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Newsletter
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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: May 18 CCCA General Meeting:

Your chance to participate in a dialog with the newest County Board members, Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey. Both were just elected and are eager to talk with Crystal City residents. They will comment on their take on Arlington and Crystal City issues, and you will be able to bring up your questions and suggestions about our community.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 FROM 7-9 P.M.
AT THE CRYSTAL PARK CONDOMINIUM PARTY ROOM (1805 CRYSTAL DRIVE)
OPEN TO ALL CRYSTAL CITY RESIDENTS
A SOCIAL TIME FOR VISITING WILL BE INCLUDED

What do you want to know about?

CCCA members are encouraged to send suggestions on future meetings to board@crystalcitycivic.org.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

New Options for Long Bridge Park

On April 12 Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz presented the County Board with options for moving forward with both the replacement of the Lubber Run Community Center and development of 10.5 more acres of open space and a reduced aquatics, health and fitness facility at Long Bridge Park. **The correct estimated construction costs of the aquatics health and fitness**

facility and development of 10.5 more acres of parkland is between \$46 million and \$50.5 million.

The Board's work session on the two projects helped frame the community's upcoming discussion on updating the Capital Improvement Program, the County's 10-year blueprint for funding major facilities and infrastructure. The work session, Chair Libby Garvey noted, "is the beginning of the process" of engaging the community on both projects.

The revised plan for Long Bridge Park reduces the size of the facility by 37 percent, to about 73,000 square feet. The reductions are achieved by reducing the number of pools from the three proposed in 2012 to two, reducing the number of lobbies, circulation areas and storage space. The smaller building, fewer pools, and a less expensive HVAC system all contribute to lower construction and operating costs. The family pool and teaching pool would be combined into a single pool under the new proposal, and the therapy pool and three dive towers eliminated. Space for a health and fitness center would be retained. [See press release.](#)

Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee Report Summary

The presentation before the County Board of the report of the Citizen's Task Force has been posted to the County website. It summarizes the findings and recommendations. [See report.](#)

Op Ed on Long Bridge Park by Tobin Smith



The chair of the Long Bridge Citizen Advisory Committee and former Chair of the Arlington Park and Recreation Committee Tobin Smith supports the design and construction of a new aquatics, health, and Fitness Center at Long Bridge Park. [See his Op Ed in ArlNow.Com.](#)

Long Bridge Children's Playground to Open

Playground Open in June? The work on the playground continues and the hope is to have it ready before the 4th

of July. Want to see what it will look like?



Letter to the Editor of ArlNow.Com on Long Bridge Park April 22

The [following letter to the editor](#) was submitted by Jef Dolan, an Arlington resident, Marymount University professor and mother of an Olympic gold medalist.

"As a long time swimming resident of Arlington, I would like to refute some of the points that Peter made in his March 31 column referring to the proposed aquatics center at Long Bridge Park. Many early mornings I would have to take my two time Olympic Gold Medalist son Tom to 50 meter pools either in the District, Fairfax or Montgomery County to train or swim in local and regional meets. I resented seeing these facilities getting revenues from food concessions, t-shirts and pool fees. Why couldn't Arlington share in this revenue? The aquatics center at Long Bridge Park gives us this opportunity.

Will Arlington need additional indoor and outdoor recreational facilities in the future? Existing county recreational facilities are not adequate to meet the full range of current and future community recreational, fitness and aquatics needs of the growing youth, adult and senior populations. A report by the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Demographic Research Group showed that Arlington County's population grew by 9.4 percent from the 2010 Census through July 2013 alone. By 2040, Arlington's overall population is expected to grow by over 65,000 people.

Many of the aquatic classes I try to enroll in as a 55+ citizen in the high school pools through the parks and recreation department are closed due to over enrollment. As much of the Arlington population ages, we seek affordable places to recreate to continue productive lives in the county.

As a mom who has sat in pools all over the country, I have seen the benefits of a multi-purpose training facility. Existing county recreational facilities are not

adequate to meet the full range of current and future community recreational, fitness and aquatics needs of the growing youth, adult and senior populations. We need to have an Oak-Mar Fairfax facility in our community. Sixty-three percent of our citizens responded favorably to this in a recent survey posted on ArlNow.com.

The money is there. Let's coalesce as a community to build this facility. I look forward to seeing many youth teams and swim for safety programs delight in this amenity in Arlington County."

Arlington aquatics-fitness complex returns from oblivion

The long-dormant proposal to build a multimillion-dollar aquatics and fitness facility at Arlington's Long Bridge Park was revived Tuesday when a citizens' study committee told the County Board it should move ahead with a smaller complex that keeps costs under control.

Residents strongly support building an indoor, 50-meter pool and another multipurpose pool for recreational use as long as the county prioritizes community needs first, the study found. Space for fitness and exercise equipment in the same structure is also a high priority, the committee said, based on surveys and community meetings. If there is enough money, it could fund a warm-water therapy pool and a 10-meter diving platform, and a fourth soccer field could be added later.

[See Washington Post article of April 13](#)

Crystal City, Once Cast Off by Washington, Reboots Itself

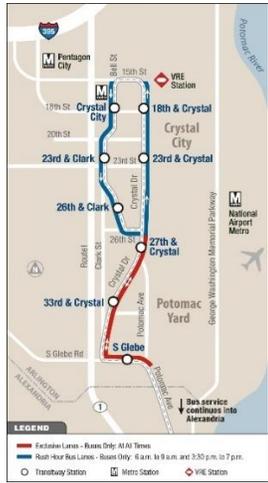
See the April 19 article in the [New York Times](#) comparing Crystal City to Brooklyn.

New Bus Lanes in Crystal City, Potomac Yard Open for Service



With a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, Arlington County today marked the completion of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway, the Washington area's first dedicated bus-only lanes. The 4.5-mile route will provide faster, more reliable bus service along the busy Route 1 corridor. Arlington and the City of Alexandria

jointly constructed the Transitway, which connects the Crystal City and Braddock Road Metrorail stations, and partnered with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to provide its new premium Metroway service on the dedicated lanes. Separating bus service from general traffic is expected to reduce travel times for bus trips from one end of the corridor to the other by up to 10 minutes, depending on direction and time of day. [See press release.](#)



How I-395 HOT lanes will affect the D.C. area commute



Virginia officials describe the project as an extension of the original public-private partnership that create the high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes along 29 miles of I-95, to just north of the Capital Beltway. In November, VDOT signed a preliminary agreement with the consortium that built and operates the 95 Express Lanes, but the state and the private partners are still working on a final deal. Today's high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-395 will be converted into HOT lanes. Carpools of at least three people will travel free, as will buses and motorcycles. Drivers who don't meet the carpool rules will pay a toll that varies to maintain a steady flow of traffic. The exemption that allows some hybrid vehicle drivers to use the HOV lanes will not apply to the HOT

lanes. Construction would begin in spring 2017 and be completed in summer 2019. Basically, the work would make the lanes in the middle of I-395 look like the 95 Express Lanes. The two reversible HOV lanes would be converted to three reversible HOT lanes along a distance of eight miles from the north end of the 95 Express Lanes around Edsall Road to the area around Eads Street near the Pentagon.

VDOT says the project also will include improved links between the express lanes and Eads Street. Drivers complain about congestion in today's system.

[Washington Post Dr. Gridlock article.](#)

ART Bus Facility

Demolition of the existing curb and gutter along South Eads Street is complete, in preparation for new sidewalk and roadway features. During the next two weeks, traffic control changes will be necessary - please be aware of minor delays along South Eads during daily commutes.

The building slab was poured last week. Crews are now preparing to go vertical with the structural steel. Underground utilities are also being finalized throughout the site. View [construction photos](#) on Flickr. [Visit project page](#)

Arlington County Issues

Arlington Cemetery expansion draws positive reviews from residents



Arlington National Cemetery, which inter 7,000 military veterans, spouses and dignitaries each year, unveiled preliminary plans this week to create room for more than 25,000 new graves by rerouting part of Columbia Pike and swapping land with local and state governments. The southward expansion of the cemetery into 38 acres around the Air Force Memorial would not only create new plots contiguous with the existing grounds but also could help improve local transit and traffic flow along the often-congested route to the

Pentagon and the Pentagon Row shopping area. [See Washington Post article of April 28.](#)

County Efforts Continue to Reduce Homelessness

For the third consecutive year, the number of persons who are homeless in Arlington has dropped, down 27 percent in January 2016 as compared to January 2015. The data comes from the community's annual Point-in-Time Count. The total for the 2016 count was 174, down from 239 in 2015. Overall, the number of homeless Arlingtonians counted has dropped 64 percent since 2013. The number of homeless singles dropped 24 percent, from 164 in 2015 to 124 in 2016. This includes a 51 percent drop in the number of unsheltered homeless singles (from 39 in 2015 to 19 in 2016). Two recent community efforts – the 100 Homes and Zero: 2016 campaigns – played key roles in reducing the number of homeless individuals. The number of people counted in families considered homeless dropped 33 percent, from 75 in 2015 to 50 in 2016. No families counted were without shelter. [See Press Release.](#)

Arlington County Board Adopts FY 2017 Budget

On April 19, the Arlington County Board today adopted a \$1.2 billion General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 that includes a half-cent cut in the real estate tax rate. The County's General Fund Budget will increase 3.3 percent from the FY 2016 Adopted Budget. The County's total funding of Schools for FY 2017 will be \$466.9 million, a 3.3 percent increase from FY 2016, and \$1.1 million in one-time and ongoing funding above the School Board's funding request. [See press release.](#)

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Report on Reagan National Airport Issues

The following is a report by MWAA Noise Committee member Joe Pelton.

The rescheduled meeting of the MWAA Noise Committee was held on April 14th at Reagan National Airport. This meeting focused on take-off and landing patterns from Reagan National Airport to the south. No specific progress has been made other than the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is studying the practicality of the so-called Lazir B take-off pattern to the north. The following report has also been received from Senator Warner with regard to the FAA Authorization Bill. "Finally, the Senate finished work this week on a long-term reauthorization bill for the Federal Aviation Administration. I am pleased to report we successfully pushed-back on lastminute efforts to add additional

long-haul flights out of Reagan National Airport. Maintaining the existing perimeter rules protects the balanced business plan which governs the flow of passengers and flight traffic at each of the three major airports serving our region. This careful balance also has allowed a thriving economy to grow around the international gateway that Dulles Airport provides. "I'll remain vigilant in opposing harmful changes as the FAA bill moves toward final passage." The Working Group on Airport Noise and Reagan National has agreed to the following text for its recommendation with regard to South Flow operations. This will likely alter noise for Crystal City very little but may provide some relief to Old Town Alexandria. It is essentially parallel to that being recommended for study in the North Flow patterns which will presumably provide some relief to Arlington's Northern neighborhoods, but again not provide any relief to Rosslyn. The Working Group endorses the concept of the FAA modifying flight paths south of Reagan National Airport to keep aircraft more centered over the Potomac River on departures, as well as modifying waypoints to move departing aircraft farther down the Potomac River before turning

east or west. A vote on a firm recommendation for the FAA to pursue such changes is pending consultation with Working Group members representing communities that would be impacted by these adjustments, as well as consultations with the airlines serving Reagan National Airport. Motion carried 5-0-3, with eight Working Group voting members present.

Arlington Exploring Cross-Jurisdictional Carsharing with D.C.

Arlington's point-to-point carsharing service may soon become more flexible for those traveling to and from the District. The County Board today authorized an amendment to the 12-month demonstration agreement with car2go, to allow cross-jurisdictional service through Dec. 1, 2016, contingent upon the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) approval. The adjustment aims to make carsharing more useful, attract new members and reduce idle times of car2go vehicles. [Press release.](#)

Arlington County's Overall Crime Rate Continues to Trend Downward

Arlington's overall crime rate decreased by 6.01% in 2015. This is the second year in a row the overall crime rate in Arlington County decreased. The crime data is collected using the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The grand total of Part I offenses (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) was 3,631 in 2015, down from 3,863 in 2014. Additionally, the Police Department

received a total of 87,475 calls for service during the calendar year. [See Press release.](#)

Arlington County Board Approves Economic Development Incentive Fund

Arlington Economic Development now has a new tool in its arsenal to help attract and retain growing technology companies. The County Board this month approved a \$1.5 M Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund focused on recruiting early stage tech and tech catalyst companies to Arlington. The fund would enhance Arlington's competitive position and profile for recruitment purposes and support the County's efforts to lower the commercial vacancy rate

The new incentive program will focus on small, fast-growing technology companies that have high potential to achieve rapid growth and therefore generate significant economic returns to Arlington. The program will also support tech catalyst organizations like incubators, accelerators and venture capital firms which will support Arlington's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem and provide one-time grants for Arlington companies to support proof of concept for new products or technologies in a living lab/community setting. "This is the next step in our Way Forward strategy," says Victor Hoskins, director of Arlington Economic Development. "Recruiting young technology companies is vital for Arlington as we look forward to making our mark as a technology hub. This program is going to give us the needed resources to effectively compete when seeking to attract the companies who will most benefit from being in Arlington."

AED looks forward to rolling out the new program once the funds become available July 1.

Arlington's Amphibian Resurgence

Arlington County, Virginia is very urbanized. Due to loss of wetlands (including vernal pools) and heavy development, half the frog and toad species that used to live in Arlington are now gone. The remaining species are often in small, isolated populations, in only a handful of locations. Frogs and toads are excellent bio-indicators of environmental health. Since they consume plant material when young and then switch to a predatory diet, they can build up toxins in both diets. Since they can also absorb chemicals and pollutants through their skins in all stages of life, they are also very sensitive to changes in the environment. So loss of frogs and toads can point to an unhealthy environment and their declines can serve as a warning about the state of the habitat. [See CapitalNaturalist blogspot.](#)

Affordable Housing Study

The draft [Affordable Housing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan](#) identifies and defines the indicators that will be used to monitor progress towards achieving the AHMP goals, and identifies the specific sources of data to be used. This document provides the outline for the preparation of the Annual Affordable Housing Report and has been prepared in consultation with the Tools and Trends Subcommittee of the Housing Commission.

The draft Affordable Housing Monitoring and Evaluation Plan can be accessed [online](#). Comments can be made by May 23 directly within the online document with registration. Registration requires confirmation via email, check your spam folder if the confirmation does not appear in your inbox.

In addition, two open houses will be held to provide residents and stakeholders an opportunity to provide input on the proposed indicators on the following dates:

- [May 17, 3-8:30 pm, Courthouse Plaza](#)
- [May 18, 3-6:30 pm, Walter Reed Community Center](#)

The Housing Commission will consider acceptance of the Affordable Housing Master Plan at their meeting on June 9th.

New Resident Ombudsman, Expanded Public Engagement

Arlingtonians now have full-time help navigating County government. Robert Sharpe, a former Department of Human Services assistant director, is the County's new Resident Ombudsman, troubleshooting issues on behalf of his fellow Arlington residents while working directly with departments, County leadership and the County Board. His formal title also includes Director of Constituent Services. The new Ombudsman role is the result of County Manager Mark Schwartz expanding his Office of Communications to include Public Engagement. [See press release.](#)

Arts & Economic Prosperity Study Volunteers Needed

Arlington County Cultural Affairs (CAD) is partnering with Americans for the Arts to do a survey of arts and cultural non-profit organizations in Arlington. They are looking for volunteers to assist in conducting and collecting surveys at selected Arlington arts events. Assignments will be made by staff at Arlington Cultural Affairs.

The Arts & Economic Prosperity 5 project is a national survey conducted by Americans for the Arts (AFTA) that measures the arts and culture sector's impact on local

economies. Arlington County is 1 of 300 partners invited by AFTA to participate in this study in conjunction with our regional partners at Washington, DC's Culture Capital. Since 1994, economic data from these surveys has been used by the Congressional Arts Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives to advocate for federal arts support. This is the second time Arlington County is participating.

Successful completion of this survey by the County is essential because it increases Arlington County's arts and culture initiatives' national, regional, and local presence; demonstrates to County Government Officials, Board Members, and the community the results of their previous support and why their continued support is needed; and enhances Arlington County's national, regional, and local reputation as an innovative organization committed to its local arts and culture community. Contact Anne O'Dell, Arlington Cultural Affairs if you can help with the survey:

aodell@arlingtonva.us, [703-228-1899](tel:703-228-1899)

County Board Creates Strategic Priorities Blue Ribbon Panel

The Arlington County Board today voted to create a six-member Blue Ribbon Panel and charged it with developing recommendations for how the Board should develop strategic priorities. The panel's charge calls for it to consider the goals and objectives in the County's Comprehensive Plan and enhancements to those goals and objectives. The panel also is charged with recommending a process or framework to review any policy areas it recommends should be reconsidered, and with suggesting a process for engaging the community in developing a strategic plan. Board Chair Libby Garvey will be the Board's liaison to the panel. The panel is to report to County Board in December.

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/county-board-creates-strategic-priorities-blue-ribbon-panel/>

Aurora Hills' 90th Birthday Party

Celebrate the Aurora Hills Branch Library's 90th birthday at this all-out bash May 14, 2-4 pm!

The celebration will include:

- Cake (of course)
- Interactive Charleston performance and lessons by [Fidgety Feet](#)
- Treats from the [Dairy Godmother](#)

Take a walk down memory lane with photos from the [history of the Aurora Hills Branch Library](#).

Other News:

Crystal Rolls: Street Hockey

1900 Crystal Drive

Thursdays from April through May

Welcome to USS Street Hockey! DC Social's great league in Crystal City is now powered by USS and we are PUMPED for this Spring season! There's no skill requirement - new to the sport? Great! Former olympian at Street Hockey? Perfect! Everyone is welcome! More info and registration can be found [here](#).

Floral Frenzy: Bulb Blitz

2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard

Friday, May 6 - Digging begins at 9:30 AM

The Bulb Blitz invites area residents and workers to dig in on the fun of removing the hundreds of tulip bulbs along Crystal Drive in preparation for the Summer plantings. Typically discarded after a single season of blooming, these high quality bulbs will continue to bloom for many years. Gardeners can take the bulbs home and save them for the opportune time to plant them. [See website.](#)

Bike to Work Week

Crystal City Water Park - Across from 1750 Crystal Drive

May 16 to 20, 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

For our 6th 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 week. Riders that show up each morning during pit stop hours, will receive snacks, coffee, and a different prize each day. Sign up for BTWW [here](#), and don't forget to also sign up for National Bike to Work Day [here](#).

The Air Force Association Cycling Classic 2121 Crystal Drive

Sunday, June 12 - 7:00 AM

The Air Force Association Cycling Classic Challenge Ride, proudly brought to you by The Boeing Company, is back in Crystal City on Sunday June 12th! The Challenge Ride is an amateur, non-competitive, participatory ride, open to cyclists of all abilities. All participants will start and end in Crystal City. The ride will be held on a closed, 15km circuit in and around the Pentagon, Crystal City and the Air Force Memorial.

[Register today!](#)

Crystal Car: Father's Day Auto Festival 220 20th Street South

Sunday, June 19 - 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Celebrate this Father's Day in style amongst [heavy](#)

machinery and horsepower at Crystal Car: Father's Day Auto Festival. The day will feature a variety of exciting automobile categories including innovative electric vehicles, area sports car auto clubs, classic muscle cars, and a beer garden hosted by the Washington Wine Academy. Do you have a vehicle you want to show off?

[Register it today.](#)

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.

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