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# Newsletter No. 9, 2016

October 2016



Website: <a href="http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/">http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/</a>

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### For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

<u>Like</u> our Facebook page for notifications and check out the website. Both are updated regularly and can keep you well informed.

### Annual Dues for 2017 Due Soon

The 2017 dues of \$10.00 per voting member for membership in the Association are due by January 1. Pay at the November 16 meeting or just send a check to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

# Civic Association Issues

### CRYSTAL CITY LIBRARY OPENS



The Arlington County Library opened its innovative, new pop up library—The Connection—in Crystal City September 28, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.



The library is located across from the Tech Shop and facing Au Bon Pain. In addition to a lot of newly arrived books, check out the computers; tools, games and jig saw puzzles for loan, tech exhibit, the kids' Launchpad and exhibit corner, and comfortable couch seating.



Post cards are going out to Crystal City residents September 30. Library hours, starting Sept. 29, 2016:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Thursday: 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Friday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday - Monday: CLOSED

### **CCCA General Meeting: September 21**

Our last meeting hosted three speakers on:

- The I-395 Express Lanes Project
- Vornado/Charles E. Smith's two plans for development in Crystal City
- Vornado's new colorful light display in the Water Park

### Summary of I-395 Express Lanes Presentation

Representing VDOT and its partners, Project Manager Michael Snare presented an update of the plans for the proposed Express Lanes Extension to be constructed on I-395 as part of the Atlantic Gateway Project. Virginia was selected to receive a \$165 million dollar federal grant to improve more than 50 miles of the I-95/I-395 Corridor from Fredericksburg to the Pentagon, extending I-95/I-395 Express Lanes North to the Pentagon (~ 7 miles) and South to Fredericksburg (~ 10 miles). The project will:

- Expand and convert the two existing reversible High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-395 to three managed High Occupancy Toll (HOT) or Express Lanes for eight miles along I-395 from north of Edsall Road to the vicinity of Eads Street near the Pentagon
- Provide improved connections between the proposed I-395 Express Lanes and Eads Street
- Install signage, toll systems, and an Active Traffic Management System
- Provide sound walls
- Conduct a Transit/TDM Study to identify candidate projects

All existing access points will remain the same, except for the Eads Street Interchange, which will be improved. At least \$15 million is expected to be provided annually through toll revenues for I-95/I-395 Transit and TDM initiatives in consultation with local communities. A number of meetings with key stakeholder groups and elected officials will be held, including the Arlington County Transportation Commission on September 29 and with the Arlington County Board on October 15 or 18. Public hearings are scheduled for October 24 at Wakefield High School in Arlington and October 26 at Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria.

See the full presentation on the **CCCA** website.

### Two Vornado Site Plans for Development

Mitch Bonanno, Vice President for Development, presented a power point briefing on his company's plans for 2 site developments in Crystal City: 1) "Crystal Drive

Retail Adaptive Reuse" (AKA 1750 Crystal Drive, plus a market square on 18th Street off Crystal Drive) and 2) a new public plaza and retail buildings located in front of 2121 Crystal Drive. He emphasized that the market is still tight for business in Crystal City, and that his organization is focusing more on "placemaking"--i.e., focusing on how to use existing space. Their development plans will therefore be more retail-led and pedestrian-based for Crystal Drive. There is more focus on flexible programming with better connections to transit and parking. **See the full presentation on the CCCA website.** 

# Vornado/Charles E. Smith Colorful Light Display in the Water Park

Have you see the light display in the Water Park lately? At the September 21 CCCA meeting, Stefanie Echeveste, Placemaker for Vornado /Charles E. Smith, briefed participants on the light experience being installed in the Water Park and then led a brief tour to demonstrate the lights and get feedback from residents. Vornado is working with the <a href="Crystal City Business">Crystal City Business</a> Improvement District on the project. The programming is fully adjustable and lights will not be on all the time. Vornado has offered to adjust

timing/lights/programming based on feedback from the community and on an ongoing basis. They only plan to install lights in one section of the park (Southeast corner to the east of the food kiosk), not the entire park. Drop by in the evening to see the display. You can provide feedback to Stefanie at <a href="mailto:seecheveste@vno.com">seecheveste@vno.com</a>.



### <u>Next CCCA Meeting Focuses on Rail</u> Transportation: November 16

The CCCA is planning to invite several speakers (VRE, Southeast Rail Transportation (Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, DRPT), CSX, and Congressman Beyer's office, etc.) to brief us and seek community feedback. Stay tuned for more information in coming weeks.

# November 16 CCCA Annual Meeting: Atlantic Gateway Project and Crystal City

Have you heard about the federal grant of \$165 million Virginia has received for its Atlantic Gateway program? It will be a set of rail, highway and bridge projects meant to ease some of the worst travel bottlenecks on the East Coast. The overall budget for Atlantic Gateway is \$1.4 billion, a combination of the federal grant, \$710 million in other public financing pulled together by the state and \$565 million in private investment. Much of the spending would be on projects in Northern Virginia.

While great for transportation in Northern Virginia, there are two aspects of Atlantic Gateway that could have major impact on residents in Crystal City:

- -- Extend 95 Express Lanes seven miles north to the Potomac River and improve access to the Pentagon at the Eads Street interchange.
- -- Build 14 miles of new track to ease the movement of VRE and Amtrak trains as well as freight. This rail part of Atlantic Gateway will include initial steps to rebuild the Long Bridge, the span that takes rail traffic across the Potomac River, as well as the widening of track segments in Northern Virginia.

See following articles and come to the November 16 CCCA meeting.

### **VRE Planning for Crystal City**

Here's one reason our November 16 meeting is focused on transportation issues, including VRE. From VRE's September 2016 CEO Report:

"VRE is preparing to begin development studies to improve the Crystal City Station, their busiest destination station in Virginia. The two design priorities are to extend the existing 390-foot platform to 700 feet in order to accommodate the full length of an eight-car train and to relocate the platform between Tracks 2 and 3 so two trains can service Crystal City Station at the same time. Nearly two-thirds of Crystal City riders depart the station on foot, so enhancing pedestrian and bike access is vital. VRE also places a priority on enhancing regional connectivity throughout Northern Virginia via Metrorail or buses here.

On July 19, 2016, VRE and Arlington County staff met with the Crystal City Business Improvement District and Vornado Realty Trust to learn about changes anticipated at and around our station. VRE provided a briefing on the upcoming project to Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol and

Arlington County transportation and planning staff on August 4, 2016."

### Nominations for CCCA Officers at CCCA AGM

Four CCCA officers will be elected at the CCCA Annual General Meeting on November 16. This is an opportunity to be involved in the further development of our three-year old civic association. Each CCCA member may nominate him/herself or another CCCA member to run for the positions of President, Vice President for Policy and Planning, Treasurer, or Membership Liaison. Look for an announcement with further information and guidelines for the nomination process, which will be emailed to all members and be posted on the CCCA website within the next two weeks. Nominations must be received by November 1st. Please consider serving the Crystal City community!

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

### Long Bridge Study and Crystal City Tracks

Note: This is the Bridge study, part of Atlantic Gateway and connected to the DRPT Southeast Rail Transportation Project!

Here is another big reason for the November 16 meeting focused on rail transportation issues, this one including the Long Bridge Project.



<u>The situation</u>: Long Bridge is a 2-track railroad bridge over the Potomac River. It is the only freight railroad bridge between the District of Columbia and Virginia. The next closest bridge is in Harpers Ferry, WV. The current bridge was built in 1904, and is owned and maintained by CSX Transportation. In addition to freight trains, the bridge is used by VRE and Amtrak. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), in

coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is completing a comprehensive study for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Long Bridge over the Potomac River.

What's happening now?: Scoping is the first step in preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A range of alternatives is still being considered. A final decision on a preferred alternative will not be made until the EIS process is complete. DDOT is leading the EIS for the Long Bridge project, which includes additional bridge capacity over the Potomac River and track improvements into Union Station. Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation (DRPT) plans to use Atlantic Gateway funding to construct six miles of a fourth main line track from Arlington, Virginia to Alexandria, Virginia. This alternative includes shifting track in curves where practical to gain greater speed, improving crossings, signals, safety systems, and accommodating VRE platform improvements.

Public involvement for the study includes outreach at key project milestones such as the public scoping period which will be conducted in accordance with NEPA regulations. During Phase II, three rounds of community meetings are scheduled: The most recent was Community Meeting #2 (Public Scoping) held September 14, 2016. See the 9 alternatives here:

### Possible Impact on Crystal City?

- Track expansion from 3 to 4 in Crystal City down to Alexandria
- Expansion of VRE station
- Greater frequency of train traffic

Lastly if you wish to comment to the Federal Railroad Administration, here is the <u>comment form</u>.

### Long Bridge Drive Utility Work Starts



Construction has begun along Long Bridge Drive near Boundary Channel Drive. This work includes removing four overhead utility poles along the south side of Long Bridge Drive, undergrounding the utilities and providing utility connections for future improvements at Long Bridge Park. Work hours will be 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. During these hours, this section of Long Bridge Drive will be reduced to one lane. Crews will direct traffic through the work zone, and all lanes will reopen at the end of each work day. Undergrounding utilities is the first phase of the Long Bridge Drive project, which includes realigning the road and extending the reconstructed section of Long Bridge Drive to the Boundary Channel Drive/I-395 interchange. Learn more about the project

# Vornado pitches multiplex, retail overhaul and 'Main Street' atmosphere for Crystal City

A view from the business world on Vornado's planned development in Crystal City. Here's an article from **BizJournal**.

Vornado Realty Trust (NYSE: VNO) sees "tremendous untapped potential" in Crystal City, and a pair of major plans it recently submitted with Arlington County promise to deliver the community's first multiplex and more than 200,000 square feet of additional retail.

Crystal City's largest landowner plans to overhaul and augment the Shops at 1750, a Metro-level retail space, while constructing a 12-screen multiplex and a roughly 31,000-square-foot "flagship" retail building — all on the square bounded by Crystal Drive, Bell Street, 18th Street South and Route 1.

A quarter mile to the south, Vornado has submitted separate plans to construct a pair of retail pavilions at 2101 and 2201 Crystal Drive, taking over a large open space between a trio of office buildings. The proposal, according to that application, will "transform the current multi-stepped and obstructed spaces into a welcoming plaza" flanked by 34,000 square feet of retail.

The two proposals combined, Vornado says, in addition to its approved plan to overhaul 1770 Crystal Drive with a new glass facade and retail, "will create a true 'Main Street' along Crystal Drive — a 'go-to' place that attracts residents, office tenants, and visitors — and is essential to Crystal City's evolution into a dynamic urban neighborhood." The 1770 Crystal project, made possible by the relocation of U.S. Marshals Service, is expected to kick off in January.

### **Aurora Hills Community Center Renovation**

The County has fixed firm dates for the closing of the Aurora Hills Community Center (AHCC) for renovation. AHCC's last day of activity will be Oct. 21. Senior programs at AHCC will continue to operate through that date, and a schedule of planned programs should appear

in the next 55+ Guide published by the County. The renovations are expected to take approximately 8 months. Senior Center programs will be moving to Gunston while AHCC is closed and will start operations at that site on November 7.

The Board voted 5 to o September 24 to approve a contract with D&A Contractors, Inc. for approximately \$555,800 to provide general construction services for interior upgrades at the Aurora Hills Community Senior Center and Library, located at 735 18th Street S. Upgrades to the facility will include a new kitchen, ADA compliant bathrooms and reception desk, circulation desk, an administrative office and two storage rooms, new paint and flooring, additional storage cabinets and related electrical upgrades and finish work.

The community center houses County programs and fitness classes for those 55 and older several days a week, and is home to the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands civic associations. During construction, senior programs will be moved to Gunston Community Center. The aging Aurora Hills Community Center and Library has been identified in the County's Capital Improvement Plan as needing such interior upgrades and is funded by 2014 general obligation (GO) bonds. Work is expected to start this winter. Learn more about the project.

# Arlington County Issues

### Airport Noise FAA Feedback Requested

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hosted a public meeting Tuesday, September 13 regarding new system for flight guidance and more specific flight paths. A large audience participated. Visit the <u>FAA site</u> for additional information to submit via online form or <u>email</u>. The FAA comment period will close on October 15th. For more information and background documents, please visit the FAA's <u>NextGen</u> webpage.

Arlington County staff have heard from a number of residents, both at the September 13 FAA Community Outreach Session and in direct communication afterwards, with questions regarding the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Community Working Group and the FAA's proposal to adjust departure procedures to the north of Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA).

<u>The County Aircraft Noise Webpage</u> is designed to provide all residents with summary information, updates

and links to other webpages of interest directly to the FAA. The DCA Community Working Group is a public body, established and convened by MWAA, to "engage broad-based community participation to identify practical aircraft noise solutions and make recommendations to the FAA." County staff will continue to work to make sure that participation is in fact broad-based, that the proper analysis is conducted in order to understand the impacts of and changes to aircraft noise and that all solutions are evaluated and implemented if practicable.

The Community Outreach Sessions and the public comment period that is currently open represent an opportunity for our community to have our voices heard in this process.

You may submit comments in two ways:

- 1. Online: From the FAA's DC Metroplex Community Engagement page, click on the "Submit Your Comments" button. You will be taken to a web form that allows you to select areas of concern regarding the proposed changes. Once an area of concern has been selected, a comment box will open beneath that will allow you to provide additional information and comments.
- 2. E-mail: Comments can also be sent via email to <u>9-aso-dca-fltprcdrs@faa.gov.</u>

### Arlington to Ask Public to Weigh-in on Short-Term Residential Rental Ordinance

The Arlington County Board took a step September 27 toward regulating short-term residential rentals through online platforms such as Airbnb, Craigslist and others, directing the County Manager to develop a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment and a community outreach plan to address the issue. The Board will consider a Request to Advertise for public hearings on the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment at its Oct. 15, 2016 meeting and will hold a public hearing and vote on the issue at its December 10, 2016 meeting. Read more here.

## Arlington Celebrates Affordable Housing Month

October is Affordable Housing Month in Arlington, a month-long celebration of the County's long-term commitment to preserving and creating housing opportunities that benefit the whole community. The public is invited to take a bus tour of affordable housing developments around the County, participate in an affordable housing forum and view a traveling design gallery highlighting the potential of "Missing Middle

Housing" that falls between single-family homes and mid-rise buildings.

2016 Affordable Housing Month events:

- Affordable housing bus tour around Arlington —
   Oct. 8
- Leckey Forum on "Finding the Missing Middle –
  Expanding Middle-Income Housing Options,"
  presented by The Alliance for Housing Solutions and
  featuring housing expert Daniel Parolek as the
  keynote speaker Oct. 13
- Traveling gallery of design examples featuring elements of "Missing Middle" housing — Oct. 15 at Live-In Arlington Info Fair
- Traveling gallery of design examples featuring elements of "Missing Middle" housing — Oct. 25 at Langston Brown Community Center

Visit the <u>Affordable Housing Month webpage</u> for details.

## New Booklet Celebrates Arlington's Rich African-American Story

"A Guide to the African American Heritage of Arlington County, Virginia" is now in print and available online from the County's <u>Historic Preservation Program</u>. The new booklet was made possible in part by a \$3,000 matching grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.



The lavishly illustrated, full-color, 64-page work is a much-expanded version of the original guide published in 2001 as part of the County's bicentennial celebration. The original booklet was in such demand that print copies ran out several years ago.

# Arlington Preparedness: Lessons Learned Since Sept. 11

Recognized as a "model for the nation" in its response to the terror attack on the Pentagon, Arlington's public safety teams have never stopped learning. Today County staff and crews continue to refine and expand their vital set of skills. As a result, Arlington is better prepared than ever for any sort of emergency. <u>See full</u> <u>article.</u>



### 2016 Latino American Festival

On Sunday, October 9, 1-5 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, join us as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with live music, authentic Latino food, artistic presentations, games for kids and much more! See details <a href="https://example.com/here/beauty-sep-align: regular blanks.com/here/beauty-sep-align: regular b



# County Board to Consider Allowing Pedestrian-Only Streets

According to an ArlNow.Com article September 15, the County is considering a draft proposal to create a few pedestrian-only streets. There are currently no pedestrian-only streets in Arlington, but a few are proposed, including a new 18th Street corridor in Rosslyn that would replace the neighborhood's aging skywalk system with a several blocks of a new pedestrian-only street between N. Oak Street and N. Lynn Street, with the Rosslyn Metro station in between.

### Tips for Metro's Surge #9

Unlike past SafeTrack projects that have created disruptions for a week or two, this one involves 42 days of single-tracking between Vienna and West Falls Church, plus four weekend shutdowns. It's the longest of the 10-month SafeTrack program: September 15-October 26. See the Washington Post article of September 13 on tips to avoid problems.

### More Frequent Service for ART 92

Starting Monday, Sept. 19, the ART Bus Route 92 (Crystal City-Long Bridge Park/Boeing-Pentagon) runs more frequently during peak periods - every 15 minutes - and continue to run every 30 minutes midday and evening. More frequent peak service will be a great option for Boeing and U.S. Marshals Service employees in Crystal City to connect to the Pentagon or Crystal City Metro stations and Virginia Railway Express. ART 92 will run from 6:15 am until 9:00 pm on weekdays. Visit Arlington Transit for more information.

### Know before you Vote November 8, 2016

November 8, 2016 General and Special Election: On the ballot will be President and Vice President of the United States, House of Representatives (8th District), County Board, and School Board (two seats). The ballot will also include a special election for two proposed Virginia Constitutional amendments and four County bond questions. Check out the <a href="Arlington County">Arlington County</a> Elections website for more information. Candidates are listed in the order and manner they will appear on the ballot. Party affiliation does not appear on the ballot for candidate for County Board and School Board.

NOTE: For one year, the Crystal City o6 polling center is being moved from Water Park Towers to Crystal Place at 1801 Crystal Drive. This is due to renovations at the Water Park Towers community room. Arlington County will be sending out new voter registration cards soon with the temporary polling station listed.

### Arlington Tourism Generates Record Revenues for County and Commonwealth in 2015

Visitors spent a record \$3.06 billion in Arlington in 2015, an increase of nearly 3 percent over 2014, data released by the U.S. Travel Association shows. Arlington tourism generated \$86 million in local tax receipts and \$115 million in state revenues for County and Commonwealth coffers. Arlington also remained No.1 among Virginia counties for tourism economic impact, a position it has held since 2009. See press release.

### Other News:

### **Arlington Historical Society October Meeting**

Join the Arlington Historical Society, on Thursday, October 13, 2016, as we host Dr. Mark Benbow, who will present "Spies Among Us in World War I". The program will take place at 7:00 PM at Marymount University. More information about the event can be found on our website, <a href="www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org">www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org</a> and our <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a> page.

# Virginia Hospital Center Senior Health Program: Healthy Aging Lecture Series for October

- December 2016

Location: VHC South Arlington Campus - 601 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22204

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

**October 14** - Allergies and Asthma with Dr. Christopher Wyckoff of Pulmonary & Medical Associates of NoVA

November 4 - Understanding and Caring For a Person With Dementia with Christi Clark, Education and Outreach Coordinator of Insight Memory Care Center November 10 - Memory Screening at Langston Brown Senior Center from 9:00am - 12:00pm

**December 2** - "Fall-Risk" Assessment at Carlin Springs Health Pavilion from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Please RSVP for each event at 703.558.6859. Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Belanich at <a href="MBELANICH@VIRGINIAHOSPITALCENTER.COM">MBELANICH@VIRGINIAHOSPITALCENTER.COM</a>.

## Daytime Volunteers needed at AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center)

AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center) provides supplemental groceries to over 2,300 Arlington families each week. We're looking for volunteers able to help on weekdays for 2 programs. For more information about either, emailvolunteer4afac@afac.org, call 703-845-8486 or go to <a href="https://www.afac.org">www.afac.org</a>.

- 1) We need volunteers to help in the warehouse on weekday mornings, 9:15am-12:30pm. You'll help sort and bag donated food or help clients in the distribution area. One time or weekly shifts available at AFAC's Nelson Street location, 2708 S. Nelson Street.
- 2) Beginning the week of September 19th, AFAC's new Healthy Play Initiative program--a pilot program designed to provide children accompanying their parent or guardian to an AFAC distribution center 30-45 minutes of safe, structured healthy play--will kickoff!

We will need a maximum of nine volunteers dedicated to this program, who can commit to help HPI leaders for the length of the school year. Ideally, we would have the same three volunteers at each site during HPI time/distribution time each week.

The sites and times are:

--Arlington Mill Community Center--Mondays--10:45am to 1:15pm

- --South Nelson Street--Wednesdays--9:45am to 12:15pm
- --Gates of Ballston (Buckingham)--Fridays--12:45pm to 3:15pm

For more information, email us at volunteer4afac@afac.org

### **New Metro Advertising**

Metro and its revenue-generating advertising contractor, OUTFRONT Media, announced today the addition of 28 new high-definition digital advertising displays at 14 Metrorail stations in an effort to increase commercial revenue to support Metro's operating budget. Metro currently generates more than \$20 million annually in advertising revenue on buses, trains and in stations. Each digital display is expected to generate at least four times more revenue than the static ads they replace and significantly expand Metro's digital advertising network, which includes 72-inch interactive touch screen displays at eight stations and a new three-panel digital wall at Navy Yard Station.

For more information, view the news release.

### **Arlington County Players**

The Arlington Players Present: Man of LaMancha Friday, Saturdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2:30 pm, September 23 - October 8th. Imagination and story telling take center stage as a beautiful score and fantastical adventure abound. Dream the impossible dream with Cervantes, as he pulls us into the world of Don Quixote. Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22204

Tickets are: Adult: \$25 Senior/Military: \$22 Child/Student: \$15

See www.thearlingtonplayers.org for more

information and tickets.

### **Sparket: A Creative Market**

1900 Crystal Drive

### Wednesdays - 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 Fall Market from September to November. 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 quests, and residents.



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Established January 28, 2014

Graphics Designer: Colleen

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

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

Treasurer, CCCA 1200 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA 22202