

Newsletter

No. 5, 2015

May 2015



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

Previous newsletters are listed on the website

What is the Crystal City Civic Association?

The Crystal City Civic Association was established on January 28, 2014, with the purpose of advancing the common interests of the residents of the Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington County, Virginia. Arlington County's long-term plans for Crystal City entail decades of major change, in accordance with the Crystal City Sector Plan approved in 2010. Those plans call for density to increase by 60% and the number of residents to double by 2050. Such plans will require very thoughtful implementation with input from everyone; many projects are already underway. You can visit the Crystal City/Pentagon City webpage for Arlington County to get an overview of what is being planned: <http://sites.arlingtonva.us/ccpc/revitalization-2/>.

As we grow, the CCCA will increasingly serve as a voice of Crystal City residents. In future newsletters, we will continue to inform our membership of key issues and development projects that will impact all of us. We will occasionally include more in depth articles to help residents learn more about some of the issues our

community is facing. *Commentary in italics reflects our CCCA involvement and experience.*

DUES REMINDER: The annual dues of \$10 are now due for the 2015 calendar year. Please send your dues to Treasurer Diane Oksanen-Gooden at 1200 Crystal Drive. Your CCCA is only as good as your participation and support. We can't do it without you!

COME JOIN US. CRYSTAL CITY NEEDS YOU.

If you are not yet a member of the CCCA, we encourage you to join and become an active participant in crafting the future of our neighborhood. We need lots of help on our committees: Development Issues/Land Use; Transit/Transportation; Open Space; Environmental Issues; Public Safety; and other areas.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

CCCA General Meeting: Tuesday, April 14

Turning from the private to the public sector, we hosted several guest speakers from Arlington County at the April 14 General Meeting held at Crystal Gateway.

First, Crystal House and Steve Yaffee of the Department of Environmental Services' Transportation Division briefed members on their current process of updating the Transit Development Plan for fiscal years 2017-2026 for the County. Arlington's focus on developing high-quality transit is moving more people without more traffic. The Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway is scheduled to formally open this summer, going counterclockwise up Crystal Drive and down Clark and Bell Streets. The curb lane will be closed to all but the ART and Metrobuses from 5-9 am and 3-8 pm. All other shuttle buses will be rerouted to going clockwise down Crystal Drive. For the Crystal City area, FY 2016 service proposals include increasing frequency on the Art 42 buses between Ballston/Pentagon; redirecting Art 42 service from Pentagon to Pentagon City on Saturdays and adding new service on Sundays; increasing Art 43 service frequency from Crystal City to Courthouse to 10 minutes and expanding afternoon service to 7:30 pm.

The speakers explained that they would like to include the input of the areas for which they serve on desired changes in ART and Metrobus routes. **They encourage everyone to complete the online survey on transit needs located at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TDP15>**

Our second speakers were Arlington County Planning Director, Bob Duffy, and Anthony Fusarelli Jr, the newly appointed Planning Coordinator for Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard. Mr. Duffy briefly explained the role of the Planning Department and noted that Steve Cover, newly appointed Director of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD), is a new resident of Crystal City and takes the Art 43 bus to work. Mr. Fusarelli emphasized that he will be a coordinator with County staff on all issues related to Crystal City, including proposals for the new 15th Street "park," and invited contact and comments. They are working closely with developers, property/business owners, civic and neighborhood groups, the Crystal City

BID, and interdepartmental staff to coordinate planning and implementation efforts. Among other issues, participants raised questions about the fairness of distribution of tax resources back to Crystal City, the need for a community center in Long Bridge Park to parallel the four others with swimming pools in the County, and the special needs of Crystal City which is a mixed-use community with no single homes, unlike any other area in the County.

Save the Date. At our next General Meeting **June 17**, we will host Angela Fox, President of the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID). The BID has done a lot in recent years to make Crystal City a more attractive, liveable place. Many of the events they sponsor are listed in our Newsletters. Come hear about their activities and ongoing plans for Crystal City. **Plan to attend the meeting in the Crystal Park Condominium community room at 1805 Crystal Drive.**

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

The series of editorials and articles that follow highlight the changes that urban areas like ours are going to have to make to adjust to changes in demographics. There are many different studies and viewpoints, but change is coming. Read on to get a better understanding.

Arlington County Community Facilities Study (Early CCCA Comments)

This matters to you: how Arlington County's future financial and demographic situation will affect its facilities and services.

The County's 'Community Facilities Study' (CFS), which got underway some months ago, had a rather narrow impetus and has a name which somewhat conceals its fundamental nature and scope. The County had started to encounter problems with the **limited availability of land for public facilities**, but the process for a study of this issue failed to impress the community. Similarly, the realization that the County's student population has recently increased well beyond the existing capacity of the schools has become a major issue, but the County and the School Board nevertheless failed to come to an agreement about an expansion of the Thomas Jefferson school.

These two events caused the County Board and the School Board to agree on a much more fundamental study, moreover with an almost unprecedented degree of community involvement. We already offered a brief introduction in the April Newsletter. Even more information can be obtained from the County's web page

for the project. You are strongly encouraged to follow the CFS through that web page, which also offers a wealth of highly relevant background information for all County residents.

<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/updates/http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>

What makes the CFS so fundamental in its nature is that it does not dive straight into an inventory of facilities and a speculation about the needs which will result from the future population and its preferences. Instead, it starts with a careful examination of the demographic forecasts for Arlington, and a thorough review of what the County's revenue situation may look like for the next 20-30 years, both as a result of the expected population and the anticipated trends regarding commercial development in our area. These two dimensions will then combine to become the starting point for a discussion about expected facility needs and the issues involved in attempting to meet those needs. The following is intended to offer a glimpse of the early discussions, although major conclusions have not started emerging yet.

Demographic factors and economic realities

It has always been felt that Arlington's major asset is its location, close to the employment opportunities in our capital and with an excellent situation regarding both major arteries and public transit. The 'Smart Growth' approach has made for an environment that is walkable and convenient in many ways. The Metro corridors with their density and lively atmosphere have attracted an unusually high proportion of 'millennials' and families have been attracted by high-quality schools. Single-family neighborhoods have remained somewhat protected from the impact of growth.

The question then becomes: what forecasts are appropriate for the next 20-30 years? Will the population continue to grow at a steady pace, as suggested by the County's official forecast of 283,000 for 2040, or are there factors which might lead to a different development? Clearly, our ability to attract and retain residents depends primarily on two aspects: the availability of jobs in the vicinity of Arlington and the availability of suitable housing within our borders. Of course, our future traffic/transit situation, the continued quality of our schools, and our overall quality of life, with access to amenities and facilities (such as open space and parks) will also matter.

As we in Crystal City have noticed, the traditional reliance on Federal Government jobs and office construction is a double-edged sword. There are clear trends suggesting

that Arlington and its residents will need a major employment and business diversification in the future in order to thrive. Moreover, the types of jobs available (and their pay levels) will also play a major role in attracting people to our area and maintaining the high-income situation we have today. This is particularly relevant as Arlington's location tends to translate into high housing costs.

One particular element of uncertainty in the demographic forecasts is that it must reckon with the possibility that habits and preferences of major population segments may shift over 20-30 years. For instance, will we find a trend whereby millennials, who currently are attracted to Arlington, may undertake a major exodus to the outer suburbs, where larger homes, more suited for families, can be found, moreover at more reasonable price levels. This question also arises because the housing situation in Arlington is in a sense quite inflexible. There is simply very little land available for the construction of new homes, and most of the expansion in single-family areas is coming through the tear-down and replacement of smaller houses with larger ones or through additions to existing homes.

It is an uncertain premise that young families will be content with apartment living in the long run, even if large units are built and even if there were to be a trend in favor of more condos. However, one development may serve both to free up homes for young families and to create a demand for school capacity: older home owners may give way to younger families and thus also suddenly change the projections of the school system regarding household size and 'generation factors' for school children in many neighborhoods. It is also possible that, on a countywide basis, this may be the kind of situation that will make the influx of residents to Arlington outpace the exodus.

While the difficult issue of affordable housing for low-income earners is the subject of a separate study, it obviously becomes relevant in the context of demographic forecasting. It has been a difficult struggle for the County to meet its goals regarding affordable housing and to gain more widespread support for this endeavor. At the same time, in the County's plans, the dominant area for development and population increase is the Columbia Pike corridor, which currently is one of the few areas of concentration for affordable housing. How this situation will evolve, particularly after the shelving of the streetcar plans, is going to become an important factor in the demographics equation.

If the demographic assumptions, and all the uncertainties involved, are the main factor in estimating the extent of

the needs that the County will have to expect to meet, then naturally, the assumptions about the future revenue flows are key to the County's ability to meet those needs. Residential real estate taxes constitute one major component, which is directly related to the size of the population size and the housing solutions. But Arlington has benefitted from a situation where those taxes have been roughly matched by the revenue from the commercial real estate side. This means that the access to resources to meet future needs is critically dependent on a continuously thriving office market in the area. Apart from the ability to attract office tenants to Arlington, in the face of a diminishing reliance on the government sector, the County also comes up against endeavors by employers to cut back substantially on office space by drawing more on new technology and modern office environments.

We seem to be at the crossroads – is there a clear vision for meeting new challenges?

While it is not a task of the CFS to develop a vision for the County, the deliberations so far have clearly brought up many questions about the County's preparedness in a situation where many of our fundamentals may be changing. Will we be proactive in dealing with the housing situation and the underlying policies for how to use our limited land area appropriately? Are we doing enough to improve our ability to attract office tenants? Do we have a common view among our residents about what kind of community we need/want to be in the future? And is there a sense of unity among us regarding the collaboration and the resources required to prosper in the long term? These are interesting and important questions, providing a context for the more hard-nosed questions regarding facility needs, prioritizing and siting, which will be coming up later in the CFS process.

Now For Another View. Is Arlington County Really Going to Grow?

According to a *Washington Post* article April 20, after decades of expansion, new census numbers show that population growth in the Washington region has slowed dramatically, with Fairfax County, Arlington County and Alexandria seeing more people move out of those communities than move in over the past year. The numbers offer stark evidence that a region defined for much of the last half-century for its affluence and growth is entering a different phase, when federal spending cuts are slowing job gains and declining suburbs are presenting new challenges for local leaders — even as pockets of extreme wealth continue to boom. The new census estimates show a dramatic trend in “outmigration” last year, with the number of people

moving away on the rise — and the number moving in going down.

Local and regional officials say that they've been anticipating a slowdown in population growth for several years. The recent federal sequestration cuts showed how dependent the region is on government spending, so local officials are working to attract different industries, such as cybersecurity or personalized medicine, said Paul DesJardin, director of community planning and services at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

But there are signs of a looming shift in the schools, too; officials anticipate that demographic trends will lead to a steady drop over the next decade in the number of children younger than 5. That may alter school planning, park services and summer camps, officials said.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/washington-area-population-increase-slowing-down-census-figures-indicate/2015/04/19/34683abo-d7b5-11e4-8103-fa84725dbf9d_story.html

Changes in Demographics: The rise of singles will change how we live in cities

An April 21 Washington Post Workblog highlights the changes in demographics that are engendering changes in housing.

Over the last half-century in America, it's become acceptable, then increasingly common, then entirely unremarkable, to live alone. Women who once lived with their families until their wedding day now live alone. Men delaying marriage later into their 20s live alone. Divorcés, more common today than in 1950, live alone. And seniors who live longer now than ever before — and who are less likely to spend those years in a retirement home — increasingly live alone, too. As a result of all these shifts, more than a quarter of households in the U.S. now contain one person, alone. In 1940, it was about 7 percent.

This trend has all kinds of consequences, including a particularly problematic one for where we live: Our housing stock wasn't built for a society full of singles. Our communities instead are full of homes meant for the traditional nuclear family — two-bedroom starter homes, three-bedroom houses, apartments with more bathrooms than a singleton needs, full-service kitchens when 25-year-old bachelors now primarily dine by microwave.

The rise of singles calls in particular for more micro housing: apartments the size of studios or even smaller,

and "accessory dwelling units" (think in-law cottages or garage apartments) that might be built in the back yard of existing homes. It also calls for a different model of housing where, for instance, four singles might share a communal living space adjacent to their separate units instead of each having their own living room.

Many of these smaller units are decidedly up-scale, with high rents and communal luxuries like club rooms. But micro housing could also, in theory, be affordable housing, making cities like Washington accessible to single people who can't even afford a studio today.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/04/21/how-the-rise-of-singles-will-change-how-we-live-in-cities/?wpisrc=nl_wnkpm&wpmm=1

And What About Development?

Vornado and the Crystal City BID have worked hard to deal with the impact of the BRAC and change Crystal City into a more vibrant urban area attractive to Millennials. But is change coming fast enough?

This month, the chairman and chief executive, Steven Roth, of Vornado Realty Trust, the \$20 billion New York-based real estate firm, told investors he was considering splitting off another aspect of Vornado: its Washington portfolio. In the Washington area, nearly 7.5 million out of 16.1 million square feet of Vornado's holdings are in Crystal City, which has been battered by vacancy and government cutbacks. Like the shopping properties before it, the Washington portfolio is viewed as a negative for the company's stock. Analysts from Stifel Nicolaus issued a report in February calling Crystal City Vornado's "last value drag."

If Vornado's local office were set loose it would be a return to the past, when the portfolio grew as the empire of developer Charles E. Smith. Smith founded the company in 1946 and it had run independently for 51 years when Vornado bought its first stake. Vornado owned one-third of the Smith commercial portfolio by 1999, and bought the rest of the commercial unit in 2002.

Jonathan Morris, a former director of real estate finance for the Smith Cos. who was close with the family, said that save a couple of missteps — such as the Skyline office properties in Falls Church — the Smith portfolio in Washington was primed to bounce back.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/digger/wp/2015/04/20/vornado-examines-its-future-in-washington-and-ponders-changes/>

Update on the Kimco block (Costco)

On April 23rd the Arlington County Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) met to review the proposed Pentagon Centre Phase 1 Site Plan Amendments on the large block which includes the existing COSTCO outlet. As previously reported, Costco will remain in place until phase three which is estimated to be at least 30 years from now.

The master plan for the site was approved in 2008, with Phase 1 to include two high rise office buildings on Hayes Street at the corners of 12th Street (Building A) and 15th Street (Building C), as well as a parking garage midblock along South 15th Street (Building D).

KIMCO, the owner/developer, is now proposing an amendment to change the use of the two high rise office buildings (Buildings A & C) to residential/rental. The density and height of both buildings will remain the same. Both towers will have street level retail and each building will have its own secured parking.

Phase 1 also includes a parking garage (Building D), originally approved for 850 spaces. Under the site plan amendment the parking structure will be smaller because the two residential towers will have dedicated, secured parking. Overall when the garage is completed the number of retail parking spaces will be unchanged. (The parking garage is an interim use as the plan is to replace it with a hotel in phase three.)

The SPRC discussion focused primarily on the architecture of the three buildings. Participants generally favored the designs of the residential towers although there were several comments about the balcony extensions in Building C and the proposed screening of the parking in both Buildings A & C. Due to the constraints of Metro being under Hayes Street, the 2008 approval permitted above grade parking within the buildings. The committee was critical of the façade treatment of the garage (Building D).

The existing retail complex (CVS, Nordstrom Rack, etc.) will be updated as it will remain in place for many years until phase 2 is constructed. For that reason, the committee requested renderings of all four sides of Buildings A & C, and for the garage (Building D) as well, since it also will be very visible from all sides for years.

The next SPRC meeting on the project will be May 11, at which time the applicant will present additional architectural renderings and the committee will discuss open space and transportation issues related to the proposed amendments.



Quick Updates

400 Army-Navy Drive: Internal demolition to start in June; building will begin to come down in September.

The Bartlett (12&Eads): On target for first apartments to be ready for move-in in mid 2016; Whole Foods to open late 2016.

Plaza 6: approval by County Board expected in May for the change of top two floors from WeLive to WeWork; ready to move people in in late 2015 or early 2016.

Pentagon Centre: Next SPRC meeting will be on April 23.

Long Bridge Park Study: Status (as of April 2015): Feasibility Study currently under review by Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Environmental Impact Study (EIS) expected to begin in fall of 2015. <http://longbridgeproject.com/>

Potomac Yard Metro Station: Status: Status (as of April 2015): The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released for public review. The project team is currently developing the Draft EIS.

<http://potomacyardmetro.com/index.html><http://potomacyardmetro.com/index.html>

DC2RVA Southeast High Speed Rail Project: Work is under way on a Tier II environmental impact study (EIS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, and preliminary engineering for a 123 mi high-speed rail corridor between the Washington, D.C., metro area and Richmond. The corridor, which passes

through heavily urbanized areas and a Civil War battlefield, is a key link to extending high-speed passenger rail service along the East Coast. The \$55-million EIS and preliminary engineering project, which is slated for completion in late 2017, is funded by DRPT via a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration, and a contribution from the host railroad, CSX. A new quarterly e-newsletter covers important project updates about the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Project. If you would like to receive your own copy, join the email list:

http://www.dc2rvarail.com/contact-us/?utm_source=WhatCounts+Publicaster+Edition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DC2RVA+Rail+Mail&utm_content=Join+the+Email+List.

Site Chosen for Potomac Yard Metro

Staff for the city of Alexandria have picked a preferred site for the proposed Potomac Yard Metro station. The City Council is slated to vote on the recommendation next month. The preferred plan is to build a \$268 million station just east of the existing Potomac Yard Retail Center, on a site that intrudes on the George Washington Parkway's scenic easement, but "yields the most economic benefit to the city," according to a city report. The site is the best location to leverage the high-density development of office, commercial and residential uses envisioned for the area, officials say.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/04/27/and-the-potomac-yard-metro-station-site-will-be/?wprss=rss_local-virginia-social&wpisrc=nl_va&wpm=1

External Lighting Programs Require County Permits

A Crystal City resident brought to the attention of the CCCA and County staff at our last General Meeting April 14 a lighting program that a management company was proposing for the exterior of three of its apartment buildings in Crystal City. The plan would involve a pattern of multicolor lights flashing on the exterior of the buildings. Concerns were raised that such a program would not be appropriate for our neighborhood. County zoning staff subsequently advised that lighting programs like that proposed are regulated by both the sign ordinance and the zoning ordinances and that permits would be required from the County before any work can begin. If Gates Hudson elects to move forward with the permit request, there will likely be public hearings and opportunities for the community to comment.

1776 Expands to Arlington; Acquires Disruption

In an exciting partnership designed at creating a stronger regional innovation economy, global startup incubator and seed fund 1776 has announced it will be expanding to Crystal City as part of the growing technology hub there. As part of the move, 1776 will acquire Disruption Corporation, integrating Crystal City's leading startup platform into 1776's larger portfolio of offerings and accelerating 1776's ability to support startups, corporations and private investors with game-changing tools. 1776 will partner with Washington-area real estate leader Vornado/Charles E. Smith to open a new campus in the rapidly emerging innovation hub of Crystal City, enabling 1776 to connect startups to the powerful talent, expertise, corporations and government agencies in Crystal City and throughout Virginia.

1776's expansion into Crystal City is the latest in a number of startups operating in emerging industries. Because of the area's large concentration of the world's most important government agencies and corporations, Crystal City has become home to a growing community of startups operating in those industries where government is a key player.

<http://www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/economic-update/2015/april/1776-expands-to-arlington-acquires-disruption-corporation/>

Background on the Transit Development Plan Process

This year the County is starting work on its next major Transit Development Plan update. It will result in a new longer-term 10-year plan for service and capital improvements. The Transit Development Plan will:

- Identify transit goals
- Prioritize improvements
- Include recommendations for new transit service on the Columbia Pike and Crystal City-Pentagon City corridors

The first step includes an analysis of transit service in Arlington and a review of travel and ridership trends. We are seeking community input through a survey, which asks for feedback on:

- Where and when you want to travel?
- What type of service improvements would you like to see?
- What would make it easier for you to take transit?

An online survey is available now by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/s/TDP15.

The link to the survey is also available on the County website – visit arlingtonva.us and search "transit development plan." The survey, available in English and Spanish, will be open until May 15.

AARP Liveability Index

Are you considering staying put as you grow older, but aren't sure whether it would be a wise move? A new online rating tool published by AARP April 20 ranks nearly every neighborhood in the United States on its suitability for aging-in-place.

The [AARP Livability Index](#) uses factors such as safety, security, ease of getting around, access to health care, housing affordability, and even the prevalence of WiFi, farmers markets and public policies that promote successful aging. Overall, the District ranked best in the metro area, with a score of 58. Montgomery County edged Fairfax County, 59 to 57. Maryland came in at 54, and Virginia scored 51. Crystal City comes in from 61-65 depending where you live. Check it out.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/04/20/is-your-community-a-good-place-to-grow-old-plug-your-zip-code-into-aarp-tool-to-find-out/>

Closing of S. Hayes Street

Private contractor, Commercial Riggins Inc., will be closing South Hayes Street between 12th and 15th Streets South starting on Saturday, May 2 at 1 a.m. until Sunday, May 3 at 1 a.m. The closure is for a crane lift of an air conditioning unit on top of the Ritz Carlton Hotel next to Pentagon City Mall. Drivers, pedestrians and cyclists are asked to seek alternate routes.

Arlington County Issues

Arlington Moves to Digital Scanner Voting Machines

Beginning with the June 2015 Democratic primary, Arlington County will use new digital scanner voting machines. The new system uses a paper ballot, which is digitally scanned into the ballot box. Arlington's Electoral Board approved the move at its meeting last night. The new system has two primary advantages:

- When polls are very busy, more voters can mark ballots at any given time, limited only to how many marking stations can fit in a polling place. With the old machines, only a limited number could be deployed to each polling place. Any individual voter could tie up a machine if s/he took a long time.
- The paper-based system provides a durable record of all votes cast. If, for example, a polling place loses electricity, voting can continue with paper without interruption. The ballots can be inserted into the scanner later by pollworkers, or in the worst-case scenario, they can be counted by hand. The durable record includes both a digital image of the ballot, as well as the paper ballot itself.

Arlington's evaluation and procurement process to replace its aging electronic voting machines has been underway for a number of months. The process is being expedited, in response to the Commonwealth's Board of Elections, which recently stated its intention to de-certify electronic voting machines. Arlington had previously used the digital scanners to supplement its electronic machines during the November 2012 Presidential election.

Since 2007, Virginia law prohibits localities from purchasing electronic voting machines. Localities, including Arlington, which already own such machines may continue to use them, but when the machines are ready for replacement, the new system must be paper-based. Arlington is now at that point.

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-moves-to-digital-scanner-voting-machines/>

Voting Machine Open House

Voters can check out the new system at the May 9 Voting Machine Open House, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Ground Floor Lobby. This will be the first opportunity for Arlington residents to check out our NEW voting system, as well as the only opportunity before the June 9 Democratic Primary, where it will be used for the first time. Some additional demonstration dates will be scheduled in the fall.

View details, directions, and transportation options:

<http://vote.arlingtonva.us/events/voting-machine-open-house/>

Arlington Cuts Real Estate Tax Late Payment Penalty

The Arlington County Board voted April 18 to lower the late payment penalty for real estate taxes from 10 percent to 5 percent for the first 30 days after the due date. The penalty for delinquent real estate taxes not paid within 30 days following the due date will remain unchanged at 10 percent.

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-cuts-real-estate-tax-late-payment-penalty/>

Arlington County Board Adopts FY 2016 Budget

On April 21 the Arlington County Board adopted a \$1.16 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, that includes no tax rate hike while adding funding for Schools and economic development to the County Manager's Proposed Budget. In balancing the budget, the Board kept the real estate tax rate of \$.996 per \$100 of assessed value, the same level as CY 2014 (including the sanitary district tax). Both County government and Arlington Public Schools (APS) took budget cuts so that Arlingtonians would not see a tax rate increase. The County's General Fund Budget will increase 1.1 percent from the FY 2015 Adopted Budget. The County's funding of Schools will increase 4.5 percent. Read the details in the news release or on the website:

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-county-board-adopts-fy-2016-budget/>

County board candidates address affordable housing

The Alliance for Housing Solutions asked the six Democratic candidates participating in the June 9 primary for County Board to respond to three questions on affordable housing. Read their responses here.

<http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org/county-board-candidates-address-affordable-housing/>

Officers to Conduct Joint Sobriety Checkpoint on May 1, 2015

On Friday, May 1, 2015 the Arlington County Police Department will conduct a joint sobriety checkpoint with assistance from the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and the Fairfax County Police Department across two jurisdictions. These enforcement efforts are in support of the U.S.

Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) National crackdown program on drunk driving that focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness through advertising and publicity.

Officers will stop all vehicles passing through the checkpoint and ask to see the licenses of drivers. Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be directed to a safe area off the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

The maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction for driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2,500 fine and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges.

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/officers-to-conduct-joint-sobriety-checkpoint-on-may-1-2015/>

Agenda for May 7 School Board Meeting

The agenda for the May 7, 2015 School Board Meeting is posted on BoardDocs at:

<https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/vpublic?open>

The following action items are scheduled for this meeting:

1. School Board Final FY 2016 Budget
2. Revised 2016 School Calendar
3. Abingdon Schematic Design

Background documents for the meeting will be posted on BoardDocs at the URL above by the close of business on Monday, May 4. Citizens may sign up electronically to speak at this meeting until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6 at: www.apsva.us/schoolboard/speak

Speakers also may sign up on the night of the meeting by filling out and submitting a Request to Speak form to the Clerk before the desired agenda item is announced by the Chair. Request to Speak forms will be available outside the Board room on the night of the meeting.

Notice from Arlington County Environmental Services

Residents may notice a change in smell and taste of their water from March 23-May 4 due to a safe routine disinfectant switch from chloramine to chlorine. The annual switch is to clean and maintain our drinking water system.

http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2015/03/FAQs-Temporary-Disinfectant-Switch_2015.pdf

What's that taste in the water?

According to a Washington Post March 18 article, tap water in the District, Arlington and Fairfax County could have an unusual odor or taste beginning March 23, when part of the region's drinking water supply will be temporarily treated with chlorine, water utilities said.

The Washington Aqueduct will use chlorine to disinfect water until May 4 as part of an annual program to clean and maintain local drinking water systems. Such cleanings are routine for U.S. water systems that use chloramine as a disinfectant the rest of the year, said DC Water officials.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/03/18/some-washington-area-tap-water-soon-could-have-chlorine-smell-taste/?wprss=rss_local-arlington-social&wpisrc=nl_arlington&wpm=1

Police Alert

The Arlington County Police Department's Special Victims Unit is investigating a subject involved in a sexual assault and are seeking additional victims.

The suspect, 54 year-old Olaseni Cole, was charged with sexual battery stemming from an incident on April 14, 2015. Cole, an Arlington County housing inspector, had touched a female victim inappropriately during a home inspection in the 3900 block of 8th Street South. Cole was arrested and held without bond in the Arlington County Detention Facility.

Anyone who has had past inappropriate encounters with this suspect is asked to call Detective N. Brooks at 703.228.4169 or email nkbrooks@arlingtonva.us. To

report information anonymously, contact the Arlington County Crime Solvers at 866.411.TIPS (8477).

Retail Plan Public Forums

Arlington Economic Development will hold a second public forum May 7 from 7-9 pm in the Walter Reed Community Center (2909 16th St S) Multipurpose Rooms B & C to discuss the Retail Plan. Since the County Board work session in January, they have been working toward creating a document that provides adequate flexibility to address shifts in retail markets and trends while supporting the shared vision for retail in Arlington. Arlington will be a community where retail is convenient, appealing, activating and sustainable; that provides interest and authenticity, entertainment and experiences, and goods and services to residents, employees and visitors; and where local, independent, regional and national businesses thrive.

Why should you be interested?

Arlington has used the term retail in numerous ways: sales, services, repairs, food & drinking establishments and sometimes to describe uses and activities that function like retail ("retail equivalents"). The Retail Plan, in particular the maps, indicate where these categories of uses are envisioned within Arlington's Planning Corridors (Rosslyn – Ballston, Jefferson Davis and Columbia Pike). We want to discuss how we developed the maps and learn how these maps resonate with the community.

What is the purpose of the Retail Plan?

The Arlington County Retail Plan expresses an explicit vision statement for retail in Arlington. Grounded in a shared vision of "a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods...[1]" and the work of the Retail Task Force of the Economic Development Commission, the retail vision addresses the conventions and idiosyncrasies of retail and the need to serve Arlington's business and residential communities.

Arlington will be a community where retail is convenient, appealing, activating and sustainable; that provides interest and authenticity, entertainment and experiences, and goods and services to residents, employees and visitors; and where local, independent, regional and national businesses thrive.

<http://www.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/about-aed/major-initiatives/retail-policies/>

Department of Parks and Recreation Community News

For the latest on activities you can join in County Parks, check out the Parks and Recreation website:

<http://parks.arlingtonva.us/>

May Public Hearing Set for Proposed Parking Meter Rate Increase

The Arlington County Board voted unanimously on Saturday, April 18, 2015 to defer action on a proposed increase in parking meter rates, and lengthening of hours of operation, to allow more public discussion. The Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed changes at the May 16, 2015 County Board Meeting.

The Board deferred consideration of a proposed ordinance amendment to raise the maximum parking meter rate by 25 cents per hour, for both long-term and short-term parking, and to add two hours of meter operation. Meters currently operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Under the proposed amendment, they would operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Under the proposal, the maximum hourly rate for metered long-term (four hours or more) parking would rise from \$1 to \$1.25 per hour. The maximum hourly rate for short-term parking would rise from \$1.25 per hour to \$1.50. The proposed rate change will not apply to the 181 metered spaces in six areas of the County with very low occupancy that have rates of \$0.50 or \$0.75 per hour.

The County uses parking meters to encourage parking turnover and to manage curb space, particularly during times of greatest demand. The [Parking Element of Arlington's Master Transportation Plan](#) calls for an optimal parking occupancy rate of 85 percent. The proposed rate increase is a tool that can help achieve this goal. In areas where short-term parking is needed, the rates can help encourage parking turnover and the use of off-street parking garages.

Rates were last raised in 2011. Since then, curbside management pressures and parking operating costs have increased, while Arlington's parking meter rates have remained lower than other rates in the region. Existing rates in neighboring communities range from \$1.25 per hour to \$2 per hour.

County staff have reached out to the business community through the County's Business Improvement Districts, Partnerships, AOBA (Apartment and Office Building Association) and the Chamber of Commerce. The general public were notified through the website and social media. The proposal has been discussed with

the County's Transportation Commission and a public meeting will follow on **May 16**. Those interested may submit comments or questions on the proposal to park@arlingtonva.us.

To learn more about the [proposed changes](#), visit the County website.

Other News:

Are There Two Arlingtons?

*Do you sometimes feel that Crystal City is disadvantaged in Arlington County matters? The May/June issue of **Arlington Magazine** has a good article by G. Stephen Thurston to help understand the history behind Arlington's North-South divide and how it's shaping present-day perceptions and realities.*

<http://www.arlingtonmagazine.com/May-June-2015/Are-There-Two-Arlingtons/>

Upcoming FREE community programs from Virginia Cooperative Extension

Preregister at bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms for [Financial Education Series for Parents](#). Topics include:

Cost of parenting, estate planning and saving for college

May 2, 6, 13, Central Library, 3:00-4:30pm

Money 101 for Young Professionals and Recent Graduates, topics include: financial basics, salary negotiation, student loan debt and investing for your future

May 6, 13, 20, Aurora Hills Branch Library, 7:00-9:00pm

Small Steps to Health and Wealth

May 12 Aurora Hills Branch Library 1:30-3:30pm or

May 19 Aurora Hills Branch Library 7:00-9:00pm

Food Truck Thursdays

Arrive hungry and Spark Scrumptious at [Food Truck Thursdays](#) from 11 AM to 2 PM! The food trucks gather in the parking lot on Crystal Drive between 18th and 20th Streets. Some of the area's favorite trucks including Doug the Food Dude, Kafta Mania, Willie's Po Boys, and Curbside Cupcake will be onsite offering delicious food for lunch. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites.

A History of the Arlington County Police Department

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) will hold its annual members meeting and elections at its next public

program on Thursday, **May 14**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the new board of directors and officers for the society, as well as discuss and vote on proposed changes to AHS bylaws. All AHS members in good standing are eligible to vote.

Following the annual meeting, AHS will host Captain Michelle Nuneville, who will present "A History of the Arlington County Police Department." The ACPD was formed on February 1, 1940 and this year celebrates its 75th anniversary. Captain Nuneville will speak about the early years of policing in Arlington as the county transformed from rural to urban, and will address the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The hour-long program will begin at 7:00pm at Arlington Central Library Auditorium (1015 N. Quincy Street). A question-and-answer session will follow. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

AFAC Food Drive May 9

AFAC's second largest food drive, "Stamp Out Hunger" will be held on **Saturday, May 9** with the partnership of the National Association of Letter Carriers. If you live in a single family home, please consider leaving out a non-perishable food item by 9:00 a.m. on 5/9. Your letter carrier will pick up the items and deliver them to AFAC. Suggested items include: pasta, rice, low-sugar cereal, low-sodium soup, and canned tuna or chicken.

If you don't live in a single family home, please drop off your food items at the following post offices: Main (Clarendon), Westover, North Station (George Mason/Lee Highway), South Station (Columbia Pike and Glebe), or Shirlington Station during their regular business hours. Boxes will be provided several days prior to 5/9.

Every bit helps!

Crystal City Sparket: Art Market

During lunchtime this Wednesday, Crystal City's weekly arts market, Sparket, will return for the 2015 season. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Wednesday from April 29 until Nov. 18, Crystal City's arts market will occupy Crystal Drive between 18th and 20th Streets S., providing the area's thousands of office workers a place to go to shop for craft works like paintings, jewelry and pottery. The eclectic and colorful shopping experience of Eastern Market returns to Crystal City with Sparket – A Creative Market. Featuring a diverse mix of arts, crafts, handmade jewelry, accessories, bath and beauty products and other local, handcrafted products as well as

live-music and select food products, Sparket aims to provide a new lunchtime attraction for area workers, hotel guests, and residents.

<http://crystalcity.org/do/crystal-city-sparket-arts-market>

Celebrate Spring and Help a Great Cause at Art for Life!

On Thursday **May 21** join Hyatt Regency Crystal City for Art for Life, a monthly art exhibit to benefit the National Kidney Foundation. May features two artists. Artwork by Cindy Lowther and Francine B. Livaditis, local artists from the Torpedo Factory, will be displayed in the hotel's atrium from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A nominal donation will allow access to the event as well as include a complimentary beverage and light fare. All proceeds will be collected and donated to the National Kidney Foundation. Maserati of Arlington is a sponsor of the event and will have vehicles on site.

Information: For additional information, contact Phillip Saims at 703-418-7238 or phillip.saims@hyatt.com

Congressman Donald Beyer's small business procurement seminar

The seminar, "Creating the New Economy: Working with the Federal Government to Build Your Business," will be held **on Tuesday, May 12**, 8:00am-12:30pm, at the George Mason University, Arlington campus, Founder's Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The purpose of this event is to bring together small business owners who either currently are/or are interested in working with the federal government. The conference focuses on building the skills needed to procure contracts, providing opportunities to meet prime contractors and agency representatives, networking, and sharing government and economic updates. Specifically, our agenda includes presentations from agency staff, regional economists and the Small Business Administration on the future of small business procurement in Northern Virginia. Register [here](#) today. For more information please contact Krysta Jones, Director of Outreach, at Krysta.Jones@mail.house.gov.

Washington Boulevard Reduced to Two Lanes Starting April 27

Beginning Monday, April 27, crews will reduce traffic from three lanes to two in each direction on Washington Boulevard (Route 27) over Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 110) in Arlington. For the duration of the project, the lane reduction will allow crews room to replace and

widen the structurally deficient, 74-year-old bridge where work began last month.

Drivers are advised to expect delays and use alternate routes if possible, particularly northbound during the a.m. rush hour, where drivers could experience a ten-minute delay. Motorists are also asked to be alert to Pentagon and Virginia State Police who will help facilitate traffic movement. Message signs were installed last week to begin notifying commuters.

Crews will maintain a minimum of two lanes in each direction on both Washington Boulevard and Jefferson Davis Highway during construction, other than temporary night closures to install bridge girders. Pedestrian traffic will be shifted to a temporary bridge in 2016.

The 1941 bridge will be replaced and widened to include a 14-foot shared-use path on the east side, and an 8-foot sidewalk on the west. The new superstructure will be elevated a foot and a half, increasing vertical clearance for westbound Route 110 to 16 feet 9 inches. New aesthetics include wrought-iron picket fencing, LED road and pedestrian lighting, gateway pillars, and a recessed concrete pattern on the parapets. The crowning touch will be signature medallions on the bridge's gateway pillars honoring the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

As of 2013, Route 27 carries 71,500 vehicles per day and Route 110 carries 61,500 vehicles per day. The \$29.3 million project is expected to be complete in May 2018. For more project details:

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/route_27_over_route_110.asp.

Metro announces partnership with Enterprise to expand car sharing at parking facilities

Metro will soon begin offering car sharing services to more customers at more Metrorail stations as a result of a new partnership with Enterprise CarShare. Effective June 1, Enterprise will start providing car sharing service at 125 Metro-owned parking spaces located in 45 Metrorail stations and, in the near future, will expand up to 190 spaces. The revenue-generating contract with Enterprise will compensate Metro throughout a five-year term and was based on a Best Value procurement process. The partnership will benefit customers by adding 70 additional car share spaces and four additional Metrorail parking facilities. The four additional Metrorail stations that will offer car share spaces under the new contract are Deanwood, East Falls Church, Forest Glen

and Morgan Boulevard. No Arlington County metro stations are included, but Braddock and King Street are.

http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleasesDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=5918

Arlington Residents Skate at Kettler for \$1

Did you know that Arlington residents can skate at the Kettler Capitals IcePlex for \$1 during certain ice times? On Friday, **April 10** and **May 1** from **7:10-8:10 p.m.**, you can skate for \$1, which includes admission and skate rental. This is a great opportunity to check out the Ballston complex and get on the ice. This dollar skate is also **available every Tuesday afternoon from 2:-3:30 p.m.**, but please check the online schedule first as sessions are subject to change. Visit the [Kettler Capitals IcePlex](#) website for more information on public skate.

Spark Flight: Crystal city Launches #DCAWalk Challenge

Crystal City (Arlington, VA) – When people travel to and from the airport they usually take a train, shuttle bus, taxi or car. But Crystal City, the only neighborhood in the country with an airport in walking distance, is asking people to consider another way to get to DCA. Serving more than 20 million yearly passengers and 84 non-stop destinations, pilots, flight attendants, airport employees, and “in-the-know” area residents and workers can be spotted walking on the Mount Vernon Trail or along Route 233 to get to work at DCA and destinations beyond. To showcase how close the airport really is, the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) is excited to introduce the #DCAWalk Challenge!

Launching on April 2, 2015 through August 31, 2015, the #DCAWalk Challenge is a great way to experience Crystal City’s walkability firsthand. From Crystal Drive, Terminal A and Terminal B/C are both less than a mile away. That takes about 10-15 minutes and 20-25 minutes to walk, respectively. The challenge is open to anyone - not just those taking a flight, so people can give it a try and post the experience to social media with the hashtag #DCAWalk via Instagram (@CCBID), Twitter (@CCBID), or **Facebook**. Submissions may include a hyperlapse of the walk, a mini-documentary, pictures of the scenic views, fun selfies, a special Pinterest board, a blog post, or countless other ideas. Most importantly, travelers are asked to have fun and be creative! Monthly standouts will win a weekend getaway from a participating Crystal City hotel. Crystal City is the largest

hotel district in Arlington, VA with over 20 hotels and 5,200+ rooms.

Walkability to the airport is just one of Crystal City’s many assets, along with its proximity to downtown DC, extensive public transit options, bike culture, and free Wi-Fi, Crystal City is one of the most accessible communities in the greater Washington, DC area.

Kids Create at the 296 Project

"[Kids Create](#)" - which is held once per month (5/16) on a Saturday from 10:00 am – Noon allows children between 4 and 10 years of age to get a little messy while working with their hands to create something with a patriotic theme to either keep or potentially send to a service member overseas. Healthy snacks and beverages are always served. Click [here](#) to register:

<http://www.studio296.org/#!events/cafe2>

Clean the Bay Day!

Clean the Bay Day is a Virginia tradition 27 years strong. On **June 6**, from 9 am to noon, thousands of Virginians will simultaneously work together to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay by removing litter and debris from its rivers and streams all across the Commonwealth. Make an Earth Day commitment today to help our waterways.

It's an outdoor, hands-on opportunity for individuals, families, businesses, and groups to join CBF and its partners and sponsors to remove harmful litter and debris in one of the largest volunteer clean-up efforts in Virginia. Just like the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, Clean the Bay Day represents a coming together of municipalities, businesses, and citizens to improve the health of our local waterways. Hundreds of Clean the Bay Day sites are available across the state, from Hampton Roads, Central and Northern Virginia to the Eastern Shore. [See a full list of sites to find one near you!](#)

Registration: [Please visit our website to sign up for this free event today!](#)

"Planting For Native Bees - Certain Native Flowering Plants ARE Better than Others"

Presentation at Arlington Central Library, **May 11**.

Master Gardener Events for May

VCE Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Alexandria/Arlington) have scheduled the following free events in May 2015.

Saturday, May 2, Opening of the Del Ray Farmers' Market, 8:30 to 11 a.m., East Oxford and Mt. Vernon Aves., Alexandria. The plant clinic will be open every Saturday morning through September.

Saturday, May 2, Opening of the Alexandria Farmers' Market Plant Clinic, 301 King Street, Market Square, 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The plant clinic will be open every Saturday morning through September.

Saturday, May 2, Composting and Vermicomposting Workshop, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn how to turn yard and kitchen waste into "black gold" that will enrich your plants and garden. This workshop will cover various composting techniques, including how to use worms for composting. Commercial and home vermicomposting systems will be discussed, and interested participants can build their own worm bin. Registration is required; sign up online at mgnv.org. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 3, Glencarlyn Library Community Garden Plant Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carlin Springs Road at S. 3rd St. and S. Kensington St., Arlington. Native plants, tropical, trees, herbs, ferns, perennials, shrubs and annuals propagated from the garden and from Country Gardens Nursery in Toms Brooks, VA. VCE Master Gardeners, who maintain the community garden as a demonstration garden, will be on hand to help with plant selection and answer garden-related questions.

Sunday, May 3, Organic Vegetable Demonstration Garden Open House, 1 to 4 p.m., held in conjunction with the Open House at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road, Arlington. Master Gardeners will be in the garden to answer questions, discuss growing vegetables in the Northern Virginia area, and chat about such things as composting and protecting the garden against insects and animals. There will be information and demonstrations about all aspects of vegetable gardening, such as getting started, gardening in raised beds, soil testing, soil preparation, and planting times.

Monday, May 4, Gardening with Native Plants, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. Have you wondered what native plants are, why they matter and how to incorporate them into your garden? This workshop will answer your questions and help you select best bets for your particular setting—sun, shade or in-between. Registration is requested; sign up online at mgnv.org.

Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 5, Stroll by Simpson Gardens, 11 a.m. to noon, 420 E. Monroe St., Alexandria (by the YMCA). VCE Master Gardeners will be in Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens to answer questions and offer free seed packets.

Series of Wednesday evening programs on Urban Gardening, May 6, 13, 20, and 27, 7 to 9 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington. This series, taught by Arlington Food Assistance Center volunteers and VCE Master Gardeners, is designed to teach gardening skills to a wide audience. Topics by date: May 6, Garden Structures & Vertical Gardening; May 13, Gardening With and for Kids; May 20, No Room? No Problem. Growing Food in Small Spaces; May 27, Critter Control: Mammals, Worms, Slugs, Etc. No registration required. To confirm topic and room number, check the Arlington Library Events Calendar at <http://library.arlingtonva.us> or call the library at 703-228-5990.

Thursday, May 14, Garden Maintenance, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. S., Arlington. Meet in the garden at Walter Reed Community Center to learn the basics of garden maintenance. Bring your questions for Master Gardener-led advice about pruning, planting, fertilizing, soil testing and more. Advance registration is requested. Free. Presented for the Over 55 Senior Center at Walter Reed. To register, contact Marcia Kot, Senior Center Manager, at 703-228-0949 or email mkot@arlingtonva.us.

Friday, May 15, Fort Williams Park Invasive Plant Removal, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., intersection of Fort Williams Parkway and Duke St., Alexandria. Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive plants around Strawberry Run stream and restore the area's natural plant communities. Cosponsored by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Spring for Alexandria and the Alexandria Beautification Commission.

Saturday, May 16, MGNV Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Space #13, Green Spring Gardens, intersection of Braddock Rd. and Little River Turnpike. This sale will offer a variety of plants, including native plants, plants for pollinators, shady perennials, sunny perennials and more. Grown in the gardens of Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners in Arlington and Alexandria

and VCE Demonstration Gardens. Checks and credit cards accepted.

Monday, May 18, Plant Nova Natives, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington. This program, led by Arlington County Extension Agent Kirsten Buhls, is based on the Plant NoVA Natives Guide Native Plants for Northern Virginia. It will help you choose plants for your landscape that are naturally beautiful, enhance your property and require less special care while benefiting the environment. Registration is requested; sign up online at mgnv.org. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Tuesday, May 26, Gardening on a Slope, 7 to 8:30 to p.m., Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., Arlington. Arlington County Extension Agent Kirsten Buhls will lead this program, which focuses on selecting plants that do well on slopes, techniques for slowing down water runoff and preventing soil erosion and how to capture and utilize rainwater to benefit the landscape. Advance registration is requested. Free. Presented for the Over 55 Senior Center at Walter Reed. To register, contact Marcia Kot, Senior Center Manager, at 703-228-0949 or email mkot@arlingtonva.us

AHS Partners with WETA for Digital History

Every month, the Arlington Historical Society (AHS) hosts free public programs covering aspects of local history. WETA's Digital Media team interviews the speakers and develops short "Arlington Historical Society Presents" web documentaries as a preview for the public program.

Similar to AHS, a major part of WETA's mission is to serve and educate the local community, and thus the fruitful nature of the partnership. WETA has built a webpage with all of the AHS digital videos posted there. These include episodes covering the Arlington County Fire Department, Little Saigon, Civil Rights activist Joan Mulholland, the experience of Latino immigrants, Civil War contraband camps, the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the origins of local brewing. These videos can be accessed at: www.weta.org/ahs.

Black History in Arlington

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) inaugurated the first permanent museum exhibit on the black experience in Arlington County with a reception on Saturday, April 4 at the Arlington Historical Museum. Attendees included members of the Arlington County Board and School

Board, the press, and history activists. AHS President John Richardson and BHMA President Craig Syphax made welcoming remarks, followed by Museum Director Dr. Mark Benbow, who described the challenges of creating an exhibit when historically significant artifacts are in short supply. Dr. Benbow acknowledged the role of exhibit curator Dr. Kevin Strait of the Smithsonian African-American Museum, who created the exhibit narrative and assembled its contents. A special guest was Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, daughter of Dr. Charles Drew, one of Arlington's most distinguished black residents, who established a system for blood storage and shipment that saved many American and Allied soldiers' lives during World War II. Dr. Drew was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 1950. Dr. Jarvis is a key contributor of exhibit memorabilia of her father. The museum already is the holder of Dr. Drew's saxophone and eyeglasses.

The exhibit is open to the public at the Arlington Historical Museum at 1805 South Arlington Ridge Road, and is open from 1:00-4:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays. The exhibit is a modest start towards an important objective, and the sponsors welcome contributions of artifacts relevant to the black experience in Arlington on either a loan or gift basis. Please contact Museum Director Mark Benbow (mark.benbow@marymount.edu) for further information. For more information, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Ball-Sellers House Museum Inaugurates 40th Season

The Ball-Sellers House – the oldest building in Arlington County, Virginia – opens to the public for the 2015 season on Saturday, April 4. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Arlington Historical Society receiving the house from Marian Sellers in 1975 for \$1. The house was built in the 1750s by John Ball and named the Ball-Sellers House to honor both the builder and the donor. The museum has planned a number of fun activities that are free and open to the public.

On **Sunday, May 3**, the Ball-Sellers House will co-host "Glencarlyn Garden Day" with the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Tour the house and then visit a unique AFAC Plot Against Hunger designed to resemble the colonial era kitchen garden the Ball family would have planted in the 1750s. Get tips from the gardeners about green sustainability and how to get the most out of their vegetable gardens. Then stroll through the tranquil library garden for their plant

sale and enjoy locally sourced tropicals, ferns, shrubs, trees, and annuals with their master gardeners.

The Ball-Sellers House will be open on Memorial Day, **Monday, May 25**, from 1:00 – 4:00pm to honor the veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I who owned the house or lived there.

On Saturday, May 30, the Ball-Sellers House will host the Washington Forest History Walk with local historian Kevin Vincent. After the Revolutionary War, George Washington returned to Virginia and surveyed the 1200 acres he had bought before the war with John Ball's brother, Moses. The three-mile walking tour will visit the Ball-Sellers House, survey markers used by Washington in 1785, a DC boundary stone, and the site of a mill built by George Washington's step-grandson. The walk will start at the Ball-Sellers House at 1:30 pm and is free. Participants should wear good walking shoes.

Private groups of any age are invited to tour the house throughout the April – October 2015 season. Contact Annette Benbow to arrange a date and time at: annette.benbow@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or 703-577-7042. For more information, please visit www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Kindergarten Summer Camp in Crystal City

Keshet Child Development Center, located in Crystal City is excited to announce registration for our Creative Arts Summer Camp. This camp is intended for preschoolers ages 3-5 including rising Kindergarteners. <http://www.keshetcdc.com/>

Bike to Work Day is Back Again!



On Friday, May 15, 2015, BikeArlington invites you to join thousands of area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work! Meet up with your neighbors at one of more than 70 regional pit stops, ride to work with an experienced commuter convoy and wear your FREE Bike to Work Day t-shirt at work with pride. Help the Washington region become a better place to ride. Bike to Work Day is a FREE event and open to all area commuters. Register at BikeToWorkMetroDC.org.

Arlington will host six pit stops for Bike to Work Day. Stop by a pit stop along your route to join in the celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Registration is free. To register and for more information: <http://www.bikearlington.com/>

Bike to Work Week Crystal City

For the 5th year, the Crystal City BID is challenging area commuters to take the Bike to Work WEEK (BTWW) Challenge and ride to work every day of the week. During the week of May 11th - 15th the Crystal City BID will greet area commuters in the Crystal City Water Park from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM with breakfast and prizes. The 100 riders that show up the most number of mornings during pit stop hours, will receive a free, Custom Crystal City Cycling Jersey! Complimentary showers will be provided by Sport & Health all week so you can freshen up before the start of your day. Sign up for the Bike to Work Week Challenge and try out your bicycle commute. [Sign up online.](#)



Spark Cycling in Crystal City (organized by the BID)

Even though Wednesday Night Spins is over, there are still plenty of cycling opportunities in Crystal City. Whether you need your bike checked, are looking to sign up for a competitive race, or want to learn more about biking to work, save the date for these upcoming Crystal Ride events:

Everything Esmonde

WHEN: Every other Thursday starting April 30
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE: 1900 Crystal Drive (corner of 18th Street and Crystal Drive)

WHAT: Get those nagging bicycle repairs taken care of while you work with the Mobile Bicycle Services provided by *Everything Esmonde*. Simply drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. *Everything Esmonde* will be set up at 1900 Crystal Drive from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM every other Thursday through October.

Appointments are suggested ([email everything.esmonde@gmail.com](mailto:everything.esmonde@gmail.com)), but walk ups are always welcome.

Crystal City Phoenix Derby

WHEN: Saturday, May 2nd

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

WHERE: 1900 Crystal Drive Parking Garage

WHAT: The [Crystal City Phoenix Derby](#) is a unique cycling event that combines speed and high-energy fun in a cool urban environment while showcasing the D.C. region's only youth-oriented bike nonprofit organization. We invite riders of all abilities to test their skills on our race course designed and built in an underground parking garage. The Crystal City Phoenix Derby features a variety of race formats including a non-competitive open course ride, a head-to-head stationary sprint race, team relays, and a special kid's course. The general public is also invited to try out the course or just watch the action from the chic confines of the Phoenix Lounge, a display area of bikes build by Phoenix Bikes youth and bar built in the center of the action.

[Registration is open!](#)

Air Force Association Cycling Classic - Crystal Cup & Challenge Ride

WHEN: Saturday, June 14th

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WHERE: 2121 Crystal Drive

WHAT: Get ready to start training for this year's [Air Force Association Cycling Classic \(AFACC\)](#), the region's premier cycling event. Part of the USA Cycling National Criterium Calendar, AFACC features the Clarendon Cup (Saturday, June 13th), Challenge Ride (Sunday, June 14th) and Crystal City Cup (Sunday, June 14th) and Kids Races on both days. The Challenge Ride kicks off the

events in Crystal City when participants compete against themselves in an effort to complete as many laps as possible within the 3.5 hour allotted timeframe on a closed and car-free 15km course. Medals are awarded for completing 6 or more laps (gold), 4-5 laps (silver), and 1-3 laps (bronze). Following the Challenge Ride, it's non-stop speed and excitement as professionally ranked Men's and Women's racers and teams vie for the Crystal Cup on the 1.3km Criterium course in the heart of Crystal City. Registration is open for the kids races and the Challenge Ride! [Register today!](#)

Techshop Bicycle Maintenance Classes

WHEN: [See Class Schedule](#)

WHERE: 2110-B Crystal Drive

WHAT: In this bicycle maintenance class, you will learn how to inflate tires, change inner tubes and outer tires, patch tires, adjust brakes, replace brakes, adjust derailleurs, and lubricate and replace chains. In other words, you will learn how to fix some of the most common bike problems so you can make more repairs yourself and hassle less with taking your bike to a professional mechanic. This course also provides a foundation of introductory knowledge and skills you can build on for more ambitious projects like modding and building custom bikes.

Other Crystal City BID Events

See the BID's website for other activities in Crystal City and sign up for their weekly newsletter.

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

CCCA OFFICERS

Contact us:
board@crystalcitycivic.org

President	Sandra Borden
Vice President for Policy and Planning	Christer Ahl
Secretary	Carol Fuller
Treasurer	Diane Oksanen-Gooden
Communications Director	Vacant
Membership Liaison	Vacant

Established January 28,
2014

Join on our website:
<http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/>

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Or send a check for \$10 to:
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