

Note: The complete Newsletters is distributed by email only to paid members.

Newsletter
No. 6, 2018

June 2019



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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic/>

Inside this Issue:

Civic Association Issues

[Next CCCA Meeting](#)

[Welcome to Zach Komes](#)

[July Newsletter](#)

Crystal City Development and Amazon

[Amazon From the ground up](#)

[Indicator of what HQ2 might house](#)

[D.C.-area workforce: still work to do](#)

[Amazon's new landlord needed to raise money](#)

[JBG Smith's affordable housing initiative](#)

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

[I-395 South HOV slip-ramp near Pentagon to close](#)

[8 Projects to Watch](#)

[Construction Updates](#)

[Clark Street demolition update](#)

[Transportation Funding Projects Near Amazon HQ2](#)

[A Library or Cafe Could Change Your Life](#)

[JBG Smith and DEA's headquarters renovation](#)

[Want a house near Amazon's HQ2? Good luck](#)

[Possible Black Box Theatre in Crystal City](#)

[Branding for "National Landing" Area](#)

[Va. Tech's Campus more than 'Amazon University'](#)

[Crystal City Farm Market Opens](#)

[Meridian near Amazon sells for \\$228 million](#)

[New Military-Focused Barber Shop Opens in Crystal City](#)

[Planet Fitness Announces New Location in Pentagon Row](#)

[New Pentagon Fashion Center Store](#)

Arlington County Issues

[Primary Elections June 11](#)

[Input Needed on Shared Mobility Devices project](#)

[SPRC Citizens Guide](#)

[Arlington County Profile](#)

[School Board Approves \\$669.5 Million APS Budget](#)

[Renaming Jeff Davis Highway](#)

[No More Glass Recycling](#)

[Housing Arlington Community Kickoff](#)

[County Board Salary Survey](#)

[Rock-n-Recycle: Solid Waste Bureau's Open House](#)

[Turn Compost into a Food Bank's Fresh Produce](#)

[Governor's Highway Safety Award](#)

[Contribute Time and Talent](#)

[Get the Know-How to 'Make the Right Call'](#)

[Arlington's Tourism Ambassador](#)

[Arlington Ranked Fittest 'City' in the Country](#)

[Arlington Surpasses D.C. in Bike Friendliness Rating](#)

Other News:

[Six Blue & Yellow line Metro stations closed](#)

[Major Metrorail Project Impact on airport Travelers](#)

[National Airport Construction Advisory](#)

[DC2RVA Final EIS](#)

[The Connection Library](#)

[Crystal City BID Updates](#)

For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Civic Association Issues

Next CCCA Meeting June 3

In response to requests from many CCCA members, we have scheduled a meeting **June 3 from 7-9 pm** on "Security, Safety, and Mobility in Crystal City." Our panel of three speakers will be:

- 1) **Captain Wayne Vincent**, head of Police Outreach for Arlington County, on Security and crime in Crystal City";
- 2) **Eric Goldstein**, Chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) on "Safety Issues for Pedestrians and Bikers"; and
- 3) **Jim Larsen** of the County Transportation Mobility Team and Shared Mobility Devices Pilot Program on "Scooters and Dockless Bikes"

We will also have a brief update from **Pat Carroll** of the Arlington County Legislative Department on "What's Next?" in renaming Jefferson Davis Highway.

Venue: Back to the Crystal Park Condominium community room, 1805 Crystal Drive.

Welcome to Zach Komes who has agreed to be appointed as our Membership Liaison Director and help with outreach to the Millennial community. Zach is a Millennial apartment dweller who works in community economic development in the District. Come meet him Monday night.



July Newsletter

Since your Editor will be out of the country at the end of June, your newsletter may be a) delayed; b) early; or c) not sent at all. We'll see.

Amazon in Crystal City

Amazon From the ground up

Amazon's new Arlington campus will feature energy-efficient offices, new community space, and neighborhood retail. [Read the Washington Post article here.](#) Here are some highlights of the new site from [Amazon's blog](#):

- Sustainable LEED Gold-certified buildings: 2.1 million square feet of energy-efficient office buildings with state-of-the-art workspaces and green outdoor terraces for our employees in two 22-story towers.
- Street-level retail and restaurants: 50,000 square feet of new retail space for shops, restaurants, and a daycare center for area residents and Amazonians.
- New public and green spaces: 1.1 acres of new public open space, designed for a variety of uses, including a dog park, recreation areas, farmers markets, and more – helping realize the community's vision for a large, centrally-located park.
- Bike-friendly access: Space for 600 bikes in on-site bike facilities, with plans to construct a new portion of the cycle path on South Eads Street to help link Arlington's cycling infrastructure.

Amazon points to past multibillion-dollar acquisitions as indicator of what HQ2 might house

Keep an eye on what companies Amazon.com Inc. buys next. It could be what fills HQ2. Acquisitions will likely determine what jobs and teams develop at the second headquarters in Arlington, said Holly Sullivan, Amazon's head of worldwide economic development. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon has praised the D.C.-area workforce. But there's a lot of work still to do

The quality of Greater Washington's workforce has widely been cited as a prime reason Amazon chose Arlington for its new headquarters — but there's still room for improvement. Accordingly, the county's economic development officials say they've recently teamed up with major employers in the area to do a bit of recruiting in other hubs for tech talent around the country. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon's new landlord needed to raise money to make money

JBG Smith Properties (NYSE: JBGS) stands to make a substantial amount of money helping Amazon.com Inc. build out its second headquarters in Arlington County, but as it disclosed with its first quarter earnings report Tuesday, it takes money to make money. A lot of it. The Chevy Chase developer plans to raise \$400 million through property sales and recapitalizations this year, but JBG Smith CEO Matt Kelly said in the company's quarterly letter to shareholders that those funds wouldn't be enough to fully seize upon the opportunity

that is HQ2. Hence, its recent \$472.3 million equity raise.

[Read more here.](#)

JBG Smith raises more than \$78M for its affordable housing initiative

JBG Smith Properties' affordable housing initiative has raised \$78 million from investors in its first closing round, the company announced May 8. The Washington Housing Initiative, a joint effort of JBG Smith (NYSE: JBGs) and the Federal City Council that launched almost a year ago, will use the money to acquire and operate a few thousand units of "workforce housing." [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City in Development

I-395 South HOV slip-ramp near Pentagon to close on or about June 1

The slip-ramp connecting the HOV lanes to the regular (or general purpose) lanes on I-395 South near the Pentagon will close permanently starting on or about June 1, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). [Read details here.](#)

8 Projects to Watch

Three of the projects in this County video are in our area: Clark Street; Arlington Ridge Road; Long Bridge Aquatics Center. [Watch now.](#)

Construction Updates

A number of public infrastructure and private redevelopment projects are currently underway in Arlington's largest downtown with more coming soon. See updates and renditions [here](#) for: Central District, Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center, Pentagon Centre, and Clark Street Demolition. For a full list of all the construction, [read here.](#)

Clark Street demolition update

Bridge demolition over 18th Street scheduled to start **June 10**. Demolition of the Clark Street structure over 18th Street South is scheduled to begin Monday, June 10. This will be the final bridge demolition for the project. There will be a series of eastbound and westbound closures on 18th Street between South Eads and South Bell Streets during this work. Northbound South Bell Street between 18th and 15th Streets also will be closed. Detours are expected to last for 2-3 weeks,

weather permitting. View detour maps and additional details on the [project webpage](#):

One direction of travel on 18th Street will be open at all times during the demolition. Drivers will be encouraged to use 15th and 20th Streets South as alternate routes. Some ART and Metrobus bus stops will be relocated within the immediate area during this work.. [Read details here.](#)



What to expect during this work:

- Hours for the demolition work will be Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm.
- Heavy equipment and jackhammering will be used to remove the concrete and steel bridge structure in sections. There will be a lot of noise near the work site. No explosives will be used.
- Residents should expect more truck traffic in the area, as debris is hauled away.

County Board Approves Transportation Funding for Projects Near Amazon HQ2

On Saturday, County Board members approved using \$33,850,000 in state funds for several transportation projects that officials had used to woo Amazon during the tech giant's search for its second headquarters:

- \$18,850,000 to expand the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway to the Pentagon City, adding 1.1 miles of dedicated bus lanes.
- \$10,000,000 for the Army-Navy Drive Complete Street project, which aims to redesign the roadway for easier bike and pedestrian access between the Pentagon, Pentagon City, and Crystal City.
- \$5,000,000 to help build an east entrance at Crystal City Metro station, a project the county has postponed before for lack of funds.

The vote comes after Board members and state legislators pledged millions in transportation upgrades near Amazon's HQ2 site as long as the company meets certain job creation and space occupancy benchmarks.

[Read more here.](#)

Having a Library or Cafe Down the Block Could Change Your Life

[This Atlantic article](#) indicates that Crystal City is moving in the right direction with development. Living close to



public amenities—from parks to grocery stores—increases trust, decreases loneliness, and restores faith in

local government.

JBG Smith to play role in the DEA's headquarters renovation

The Drug Enforcement Administration has found temporary space in Crystal City for its employees while its Clarion Partners-owned headquarters in adjacent Pentagon City gets a major makeover. Representatives for the DEA recently applied to Arlington County for interior alteration permits to renovate three floors at 2200 Crystal Drive, or about 72,000 square feet, for the federal agency, according to the county's online permit database. The work is expected to cost about \$1.4 million. [Read more here.](#)

Want a house near Amazon's HQ2? Good luck

Since Amazon announced in November its choice of Crystal City and Pentagon City, the median home sale price in that area has increased 17.7%, leaping to \$655,000, and the typical home was placed under contract in just six days, down from 10 days last year, according to fresh data from real estate brokerage Redfin. Supply also continues to plummet, down 41.8% over the last year, the biggest drop since 2013, Redfin said. [Read more here.](#)

Possible Black Box Theatre in Crystal City

Representatives from AHCA, the Crystal City BID and Civic Association, Synetic Theater, JBG, and the new non-profit Embracing Arlington Arts have been meeting about developing performing space in Crystal City. The idea is to submit a concept plan to the County before the site plan gets developed.

Branding for "National Landing" Area

The Crystal City BID has included representatives from AHCA and the Crystal City Civic Association in meetings to discuss the branding effort for the new Amazon-centric development. The BID has hired Pentagram, the design consultants who marketed the High Line and Hudson Yards in NYC. It looks as though "National Landing" is here to stay, though residents who attended

pointed out the need to keep the neighborhood names and to focus on how to integrate the different communities better. Pentagram and the BID will be holding further meetings in May through July.

Va. Tech's new Innovation Campus is more than 'Amazon University'

The Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Potomac Yard, a



\$1 billion, 1-million-square-foot graduate school coming to Alexandria, played a key role in Amazon's decision to bring an East Coast

headquarters to Northern Virginia. But don't call it Amazon University. The school began planning years ago for a campus aimed at driving technology education and research across the state, and plans for an Alexandria campus were already in the works before Amazon came along. [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City Farm Market Opens

The popular FRESHFARM Market returned May 14 in a new location from May to October: 2011 Crystal Drive. The market is blocks from the Crystal City Metro and there is also free parking after 4:00 p.m. in the garage beneath the market and across the street.

Meridian near Amazon sells for \$228 million

A Crystal City residential property within blocks of Amazon's planned HQ2 campus has sold for \$228 million, more than double what it last sold for a decade prior, according to Arlington County property records. Chevy Chase-based Polinger Co. purchased the property at 1221-1331 S. Eads St. for about \$427,767 per unit from Arlington-based Paradigm Cos. In April 2009, Paradigm had bought the 533-unit complex for \$109.7 million, or about \$205,816 per unit. The complex, which had changed its name from Meridian Pentagon City to Aura Pentagon City, saw its first building rise in 2000 and second building in 2002, according to county records. The Polinger purchase, which closed May 1, came around the same time Amazon announced the first round of job postings for its second headquarters in Crystal City. [Read more here.](#)

New Military-Focused Barber Shop Opens in Crystal City

On April 11, James opened up Blades Like New as his own barber shop inside a Crystal City office building at 2461 S. Clark Street, right in the center of a military contracting hotbed where military uniforms are as

common as suits and sundresses in the hallway. [Read more here.](#)

Planet Fitness Announces New Location in Pentagon Row

Nationwide gym franchise Planet Fitness says it will be opening a new location at 1301 S. Joyce Street in the Pentagon Row shopping center. Planet Fitness isn't the only gym in Pentagon City. Australia-based F45 has a location at 1101 S. Joyce Street, also at Pentagon Row. So far there's now word yet on when Planet Fitness plans to open. [Read more here.](#)

New Pentagon Fashion Center Store

UNTUCKit, a clothing brand focused on untucked, professional shirts, has just launched a new store in Pentagon City. The new store opened in mid-May on the second floor of the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City mall.

Arlington County Issues

Primary Elections June 11



June 11 @ 6:00 am - 7:00 pm .
Democratic primaries only on June 11. Check your district information to [Find out what's on your ballot.](#)

Absentee Voting runs Friday, **April 26th to Saturday, June 8th** for the

June 11 Democratic Primary.

Arlington County is seeking input on our Shared Mobility Devices (SMD) demonstration project, which started in October 2018.

In Arlington, SMDs include electric-assist bikes (e-bikes) and electric-assist scooters (e-scooters) that do not



require a station. The County will use community feedback along with comments

submitted to mobility@arlingtonva.us, Police Department data, SMD operator data, and other sources to inform recommendations to the County Board about the future of Shared Mobility Devices in Arlington.

The online feedback form will take about 15-20 minutes to complete. It is divided into four sections on e-scooters, dockless e-bikes, Arlington travelers and demographics. All feedback is welcome, even if you have never used one of these devices in Arlington County. [Submit your feedback by June 19.](#)

SPRC Citizens Guide

Ever wonder how development projects get researched and approved? Wonder how the County's planning process is done? [Here's the new guide](#) to tell you how it happens, written in simple language. It is general and non-technical so that someone without prior insight should be able to understand what an SPRC is and is not. It is explicitly noted that while SPRC meetings are public, they are more in the vein of working group sessions than public hearings with testimony.

Arlington County Profile

Do you know how many veterans live in Arlington? Or how many people rent versus own their homes? What about the number of languages spoken by students in Arlington Public Schools? Or how many people take transit or bike to work? Have you ever wondered how many square feet of new development is under construction in the County?

The questions you can answer by thumbing through Arlington's 2019 County Profile are many. For more than three decades, our Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) has compiled this annual report highlighting the latest data and statistics on population, housing, employment, development, transportation, community resources and more.

[EXPLORE ONLINE: Arlington's 2019 County Profile](#)

School Board Approves \$669.5 Million APS Budget

The Arlington School Board unanimously passed a \$669.5 million budget May 9. The budget includes funding for Arlington's continually expanding school enrollment, with 1,000 more students expected to attend class in the county next year alone. Members also approved a \$10.7 million pay increase for Arlington Public Schools staff and funded a study to evaluate salary structure ideas for the future, such as using cost-of-living adjustments instead of discretionary "step" increases. [Read more here.](#)

Renaming Jeff Davis Highway

On May 15 the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the County's request to rename Jefferson Davis Highway "Richmond Highway," to match the revised names in Alexandria and Fairfax Counties.

No More Glass Recycling

Due to the lack of a market for recycled glass, the County now asks residents to put all glass items in their black trash bins. Placing your glass in blue curbside



recycling carts is no longer an economically or environmentally sustainable recycling option for Arlington County. Glass dropped off in the purple

bins at the Quincy Park (N. Quincy & Washington Blvd) and Arlington Trades Center (2700 S. Taylor St.) recycling collection sites is crushed thanks to Fairfax County Government and used for paving and landscaping projects in Northern Virginia. Arlington is looking to add more glass-only drop-off bins around the County. [Read more why and how here.](#)

Did You Miss the Housing Arlington Community Kickoff?

[Watch it online](#), and share your thoughts on affordable and "missing middle" housing.

County Board Salary Survey

What salary do Arlingtonians think would be commensurate with the time required to perform the important local and regional responsibilities of an Arlington County Board Member? The County Board will hold a public hearing and possibly set a new salary cap at its June meeting. Before then, the Board wants to know what Arlingtonians think about what Board members should be paid. Share your thoughts with the Arlington County Board. [The survey is open until June 12.](#) All responses will be factored into the Board's discussion at its June meeting.

Rock-n-Recycle: Solid Waste Bureau's Open House

Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 2700 S. Taylor St. Directions: Head to the top of the hill, which is technically 4300 29th St. S. Arlington's first annual "Rock-n-Recycle Open House" brings the County's Earth Products Yard to life! Go behind the scenes with the County's Solid Waste Bureau to explore the world of recycling, trash-to-energy and other key environmental services. Get up close with:

- Big trucks and machines – including the Rock Crusher, Tub Grinder and Food Composter
- More than 30 hands-on learning stations
- The Arlington Art Truck and creative fun for kids
- Music, food trucks, more
- Bring food waste for composting and clean, dry glass bottles and jars for recycling.

- Free on-site parking. Food will be available for purchase. This is a zero waste event.

The Plan to Turn Compost into a Food Bank's Fresh Produce

Arlington County is turning trash into treasure by growing thousands of pounds of fresh produce for a local food bank using compost from residents. Last February, Arlington's Solid Waste Bureau began a pilot program to create compost from residents' food scraps. Now some of that compost is coming full circle and being used in some of the local gardens that supply fresh produce for Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Turn your compost in weekly at the Tuesday Farmers Market in Crystal City, 2100 Crystal Drive.

Arlington County Receives Governor's Highway Safety Award

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and Department of Environmental Services (DES) were awarded the 2019 Governor's Transportation Safety Award in the category of Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety at the 2019 Virginia Highway Safety Summit. The award recognizes the collaborative efforts of ACPD, DES Transportation Engineering and Operations, Bike Arlington, Walk Arlington, the Bicycle Advisory Commission and the Pedestrian Advisory Commission on the development and implementation of a multi-faceted plan to reduce pedestrian and bicycle-involved crashes in Arlington County. [Read more here.](#)

Limitless Opportunities to Contribute Time and Talent

By the time we're 55, we've accumulated more than half a century of life experience. Absent a way to use them, the knowledge, skills and wisdom we've gained could go underutilized. That's where Volunteer Arlington and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program of Northern Virginia, known as RSVP, come in. The two organizations connect seniors with volunteer opportunities based on their skills, experiences and — maybe most of all — their passions.

[Read more here.](#)

Get the Know-How to 'Make the Right Call'

The Arlington County Fire Department wants to help people know when — and when not — to call 911. [Learn more here.](#)

Arlington's Tourism Ambassador: Meet AED's Robert "Mo" Rouse

If in the past five years you've hit one of the County's hot spots, stayed in a hotel, or attended a large-scale event, chances are you've been in the orbit of Robert "Mo" Rouse. Part-concierge, part-ambassador for tourists and

other visitors to Arlington, Mo is the Visitor Services and Film Office Coordinator for the

[Arlington Convention and Visitors Service.](#)

Arlington Ranked Fittest 'City' in the Country

Arlington County is ranked the fittest "city" in America, according to a new report by the American College of Sports Medicine. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Surpasses D.C. in Bike Friendliness Rating

Arlington County rode ahead of D.C. in a newly-released bike friendliness rating. The county was ranked No. 5 nationally for best urban area to bicycle, in rankings compiled by Colorado-based PeopleForBikes. The District of Columbia ranked No. 15. Boulder, Colorado was No. 1. [Read more here.](#)

Other Issues

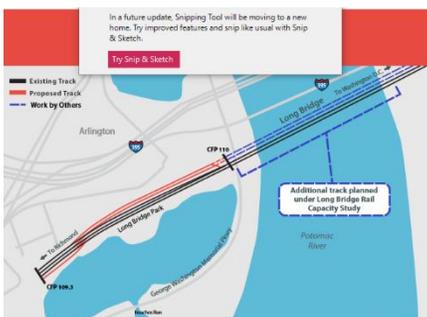
Six Blue & Yellow line Metro stations closed May 25-Sept 8

Starting Saturday, **May 25**, the six Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will be closed for full platform reconstruction and major station improvements. The following stations will remain closed through Sunday, September 8, 2019: Braddock Rd, King St-Old Town, Eisenhower Ave, Huntington, Van Dorn St & Franconia-Springfield.

Metro has worked with regional transportation agencies to develop a robust travel alternative network to help residents navigate the rail shutdown. Travel alternatives include five free shuttle bus routes with free parking at three Metro stations; additional service on local Metrobus routes; convenient DASH, Fairfax Connector, and OmniRide routes; Virginia Railway Express and Amtrak, and more. [Visit wmata.com/platforms](http://www.wmata.com/platforms) for more information, including detailed maps and shuttle bus information.

Major Metrorail Project to Impact Reagan National Travelers

Normal rail service will operate between the airport and



points north, including Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C. For customers heading south to Alexandria, Va., the free "Blue Line Shuttle" bus,

operated by DASH, will depart a short walk from the airport Metro station (follow signs) and stop adjacent to the following Metro stations:

King St.-Old Town

Van Dorn St.

Franconia-Springfield

In addition to Metrorail's rehabilitation program, Project Journey construction continues at the airport this summer — increasing the potential for airport roadway congestion. Customers are encouraged to continue using public transportation to reach Reagan National during this period. Airport travel tips are available [here.](#)

National Airport Construction Advisory

Beginning on or about Sunday, **May 19**, the pedestrian walkway between Terminal B and the Metro station will close nightly from 11:30 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. Passengers



will follow detour signage to the walkway in Terminal C. Access between terminal, Metro station and terminal garages will be maintained via detour. The closure will permit crews to prepare the walkways for integration into two new 50,000-square-foot security checkpoint structures. The closure will take place nightly on the Terminal B walkway for several weeks, then switch to the Terminal C walkway. After the preparatory work is finished, customers will shift to a narrowed protected walkway until heavy construction of two new security checkpoints is complete, estimated for 2021.

DC2RVA Final EIS

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) have released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast Rail Project for public review. A formal Record of Decision is expected later this summer, following a 30-day review/wait period. To view the Final EIS electronically [please visit the Project website.](#)

An approximately 1-mile section in Arlington from the south side of the Potomac River to Crystal City that includes the approach to the existing two-track Long Bridge, which crosses the Potomac River between

Washington, D.C. and Arlington, VA. The Long Bridge is the subject of a separate environmental study being led by DDOT to expand capacity of the crossing to four-tracks. There are no intercity passenger rail stations located in Area 1.

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.



President	Carol Fuller
Vice President for Policy and Planning	Judy Freshman
Secretary	Claudia Yarus
Treasurer	Eric Cassel
Communications Director	Stuart Mize
Membership Liaison	Zach Komes (by appointment)

Established January 28, 2014

Join on our website:

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

Pay through PayPal

Or send a check for \$10 to:

Eric Cassel
Treasurer, CCCA
1300 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202