

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

# Newsletter

No. 4, 2017

May 2017



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

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

## Inside this Issue:

### Civic Association Issues

[Next CCCA Meeting: "911—What's your emergency"](#)

[April 19 CCCA Meeting](#)

### Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

[Good News Update on the Pop-Up Library](#)

[Remodeling 12th and Clark Streets](#)

[Update: VRE Train Station in Crystal City](#)

[Moving Forward: Long Bridge Park Phase 2](#)

[Public Meeting May 16: Long Bridge Project](#)

[South Park Public Meeting #3](#)

[Development Updates from County Board](#)

[Private Investigators Open Trustify](#)

[Grill Kabob to change name and nature](#)

[ART Bus Facility](#)

[Long Bridge Drive Utility Undergrounding](#)

### Arlington County Issues

[County Adopts \\$1.25 Billion FY 2018 Budget](#)

[Rep. Beyer to Speak at Local Forum May 15](#)

[Concerns About Airport Noise, Traffic](#)

[The Connection Library](#)

[Arlington's Libraries, Now at Your Fingertips](#)

[McAuliffe Overrides County's Towing Changes](#)  
[Arlington County Receives Achievement Award](#)

### Other News:

[Crystal House: The Potluck Club](#)

[AFAC Food Drive](#)

[The Armed Forces Cycling Classic](#)

[Celebrate National Fitness Month](#)

[Monday Morning Yoga](#)

[Mid-Day Meditation](#)

[Outdoor Zumba](#)

[Sparket: A Creative Market](#)

[Floral Frenzy: Bulb Blitz](#)

[Arlington Historical Society Forest Walk](#)

### Notices

[For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events](#)

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

### **Annual Dues for 2017**

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

# Civic Association Issues

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

### **"911 –what's your emergency? "**

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

## **April 19 CCCA Meeting**

We had two very interesting agenda items:

--**A first introduction by JBG Smith**, the developers who are soon taking over from Vornado as the main land-owner in Crystal City. They offered an initial indication of their thinking regarding development projects and other plans for our community. The agreement will not be signed until perhaps July, when JBG will take over Vornado and become JBG Smith, so the speakers were particularly interested in hearing from residents during the lively question and answer period.

--**An introduction by Joshua Nadas, Community Planner with the George Washington Memorial Parkway, National Park Service.** His job is to handle the outreach to adjacent communities. Apart from the Parkway itself, the NPS manages the Mount Vernon Trail and the interface with other parks and trails in our area. Again, there was a lively Q& A period.

For a more detailed write up of the meeting, go to the [CCCA website](#).

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

## **Good News Update on the Pop-Up Library: The Connection**

We advised previously that we might lose our highly successful Pop-Up Library ("the Connection") in the Underground in June when it might be moved to another area of the County. We have now been informed of a temporary reprieve, from June 2017 through at least mid-December 2017. There is some hope that this period could be extended somewhat, but a permanent stay does not appear likely. However, we encourage Crystal City residents and other users of the pop-up library to continue to express their views to Arlington County (for the attention of Library Director Diane Kresh ([Dkresh@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Dkresh@arlingtonva.us)), as we are convinced that such feedback is very helpful. Our Civic Association has continued special efforts behind the scenes to achieve a positive outcome, just as we were the initiators of the whole idea of having a pop-up library in Crystal City.

## **Remodeling 12th and Clark Streets**

On April 5th, the county held an information session, outlining plans for 12th Street, which is being redone in coordination with planned changes on Clark St. between 12th & 15th. (Demolition of the ramp, with changes on Clark St from what was originally planned.) Design is scheduled to be completed in spring 2018. Construction is anticipated to start in early 2019 and will last approximately two years.

The 30% design plans are complete and are displayed on the Project [website](#) and [project page](#)). Public feedback was invited until April 21. Submit comments on the 30% plans to Project Manager Mark Schnauffer at [Mschnauffer@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Mschnauffer@arlingtonva.us).

**Editorial:** *We have concerns about the plans. With the transit lanes changing from inside to outside, confusion in travel lanes will cause problems. Specifically, the intersection of 12th Street and Long Bridge Drive is going to be a nightmare. With the traffic lights having to deal with several modes of transportation, the wait times will become significantly larger. For example, with the new Long Bridge Drive and I-395 interchange, the traffic will increase. Likewise, with the new Long Bridge Park Facility, which should go to build/bid in December, the traffic will increase. With Clark Street Flyway teardown, additional land will be developed. This change in traffic patterns and demand will increase the usage of this intersection. Lastly, the addition of a light at Army-Navy Drive and 12th street will impact the traffic at the Long Bridge Drive and 12th Street intersection. Will the two lights be timed? How long will ALL the lights be red to allow the Metroway busses to get through both intersections?*

*The net result is the creation of a bottleneck and confusion for drivers, bikes and pedestrians. We would hope the County reconsiders the design of the Metroway transit lanes to prevent the addition of more chaos to the streets of Crystal City. While saving money on a one bus transit stop is commendable, it will drive other costs greater than the savings.*

*Two possible changes are: Make the Metroway go on the outside down 12th street. Or make the Metroway in BOTH directions go down Clark Street. If the Metroway were to come up Clark Street, it would turn left at the intersection of 12th and Clark (Long Bridge Drive) and which lane it turned into would not be important.*

### **Update: VRE Train Station in Crystal City**

*The VRE staff is still developing conceptual designs for the three options they presented to the community in March.*

*They will present additional information to the community in June – again about the three options – for additional feedback. The County has asked them for some additional renderings and specifics including: greater detail on the paths of pedestrian access for each of the options and cross-sections that show the distance and elevation of the proposed station platform locations relative to the adjacent buildings. We believe they plan to develop more information on noise impacts, specifically from the locomotive when the train is stopped, and to report on any fatal flaws for each of the locations regarding over/under access across the tracks. There is still time to ask for clarifying information, as long as it is conceptual.*

*VRE and the County will collaborate on the presentation in June. VRE will present its information, and the County will present the pros/cons of each from a policy perspective (e.g., transportation, land use, etc). We don't have a date yet for the June meeting, but they are working on dates now so we can give everyone ample notice. After the June meeting with VRE, the issue will be taken to the County Board for their direction.*

*As of April 21, VRE only had money for conceptual design, the phase they are currently in. They are seeking money for the next phase, Preliminary Engineering (30% design) and the NEPA process, and hope to get that money so they can start in June or July. The public will have an additional chance to weigh in on the station location during the NEPA process.*

[Also see ArlNow.com article of April 26.](#)

### **Arlington County Moving Forward with Long Bridge Park Phase 2**

Using a design/build approach, Arlington is moving forward with its Long Bridge Park Phase 2 project, County Manager Mark Schwartz said today. The project

will include a scaled-down Aquatic, Health & Fitness facility and a competitive design process that will involve the community. The design of the aquatic facility and 10.5-acres of the park will include all the core programs recommended by the Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee and already adopted by the County Board. The next step is for the County to give firms the opportunity to submit their technical qualifications, which will be evaluated against established criteria. Firms that qualify will be invited to submit a proposal this summer. Three or four firms who submit design concepts will be invited to participate in the design competition. The public will review the concepts in November 2017, with the Board then selecting the final design. construction is expected to begin in late 2018.

[See press release for more details.](#)

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

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) invite the public to an informational meeting **May 16** to review the preliminary concept screening results for the Long Bridge Project. Concept screening helps identify and develop project alternatives that will be evaluated in an Environment Impact Statement. This meeting is also a part of the concurrent consultation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

**Open House Format: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

**Formal presentations: 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM (same presentation at both times)**

L'Enfant Plaza Club Room : follow signs to Shops and Food Court, 470 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024

**Directions:** L'Enfant Plaza Club Room is located between Gadget TLC and Jay Jewelers in the L'Enfant Plaza Shops and Food Court. From D Street SW: follow the stairway up one level from D St. SW, just west of 7th St. SW next to the HUD Building, turn right then enter through the door and follow the signs to the L'Enfant Plaza Shops and Food Court. From L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station: follow the signs in the station to L'Enfant Plaza, take the escalator up and follow the signs to the L'Enfant Plaza Shops and Food Court.

For more information about the Long Bridge Project, [please visit the project page.](#)

### **South Park at Potomac Yards - Public Meeting #3**

Wednesday, **May 3** from 7-9 p.m. at Gunston Community Center. We hope you can join us for the third public meeting to discuss the South Park Master

Plan on Wednesday, May 3 from 7-9 p.m at the Gunston Community Center located at 2700 South Lang Street. The purpose of this meeting is to review three draft park concepts and provide feedback on the designs. View past meeting presentations and notes on the South Park at Potomac Yards Project website or visit [parks.arlingtonva.us](http://parks.arlingtonva.us) and search South Park at Potomac Yards. For questions contact Bethany Heim, Associate Planner at [bheim@arlingtonva.us](mailto:bheim@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-4825.

### Development Updates from County Board

**400 Army-Navy Drive** is on schedule. Construction has reached third floor, following demolition of the “paper clip” building and excavation; expected to be ready to open in mid-2018 as planned.

**Pentagon Rental Units:** Generally, all the rental buildings (old and new) in the vicinity of Whole Foods are doing extremely well. The general target for occupancy rate is 95%, and all of them are meeting that.

### Private Investigators Trustify Open New Crystal City Headquarters

Trustify opened its new Crystal City headquarters in March 2015. It allows anyone to run background checks, investigate fraud, locate missing children, check for infidelity and more from their web browser or the phone app. A consultation with a private investigator takes place over Trustify’s chat application, then investigators choose whether to pursue a case. Trustify co-founder Jen Mellon said the company’s diverse staff — more than half are women — has helped make it more accessible to more people. [See ArlNow.com article.](#)

### Grill Kabob to change name and nature

An Afghan restaurant in Crystal City is applying for a major revamp, including a name-change and the ability to host live entertainment. Planning documents filed with the county indicate that Grill Kabob at 507 23rd Street S. hopes to be renamed Sin & Saint. It also would like to add a dance floor on the second level for use on Friday and Saturday nights, in addition to live entertainment from a DJ. The live entertainment would be provided from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant is located among other bars and eateries along the 23rd Street corridor. See [ArlNow.com article.](#)

### ART Bus Facility

Project location: South end of Crystal City, near South Eads Street and 32nd Street. The construction of the facility is nearly complete, with crews finalizing the last few punch list items. Work during the next couple months will focus on preparing the facility for operation. View the [project page](#) and [construction photos](#) here.

### Long Bridge Drive Utility Undergrounding

Project location: North end of Crystal City near Boundary Channel Drive. The goal of this project is to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers throughout this area and improve multimodal access to and from Long Bridge Park. The contractor has finished their punch list, and installation of the Dominion, Verizon and County conduits is complete. During the next couple months, Dominion and Verizon crews will begin pulling cables into the newly installed conduits. Once complete, the four overhead utility poles will be removed. The construction contract for the streetscape improvements was awarded at the April 22 County Board meeting (view Board Report). Construction of the streetscape improvements is expected to begin this summer. [View project page here.](#)

## Arlington County Issues

### Arlington County Board Adopts \$1.25 Billion FY 2018 Budget

On April 22 the Arlington County Board adopted a \$1.25 billion balanced General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 that includes a one-and-a-half-cent increase in the real estate tax rate for Calendar Year 2017. County Manager Mark Schwartz had proposed a two-cent increase in the real estate tax rate to provide additional funding for Metro and Arlington Public Schools. The Board chose to make cuts and reallocations to the Manager’s proposed budget to keep the increase to one-and-a-half cents per \$100 of assessed property value. This will increase the tax rate from the current \$0.991 per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.006 per \$100 of assessed value (including stormwater tax). [See press release for more details.](#)

### Rep. Don Beyer to Speak at Local Forum May 15: Join Us!

As housing prices continue to increase in our very desirable community, many – including teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, and retail staff – struggle to find housing that fits in their budgets. Are you interested in learning more about how decisions are made about the kind of housing that is available in Arlington? Join the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) at a FREE half-day event (8 am – 12 noon) on the State of Affordable Housing (SOAH).

Rep. Don Beyer will kick off the event at The Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland Street, Arlington VA 22201. Registration is free but space is limited. [Register today!](#)

The Alliance for Housing Solutions' (AHS) mission is to advocate for an Arlington for Everyone. AHS works with community members, housing developers and policymakers to develop solutions that make Arlington the rich and diverse place we call home.

### Lawmakers Raise Concerns About Noise, Traffic at Region's Airports

On April 6, Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) joined other D.C. metro area legislators in writing to members of the House Appropriations Committee to support airplane noise mitigation provisions in the fiscal year Transportation-Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill. Beyer is a member of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, and urged the committee to fund health studies on the effects of airplane noise. The legislators cited past studies that have linked excessive exposure to noise with hypertension and learning difficulties. Beyer requested that appropriators include language directing the Federal Aviation Administration to expedite its review of current noise standards. [See ArlNow.com article.](#)

### The Connection Library

#### ADULT PROGRAMS

**First Friday Fun - Ukulele Jam!** (Ages 12 & Up) Limited number of ukuleles provided.

(Registration Required)

Friday, May 5, 5:00 p.m.

**Meet the Business Services Librarian**

Learn about free business resources at the Library.

Fridays, May 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Photo Safari with Parks & Recreation (55+)**

Photography tour of Crystal City Underground.

Saturday, May 20, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(Registration Required)

\*Library Closes at 5:00 p.m.

**Eat Fresh & Get Your Steps!**

With Parks & Recreation (55+)

Shop the Crystal City Farmers Market

Tuesday, May 30, 4:30 p.m.

(Registration Required)

**Coffee and Conversation - Crystal City**

Learn about aging in place with Arlington Neighborhood Village

Wednesday, May 31, 10:00 a.m.

**Tech Tutoring (by appointment)**

Tuesdays 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Strategy Gaming Night**

Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 p.m.

**Knit One, Read One**

Fridays, 10:00 a.m.

**Lunchtime Coloring**

Fridays, 12:00 p.m.

**Saturday Puzzles**

Help complete the puzzle of the week.

Every Saturday all day.

#### **BIKE MONTH EVENTS!**

**Bicycle Storytime (0-5 years)**

Stories, songs, and crafts

Tuesday, May 23, 10:30 a.m.

**DIY Bike Bell Decoration (18 & up)**

**Materials provided**

Friday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.

(Registration required)

**Tips for Safe Cycling (12 & Up)**

Guidelines for fun and safe cycling.

Bike beginners welcome!

(No bicycle required.)

Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.

#### **STORYTIMES**

**Mother's Day Tea Family Program**

Storytime, crafts, and snacks.

Saturday, May 13, 10:30 a.m.

**Stop in for Stories (0-5 years)**

Saturday, May 6, 10:30 a.m.

Thursdays in May, 4:30 p.m.

**Under Two's (0-23 mos.)**

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Check out the [website](#) for May events at our Pop Up Library—which may not be with us beyond June. (see editorial above)

### Arlington's Libraries, Now at Your Fingertips

Arlington County's newest free app puts the public library within reach of iPhone and Android users wherever they may be. App users can search the catalog, manage their accounts, book meeting rooms and access library information and operating hours. They also can browse featured events, news and popular booklists. browse featured events, news and popular booklists, all from your phone. See [press release](#) or go to Apple or Google Play to download the software on your phone.

### McAuliffe Signs Bill Overriding County's Towing Changes

Local businesses will not have to authorize each individual tow from their property after Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) signed a bill ending the would-be practice.

HB 1960 overrides Arlington County's towing regulations that required a so-called "real-time authorization" of each tow during business hours. The county's regulations were set to come into effect July 1.

[See \*ArlNow.com\* article of April 26.](#)

### **Arlington County Receives National Planning Achievement Award for Smart Growth Journey**

The American Planning Association today recognized Arlington's commitment to community-based planning and smart growth with the Gold 2017 National Planning Achievement Award for Implementation of our General Land Use Plan and smart growth journey. Arlington was one of 12 national award recipients, the profession's highest honor. [See press release for more details.](#)

## **Other Issues**

### **Crystal House: The Potluck Club**

ArlingtonMagazine has an interesting article on one of our Crystal City neighbors, Lisa Curtin, who founded a Potluck Club in Crystal House in 2015. It now has more than 120 members ranging in age from their 2s to their 70s. They meet in the building's lounge or rooftop deck and sometimes attend other outings together, including the Wine in the Park Friday nights.

### **AFAC Food Drive**

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) is pleased to participate in the 25th Anniversary "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive, a nationwide food drive organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) with the goal to collect more than 80 million pounds of food door-to-door and to bring awareness to the issue of hunger. Arlington residents are asked to leave non-perishable food donations in a bag next to their mailboxes by 9 AM on the morning of **Saturday, May 13**. Local letter carriers will collect the food on their normal routes, donations will be delivered to AFAC and distributed to our neighbors in need. This year, AFAC hopes to collect 30,000 pounds of healthy non-perishable foods from Arlington residents.

**If you miss your letter carrier or live in an apartment building, please bring your donation to the following Arlington Post Offices no later than Friday, May 19:**

North Station (2200 N. George Mason Dr.), South Station (1210 S. Glebe Rd), Main Station (3118 Washington Blvd), Preston King Station in Westover (5877 Washington Blvd), or Shirlington Post Office (2850 S. Quincy St).

### **The Armed Forces Cycling Classic**

This year's Armed Forces Cycling Classic, proudly brought to you by The Boeing Company, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, **June 10th and 11th, 2017**. The Armed Forces Cycling Classic is the region's premier cycling event, open to cycling enthusiasts of all abilities. Cyclists with USA Cycling licenses are invited to race in Arlington on both days. Racing will feature the nations top Pro men and women. Amateurs of all abilities will also be able to participate on Sunday morning's Armed Forces Cycling Classic Challenge Ride! The Challenge Ride is an amateur, non-competitive, participatory ride, open to cyclists of all abilities. The ride takes place on a course closed to traffic, starting and finishing in Crystal City traveling past the Pentagon and up to Rosslyn and back. The course opens at 7:00am and closes at 10:00am. You can participate as a Standard Registrant or as a member of a Thales Corporate Challenge Team.

[Register here.](#)

### **Celebrate National Fitness Month**

Celebrate National Fitness Month with a day full of activities to get your heart pumping. On **Friday, May 12**, fitness activities and demonstrations will be available at all fitness levels for those 55 and older @ Arlington Mill Senior Center. FREE!

Activities will include:

Fitness Center Orientation

Pickleball Drills

Talk: "Getting the Most Out of Your FitBit"

KUKUWA African Dance Workout

Feldenkrais

Learn How to Become a Bike Leader

Seated Exercise

And more

[View the full schedule.](#)

Register by calling 703-228-4771 and get a free t-shirt! Refreshments will also be served.

### **Monday Morning Yoga**

Crystal City Water Park - 1750 Crystal Drive

Returns **Monday, May 1** - 7:00 AM

Amateur and seasoned yogis can join professional instructors from Mind Your Body Oasis and flex their way into the week with Monday Morning Yoga in the Crystal City Water Park across from 1750 Crystal Drive. In the event of inclement weather, the class will be held inside at Mind Your Body Oasis.

### **Mid-Day Meditation**

Upper Garden Plaza at 1225 S. Clark Street

Returns **Monday, May 1** - 12:00 PM

Meditation is the perfect complement in building a healthy and connected community. Join the Crystal City BID and Natalie Sigmund Wellness for a weekly lunchtime meditation class to help increase your overall wellbeing.

### Outdoor Zumba

2121 Crystal Drive

Returns **Wednesday, May 3** - 12:00 PM

The Courtyard at 2121 Crystal Drive starts to heat up on Wednesdays with outdoor Zumba. Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. Come out and join the party!

### Sparket: A Creative Market

1900 Crystal Drive

Returns **Thursday, May 4** - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The eclectic and colorful shopping experience of Eastern Market returns to 1900 Crystal Drive with Sparket – A Creative Market for a Spring Market from May to June. 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.

### Floral Frenzy: Bulb Blitz

2121 Crystal Drive Courtyard

**Friday, May 5** - 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.

### Arlington Historical Society Forest Walk

Join the Arlington Historical Society, on Sunday, May 7, 2017 for the George Washington's Forest History Walk!

**Sunday, May 7, 2017, 1:30 PM** (Rain or Shine. Begins and ends at Ball-Sellers Museum, 5620 3rd Street South. FREE to the public, all ages welcome. Wear good walking shoes and dress for the weather

# CCCA OFFICERS

Contact us:  
[board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org)

President	Christer Ahl
Vice President for Policy and Planning	Judy Freshman
Secretary	Claudia Yarus
Treasurer	Diane Oksanen-Gooden
Communications Director	Carol Fuller
Membership Liaison	Vacant

Established January 28, 2014

**Join on our website:**

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

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

Treasurer, CCCA  
1200 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202