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Newsletter
No. 9, 2017



October 2017

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Civic Association Issues

For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Membership Dues: *Dues are for a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Pay by January 1, 2018, to stay on the mailing list. New membership dues now or paid at the October meeting will cover all of 2018. Send a check for \$10 to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.*

Next CCCA Meetings

October 5: *Our next meeting will be from 7:30-9 pm at the Crystal Park Condominium Party Room at 1805 Crystal Drive. (Note change in time.) There will be two items on the agenda:*

--Airport Access Feasibility Study (7:30): *The Business Improvement District (BID) has funded a feasibility study for a possible pedestrian/biking bridge to the airport and will make a brief PowerPoint presentation, followed by a Q&A. Will there be a pedestrian/bike bridge to the airport? How can you help inform the process? What are the next steps?*

--Location of Proposed VRE Train Station (8 pm): *After fighting all year to convince the County and VRE to adopt option 3 for the proposed new VRE station in Crystal City, we lost our sustained civic action. See article below for details.*

We will have a panel of speakers, including County Board Member John Vihstadt, who supported option 3, and representatives of the CCCA and the Crystal Park Unit Owners Association, to talk about the process and explain what has happened and what the next steps might be. What happened? Why did the County Board support option 2? What does this mean for us? What are our next steps?

November 14: *Our Annual General Meeting with elections will be from 7-9 pm, also at 1805 Crystal Park. We have invited JBG Smith back to talk about their ongoing development plans since the July merger with Vornado. A lot is going on. Stay tuned for more details. See article below.*

Upcoming CCCA Elections

Two positions for CCCA officers will be open for election at the CCCA Annual General Meeting on November 14. Membership Liaison and Secretary. This is an opportunity to be involved in the further development of our four-year old civic association. Each CCCA member may nominate him/herself or another CCCA member to run for the positions of Meeting Secretary 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 October 30th. Please consider serving the Crystal City community! Send us an email if you might be interested in talking to one of the officers about participating: board@crystalcitycivic.org.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

OPTION 2 FOR VRE STATION WINS BOARD APPROVAL



The County Board voted **September 19** to:

1. "Accept Option #2 as VRE's preferred station location"
2. Request VRE to "engage with the Arlington County Board and residents of Crystal City at the concept design and before site investigation, to review all elements of the concept design scope including noise; and further request that the VRE present the finalized concept design to the Arlington County Board and residents for final comment and opinion before finally selecting that design for construction."
3. Additionally, to direct "the County Manager to initiate a process to engage CSX on mitigating noise from the operation of their rail lines in Crystal City, Arlington."

Hearing of the issue (VRE, County staff, Planning Commission, Transportation Commission presentations, citizen comment) lasted 2 1/2 hours. You can watch the discussion at hour 3:41 to 6:11 on [You Tube](#).

This is certainly not the way we wanted the issue to end, but we still have a chance for mitigation efforts due to the station location in the next stage. We will also need to keep reminding the County of its direction to engage CSX on noise mitigation.

Airport Access Feasibility Study



The Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) has funded a feasibility study for a new pedestrian/bike access from Crystal City to the airport and held two meetings

September 5 for an initial public presentation. They will also make a presentation at the **October 5** CCCA General Meeting. [Read more here.](#)

Moving Forward on Long Bridge Park Facility

There is a County process underway to select a winner of



a bidding process for the design and construction of the indoor Aquatics/Fitness/Health facility in Long Bridge Park, which after years of planning and a 'false start' due to a projected budget overrun was halted a couple of years ago. The revised process is

based on what is known as a Design/Build approach, under which a combination of a construction company and one or more design/architectural firms commit to produce a facility with the required features and the agreed design quality within a pre-established price.

Five bidders were determined to be 'qualified', in terms of prior experience and capacity for this kind of project and four were interviewed at the end of August by the Long Bridge Park Selection Advisory Committee (LBPAC) on their proposals. These finalists will, starting in September, further develop their proposals, and be interviewed by the Long Bridge Advisory Committee so that a final comparison and evaluation can be made.

The current timetable is:

October 18: Review by County Board, LBPAC and Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)

October 19: Public meeting, 2011 Crystal Drive, 11th floor; followed by 10 days for feedback on proposals

November: County Board votes to choose one design

December-January: refinement of proposal

January/February: LBPAC/PFRC review

January-December: design

July 2018: construction begins

Late 2020/early 2021: project completion

Long Bridge Park Public Meeting October 19

Plan to come to the October 19 meeting to emphasize what will matter to us in Crystal City. It is increasingly

obvious that there are competing interests: those of residents in Crystal City and those in other areas of the County. We want to be supportive of the process, but we also need to weigh in with OUR interests in Crystal City: e.g., park features, public space indoors, "destination" for people in the area, fitness space, and a therapy pool. Other parts of the County, such as sports folks, might prioritize hugely expensive features such as a 10m diving tower, lots of spectator space for rare events, designs to match international standards rather than U.S.

competition standards, etc. Such features could cost money which would force the bidders to scrap features of greater interest to us in Crystal City.

How Victor Hoskins will use lessons from Nestle to lure Amazon to Arlington

Amazon's recently launched quest to put a second headquarters somewhere in North America has jurisdictions nationwide scrambling to make a case by the Oct. 19 deadline. is a priority on Amazon's Request for Proposals. Arlington County Economic Development Director Victor Hoskins is still coming down from 2017's big "get": the deal that will bring Nestle USA to Rosslyn. While a fraction of the Nestle deal's size, Hoskins said there's no reason Arlington should not be considered a serious contender for another headquarters opportunity — the biggest of them all. Hoskins, like his competition for the \$5 billion HQ2, is silent on specifics such as what the county might offer as an incentive and where in Arlington the potential 8 million-square-foot campus could go. But he said he will employ the same tactics he used to get Nestle. That is, highlight the region's brainpower since access to a tech-savvy and educated workforce Greater Washington's impressive demographics aside, most area jurisdictions are still submitting plans individually. In Northern Virginia alone, Arlington County, Loudoun County and Alexandria have said they will submit proposals. Fairfax County will likely do so too, joining the District, and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland. [Read more here.](#)

JBG's Partial rebranding of Crystal City

JBG-Smith, which merged with Vornado Realty Trust's D.C. business unit in July, has filed the first development application with Arlington County for the North District, bounded by Crystal Drive and Route 1, from 15th to 18th

Street, adjacent to the Crystal City Metro station. This initial application seeks to add 120,000 square feet of retail across several properties near 18th Street and Crystal Drive, with roughly 50,000 square feet set aside for Alamo Draffhouse Cinema, as WBJ previously reported. The developer is hoping another 15,000 to 20,000 square feet will be taken by a specialty grocery store. [Read more here.](#)

Farewell to Crystal City Planner

Announcement from Claude A. Williamson, new Director, CPHD:

"Effective September 18, 2017, I have appointed Anthony Fusarelli as Acting Assistant to the Director of the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development (CPHD). I am very pleased that Anthony will have this important professional development opportunity to contribute to the mission and work of CPHD. His knowledge and experience with all facets of Arlington's planning and development programs will be a major resource for department leadership as he serves in this acting capacity. This position primarily focuses on major land planning and development transactions as well as special project for CPHD and the County Manager's Office.

To ensure there is a successful transition from his current role as Crystal City/Pentagon City Planning Program Coordinator with the Planning Division's Comprehensive Planning Section, Anthony will continue to be involved with several Crystal City and Pentagon City related projects. During this transition, Anthony will be working with and advising Planning Division staff who will have an increased focus on a variety of planning efforts in 22202, including the completion of the Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan status report, the review of site plans in Crystal City/Pentagon City, and continuing to participate in transportation-related projects. In addition, as staff coordinator to the Crystal City Citizens Review Council since 2013, Associate Planner Margaret Rhodes will have greater involvement in planning projects in the area, with additional support from other Division staff as needed. I am confident that Anthony, Margaret, and other staff involved in 22202 planning projects will work collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition during this time. However, should you have any questions regarding appropriate points of contact for a specific project, or other general inquiries regarding Crystal City and Pentagon City related projects or issues, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Smith, Acting Comprehensive Planning Section Supervisor.

Please join me in congratulating Anthony and supporting him in his acting assignment."

"Revisoning" 23rd Street "Restaurant Row"

County Board members Jay Fisette and Christian Dorsey met with representatives of the business community on 23rd Street (west of Route 1) and of the three 22202 civic associations September 28 to brainstorm a "revisoning"



of "Restaurant Row."

The street is included in Arlington County's delineation of Crystal City and figures in the 2010 Crystal City Sector

Plan. Participants discussed what are the challenges, the assets, and the opportunities for revitalizing the street.

The street has a certain character and could be deemed "Historic Restaurant Row," since locally owned businesses have occupied this block for over 40 years, mainly consisting of Restaurants/Bars, now with shopping, salons and more. There is a [Facebook page](#) but no website. The block faces challenges of street congestion, isolation due to Route 1 from the main part of Crystal and Pentagon Cities. Solutions to some of the biggest challenges may require considerable funding and years of planning. But next steps seem to be for the business community to develop a vision for the street and a strategic plan to see what can be done in the near future.

Contract for elevated Clark Street demolition

The Board voted unanimously September 16 to approve a \$6.6 million contract with Neuber Environmental Services, Inc., to remove the elevated South Clark Street roadway in Crystal City between 12th and 20th Streets South. Removing the structure will improve the street network and create more development space in Crystal City, in accordance with the Crystal City Sector Plan.

After the roadway and its overhead bridges, abutments and retaining walls are removed new retaining walls, grass pavers and stormwater facilities, landscaping, traffic signals at 20th Street South and Route 1 will be added. Demolition is anticipated to start in fall 2017, with completion scheduled for late summer 2019.



The demolition also will create more space for pedestrian and bicycle access improvements to the Crystal City Metro Station, which is part of a future project. Funding for the demolition project comes from an Arlington fund dedicated to infrastructure investment in Crystal City. [See the project page here.](#)

Potomac Yard Metro station delayed to 2021

A plan to build a Metro station in Alexandria's growing Potomac Yard community is moving along, but the projected opening has again been pushed back, this time to spring 2021. Alexandria officials said the latest delay came when transit officials determined more time than anticipated would be needed to award a contract. The transit agency says it anticipates awarding the contract next spring, with construction to take about three years.

[Read more here.](#)

Pawn Shop Replaces Grill Kabob Restaurant on 23rd Street "Restaurant Row"

A former Afghan restaurant in Crystal City became a pawn shop September 28. A "Royal Pawn" store opened at the corner at 507 23rd Street. It will sell jewelry, electronics and instruments, tools and precious metals like gold, silver and platinum. The new owners claim "pawn shops are not like what they used to be—come take a look."

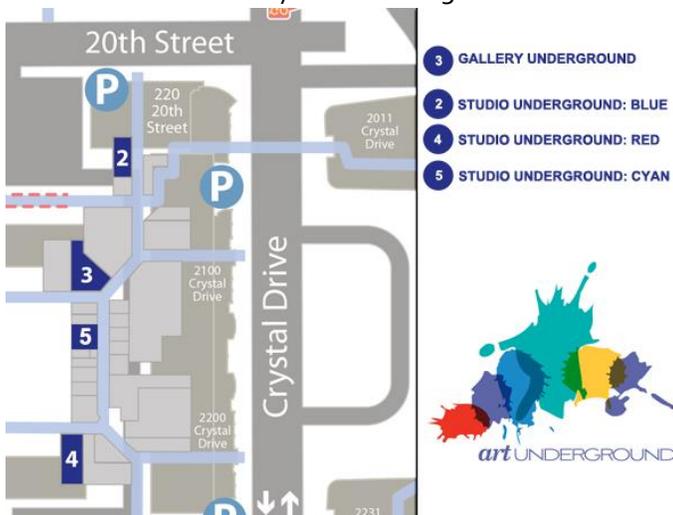
Ulta Beauty, Basic Burger Coming to Pentagon Row

Ulta Beauty will open a 10,000-square-foot store at 1101 S. Joyce Street in Spring 2018, replacing the Vitamin Shoppe and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill. The store will be close to Harris Teeter and Bed Bath & Beyond. Signs nearby welcome the arrivals of the F45 Training gym, Club Pilates, Aabee Kabob, a Deli and Basic Burger. [See more at ArlNow.com.](#)

Arlington County Issues

Newest New Polling Station for Precinct 006

Those of us in the north end of Crystal City may be starting to think of our elections polling station as a moveable feast. After years of voting at WaterPark



Towers at 1501-1505 Crystal Drive, we were moved for the last year to Crystal Place at 1801 Crystal Drive. When the management for both buildings decided not to host the polling station any more, the County scrambled to find another site. Unfortunately, none of the suitable condo or apartment buildings wanted the hassle either.

So, our newest polling station is the Gallery Underground (Studio Red) at 2100 Crystal Drive. Look for Room 25A in Section B on the Underground map. Some of you may have attended painting classes there or the VRE station public meetings last June. When you enter from *We the Pizza* and pass the *Library* on your right, turn left and it's the first glass-windowed area on the right, next to Au Bon Pain. The County sent out new voting cards late last week.

VOTE! Nov. 7



On the ballot will be the candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates districts 45 & 49, Arlington County Board and School Board. **Vote absentee until Nov. 4.**

Why Does Virginia Hold Elections In Off-Off Years?

Virginia is one of only five states in the U.S. to hold its statewide elections in years that do not coincide with a presidential or congressional mid-term election, and one of only two — New Jersey being the other — to elect a new governor this year.

But why? Is Virginia purposely trying to cut against the grain, to be a contrarian commonwealth? Or did legislators pick the off-off-year election schedule — so named because no federal candidates are on the ballot — because it's objectively better than aligning with presidential or congressional contests? [Read the answer here.](#)

Arlington Celebrates Completion of Four Mile Run Restoration

Arlington County and neighbors just south are marking the completed construction of the Four Mile Run



Restoration Project. At a ribbon cutting on September 23, members of the County Board, former Rep. Jim Moran and community activists celebrated on the banks of the revitalized waterway

that forms part of the border between Arlington and the city of Alexandria. The finished work is the first element constructed by Arlington for the Four Mile Run

Restoration Master Plan, which envisions the corridor as a place along which Arlington and Alexandria residents can gather, recreate, and celebrate a shared waterfront legacy. [Read more here.](#)

Ribbon Cut for New Arlington Transit Facility

Arlington County Board Chair Jay Fiset, along with senior County staff and officials from Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation, helped celebrate the completion of the new



Arlington Transit (ART) Light Maintenance Facility with a ribbon cutting September 26. At the ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to explore the new two-story, state-of-the-art facility including the light-duty maintenance bay and compressed natural gas fueling station – and even experienced the bus wash first-hand.

ART is growing and provided more than 3.4 million rides on 17 bus routes over the past year. Fleet and service expansion is planned for the next 10 years. The facility provides crucial storage space for 25 of 65 buses, fueling, maintenance and wash services for the entire ART fleet.

[More information here.](#)

County Board Bans Wild and Exotic Animals as Pets

On September 19, the Arlington County Board amended



Chapter 2 of the County Code to prohibit residents from keeping wild and exotic animals as pets. Current owners can retain wild and exotic pets. The Code

amendment creates a registry to allow owners of wild and exotic animals already in the County to legally retain them. The ban does not include non-venomous snakes, but a set of care, handling and enclosure standards were put in place for non-venomous snakes weighing more than 25 pounds. Venomous reptiles already are banned in the County. [Read more here.](#)

Reminder: Deadlines Approaching for Property Tax Payments

Thursday, October 5 is the final due date for the payment of both vehicle personal property tax and the second installment of real estate tax. Payments postmarked after October 5 are subject to penalties and interest charges.

Claude Williamson Named Director of Arlington's Community Planning, Housing and Development Department

Claude Williamson has been named Arlington County's Director for Community Planning, Housing and



Development (CPHD) after serving as acting director since March. CPHD is responsible for planning in County neighborhoods and along the densely developed, transit-

oriented Metro corridors. CPHD is the lead agency in implementing the County's Smart Growth planning vision. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington County Board Statement on DACA Future

Arlington County issued a statement September 5 on DACA. "We are gravely disappointed with President Trump's decision to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), the program that has given hope to some 800,000 Dreamers by protecting them from deportation and allowing them to more fully integrate into our country — their country." [Read the whole statement here.](#)

Police to Participate in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 28, 2017

On Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 14th opportunity in 7 years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to the listed sites. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Please note: The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps. Only pills or patches will be accepted.)

The Arlington County Police Department will be collecting prescription drugs at Fire Station #5, 1750 S. Hayes Street. [Read more here.](#)

FRAUD ALERT: Credit Card Skimmers

The Arlington County Police Department is warning the public about skimming devices used to steal banking and personal information. At approximately 2:50 p.m. on Monday, September 18, police were dispatched to the Exxon Gas Station in the 4000 block of Old Dominion Drive for the report of a credit card skimming device located inside a gas pump. Citizens having used this location have reported fraudulent activity on their bank statements. Police are encouraging anyone who has

used this gas station to review their bank statements for any fraudulent activity. If fraudulent activity is located, report to police by calling the Emergency Communication Center at 703-558-2222 or file an online police report.

Citizens can take the following crime prevention steps to avoid skimmers at gas stations: Skimming devices have become more sophisticated. In most cases, the skimmers are being placed inside the machine and are undetectable without opening the pumps.

- Pay inside at the gas station, rather than at the pump.
- Always pay using a credit card instead of a debit card. Credit cards have better fraud protection, and the money is not deducted immediately from an account. If using a debit card at the pump, choose to run it as a credit card instead of putting a PIN number in. That way, the PIN number is safe.
- Consider purchasing a refillable prepaid card to purchase gas at the pumps.
- If you have not already switched to a chip reader on your credit card, do so.
- Regularly check your bank statements and if you notice fraudulent activity, notify the bank so they can begin an investigation.

Criminals will use a variety of different scams and the Arlington County Police Department wants the public to remain alert so you don't become a victim. Individuals seeking more information about fraud can visit our website or contact the Arlington County Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit at FinancialCrimes@arlingtonva.us.

Arlington Plans October Revenue Bond Sale

The Arlington County Board today approved the sale of Series 2017 Revenue Bonds, to be issued through the Arlington County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). These are long-term, subject-to-appropriation bonds, which the County uses to finance major capital projects. Proceeds of the sale will finance a range of County capital projects, including:

- \$34 million to purchase the "Buck Property" industrial-zoned property on North Quincy Street, across from Arlington Public Schools' Education Center.
- \$10.5 million would be used to finance the acquisition, design and construction of an office building at 2920 S. Glebe Rd. The County plans to use the building as the new home of the Head Start program that will be displaced from its home at 1800 N. George Mason Drive when the County's

Edison/Drewry complex is transferred to Virginia Hospital Center.

- \$6 million to finance upgrades to the County's Assessment and Collection system and Enterprise Payments System – the first in a series of technology improvements that are part of the County's goal to rework internal processes to increase worker productivity and enable a digital workplace.

\$38.3 million in refinancing of existing bonds, saving more than \$3.8 million under current conditions.

[Read more here.](#)

Budget Roundtables

We're looking for feedback earlier this year than ever before as we plan for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. Join your neighbors for community roundtable discussions about budget priorities and challenges. Your suggestions and comments will help the Manager shape his FY19 budget proposal, which will go to the Board in February 2018. [See the full schedule of roundtables and learn how to RSVP on the Budget & Finance site.](#)

Show Arlington Some Love...Be a Volunteer!

As we leap into fall, we are seeking volunteers for the Therapeutic Recreation Halloween **Dance Fri., Oct. 27** and coaches and assistant coaches for our recreation youth basketball. The basketball season runs **November-March**. High school students 16 and older are encouraged to volunteer with younger teams. **Coach registration is open Mon., Oct. 2-Mon., Oct. 16.** Contact Marta Cahill or go [here](#) for more information.

Don't miss a chance to give back! Check out additional volunteer opportunities at our [webpage](#).

Arlington County E-CARE Event

It's time for fall cleaning! If you have old paint cans, automotive fluids, lawn and garden chemicals or any



other hazardous household materials, bring them to our E-CARE event on Saturday, **October 14** to safely dispose of these items. For a list of accepted materials, [visit the](#)

[website.](#)

Public Invited to Attend Drug Awareness Town Hall

Communities across the country are confronting the growing problem of drug and opioid abuse. Arlington is

not immune to the problem. Please join us for a community conversation and town hall event **October 12** from 7-8:30 pm with community leaders, healthcare providers and law enforcement serving on the front lines about how drugs and the opioid epidemic are affecting our community. The discussion will include a key note address by Carolyn Weems, a panel discussion and questions and answers from the audience. NBC4 Washington anchor Jim Handly will moderate the discussion. Simultaneous Spanish translation is available. WHERE: Central Library – 1015 N. Quincy Street. For opioid awareness and resources, please visit our [website](#).

International Economic Development Council Honors Arlington Economic Development

Arlington Economic Development (AED) has been honored with three Excellence in Economic Development Awards by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The awards were presented at a ceremony earlier this month during the IEDC Annual Conference in Toronto. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Visitors Set New Spending Record in 2016

Tourism in Arlington generated \$3.12 billion in local travel spending in 2016, up 2 percent from the previous year, according to the U.S. Travel Association. Visitors also supported nearly 26,000 jobs in the County and nearly \$209 million in combined state and local taxes. All are new records for Arlington, which has led Virginia counties in visitor spending since 2009. [See press release.](#)

About the Arlington Convention and Visitors Service

A division within Arlington Economic Development, the Arlington Convention and Visitors Service (ACVS) is Arlington County's official destination marketing organization. Funded primarily through a guest-paid, 1/4-cent tax on hotel rooms, ACVS promotes Arlington as the best place to stay, shop, dine and play when visiting the Washington, D.C. region. For more information on Arlington tourism, visit <http://www.stayarlington.com>.

County Board Directs Manager to Develop Options on Increasing Field Capacity

The Arlington County Board has directed the County Manager to develop options for increasing the County's field capacity as part of the Fiscal Year 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Board's action at its Saturday, Sept. 16 public meeting means that the synthetic turf fields on the Williamsburg Middle

School/Discovery Elementary School campus will remain unlit for now. [Read more here.](#)

The Connection Library

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

FIRST FRIDAYS: YOUR NEXT FAVORITE BOOK

Arlington librarians with varied tastes share their reading and listening suggestions. Friday, Oct. 6, 5:00 p.m.

CREATING A DEBT REPAYMENT PLAN Learn how to set priorities and find money in your budget for debt repayment. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6:00 p.m. (Registration required)

AN EVENING OF THOUGHTFUL DIALOGUE WITH COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS Join Arlington County Board members for a robust conversation focused on the core principles and lessons outlined in the book *The Righteous Mind*, by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. Monday, Oct. 16, 7:00 p.m. (Registration required)

CONTROLLING CLUTTER An interactive class which gives you the tools to control the clutter in your life. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension Wednesday, Oct. 18, 6:00 p.m. (Registration required on VCE website.)

"LET'S MAKE A DEAL" - HALLOWEEN STYLE! Wear a crazy costume and make deals with the host. You may end up with a great prize -- or a dud. Either way, fun will be had! Thursday, October 26, 4:30 p.m.

MAKE IT TUESDAYS Upcycle old materials and objects into fun functional crafts! For ages 18 and up. RSVP for event reminder. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m.

STRATEGY GAMING Build your empire! No experience required. Ages 18+ Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:00 p.m.

KNIT ONE, READ ONE Beginning knitters welcome! Fridays, 10:00 a.m.

TECH TUTORING (by appointment) Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - en Español Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FICTION WRITERS GROUP Fun and informal weekly support group for fiction writers. Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

STOP IN FOR STORIES Fun and interactive storytime. Ages 0 - 5 years Thursdays, 10:30 a.

Other Issues

Congressional App Challenge

Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to announce that once again my office will be participating in the Congressional App Challenge. I invite all middle and high school students who reside in the 11th District of Virginia to participate in this exciting competition that highlights the importance of STEM education and encourages student participation in coding and computer science.

Our area is often referred to as the "Silicon Valley of the East" due to the growing number of high-tech companies. We understand that to compete in a global economy, we must provide the educational opportunities that will allow our children to develop the necessary skills for a 21st century workforce. Computer science and STEM skills are critical for our continued economic growth. By some estimates, there are nearly a quarter of a million unfilled programming jobs in the United States. This competition is a step to filling that need.

Participants will create and submit an original application which will be rated by an impartial panel of technical experts. The app must be submitted through the Congressional App Challenge website by November 1, 2017. Each congressional district will have one winner who will be announced in early December.

I hope that you will encourage your children, friends, and local schools to participate. For additional information or to sign up, please visit the Congressional App Challenge website at: <http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/>

Please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at 703-256-3071 if you have any questions. Good luck!

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Hogan outlines \$9B plan to add lanes to Beltway, I-270 and I-295

Gov. Larry Hogan announced September 21 a \$9 billion plan to address gridlock on suburban Maryland's busiest highways, bringing added capacity — and tolls — to Interstate 270, the Capital Beltway and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The concept calls for four new lanes on I-270 from the Beltway to Frederick, four new lanes on the Beltway from the American Legion Bridge to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and, if the National Park Service is willing to give up control, four lanes on I-295 between Baltimore and D.C. The new lanes would be tolled, and built — like the Express Lanes in Virginia — by

a private contractor, making this a public-private partnership, or P3. The announcement kicks off the search for a private partner, or partners, to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the new lanes, according to a release. [Read more here.](#)

TRAFFIC ALERT: 33rd Annual Army Ten-Miler Race

The Arlington County Police Department will close several streets near the Pentagon on **Sunday, October 8, 2017**, for the 33rd annual Army Ten-Miler race. The race begins at 7:50 a.m. on Route 110, crosses the Potomac River into the District of Columbia, returns to the Commonwealth via I-395 HOV and ends in the Pentagon north parking lot. [See which roads are closed here.](#)

BOO HA HA

Oct 14, 3 - 6pm. Aurora Hills Community Center

The 10th annual Boo Ha Ha is a free, inclusive, family-friendly event bringing together residents from our three civic associations - Aurora Highlands, Crystal City and Arlington Ridge. Join us for an afternoon of Halloween fun featuring a hayride, face painting, a local banjo band, moon bounces, pumpkin decorating and more.

Zombie Run

The Zombie Fun Run returns in 2017! Join us on Saturday, **October 21** from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bon Air Park for a spooky good time. Secure your spot and pick the run time most convenient for you! Register in advance online or by phone at 703-228-4747 using activity code 720018! On-site registration will be available on the day of the event on a first-come, first-served basis for a limited number of spots. Cost: \$3 per person online, \$5 per person on the day of the event (cash only). Free for children four and under. [Register here.](#)

Calling All Cyclists

Marvel at some of Arlington's most spectacular trees Sat., **Oct. 28**, 9 a.m.-noon on this leisurely ride over mostly level, paved pathways, while stopping at points of natural and environmental interest along the way. The Champion Trees Bike Ride is for ages 12+ and has room for 15 people. Register to Vincent Verqueij at 703-228-1863 before this ride fills up! Meet at Shirlington Library. [Details here.](#)

Gallery Underground

First Fridays Reception: **Oct. 13, 5-8 pm:** Gallery Underground's free monthly receptions are part of Crystal City's Art Underground "First Friday" events where you can also jam at ArtJamz Underground, see

what's happening at TechShop, stroll around Fotowalk exhibits and dine at great restaurants and bars ~ all in walking distance.

Focus Gallery Exhibit: **Oct. 9-28**, The Community Artists Mentoring Program of Arlington Artists Alliance teaches and mentors young adults with developmental disabilities. Four artists demonstrate their gifts in a group show. The artists are Yasmine Iskander, Genna Lagunoff, Sheridan McClure, and Lee Meyer.

Featured Artist of the Month: Judith Gray, presents, "Under Foot-Why Manhole Covers?" Watercolor, pen and ink. Gray's paintings pay homage to the creativity and imagination of many unknown artists who created these overlooked manhole covers throughout Europe.

Gallery Underground Members are also exhibiting new and original paintings, sculptures, glasswork, mosaic art, jewelry, photographs, mixed media and clay artwork. Also for sale, greeting art cards and matted prints. Members' work changes monthly so be sure to stop in every month!

Gallery Hours: * M-F 10am - 6pm, Saturday 10am - 2pm. Metro accessible.

Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Alexandria/Arlington)

980Free Public Education Programs are open to all in October and posted at <https://mgnv.org/events/mgnv-events/>.

The Wharf's water taxi is coming to Alexandria

Potomac Riverboat Company wants to amend its license agreement with Alexandria to add a fourth vessel to the rotation, one that would exclusively service an Old Town to Wharf route, according to a proposal that will come before the City Council September 12. [Read more here.](#)

Representative Beyers Moving Forward, Together - Impact & Influence

WHEN: Saturday **October 14th**

8:30AM - Noon

WHERE: George Mason University
3351 Fairfax Drive

Youth and Family Programs

Spooktacular Costume Party Family Night

Join us next Friday, **October 6** at Carver from 7-9 p.m. for some spooktacular fun! Dance to rockin' Halloween music, play fun games, make spooky crafts, take part in our conga line costume parade and more! [Click here](#) for more information. This program is free to

enter, youth 10 and under must be supervised by an adult.

Healthy Halloween Tricks and Treats Families Unplugged

Come Cook With Us on Saturday, **October 14** at Walter Reed from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.! You and your family will create sweet treats with a tricky twist. Each tasty recipe will contain hidden fruits or vegetables. [Click here](#) for recipes and more information. [Register today](#) using activity code 730018. Cost: \$8 per person, open to ages 5 & up.

Zombie Run October 21

The Zombie Fun Run and Survival Zone Party returns on Saturday, **October 21** at Bon Air Park from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.! Secure your spot at our one-mile family friendly fun run and obstacle course by [registering online](#) today using activity code 720018. [Click here](#) to learn more about this event, including activity information, pricing, and how to register.

Break Blast Registration Now Open

Looking for something to do during the upcoming parent/teacher conferences on **October 26 & 27**? Check out our Break Blast programs and [register today!](#) [Check our webpage](#) often as more programs will be added through October 6.

Spooky Cupcake Wars Families Unplugged

Come Play With Us on Saturday, **October 28** at Arlington Mill from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. for our Halloween themed cupcake wars program! Each family will learn fun new ways to decorate this popular dessert and create a spooky cupcake design to take home. [Register today](#) using activity code 730018. Cost: \$8 per person, open to all ages, recommended for 3 & up.

Aurora Hills 55+ Program News

55+ Programs are for 55+ Members and people 55 and older who want to check out one of our programs before signing up for a 55+ Pass. More program information and our 55+ Guides can be found [here!](#) To register for any of the following programs, please call 703-228-5722.

Movies on the Big Screen

Loving (PG-13) Fri., **Oct. 6**, 12:30 p.m.

Fences (PG-13) Fri., **Oct. 27**, 12:30 p.m.

Evening Make Up and Fall Skincare

Find out if your skincare routine is on track for the best results and join us on Fri., **Oct. 13**, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. as Mary Kay Consultant, Cheryl gives you some new tips for a night out this fall.

Cancer Surveillance

Join us on Wed., **Oct. 18**, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. as two oncology patient navigators from Virginia Hospital Center discuss simple strategies you can incorporate in your life to lower your risk of cancer.

Medicare Plan Finder Assistance

Once a year from **Oct.15 through Dec.7**, Medicare holds an Open Enrollment Period where you can make changes to your Part D or Part C benefit. On Fri., Oct. 20, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., a trained, certified Medicare counselor from the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program, (VICAP), will be on site to help you compare plans for cost savings. Sign up today for a one-on-one confidential session.

AARP Smart Driver Class

Why take a Smart Driver course? Because driving has changed since you first got your license and doing so could save you money! You'll learn current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate a vehicle more safely. Class takes place at Aurora Hills on **Thurs., Oct. 26 and Fri., Oct. 27**, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. You must attend both days to receive a certificate of completion that may qualify you for discounts on your auto insurance policy. Call 703-228-4403 to pre-register. \$15 AARP members; \$20 nonmembers.

CCCA OFFICERS

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Established January 28, 2014

Join on our website:

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

Or send a check for \$10 to:

Treasurer, CCCA
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