

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

Newsletter
No. 5, 2018

May 2019



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

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

Inside this Issue:

Civic Association Issues

[CCCA Meeting April 3](#)

[Next CCCA Meeting](#)

Crystal City Development and Amazon

[JBG Smith signs Amazon to leases, purchase](#)

[Amazon leases more space from JBG Smith](#)

[Amazon starts hiring](#)

[JBG Smith maps show how HQ2 will change Crystal City](#)

[The Deal of a Lifetime: Amazon HQ2](#)

[Amazon: Economic godsend/self-centered behemoth?](#)

[Tour the Room JBG Smith Used to Pitch Amazon](#)

[Amazon considering covering transit fares](#)

[Amazon to Give \\$10,000 Grants to Four Schools](#)

[Office Market Feeling Early Amazon HQ2 Impacts](#)

[Jeff Bezos challenges on \\$15 minimum wage](#)

[Arlington to Forward FOIAs to Amazon](#)

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

[Construction and Amazon move-in dates](#)

[Construction Update 1550 Crystal Drive](#)

[Long Bridge Park Aquatics Center update](#)

[A MARC train to HQ2? A VRE train to Baltimore](#)

[Real-Estate Crystal City Buying Frenzy](#)

[Digital consultant to move within Crystal City](#)

[Institute for Defense Analyses new HQ](#)

[TNC \(uber/lyft\) lot](#)

[Four New Residential, Office Towers](#)

[Neighborhood Spotlight: Crystal City](#)

Pentagon City Drainage Pond Leak

[Mister Rogers Exhibit Comes to Crystal City](#)

[Crystal City Restaurant Row Looks to Adapt](#)

[New Restaurant on 23rd Street](#)

[Second Candy Store to Open at Pentagon City Mall](#)

Arlington County Issues

[County to Request Renaming Jefferson Davis Hwy](#)

[Arlington County Board Adopts FY 2020 Budget](#)

[Arlington Retains DEA in Pentagon City](#)

[County Manager Plan for Housing](#)

[Change In Recycling Glass in Arlington](#)

[New Community Reports Identify Significant Disparities](#)

[Arlington elections office leadership transition](#)

[The Best Defense Against Fraud is a Good Offense](#)

[County Board Amends, Passes New Bicycle Plan](#)

[Arlington Kicks Off 2020 Census Season](#)

[County Department of Environmental Services](#)

[Arlington County Launches Operation Safe Station](#)

[When Arlington Bikes](#)

[Dorsey to Join Black Heritage Museum](#)

Other News:

[Die, robocalls, die](#)

[I-395 HOT lanes on track for October opening](#)

[Metro shutdown and survey](#)

[Fridays at the Fountain](#)

[Crafts Market Returns at 220 20th St.](#)

[Metro shutdown and survey](#)

[5K Fridays Extended Due to Rain](#)

[Velofix Mobile Bike Repair](#)
[First Friday at the Gallery Underground](#)
[Arlington's E-CARE Recycling Event](#)
[Food Truck Thursdays](#)
[The Connection Library](#)
[Crystal City BID Updates](#)

For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Civic Association Issues

CCCA Meeting April 3

Thanks to so many of you who attended the community meeting the CCCA hosted with the leaders of Amazon in Virginia. About 240 people from the 22202 zip code attended our enlarged meeting. Holly Sullivan, head of worldwide economic development at Amazon Public Policy, presented a slide show ([click here to see it](#)) about what they have done in Seattle and what they plan to do here. She and Brian Moore, Senior Manager for Amazon Public Policy, then answered questions for over an hour. Topics were wide ranging, from local dog parks to Amazon's interaction with the local schools. Transportation was another major topic along with housing. We consider the meeting to have been a major success for informing residents of the Amazon HQ2 impacts.



Next CCCA Meeting June 3

In response to requests from many CCCA members, we have scheduled a meeting on "Security and Safety in Crystal City." Our panel of three speakers will be: 1) Captain Wayne Vincent, head of Police Outreach for Arlington County, on Security issues in Crystal City"; 2) Eric Goldstein, Chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) on "Safety Issues for Pedestrians and Bikers"; and 3) Jim Larsen of the County Transportation Mobility Team and Shared Mobility Devices Pilot Program on "Scooters and Dockless Bikes"

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

Time: 7-9 pm

Crystal City Development and Amazon

It's official: JBG Smith signs Amazon to leases, purchase agreements for HQ2 in Arlington

JBG Smith Properties announced April 3 that affiliates of Amazon.com Inc. have finalized three leasing deals and two purchase and sale agreements with the Chevy Chase-based REIT for buildings in National Landing — a new name for the overall area of Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard where Amazon will soon set up shop. Amazon's executed leases include a total of 537,000 square feet — 88,000 square feet at 241 18th St. South, 191,000 square feet at 1800 South Bell St. and 258,000 square feet at 1770 Crystal Drive. Amazon also finished agreements for the \$294 million purchase JBG Smith's Pen Place and Metropolitan Park 6, 7 and 8 development sites in Pentagon City, which will serve as the initial new construction of Amazon's HQ2. The sites hold a combined development potential of 4.1 million square feet. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon leases more space from JBG Smith at National Landing

Amazon has tacked on another block of space to its planned footprint at National Landing, less than a month after executing its first set of leases and purchase agreements with JBG Smith for its second headquarters. It signed a lease for 47,512 square feet at 2345 Crystal Drive and plans to move into the space in the next few months. The space is in addition to what it has already leased from JBG Smith for HQ2 in three other buildings, bringing the total leased to 584,512 square feet. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon starts hiring

In a blog posted April 29, Vice President of Workforce Development at Amazon Ardine Williams said that the company is ahead of schedule and on pace to create 400 new jobs this year and a total of 25,000 over the next decade plus. [See the job postings here.](#) "While the number is small, these employees will help build the foundation of our workforce and workplace. The human resources leaders will help us recruit diverse and customer-obsessed teams and the finance, sourcing and facilities professionals will support the development of

our new sites with the goal of building a unique, sustainable, and urban campus for our employees and the local community." [Read more here.](#)

Williams and Rob Pulciani, vice president for Alexa, are the two executives moving to the Arlington office — a transfer that offers the first information about what kinds of operations will be based there. Williams has already arrived. She plans to develop partnerships with local governments and universities, colleges and community colleges to ensure that graduates have the kinds of skills that Amazon will need in coming years. Pulciani will oversee a technical team focused on Alexa, the virtual assistant used in Amazon smart speaker devices such as Echo. [Read more here.](#)

These two JBG Smith maps show how HQ2 will change Crystal City

It's a tale of two maps. One shows Crystal City and Pentagon City's present. The other shows the Salt Lake Union neighborhood of Seattle and the "tech-dominated growth" that could be in Arlington's near future. As Amazon builds and staffs up HQ2, other tech companies who orbit the online retailer could follow, according to a JBG Smith investor presentation. "Amazon isn't just 38,000 jobs," the JBG Smith documents say. "It's a catalyst for significant growth." [Read more here.](#)

The Deal of a Lifetime: Amazon HQ2

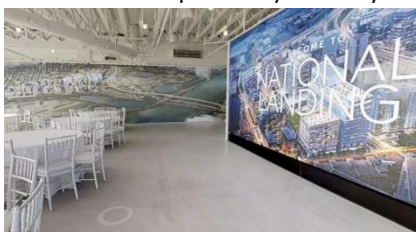
It's a journey the participants won't soon forget. We've digested the 14-month odyssey from HQ2 kickoff to HQ2 selection here, along with the aftermath. [Read the interesting chronology here in the Washington Business Journal.](#)

Amazon in Seattle: Economic godsend or self-centered behemoth?

Amazon's rise in Seattle has earned it a mixed reputation as both a progressive-minded economic godsend for the city and a self-centered behemoth contributing too little to address the disruption it helped create, analysts say. [Read more here.](#)

Take a Tour of the Room JBG Smith Used to Pitch Amazon

A virtual tour is now online of the room developer JBG Smith used to pitch Crystal City and Pentagon City properties to Amazon. Shirlington-based real estate marketing firm Lyons & Sucher designed the space, calling it "the room where it happened" and posted a



virtual 360-degree tour on their website earlier this week. As for the room itself? "It's gone now," said Lyons, explaining that the building is now being renovated. "It doesn't exist anymore." [Read more here.](#)

Amazon said to be considering covering transit fares for Arlington workers

Amazon is considering covering the full cost of transit fares for its Arlington employees, according to The Washington Post. The coverage of transit fares by the company could assuage some fears that Amazon will further hamper traffic congestion problems in Greater Washington. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon to Give \$10,000 Grants to Four Arlington Schools

Amazon is planning to award four Arlington schools with a \$10,000 grant for robotics programs. Abingdon, Hoffman-Boston and Drew elementary schools, along with Kenmore Middle School, have been selected for the grant along with 96 other schools nationwide, according to the statement released April 12. Amazon is also awarding grants to 13 schools in D.C., six in Alexandria, and two in Prince George's County. [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City Office Market Feeling Early Impacts Of Amazon HQ2 On Leasing, Rents

Crystal City claimed a disproportionate share of Northern Virginia's office leasing in Q1, the first full quarter since Amazon announced it would establish its second headquarters in the area. While the leases signed may not be a direct result of Amazon's arrival, the momentum comes as Crystal City's building owners are growing increasingly bullish on the neighborhood's future, a confidence that is changing the way they are approaching office lease negotiations. In the first three months of 2019, Crystal City's 366K SF of leases accounted for 23% of Northern Virginia's total leasing volume, according to CBRE. That represents a larger-than-usual share of the pie, as Crystal City's 11.2M SF of office inventory makes up just 6.8% of Northern Virginia's total office stock. Many of these deals were likely initiated before the HQ2 announcement, and it is too early to measure exactly how large of an impact Amazon is having on the market. But it has instilled a new sense of optimism in Crystal City. [Read more here.](#)

Jeff Bezos challenges world's largest retailers to top Amazon's \$15 minimum wage

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is calling on his largest competitors to raise their minimum wage to \$15, as Amazon did in 2018. Bezos, in his annual letter to shareholders, or shareowners as he calls them, touted Amazon's move as one that benefited more than

250,000 Amazon employees and over 100,000 seasonal employees (though it did come with an offset, as the New York Times reported). [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Already Planning to Forward FOIAs to Amazon

Arlington County is planning to start forwarding public records requests about Amazon to the company, despite not yet having finalized the agreement to do, officials say. [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Construction and Amazon move-in dates

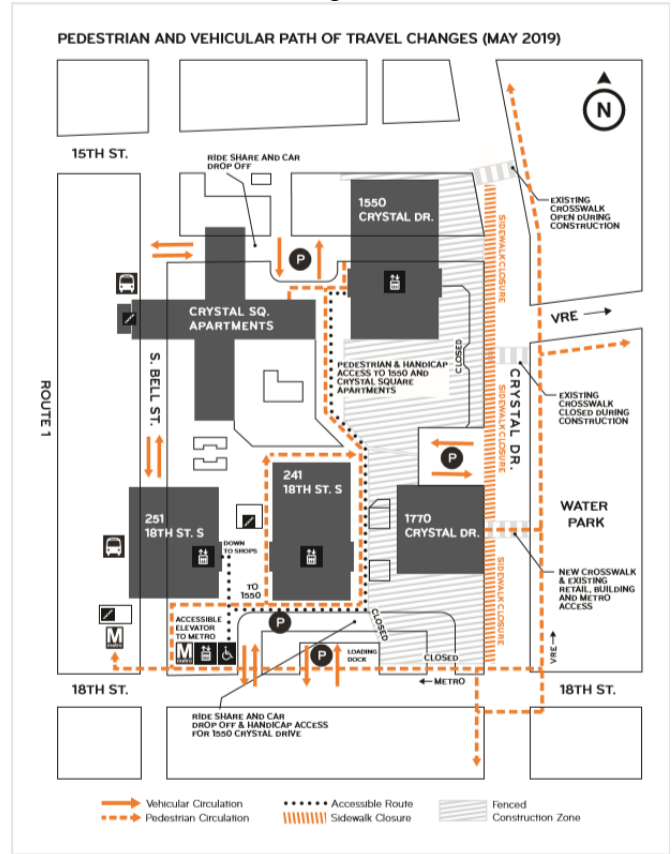
Although tentative, here are some "guesstimates" of the ongoing and planned construction on Crystal Drive:

- Central District Retail (1550): Under construction with Q4 2021 anticipated completion
- 1770 Crystal Drive: Under construction with Q2 2021 anticipated completion
- 1900 Crystal Drive: Prelim 4.1 application is under staff review. If accepted as scheduled, public process would start in 2019 with a 2020 construction start.
- The first Amazon employees will move into new leased space at 2345 Crystal Drive by June.
- Amazon is expected to move other employees into 241 S 18th Street, which only needs slight adjustments, by the end of the year.
- For the interim Amazon occupancy of 1800 S. Bell, JBG Smith will turn the space over to Amazon this summer, and they are aiming to have their employees moved in by the end of the year.
- 2121 Pavilions: Construction start is leasing dependent. Once a tenant(s) is identified, there will be 6-12 months of design and permitted followed by approximately 10 months of construction.

Construction Update 1550 Crystal Drive

Starting **May 1st**, JBG Smith will start the renovation of 1550 Crystal Drive to make way for an improved lobby and entry experience, as well as new street-facing retail. As a result, the 1550 Crystal Drive main lobby entrance on Crystal Drive will be closed. For your safety, the pedestrian access along the west side of Crystal Drive

between 18th Street and 15th Street will be closed.



Here's what to expect in the next few weeks:

- Pedestrian access to retail, 241 18th Street, 251 18th Street, 1550 Crystal Drive, and Crystal Square Apartments will remain open on Crystal Drive through 1770 Crystal Drive.
- Ride share and car drop off for 1550 Crystal Drive can be accessed from the driveway in front of the Crystal Square Apartments, 1515 Jefferson Davis Highway, where a walking path will take you to the rear entry of the 1550 Crystal Drive lobby.
- Ride share or car drop off can also be accessed from the loop road surface lot off 18th Street at the plaza level between 241 18th Street and 1770 Crystal Drive. There will be designated drop off parking spaces and a walking path that will take you to 1550 Crystal Drive.
- Handicap access for 1550 Crystal Drive Lobby will be available at 241 18th Street.
- Retail and metro access will remain open during construction.
- The Crystal Drive and 18th Street parking entrances will remain open.
- Please contact the JBG Smith Property Management Team at 703.413.4380 with any questions.

Long Bridge Park Aquatics Center update

As you may have seen from driving by the Long Bridge Park site, things are happening. Over the winter over



1500 geo-piers were placed in the ground to support the building and contaminated materials were excavated and placed in their secure locations. Over the last several weeks – we now have a pool!.....sort of.

From the attached pictures you can see the 50 meter pool basin has been excavated (you can see the deep end, the slope to the

mid-depth and then to the shallow area). A major milestone passed, that being the first concrete has been placed. You can see in the pictures the footers for the building columns and walls going in. In the picture you can also see the form work for the 1st part of the walls. The lower part of the walls was to be poured the week of April 22.

A MARC train to HQ? A VRE train to Baltimore? This study will answer whether the market's there.

Could a future Amazon.com Inc. employee living deep in the Old Line State catch a MARC train straight to Crystal City? Or how about a Manassas resident riding VRE to Baltimore? Maryland and Virginia are setting out to answer those questions in the next year. Both systems, five lines total, currently start in their respective states and end at Union Station in the District. The states will spend about \$100,000 to study the technical aspects of VRE and MARC trains running on the other's tracks and determine if there is demand for this kind of service.

In order for MARC trains to enter Virginia, they would need to cross the more than 115-year-old Long Bridge, which runs parallel to the 14th Street Bridge. The 2,529-foot two-track span is the only railroad bridge connecting Virginia and D.C. over the Potomac River, and it is crowded. About 76 freight, VRE, and Amtrak passenger trains cross it daily. D.C. and federal officials have been looking at a complete renovation or replacement of the current bridge for years. A record of decision as part of that comprehensive study is not expected until summer 2020. [Read more here.](#)

Real-Estate Agents Dish on the Crystal City Buying Frenzy That Followed Amazon's HQ2 Announcement

Waterford House's location on bland Crystal Drive had been nothing special before. But now it was nearly smack in the middle of the National Landing HQ2 site. Stuart pulled both condos off the market, then relisted them for about \$20,000 more apiece. He added one very important detail in all caps: AMAZON HQ2. Six offers rolled in on the one-bedroom unit, which sold for \$450,000. Three came in on the two-bedroom, which closed at \$574,000. [Read more here.](#)

Digital consultant to move within Crystal City, eventually grow to 1,000 employees

ITG, a digital consulting firm, will leave JBG Smith's at 2121 Crystal Drive for 50,000 square feet at Beacon Capital Partners' Presidential Tower, at 2511 Jefferson Davis Highway. Governor Northam authorized a \$450,000 grant from the Commonwealth Opportunity Fund to secure the deal, and ITG will also be eligible for a Major Business Facility Job Tax Credit for each full-time job it creates. Virginia competed with Georgia on the project. ITG expects to create 128 new jobs as soon as this year, Northam's office said, "with a commitment to over 1,000 new high-paying jobs at the Virginia headquarters" over the long term. ITG, according to Washington Business Journal research, had 31 employees locally as of early 2018.

[Read more here.](#)

Institute for Defense Analyses to land nearly \$250M in bonds for new HQ

The Institute for Defense Analyses should soon have the necessary funding for its long-awaited Potomac Yard headquarters. Alexandria City Council on April 23 is expected to approve the issuance of up to \$249.4 million in Industrial Development Authority bonds to support the land acquisition, construction and furnishing of the IDA office building and conference center planned for 701 E. Glebe Road. The institute acquired that site in April 2016 for \$10.1 million, according to Alexandria property records. It has been planning a new headquarters since at least 2012. The project, per the bond resolution, will total 370,000 square feet above grade, comprising two six-story towers over a two-story base, along with two stories of below-grade parking.

[Read more here.](#)

Additional action requested on TNC (uber/lyft) lot

Aurora Highlands and Crystal City Civic Associations sent a letter to the County urging more action to address traffic issues related to the TNC lot between Eads and Route 1. Representatives from both Civic Associations have been participating in meetings with the County and

MWAA, and while a number of improvements have been implemented, the most recent meeting suggested further improvements may be stalled. [See the letter here.](#) [Read ArlNow.com article here.](#)

Four New Residential, Office Towers Proposed for Pentagon City

A developer is planning to raze two office buildings on 601-701 12th Street S. in Pentagon City and build four new towers with residential, office, and retail space. That's according to a preliminary site



plan filing with Arlington County. The plan also notes that the property's current occupants — the Transportation Security Administration — are soon leaving the county. [Read more here.](#)

Neighborhood Spotlight: Long Walks, Fresh Air and Art in Crystal City

In this week's Neighborhood Spotlight Drew Carpenter, Tyler Marrin, and Wilson from The Keri Shull Team explore some of the best artsy and outdoor spaces in Crystal City and National Landing. [A bit out of date, but still fun to read] [Read more here.](#)

Pentagon City Drainage Pond May Be Removed After Metro Tunnel Leak

Arlington County wants to demolish part of a multi-million dollar Pentagon City project after officials say it caused a leak in a Metro tunnel. The County Board will vote on the demolition of a storm run-off basin near the Pentagon City mall next week because the structure caused water to leak into the Metro



tunnel below. The basin was installed in 2014 as part of upgrades made along S. Hayes Street from 15th Street S. to Army Navy Drive. The basin was part of the landscaping between the road lanes. [Read more here.](#)

Mister Rogers Exhibit Comes to Crystal City

A free exhibit entitled Mister Rogers: Just the Way You Are is currently on display in Crystal City. The exhibit is open to the public at the Crystal City Shops entrance to the PBS building (2100 Crystal Drive)

through May 31. Created by Nashville-based artist Wayne Brezinka, the exhibit is described as "a unique and interactive mixed media portrait experience incorporating both two and three-dimensional elements." [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City Restaurant Row Looks to Adapt to Amazon, But Keep Its Community Business owners and residents near Crystal

City's Restaurant Row are gearing up and adapting in anticipation of Amazon's planned HQ2 nearby. Freddie Lutz has owned Freddie's Beach Bar for 18 years and shepherded it through changes in the gay and straight communities. Lutz shared that more and more small-business owners are expressing interest in opening up shop or expanding on Crystal City's 23rd Street S. now that Amazon inked its move-in deal. [Read more here.](#)

New Restaurant on 23rd Street

Fiona's Irish Pub opened recently on the corner of 23rd and S. Fern Streets in the previous Tortoise and Hare Restaurant. It offers a fairly extensive menu from pub food to main courses.

Second Candy Store to Open at Pentagon City Mall

"Why Not Candy?" is scheduled to open in the third floor of the mall next to the GNC health and nutrition store on Wednesday, May 1. The confectionery shop will feature an "ultimate candy 'fun room' with an unending supply of tasty confections," the Mall website says.

Arlington County Issues

County Board to Request Renaming Jefferson Davis Highway Within Arlington's Borders

The Arlington County Board on Thursday, April 25, voted unanimously to approve a resolution asking that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), rename the 2.56-mile portion of Jefferson Davis Highway that lies within the County's borders "Richmond Highway." The move comes after the City of Alexandria changed the name of the roadway within its borders, effective January 1, 2019. In its resolution, the Board said that if the CTB approves the name change at its May meeting, it would take effect no later than Oct. 1, 2019. Arlington would pay for the new street signs (estimated to cost about \$17,000). No street numbers will be changed, and the United States Postal Service will, in perpetuity,

continue to deliver mail to the businesses and residences along the highway addressed to Jefferson Davis Highway. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington County Board Adopts FY 2020 Budget

On April 23 the Arlington County Board adopted a \$1.4 billion balanced General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 that includes a two-cent increase per \$100 of assessed value in the property tax rate for Calendar Year 2019. The Board's approval of the budget concluded an intensive review that included a series of work sessions and two public hearings. The Board's action set the CY 2019 tax rate at \$1.026 (including the sanitary district tax) per \$100 of assessed value. That rate, together with increased assessments as well as other taxes and fees adopted by the Board, will cost the average homeowner (with a home valued at \$658,600) \$9,023 in FY 2020 in taxes and fees, an increase of \$281 from FY 2019, or 3.2 percent. The 2020 fiscal year begins July 1, 2019. The County saw a 2.8 percent increase in the average residential property assessment in 2019. [Read details here.](#)

Arlington Retains DEA in Pentagon City

The Arlington County Board approved April 25 an incentive grant that will keep the headquarters of the Drug Enforcement Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Justice, in Pentagon City following a lengthy federal competitive bid process. The federal law enforcement agency occupies more than 511,000 square feet of space, and employs about 3,000 people at 600 and 700 Army Navy Drive. The DEA's continued presence in Arlington is expected to generate net tax revenue of more than \$31 million for Arlington County over the next 15 years. In addition, the DEA and its employees contribute an estimated \$450,000 per year to the County in indirect revenue through meals, sales and transient occupancy taxes. As part of the deal, Arlington County will provide an approximate \$11.5 million Economic Development Incentive (EDI) grant, which is subject to square footage occupancy targets and will be distributed over 15 years. The EDI grant would go to CSHV Lincoln Place LLC, the owner of the buildings, for the purposes of providing a competitive lease rate to the federal government. [Read more here.](#)

County Manager Presents Plan for New Umbrella Initiative Focused on Housing

On April 25, the County Manager presented Housing Arlington, a new umbrella initiative that tackles complex housing affordability issues through multiple interconnected programs, to the County Board. Housing

Arlington seeks to combine tools and solutions to generate holistic and adaptable solutions for the issues of both affordable housing and a shortage of affordable housing options for the middle class (dubbed the "missing middle"). [Read more here.](#)

Change In Recycling Glass in Arlington

It's official. The County Manager may now remove glass from the recycling policy. Placing your glass in blue curbside recycling carts is no longer an economically or environmentally sustainable recycling option for Arlington County. Instead, drop it off at the Quincy Park and Trades recycling centers to be crushed and re-used locally. Glass dropped off at the Quincy Park and Trades Center recycling collection sites is crushed thanks to Fairfax County Government and used for paving and landscaping projects in Northern Virginia. Arlington is looking to add more glass-only drop-off bins around the County. [Read more why and how here.](#)



New Community Reports Identify Significant Disparities

Ten-year gap found in life expectancy based on neighborhood. Arlington County has published two new reports highlighting significant disparities in health and well-being among residents, as well as strategies to reduce those disparities.

[A Decade of Difference: The Destination 2027 Steering Committee Report](#) identifies actions to take to address the fact that who you are and where you live in Arlington can make up to a decade of difference in how many birthdays you celebrate over a lifetime.

[Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families \(APCYF\) 2019 Community Report](#) calls attention to disparities in the health and well-being of children and youth based on factors such as income, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and level of English proficiency. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington elections office gears up for leadership transition

Electoral Board members announced April 24 they had selected Gretchen Reinemeyer, currently deputy to Director of Elections Linda Lindberg, to succeed Lindberg starting July 1. Lindberg had announced earlier in the year she planned on retiring from the post she had held since 2003. The



appointment won't be official until a formal Electoral Board vote in May or June, but it seemed clear from the beginning that Reinemeyer was likely to be tapped to succeed Lindberg, who herself had been deputy to a registrar (Charlotte Cleary) when appointed to succeed her boss. [Read more here.](#)

The Best Defense Against Fraud is a Good Offense

Learn how to Protect Yourself from Consumer Fraud. Scammers are always looking for new and inventive ways to steal from hardworking members of the public. In recognizing that an informed consumer is one of the best defenses against fraud, the Arlington County Police Department is sharing common consumer scams reported to law enforcement and tips on how to protect yourself. [Read more here.](#)

County Board Amends, Passes New Bicycle Plan

On April 23 the Board approved the guiding infrastructure "wish list" for the county after four hours of deliberations and four amendments, and two years of community engagement. Though some activists criticized the plan for being too vague, it broadly calls for around 100 projects "currently envisioned to occur by the year 2040" to improve cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. All told, the projects aim to renovate 18 miles of trail and add up to 9 miles of new trails. They would also add up to 75 miles of on-street bikeways to the county, but only 2.5 miles of protected bicycle lanes. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Kicks Off 2020 Census Season

The U.S. Census counts each and every resident in the nation every 10 years, including right here in Arlington. It will help to determine things like the number of seats Virginia has in the House of Representatives, and how to distribute federal funds to local communities like ours. And it's closer than you think. [What it is, and why it's essential that everyone in Arlington be counted](#)
[Why is the census important?](#)
[Learn how you can get involved](#)

Arlington County Department of Environmental Services

Happy 4-20. Never flush drugs down the toilet. Bad for the water system. Take-back events next weekend. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington County Launches Operation Safe Station

Arlington County launches Operation Safe Station to provide a designated safe environment for individuals

seeking treatment for substance abuse disorders. Any time – day or night – when an individual decides or gathers the courage to seek help for substance abuse, they can report to the Office of the Magistrate and start their path to recovery. Operation Safe Station is a multidisciplinary effort designed to reduce the dangerous impacts of opioids and other drugs in our community and to promote treatment options. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Office and the Department of Human Services have collaborated to develop a process by which individuals who seek help with their drug use can self-report and receive services, without fear of prosecution and incarceration. [Read more here.](#)

When Arlington Bikes: An Ever-Expanding Positive Chain of Events

With the spring sun warming the way, there's no better time to roam Arlington by pedal. The County continues to build on the bicycle's unique ability to provide clean short- and medium-range transportation that requires far less infrastructure and resources compared to automobile traffic. The investments continue to pay off. *Bicycling magazine* recently named Arlington the 17th best biking "city" in America — a jump from 25th in just two years. And the pace continues to pick up for Arlington's expanding bikeways. [Check out the County bikeways.](#)

Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey to Join Black Heritage Museum of Arlington Board of Trustees

The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) announced that Christian Dorsey, Chair of the Arlington County Board, will be joining BHMA's Board, effective April 15, 2019. BHMA was founded by the late Evelyn Syphax nearly two decades ago to acknowledge the contributions and history of African Americans in the county from slavery to present times. The museum is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, to acquire, preserve, catalog and display historic items relevant to the black history of Arlington County and Northern Virginia. Formerly a "museum without walls", BHMA is now located at 3108 Columbia Pike in Arlington.

Other Issues

[Die, robocalls, die: A how-to guide to stop spammers and exact revenge](#)

We tested six apps and services to find the best way to fight back against bots, telemarketers and fraud. [Read more here.](#)

I-395 HOT lanes on track for October opening

The new toll system is an extension of the 95 express lanes and will add eight miles to Virginia's growing toll network. The high-occupancy toll lanes system on Interstate 395 is months away, but drivers are already noticing some changes in the corridor, including new E-ZPass readers going up. Crews have begun to install toll technology for the HOT lanes operation — an extension of the 95 Express Lanes. But officials say drivers don't have to worry about getting charged for trips until the system goes live in late October. [Read more here.](#)

Metro shutdown and survey

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which operates Metrorail, has announced that **all stations south of the Ronald Reagan National Airport Station will be closed between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2019.** The extended closure will allow WMATA to address long-standing and extensive repairs needed for the continued safe operation of three outdoor station platforms. Single-Tracking and temporary work were considered, but estimated to extend the repair timeline to several years. The Metro Board chose instead to enact the temporary closure.

[Take the survey](#)

In addition, Metro is advising customers that the contractor will conduct pre-construction activities over the weekend of **May 4-5**, requiring the closure of all six stations south of Reagan National Airport. Additional weekend outages may be necessary before the start of around-the-clock construction on Saturday, **May 25**.

Fridays at the Fountain

Fridays May through October, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Crystal City's seasonal pop-up beer garden returns **May 3!** Fridays at the Fountain is the best way to unwind after a long week with food from The Stand's rotating lineup of vendors, beverage selections from the Crystal City Wine Shop and live music from local bands and musicians.

Crafts Market Returns at 220 20th St.

Thursdays, May & June, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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, the Crystal City Crafts Market provides a new lunchtime attraction for area workers, hotel guests, and residents.

5K Fridays Extended Due to Rain

2121 Crystal Dr, Friday, **May 3**, 6:30 p.m.

Who wants to spend extra time in your stiff work clothes, fatigued at a Friday happy hour? That's why you gotta love your favorite spring evening race series, the Crystal City 5k Fridays. After the run, stop by any of the participating bars and restaurants (Highline RxR, Kora by Morou, Jaleo & Crystal City Sports Pub) for a free drink or exclusive specials! **This is the race that was rescheduled on April 19 due to inclement weather**

Velofix Mobile Bike Repair

220 20th St, **Thursday thru October**, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Get those nagging bicycle repairs taken care of while you work with Mobile Bicycle Services by Velofix.

Simply drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up by professionally-certified bicycle mechanics and ready to ride before heading home. Missing a part? Velofix also carries bike parts and gear for purchase in their mobile shop! [Learn more here.](#)

First Friday at the Gallery Underground Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive

Friday, **May 3**, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us at the Gallery Underground on the first Friday of each month for their new show opening reception. This month's exhibition is a national juried show: "RISK." All works accepted into the show depict or represent risk, both literal and figurative.

Arlington's E-CARE Recycling Event

Arlington's E-CARE Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, **May 4** (rain or shine). Residents can come to 1425 N Quincy St (across the street from Washington-Lee High School), between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to safely dispose of hazardous household materials (HHM), and recycle items including bikes, small metal items and much more. HHM are products found in the home that are flammable, corrosive, poisonous or potentially hazardous. They include items such as automotive fluid, car-care products, fluorescent light bulbs, corrosives, household cleaners and propane gas cylinders. Please remember to place all materials in the original container or label materials clearly, and please over-pack any leaking containers. For a full list of acceptable items, visit our website. Be sure to bring your ID to verify that you are an Arlington resident.

Food Truck Thursdays

220 20th St & The Grounds (1102 S Eads St), **Thursdays thru September**, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Get your lunchtime Food Truck fix at Food Truck Thursday from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the lot at 220 Twentieth Street and at The Grounds (1102 S Eads St)! Sign up for alerts

from Curbside Kitchen to get updates about which food trucks will be onsite each week: [Learn More.](#)

The Connection Library

For events at the Pop Up Library, see the [calendar page.](#)

Crystal City BID Updates

You can subscribe to our newsletter, follow us on twitter or instagram (@ccbid), and Like Us on [Facebook](#) for the most current information.



President	Carol Fuller
Vice President for Policy and Planning	Judy Freshman
Secretary	Claudia Yarus
Treasurer	Eric Cassel
Communications Director	Stuart Mize
Membership Liaison	Vacant

Established January 28, 2014

Join on our website:

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

Pay through PayPal

Or send a check for \$10 to:

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