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Newsletter
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Civic Association Issues

October 22: Candidate Forum For County Board Elections



All four candidates for the Arlington County Board elections on November 3-- Katie Cristol, Christian Dorsey, Audrey Greene and Michael McMenamin--participated in a candidate forum organized jointly by the Crystal City, Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations at the Aurora Hills Community Center. The candidates were asked **10 questions** prepared by the three civic associations and also given a chance to present their candidacy and positions. This will be a pivotal election, as two of the current five Board members are stepping down.

November 3 Elections

Note that the next General Election will be Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015. Last day to register to vote is , and you can register online. On the ballot will be:

- Virginia Senate (30th district)
- Virginia House of Delegates (48th district)
- County Constitutional offices
- County Board (two seats)
- School Board (one seat)

To find candidates' names and websites, see the County Elections [website](#). The League of Women's 2015 [Voter's Guide](#) to the November 3 election is online. People can enter their address and see how their state and local candidates answered questions about pressing issues.

November 12: Annual General Meeting



Our invited speaker will be **Arlington County Director of Libraries, Diane Kresh** (seen here at a recent conversation with Judy Blume), who will present her general/countywide topics and visions for high-density areas in Arlington, like Crystal City. She will then apply that to Crystal City, where we have no library, and discuss with us what might be possible to do to improve our situation. Our local library is the small Aurora Hills Library, which has only one small room serving as a "community center" for three areas: Aurora Highlands, Arlington Ridge, and Crystal City. She will be talking about aspects such as: the evolution of library services (both in Arlington and elsewhere) into something much broader than the traditional lending of books; the increasing practice of integrating the library function into multi-purpose facilities (type community centers); the impact of modern technology on the service delivery in libraries; and a vision of how the role and functions of libraries may further evolve in the future; plus an interchange of ideas with us how the library services for the Crystal City population could be improved (on some interim or experimental basis) considering that we are a high-density area with emphasis on walkability, while coping with a total absence of County facilities within our boundaries. Ms. Kresh is a highly articulate and enthusiastic presenter, with modern ideas. **The meeting will be held November 12 from 7-9 pm in the Crystal Park Condominium community room at 1805 Crystal Drive.**

November 12: CCCA Elections

Once a year, we hold an Annual General Meeting when elections for officers are held. Two vacant positions on the CCCA Executive Committee have been temporarily filled by appointment, in accordance with our current Bylaws. Jesse Fonkert, a new apartment dweller in Crystal City, has temporarily filled the Membership Liaison position. Carol Fuller, our current elected Secretary, has been temporarily also filling the position of Communications Director, and is resigning the Secretary position to run for Communications Director.

As there are only 2 candidates for the 3 positions, we urge CCCA members to step forward to help represent the community. Here are the candidate statements:

Carol Fuller (Communications Director)

I am a founding member of the CCCA and was elected Secretary in 2014. For most of 2015, I have also filled the vacant Communications Director position, updating the website and serving as external Secretary as well. As such, I write the monthly Newsletter that is distributed to all CCCA members and believe strongly in the power of information sharing. I have lived in Crystal City since 2007 and in 2011 completed a diplomatic career of 27 years in the U.S. Foreign Service (Department of State) as a senior manager, experienced in strategic planning, management, and negotiations. Over the years in policy, resource, and program management positions, I developed expertise in budget and fiscal matters; property and vehicle maintenance, procurement, management operations; and human resources. I enjoy negotiations and trained many younger officers in the diplomatic skills needed in getting to "yes" answers.

Claudia Yarus (Secretary)

The reason I am putting my name forward is simple – to be part of this organization that informs, participates and advocates on behalf of Crystal City. Having lived in Crystal City for the past 16+ years, as well as in the early 1990s, and spending a considerable amount of time here in the 1980s, I appreciate why the CCCA was formed (with thanks to those who did so) and the role it can and does play as the multitude of changes within and affecting Crystal City are taking place. As such, I am offering to assist and support the CCCA as possible. Several years ago I served on the Board of Crystal Park Condominium, with a term as president. In previous years, I have served on condominium and other boards in various capacities, including that of the board secretary. Based on my experience and background, I submit I will perform this responsibility effectively.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Major Transitway improvements after CCCA Board and members spoke up!

You may recall that, some months ago, County Transit staff presented detailed plans for the operations of the

Transitway which caused major concerns for our neighborhood in a number of respects. As this was mainly the result of a conspicuous lack of attention to the impact on Crystal City residents and workers, and a staff refusal to consult in recent years, with your support we took the key issues to the County Manager's office and some County Board members. We are pleased to inform you that, as a result, several major improvements in the plans are now emerging: (1) the hours of restrictions in the curb/transit lanes on Crystal Drive and Clark-Bell St. will be reduced from a total of 10 hours per weekday to 6.5 hours, a more reasonable match for the peak traffic; (2) the heavily northbound bike lane on Crystal Drive will be retained after all; we had serious concerns that an elimination of the bike lane would cause even more bikers to create a hazard for pedestrians on the sidewalks; (3) a center/turning lane will be introduced on Crystal Drive, so that left turns into garages and driveways will become easier and safer; (4) we have received indications of a much more substantive pre-implementation information campaign and a post-implementation monitoring process. Some remaining issues are still under discussion, and we will keep you posted.

The Metroway buses are of course already operating, but many of you are undoubtedly wondering when the many new bus stops will be ready, after the awkwardly long period of construction. The answer appears to be that this will not happen until late winter or early spring. (Unexpected problems with soil conditions and underground utility are mentioned as the main reasons for the continuing delays). At that time, it is also expected that the Metroway bus alignment will continue from Crystal City to Pentagon City.

Long Bridge Park Decision Approaching



Although not part of Crystal City, Arlington County's Long Bridge Park holds many benefits for residents of Crystal City, which has long lacked facilities available to other parts of the County, such as a multiuse facility with a community room, fitness center, and swimming pool. Ever since the Aquatic Center was put on hold a year ago due to concerns over the cost, County staff have been seeking ways to meet the needs of this part of South Arlington

within available costs. County consultations are ongoing through the month of November regarding the relative priorities of the public for the features of a recreation/aquatic center that can be brought in within budget. Management recommendations will then be made to the Board afterwards for a decision.

The County is now seeking [online](#) input, asking participants to choose what they consider to be their top three amenities or, alternatively, to state if they do not believe the County should invest in an Aquatic, Health and Fitness Facility. **Make your voice heard!**

Other County neighborhoods regularly make known their desire for more public open space, even though most live in areas with houses that have yards and are located on leafy streets. Crystal City is much worse off with respect to public space; yet County staff have told us informally that Crystal City residents tend not to make a solid case for their interests. There will be no net additions of open space under the Crystal City Sector Plan, so Long Bridge Park takes on an even greater importance for our neighborhood. We need to make sure our voices are heard and promote possible assets such as a rational and useful facility at Long Bridge Park.

Our fourth 2015 general CCCA meeting **September 16** focused on the planned completion of Long Bridge Park through an aquatics/recreation facility. You can read [here](#) a full account of the presentations by Toby Smith, Chair of the Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee and former Chair of the County's Parks Commission, and Erik Beach, Head of Planning in the County's Parks, and see their powerpoint presentations [here](#).

Renovation of 1750-1770 Crystal Drive

On Monday October 19 the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) reviewed a proposal by Vornado for a minor site plan amendment to Crystal Square Office 3 (now 1750 Crystal Drive), part of a large site plan (#90) including 4 office buildings and 1 residential complex. The amendment would permit interior and exterior building renovations, including moving the building entrance to Crystal Drive. The building's address will be changed to 1770 Crystal Drive. The current office tenant, the U.S. Marshall's Service, plans to move to the old Boeing building in 2016, opening up the possibility of renovations for a new tenant at 1770. Vornado is in discussions with the U.S. Postal Service about alternative space for the satellite postal station.

SPRC reviewed schematics of the renovation plans, including exterior materials, landscaping and streetscape plans, parking (currently in excess of County requirements) and density (less than 5% increase). Reflective glass will

not be used and in keeping with energy efficiency goals, interior lighting will be automatically turned off in off hours. The project was supported by SPRC members and will be heard by the County Board on November 14, 2015.

Pentagon City Whole Foods Amendment

The County Board will also vote November 14 on an amendment to the Pentagon City Metropolitan Park 4/5 site plans. The amendment would allow for a change in retail space to accommodate a new proposal for additional mezzanine space with a café and indoor seating area at the Whole Foods grocery area on 12th and S. Eads Streets.

Temporary Relocation of Bikeshare Station

The Bikeshare station at Crystal Drive and 20th Street S is going to be temporarily relocated to across Crystal Drive to the north side of 20th Street. It's scheduled to be move around October 1st to make way for resurfacing on Crystal Drive being done as part of the "Transitway" project and will return when the work is done.

Proposed New Capital Bikeshare Station

Arlington County is proposing to install an additional Capital Bikeshare station in the Crystal City area. The proposed site, on S. Eads Street between 15th and 18th streets, would serve numerous residences and businesses in the area. It would offer neighborhood residents easy access to destinations throughout Crystal City, Pentagon City and beyond. The County is proposing the station be installed on the east side of Eads in what is currently a no parking zone, so vehicle parking would not be affected. The station would be located alongside the protected bike lane in a manner similar to the station at Eads and 23rd Street South. Residents can comment in a [survey](#).

New Climbing Gym to Open

On October 21, Earth Treks [announced](#) that it would open a new climbing gym in the metro area. According to State planning documents, the location would be 1235 Clark Street, though the company has only said publicly it would announce the location by the end of the year. With a massive footprint exceeding 45,000 sq ft, the DC Metro location will be among the biggest climbing gyms in the nation. A 35,000 sq ft climbing wall constructed by Walltopia, designed by Jason Kehl and packed with bouldering and roped terrain.

Lane Closures on Airport Access Road

The National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration are working on the Route 233 bridge, which connects Jefferson Davis Highway to the airport. An off-ramp from the southbound lanes of the GW Parkway also connects to the bridge. Single lane

closures on the bridge are planned from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in both directions, according to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. At least one lane will be open on the bridge and on the GW Parkway ramp will remain open during the nine month project, which will replace the bridge's median, among other improvements. Click [here](#) to read more.

Another new eatery coming to Pentagon City

[AriNow.com](#) reports that a Philadelphia-based fast casual stir fry eatery Honeygrow is coming to the Fashion Center in Pentagon City sometime next year. Founded in 2012, Honeygrow offers stir fry bowls, salads, smoothies and honey-covered fruit bowls, using local and seasonal produce. Honeygrow will join three big name restaurants in the still under-construction expansion of the mall, when it opens: Matchbox, Sugar Factory, and Shake Shack.

Arlington County Issues

Elementary School Siting in South Arlington

The South Arlington Working Group (SAWG) is concluding its work, having met in 11 public meetings over four months to review sites for a new elementary school in South Arlington. It reviewed public sites – owned by the County and/or the School Board – and several privately owned sites. Having narrowed the options to three school sites – Gunston, Drew and Thomas Jefferson (TJ) - the group is supporting the TJ site for a new neighborhood elementary school to be completed by 2019.

The Working Group noted that Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff has projected that capacity shortfalls will continue to increase in south Arlington beyond 2019. The current APS projections for 2024 show that south Arlington elementary schools will have a deficit of over 650 seats even with the new 725 seat elementary school in operation. Most concerning is the projection that Oakridge Elementary School would be over 170% of capacity with nearly 1200 students.

Because of the projected shortfall, there was a substantial degree of interest with the Working Group members to re-establish a second elementary school east of Interstate 395. Of particular interest were several potential sites adjacent to Pentagon City, in the Oakridge attendance zone which includes Crystal City.

The working group considered three possibilities, two public sites and one private site: Aurora Hills Community Center and Virginia Highlands Park (both sites owned by the County) and River House (a private development seeking to increase density with the possibility of including a school site as part of its overall proposal).

The Working Group requested conceptual drawings showing how a school could fit with the community center or the park. APS staff indicated that simply showing a school would not properly address all the future needs for this site, which includes the community center, the library, parks and the fire station. APS staff, however, were certain that they could successfully work with the County and other stakeholders to properly plan to fit all these uses on-site. Additionally, the County Board has provided their position in a letter addressed to the Chair of the School Board. In this letter, the Chair of the County Board stated, "The idea of a redeveloped joint community facility and school at the current Aurora Hills Community Center & Library site clearly merits additional Boards and community discussion." The letter continued to note "A combined project in this location may be a perfect candidate for the first application of any Boards-adopted recommendations from the Community Facilities Study."

Accordingly, the Working Group is recommending that the School Board work with the County Board to start a process in 2016 to find a site for a school in the general vicinity of Pentagon City. This process should address the multiple needs in this area, including a library, a community center, a school, parks and equipment storage. The Working Group also recommends that both boards provide funding to support this planning effort.

The SAWG report will be submitted to the School Board on November 5. That Board will announce its decision on November 16 and if County Board approval is needed, that Board will consider the matter in mid-December.

The three civic associations in our 22202 neighborhood--CCCA, Arlington Ridge CA, and Aurora Hills CA--have been actively following the siting process for a school in the South Arlington area. Attached is a letter that was sent to the Arlington County Board, the Arlington Public Schools Board, and the South Arlington Elementary School Working Group, requesting a design for a multi-functional facility including an elementary school at Aurora Highlands Library/Community Center/fire department storage site.

[School 22202 site-Ltr 10.pdf](#)

Community Facilities Study Draft Report

The first draft of the [Study Committee's Final Report](#) was available for review until October 30 and a final draft will now be prepared.

10-Year Transit Plan Workshops

Arlington is developing its 10-year plan for bus service in the County. This Transit Development Plan will analyze service throughout the County and recommend future improvements. The plan will also study how to enhance transit service along Columbia Pike and in Crystal City-Pentagon City. The next two of the four community workshops regarding the [Transit Development Plan \(TDP\)](#) will be held:

Monday, Nov. 2 - 7 to 9 pm: Arlington Mill Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room 527, 909 S. Dinwiddie St

Wednesday, Nov. 4 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm: George Mason University, Founders Hall, Classroom 118, 3351 Fairfax Drive

Office Vacancy Rate Drops

According to a County [press release](#), Arlington's office vacancy rate dipped 1.6 percent at the end of the third quarter of 2015, the first time that rate has dropped appreciably in more than five years. The drop, which can be credited to announcements such as incubator 1776's move to Crystal City and international grocery store chain Lidl's announcement to bring its U.S. headquarters to Potomac Yards, comes as Arlington is pursuing a new strategy of diversification, aggressive marketing and emphasis on fast-growth tech companies.

Let's Go Mobile

Arlington County wants to make it faster, easier and more convenient for you to communicate and do business with us. That's why they are seeking your input to define what future mobile and online services would make it easier to engage with the County. For one month, starting October 15th, they will be gathering Arlington's ideas, developing insights and making decisions. Click [here](#) to share your input by **November 15** to define what future mobile and online services would make it easier to engage with Arlington County or send a text to 703-270-0070 to participate and also see what others have to say.. Participate and see what others say!

Face-to-Face Chat with a County Board Member

Join this Open Door Monday event **November 23** from 7-9 pm at the Aurora Hills Branch Library and meet at least one Arlington County Board Member. Stop by, ask questions, or share your concerns. For more information, call: 703.228.5715.

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting

The Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee's vision is to help focus attention and resources on the role of bicycles and bicycling, as well as bicycling as a form of transportation, for health, and to enjoy parks and other public facilities in Arlington County. The meetings are open to the public and held inside lobby level meeting rooms. Next meeting is **November 2** from 7-9 pm at the Court House Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard.

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee is made up of volunteers who keep the County focused on making Arlington a better place to walk. The Committee holds regular meetings, open to the public, on the second Wednesday of every month to talk about safety concerns, ideas for improvements and other relevant matters. Next meeting is **November 4** from 7-9 pm Court House Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard.

Car2Go Launch



Arlington County, in partnership with car2go, is embarking on a year-long study of point-to-point carsharing. This model of carsharing allows members to pick up a car in one location and drop it off in another. Expanded use of carsharing has the potential to benefit Arlington by reducing vehicle trips and greenhouse gas emissions, while increasing our quality of life and economic competitiveness in the region. [Car2go](#) launched its new service October 22 with a fleet of 200 new vehicles that will unlock using the car2go smartphone app. [Let the County know what you think.](#)

Keep Informed On the Go: Arlington Alert

Get real-time safety information and emergency alerts via email, mobile phone or smart phone. Existing subscribers will be getting messages to update account information over the next several months. Thank you for your patience as we improve our system. [Sign Up for Arlington Alerts](#)

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/>

Flourishing after 55

There are six senior centers in Arlington with a wide variety of fitness, educational, sports, arts and travel opportunities. Three centers are in North Arlington and three in South Arlington. Adults 55+ may participate in all of the following activities by registering with the Office of Senior Adult Programs. (\$20 annual fee which includes a 36 page bi-monthly magazine, "Arlington County 55+ Guide.") A complimentary "Guide" is available by calling 703-228-4721 or by visiting a senior center. Additional information may be found on the following website: www.arlingtonva.us, type senior activities in search box.

Other News:

Metro's Riders' Advisory Council Seeks Candidates

Metro's Riders' Advisory Council is seeking candidates to fill available positions on the volunteer council. Positions are available for residents in the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Fairfax County and Prince George's County. For more information, please view the news release:

http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=5987

Millennials' top competition for condos might be their parents

An interesting article in October 18's [Washington Post](#) on the changing demographics for condos in urban areas like ours:

Roughly 10,000 baby boomers are retiring each day, and recent data shows that half of those who plan to move will downsize when they do. Many are seeking the type of urban living that typically has been associated with

young college graduates — so much so that boomers are renting apartments and buying condos at more than twice the rate of their millennial children.

Metro's New Customer Community "Amplify"

On October 15, Metro launched a new way to share opinions and help shape the direction of Metro through Amplify, Metro's first-ever "customer community." Amplify is the newest way that Metro is engaging customers by bringing together riders, transit advocates and experts in an ongoing digital forum. Through a structured environment of online surveys, polls and discussion forums, Amplify community members will have the opportunity to share their experience as riders and influence how Metro responds to issues affecting those who use the system. For more information, please view the [news release](#).

Transform 66 Inside the Beltway

Are you following developments about the proposed HOT lanes on I-66 inside the Beltway coming in 2017? If not, check out the [Transform 66](#) Inside the Beltway project website, which discusses converting I-66 to dynamically-priced toll lanes in both directions during morning and afternoon rush hours between I-495 (the Capital Beltway) and U.S. Route 29 in Rosslyn, along with implementing a series of multimodal improvements that benefit the I-66 corridor. Then check out the latest [article](#) from the Washington Post's Dr Gridlock on what the \$17 tolls mean. But an October 29 [article](#) indicates that HOV-2 will remain for the time being and that the reverse direction during peak hours may not be tolled.

"Going Solar in Arlington: Practical Tips, Challenges, and Policy."

The League of Women Voters is hosting a public forum Thursday, **November 12**, 7-9 pm, Navy League Building (2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington). The purpose of the forum is to provide practical tips to Arlingtonians for installing solar panels in their homes; to learn about state, county, and non-profit efforts to help residents - including low-income residents - "go green"; and to understand the policies affecting solar growth in Arlington County and state-wide. Confirmed speakers include Joan Kelsch and Helen Reineche-Wilt from Arlington County Department of Environmental Services, Elenor Hodges from Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), and Dawone Robinson from Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN).

AHS Talk on Arlington County War Memorial

Join the Arlington Historical Society, on **November 12**, 2015, as we host Annette Benbow who will discuss the Arlington County War Memorial, the granite column in

Clarendon's public plaza that serves as a memorial to Arlingtonians who died in major conflicts from World War I through Afghanistan and Iraq. The program will take place at 7:00 PM in Reinsch Library Auditorium at Marymount University. More information about the event can be found on the [website](#),

Free Virginia Cooperative Extension Courses

Programs that may be of interest to Arlingtonians, all programs are free, preregister at:

bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms

Money 101: Budgeting Basics

Nov. 3, Aurora Hills Branch Library 6:30-8:30pm

Credit Report Workshop

Nov. 3 Central Library, 6:30-8:30pm

Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie plate - discusses inheritance and how to prepare for passing on possessions

Nov. 5, Cherrydale Branch Library, 6:30-8:30pm

Money 101: Salary Negotiation and Student Debt
Nov. 10, Aurora Hills Branch Library 6:30-8:30pm

Small Steps to Health & Wealth

Nov. 16, Aurora Hills Branch Library 10:30am-noon

Money 101: Investing for Your Future

Nov. 17, Aurora Hills Branch Library 6:30-8:30pm

Senior Scams & Identity Theft Prevention

Nov. 18, Nauck Community Services Center 11:00am-12:30pm

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