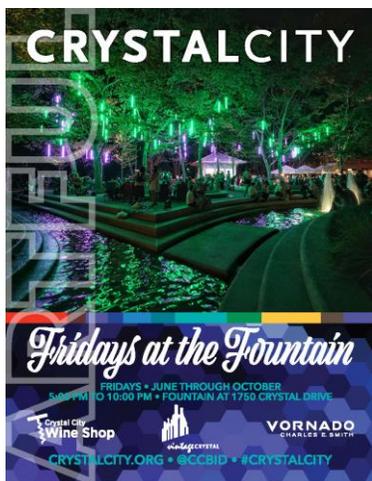
Arlington’s most fun fitness block party is in Crystal City. CrossFit South Arlington is bringing together coaches and athletes from all areas of Arlington’s fitness community for some fun in the sun. With free yoga classes, body building coaching, partner CrossFit workouts, nutrition talks and fitness tests there’s something to do or learn about for everyone.

National Park Service Paved Trail Study

Interested in knowing what the NPS is considering in the way of expanding/improving bike trails in the National Capital area? Check out the [completed study here.](#)

### Fridays at the Fountain

1751 Crystal Drive - The Fountain (aka Crystal City Water Park). **Every Friday** June through October ~ 5:00PM to 9:00PM. Friday evenings are about to get a whole lot more refreshing with the return of Crystal City’s popular beer and wine garden. With a new name and an extended season, Fridays at the Fountain features live music, a delicious menu of beverages from the Crystal City Wine Shop, and a relaxing setting. As the sun sets, catch the new LED light display in the park’s canopy of trees for a unique and bright experience. Admission is free, but beverages are available for cash/credit purchase.



Stock up on **discounted drink tickets** for Fridays at the Fountain, the Fathers Day Auto Festival, the beer garden at the Armed Forces Cycling Classic or any of cash/credit bars hosted by the Crystal City Business Improvement District's (BID). Single drink tickets are always \$5 at the door, but you can

save by buying ahead of time packs of five (5) drinks for or 20 drinks for \$75.

### Crystal Car Fathers Day Auto Festival

**Sunday, June 18** ~ 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Celebrate this Fathers Day in style amongst heavy machinery and horsepower at the Crystal Car Fathers Day Auto Festival. A free Fathers Day auto festival in partnership with Carsfera, the day features a variety of exciting automobile categories including innovative electric vehicles, area sports car auto clubs, classic muscle cars, motorcycles. Take in the cars while enjoying a refreshing beverage in the beer garden, listening to great live music, and letting the kids expend their energy in the bounce house or painting and racing wooden cars.

### Arlington Historical Society Gala Reception

A Salute to Our Military & First Responders and a Presentation of "The Day War Came to Arlington."

A gripping account of 9/11 from Inside the President's Bunker with Lt. Col. Robert Darling, USMC (Ret.)  
June 6, 2017 from 6 – 9 pm, Army-Navy Country Club  
1700 Army-Navy Drive. Business Casual Attire.

Major Contributors: All Major Contributors will be extended membership in the Arlington Historical Society through June 30, 2018.

Friend \$250 – Admit 2 attendees – Recognition in written program and in public display at reception

Sponsor \$500 – Admit 4 attendees – Recognition in written program and in public display at reception

Benefactor \$1,000 or More – Will receive copy of the book, "Inside the President's Bunker" signed by the author Lt. Col. Robert Darling, USMC (Ret.) – Admit 6 attendees – Recognition in written program and in public display at reception

All Other Attendees: General Admission: \$70 per individual, \$120 per couple

AHS Members, Military veterans, First responders: \$55 per individual, \$100 per couple  
LIMITED SEATING! Reserve NOW!  
email: AHSMainEvent2017@gmail.com  
phone: 571-302-1787  
or mail payment: The Main Event, c/o Frank O'Leary, 239 N Highland, St., Arlington, VA 22201  
<http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>

# CCCA OFFICERS

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Established January 28, 2014

**Join on our website:**

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

**Or send a check for \$10 to:**

Treasurer, CCCA  
1200 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202