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

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## Notices

### Reminder to Pay Annual Dues

The 2016 dues of \$10.00 per voting member for membership in the Association were due by **January 1, 2016**. You can use the form on the website "Join" page or just send a check to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

### For Quick Updates on Issues and Events

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

# Civic Association Issues

## Save the Date: Next CCCA General Meeting: March 16, 7-9 pm

Our next CCCA General Meeting will be a fun evening about Arts, Crafts, Food and Entertainment in Crystal City. **HEAR FROM THOSE WHO MAKE CRYSTAL CITY UNIQUE! JALEO RESTAURANT, SYNETHIC THEATER, TECH SHOP, ARTS STUDIO LEADERS WILL SHARE THEIR INSIGHTS. A SOCIAL TIME FOR VISITING WILL BE INCLUDED.**

Crystal Park Condo, 1805 Crystal Drive, community room

## Important Communication from CCCA Executive Board With Arlington County Board

Please see our website for important information on issues we continue to raise with the County Board.

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

## What do you want to know about?

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

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

## Community Meeting Long Bridge Phase II - Rescheduled

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) held a rescheduled community meeting for the Long Bridge Phase II Study **Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, at L'Enfant Plaza Club Room, Promenade Level, 470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington. The existing two-track railroad bridge is owned by CSX Transportation (CSXT) and serves CSXT freight, intercity passenger (Amtrak), and commuter rail (Virginia Railway Express). DDOT completed a feasibility study of the Long Bridge in January 2015 (Phase I), which included a preliminary operations plan, visual inspection of the

corridor, and initial evaluation of existing and future capacity needs.

The Long Bridge Phase II Study, currently underway, will expand on the information from Phase I to advance National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To streamline the NEPA process, the Phase II Study will include the development of a draft purpose and need statement, conceptual alternatives, and evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria will be used to screen and identify alternatives which will be carried forward for analysis in the NEPA study. The Long Bridge Phase II Study will also include the preliminary identification of environmental and sensitive resources within the project corridor. **For more information, visit: [www.longbridgeproject.com](http://www.longbridgeproject.com) or call (202) 671-2218.**

## Letter on Proposed New School for 22201

On February 17, the Chair of the Arlington County School Board provided a response to the three civic associations--Crystal City, Aurora Highlands, and Arlington Ridge--concerning the need to locate a second elementary school in our area east of I-395 to relieve the pressure on Oakridge Elementary School. Projections continue to predict a large increase in population for this overloaded school district. See the letter on our [website](#).

## Rules Set for New Bus Lanes in Crystal City, Potomac Yard

In January, the County Board approved an ordinance establishing rules for how new bus-only lanes in Crystal City and Potomac Yard will be used and enforced. The lanes are part of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway project. Read the [press release](#).

The ordinance covers two types of bus lanes in the area:

**Exclusive lanes** – In Potomac Yard, between Four Mile Run and 26th Street South, these lanes are physically separated from general traffic. The lanes will be used for transit and emergency vehicles at all times.

**Rush hour lane** – In Crystal City, between 26th Street South and 15th Street South, one lane on northbound Crystal Drive and one lane on southbound South Bell/Clark Street will be dedicated to transit vehicles and right-turning vehicles during peak weekday travel hours.



For more information, see the County [website](#).

### StonebridgeCarras to transform industrial park opposite Potomac Yard

The first phase of the 1.5 million-square-yard Oakville project is expected to kick off in 2017 and be completed in two years. See [press release](#).



## Arlington County Issues

### County Manager Proposes \$1.19 Billion FY 2017 Budget

On February 18 Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz previewed for the County Board a proposed \$1.19 billion Base Budget for FY 2017 that is balanced and is a 2.8 percent increase above the FY 2016 adopted budget. The manager also proposed that the \$6.2 million in higher-than-projected revenues now expected be used to fund a tax rate reduction and more investments. The core budget (not including the \$6.2 million) includes \$13.2 million more funding for Arlington Public Schools,

hiring of police, fire and sheriff staff, and increased investment in infrastructure and economic development. Schwartz previewed the Proposed Budget at a work session with the Board, and will formally present it at the Tuesday, Feb. 23 County Board Meeting, where the Board will also consider requests to advertise proposed taxes and fees for FY 2017. [See press release.](#)

### Arlington proposes half-cent cut in property tax rate

Arlington County manager Mark Schwartz on February 18 proposed a \$1.19 billion budget for the coming fiscal year that would slightly cut the property tax rate, although higher assessments would still boost the average residential tax bill by \$189. The proposed half-cent rate cut was made possible by revenues that have come in \$6.2 million higher than expected, including an average increase in the value of a single-family home or condo of about \$50,000 in the past two years. The county board cut the tax rate by 1 cent two years ago; it did not change the rate last year. [See Washington Post article.](#)

### APS Online Survey For 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Arlington Public Schools is seeking input through a community survey as it develops its ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) during spring 2016. The CIP process will result in recommendations to the School Board for enhancing instructional opportunities and addressing capacity challenges in APS schools due to projected steady enrollment growth. The CIP adopted by the School Board in June 2016 will affect students and families at all grade levels. The survey is broken down into questions at the elementary, middle and high school levels and will help to develop the Capital Improvement Plan presented to the School Board for adoption this spring. The deadline for this survey is March 4th.

Feedback forms:

–English

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APSCIP2017>

–Español

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APSCIP2017ESP>

In addition to the online survey, forums are being held to provide opportunities for community discussion. All meetings will be at 7 p.m. on these dates at the locations listed below

Wednesday, Feb. 24 –Washington-Lee HS Auditorium  
 Wednesday, Mar. 30 – Washington-Lee HS Auditorium  
 Wednesday, Apr. 13 – Thomas Jefferson MS Auditorium

For more information about the CIP process, please visit the APS More Seats for More Students webpage at [www.apsva.us/moreseats](http://www.apsva.us/moreseats).

## Renters Rate Arlington as One of Best in Country

Apartment List has released Arlington's results from the first annual Apartment List Renter Satisfaction Survey. The **survey**, which drew on responses from over 18,000 renters, provides new insights into what states and cities must do to meet the needs of the 105 million American renters nationwide. "Arlington earned one of the best 3 scores in the nation with excellent grades across all categories," says Andrew Tam, Vice President of Data Science at Apartment List. "The US renter population is at its highest level in 20 years, and Arlington clearly meets the needs of this large and highly mobile demographic."

Key findings in Arlington include the following:

- Arlington renters give their city an A+ overall ranking the city #3 across all 100 cities in our study nationwide.
- Arlington's local economy earned an A+, with 45% of renters saying it's on the right track and only 21% saying it's on the wrong track.
- The Washington, DC suburb also received an A+ on plans for homeownership, with 76% of renters saying they expect to buy a house in the future.
- Arlington's worst grades were a pair of A-'s for state and local taxes and quality of local schools.
- Among Washington, DC suburbs covered in our study, Arlington scored the best with an A+, followed by Silver Spring (A-), Alexandria (B+), and College Park (C+).
- The top rated cities nationwide for city satisfaction were Plano, TX; Boston, MA; Arlington, VA; Austin, TX; and Torrance, CA. The lowest rated cities were Newark, NJ; New Haven, CT; Bridgeport, CT; Hartford, CT; and Columbia, SC.

## Arlington's nonprofits prove cost effective and collaborative

The 14 nonprofit organizations that provide "safety net" services in Arlington County are cost effective, collaborate with one another, rescue the most vulnerable residents and contribute to the local economy, a major new report on the sector said. See [Washington Post article](#) February 17.

## I-66 Public Hearings Rescheduled

The Virginia Department of Transportation announced that the I-66 Inside the Beltway Design Public Hearings

are now rescheduled for **March 7, 8, and 9**. Updated information will be provided as soon as the new dates and locations are confirmed. Check [Transform66.org](http://Transform66.org) for the latest information.

The I-66 Inside the Beltway Design Public Hearings are intended to provide information on how the dynamically-priced toll lanes will operate, proposed locations and design of toll gantries and pricing signs, and an opportunity to view displays and provide public comments.

### Monday, March 7, 2016

Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria  
1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

### Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Eagle Ridge Middle School Cafeteria  
42901 Waxpool Road, Ashburn, VA 20148

### Wednesday, March 9, 2016

**Visit [Transform66.org](http://Transform66.org) to view a live stream beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office  
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

## McAuliffe announces deal on I-66 HOT lanes that would speed up highway widening

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) announced February 10 that he has agreed to speed up the widening of Interstate 66 inside the Capital Beltway as a compromise with state legislators who were opposed to imposing tolls on those nine miles of highway before an expansion. The deal is the latest significant compromise McAuliffe has reached with the Republican-controlled General Assembly, following an agreement on gun regulations announced in January, and it already is drawing strong reaction from supporters and opponents.

See [article](#).



## County Board Statement on I-66 Proposal

*The following statement is from Chair Libby Garvey, on behalf of the Arlington County Board:*

We are disappointed with the news of the amended plan for I-66, which will immediately widen I-66. We respect that Governor McAuliffe and his administration worked hard to protect the earlier plan, which delayed the

widening of I-66 until we had several years' worth of experience with multimodal solutions. We appreciate that — aside from the decision to widen immediately — many of the original elements remain intact:

- Toll revenue is dedicated to multimodal improvements;
- NVTC (our region's transit agency) receives the toll revenue;
- Local governments retain the authority to spend these funds on local projects; and
- Any widening occurs within existing right-of-way.

As the new plan moves forward, Arlington will be vigilant, working to ensure that appropriate environmental analyses are completed efficiently and comprehensively. We will do all we can to mitigate harm from the widening, and we will explore possible improvements to accompany the widening. As always, Arlington will be working to promote improved regional transit. We need frequent, reliable, and comfortable transit systems along the east-west corridor that get people quickly to where they want to go.

### **Opower Announces It Will Keep Headquarters in Arlington**

On February 9, Arlington Economic Development announced that Opower, a leading energy enterprise software company that helps utilities elevate the customer experience, has chosen to continue to call Arlington home. The expanding company recently completed a competitive bid process and will move its headquarters from its current home in Arlington's Courthouse neighborhood to a new building nearby that is currently being constructed. As part of the move, Opower is also expected to add approximately 70 new employees to its workforce within three years. The company will invest \$10.45 million in its new office to attract and retain top talent. See [website](#).

### **38th ACE Annual Meeting: Moving Towards Zero Waste**

Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment for their 38th Annual Meeting introducing the vision for 2016 programming and a presentation on moving Arlington towards zero waste. County staff will review the recent resolution and what it means for Arlingtonians; a case study of the Zero Waste program at American University in Washington, D.C. will be presented; and The Compost Crew will explain their business model and organics processing. Recycling Road Show: interact with experts in a game to determine solutions for disposing of a number of every-day objects and ask your own waste processing questions!

The ACE Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Navy League Building, 2300 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. The meeting is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. See [website](#).

## **Other News:**

### **Bike Races Return to Crystal City**

The Wednesday night spins will kick off March 2 in the 2435 Crystal Drive garage for bicyclists of all abilities with no restrictions on the type of bikes. Interested bicyclists can sign up [online](#). Come watch if you're in for the full event—it's fun.

### **Arlington Historical Society Presents Martha Jefferson Randolph**

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) will host Dr. Billy Wayson, who will speak about his book, "Martha Jefferson Randolph: Republican Daughter and Plantation Mistress" at its next public program on Thursday, March 10. See [website](#).

### **Restaurant Changes**

Sweetgreen opened its trendy salad restaurant at 2200 Crystal Drive on February 11. Johnny Rockets closed in Pentagon City in February and will be replaced by a Garrett Popcorn Shop.

### **Arlington's Forests and Streams: Status of Our Local Ecosystem**

Please join us at the Arlington Central Library Auditorium on March 3, 2016 from 7:00 – 8:45 pm. The speakers are Jen McDonnell of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services and Vincent Verweij of the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation. Jen manages Arlington's volunteer stream citizen science programs and supports local watershed and storm water projects. Vincent is an urban forester with experience in natural resources management, GIS and watershed science. They will address the challenges facing our natural areas. If you love the natural spaces in our area, you will want to hear about the challenges to preserve them.

### **Crystal City BID News**

If you're not yet set up to receive the weekly Newsletter from the Business Improvement District (BID) of happenings in Crystal City, you can view the November 30 Newsletter [here](#) and sign up.

# CCCA OFFICERS

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