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Newsletter  
No. 10, 2018

October 2018



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# Civic Association Issues

## CCCA Meeting: September 26

What a great meeting this was! Arlington County's unofficial historian Kathryn Holt Springston gave a slideshow presentation on the history of the Crystal City area: "**Crystal City: from swamps, forts and brickyards to skyscrapers**". This was not dry history, it was an engaging, informative demonstration of how the area has changed over the years, including the outline of the Potomac River and the swamps that became Crystal City and Long Bridge Park. When the URL becomes available of the full slideshow, we will share in on our website.

The second half of the meeting focused on What's Happening in Crystal City. Details will be posted on the website later on.

## Uber/Lyft Parking Lot on S. Eads Street

After months of public pressure, the County finally agreed to hold a community meeting on the traffic congestion caused by vehicles exiting and entering the airport Uber/Lyft Lot on S. Eads Street. The three civic associations in the 22202 zip code--Aurora Highlands, Crystal City, and Arlington Ridge--had been urging since May the closure of the entrance/exit on S. Eads Street and the reopening of the old gate on Route 1. As background, in April 2018 the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) began operating a dispatch lot for Uber/Lyft vehicles on South Eads Street, near Fort Scott Drive. MWAA relocated the lot to the Eads Street site to make room for their "Project Journey" construction project, but the move has resulted in increased traffic congestion in this area. Representatives of MWAA and the Virginia Department of Transportation officials also attended.

The PowerPoint presentation showed that the County has made progress with two phases. Phase I is a temporary fix (for about 50% of the problem) to open the Route 1 gate for left-bound traffic to the airport ramp, by means of a temporary span-wire signal control on Route 1. VDOT has issued a permit and work is expected to start the first week of October and take 1-2 weeks. Phase II would solve another 20% of the problem but cost \$250,000 in funds that are not now as a capital improvement project. It

would take 12-14 months, including underground utility survey, potential easement, design, VDOT review, and construction. [A new website for the project will be available some time in the next week and available here.](#)

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

## (Editorial) Crystal City Development Paralyzed While Waiting for Amazon Decision

Most Crystal City residents are aware that our area is in the running as one of Amazon's finalists, when they expect choose a headquarters location by the end of the year. While an arrival of Amazon would also create demand for residential buildings, the first priority for land-owners is to be positioned to convince Amazon that there is plenty of existing and near-term office space that would match their needs. So right now, land-owners are hedging and, above all, holding off on committing existing and new buildings to other types of use.

As the main example, the plans for converting the office building at 1750 Crystal Drive to an exciting building for residential use, after a one-year approval process, have now been halted. JBG Smith may come back and resuscitate those plans during the next five years, but for now they are instead focusing on renovating the existing building, both internally and through 'reskinning'. (The plans for a grocery store and a movie theater in the same block are not affected). Similarly, the expected action on the approved tall residential tower at 23rd and Crystal Drive, which we reported about last year, has quietly been halted. And while plans for low-rise residential buildings in the PenPlace parcel (opposite WholeFoods) are being pursued, they are known to be a 'Plan B', which would quickly be dropped if Amazon were to appear and then quite likely have an interest in the entire PenPlace block.

## (Editorial) Save the Full 18th Street Park

For a long time now, JBG-Smith has pursued plans for introducing a specialty grocery store and an Alamo cinema drafthouse on Crystal Drive between 15th and 18th Street. **This has the full support of our Civic Association.** Their preference to hold off on existing plans for converting the office building at 1750 Crystal Drive to a residential

building, is also fully understandable, given the apparently imminent decisions from Amazon. Modified plans were approved at the Site Plan Review Committee September 17, with approval by the County Board to be requested at their October 20 meeting.

HOWEVER, all along, we have resisted an additional part of the overall package which is totally inappropriate in terms of both substance and process. The existing plans



Proposed Plan - Figure 3.3.6

for Crystal City underscore that "open space" is the scarcest aspect in our community. Thus, we enthusiastically support creation of an 18<sup>th</sup> Street park, which was envisaged in the 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan. Yet, JBG-Smith has stubbornly insisted on occupying a large and prominent part of the open space in the park at the corner of Crystal Drive and 18<sup>th</sup> Street with a two-story "retail building" over

the proposed second entrance to the Metro station with a building that will be unsightly and disruptive of the view from Crystal Drive--without providing any satisfactory justification other than their economic interest. This building was never envisioned in the 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan and will definitely cut into green space. The loss of the midblock open space park on the second level above the Crystal Square Apartments Building, which will disappear for construction of the Alamo Drafthouse, makes preservation of the full 18<sup>th</sup> Street proposed park critical, at least in the short term, given there are no funds for park design and construction for the planned second Metro entrance.

Moreover, JBG-Smith has refused to provide the kind of transparent outreach process to our community which has always been offered for such open space projects. Instead, recently, they have been requesting through the coUrbanize electronic process that people send in support blindly for the two-story building, without their realizing that they are supporting reduced open space. So there has been no chance for residents and others to evaluate whether there is any excuse or merit in the notion of shortchanging us on open space. This heavy-handed approach is not acceptable and any decision regarding the open space MUST be postponed until all options have been discussed in the community, especially as it is clear that the actual implementation of the open space is well into the future. No excuse for being in a rush! .

**This is something like a poison pill in the JBG package to the County Board for October 20; do NOT support it blindly in the coUrbanize process! Be aware that you**

*then implicitly would be supporting a reduction of valuable open space!*

*We will continue to oppose that part of the plan since they can construct the interior improvements of 1770 Crystal Drive without impacting the open space.*

## Voting Precinct 006 Finds a Home!



For those voters in the north part of Crystal City, it's been a frustrating experience to locate our voting precinct in the last few years. Following renovation of our long-time venue in Waterpark Towers (1505 Crystal Drive) and a temporary move to Crystal Place

(1801 Crystal Drive), Management decided not to accommodate our precinct any more. So we spent a year in the Crystal City Underground Gallery where we were welcomed but which caused great confusion with Precinct 50 in Crystal Plaza for voters in the southern part of Crystal City.

Now, thanks to an agreement between the County and JBG-Smith, voters got a notification in August that our new (and hopefully permanent) precinct location is 251 18<sup>th</sup> Street. This is the red-colored Wells Fargo building which you can access from the plaza, two doors facing the Metro, and from an elevator in the Underground across from the restrooms near Rite Aid.

## Construction contract approved for final phase of Crystal Drive two-way conversion

This month the County Board approved the construction contract for the Crystal Drive two-way conversion's final phase, which will convert Crystal Drive between 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets South to two-way operation.

Construction is expected to begin in late 2018 and last approximately nine months.

The project is designed to improve traffic circulation patterns in Crystal City. In addition to the two-way conversion, improvements will include a loading area near the Hyatt Regency hotel, a new right-turn pocket for northbound Crystal Drive onto 26<sup>th</sup> Street, a bike lane on southbound Crystal Drive and sharrows on northbound Crystal Drive. There will be one vehicle traffic lane in each direction on this section of Crystal Drive. 27<sup>th</sup> Street South will also be converted to two-way traffic from Crystal Drive to Route 1.

This project is the third and final phase of converting Crystal Drive from one-way to two-way travel, as planned in the 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan. Upon completion, Crystal Drive will be a two-way street from South Potomac Avenue/27<sup>th</sup> Street South up through 12<sup>th</sup> Street South. [View the project page.](#)

## Clark Street demolition update

Since the Clark Street structure above 15th Street South was demolished in July, crews have been performing some demolition work on the northbound Route 1 bridge over 18th Street South, on the right edge of the bridge deck. This work will allow the contractor to build a new traffic barrier wall along the right shoulder area of Route 1. The concrete barriers that currently separate Route 1 from South Clark Street were constructed on the Clark Street side and need to be replaced as elevated Clark Street is removed.

In the coming weeks the contractor will continue work on the new Route 1 traffic barrier wall, resume traffic signal work at the intersection of 20th Street South and Route 1, and continue hauling off concrete material. The next detours for this project will occur during removal of the Clark Street bridge over 18th Street South. This work has not yet been scheduled, but there will be a two-week advance notice before the detour starts. [View the project page](#)

## ART 43 schedule changes effective Sept. 30

On September 30, schedule changes will go into effect for the ART 43 bus route that operates in your neighborhood. The changes include time adjustments to improve connections to Metroway, Metrorail, and other regional service providers. The northbound stop at Court House Metro Station (Wilson Blvd and N. Veitch Street) will be made permanent. [View the new ART 43 schedule here.](#) Schedule changes will also be made to the ART 41, 42 and 75 routes. Learn more at [arlingtontransit.com](http://arlingtontransit.com)

## A half-million square feet for HQ2 by the end of 2019? That's still Amazon's goal

Amazon.com Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN) is holding to its goal of meeting the initial phase of its second headquarters in 2019, but it could be hard-pressed to hit that target unless it inks a deal for the space soon — no matter where HQ2 lands. The requirement for at least a half-million square feet by the end of next year, included in the request for proposals the Seattle-based e-commerce and cloud computing company's issued last September, hasn't changed, according to a company spokesman. But building out that much space in a year and change could be a tall order given the time, materials and manpower needed, real estate experts say. The half-million square feet is just the initial requirement toward a much larger footprint of 8 million square feet or so expected to take until, 2027 or more to fill out. [Read more here.](#)

If Amazon chooses a site in the D.C. region for HQ2, that would suggest its initial requirement is more likely to be

met with existing space rather than new construction. There's plenty of vacant space in areas like Crystal City, as I examined with the Northern Virginia installment of my Hunt for HQ2 series, meaning the turn-around time would be quicker than a site that requires more prep work before construction can start on a new building.

[Read more here.](#)

## Here's what Jeff Bezos finally had to say about HQ2.

**Amazon.com Inc.'s second headquarters will be ... decided by Dec. 31.** That was the response the retailing giant's CEO and founder, Jeff Bezos, gave to fellow billionaire and The Carlyle Group LP (NASDAQ: CG) co-founder David Rubenstein when asked in an interview about its yearlong search for its so-called HQ2, a \$5 billion, 50,000-employee endeavor that has 20 markets around North America, including Greater Washington, vigorously vying to host it. A man who needed no introduction, in fact, got many September 13, including from JBG Smith Properties CEO Matt Kelly — whose company's new affordable housing initiative was one of the night's biggest sponsors and, incidentally, is one of the landlords rumored to be high on an HQ2 wish list with its Crystal City and Potomac Yard real estate holdings. [Read more here.](#)

## Update on VRE Station

VRE presented an update to the September 5



Transportation Commission and the September 25 County Board meeting. The materials that were presented were essentially the same as the June 6 public meeting updated for comments received and next steps. The meeting materials are posted on [VRE's project page.](#)

## (Editorial) - Decision on New VRE Location Now Seems a Foregone Conclusion

*Our community's focus has been on getting the new station to be located behind office buildings, rather than directly in the backyard of two residential buildings. However, VRE and County have persisted in their arguments that the location behind the 1801 and 1805 Crystal Drive residences is absolutely necessary. Judging from the VRE presentation to the County Board a few days ago, and especially the reactions from the Board, it appears clear that they have dismissed the issue of alternative locations, and are instead moving ahead with the details of final design. Moreover, there were statements to the effect that there will be no negative impacts on the two residential buildings, so that there*

would be no need for remedies or mitigation. As of this moment, we are not aware of any action still being pursued separately by the Crystal Park Condominium. The only consolation right now is that VRE still has not obtained funding for actual construction, so action does not seem imminent.

### Painted Bikes and Pinwheels

Who put up the painted bikes with flowers and street painting from 12th to 18th Streets? Here's the definitive answer. The developer JBG Smith did this as a "small mini intervention" project to link Pentagon and Crystal Cities and create some "buzz" for their development projects in an interesting and more attractive way. The work was done by Ground Swell, a company of architects, landscapers, and artists from Philadelphia.

JBG has now replaced the bikes with colored, twirling pinwheels.



The bikes have been moved to a wooden fence on the north side of 12th Street near S. Fern Street location for the eventual PenPlace project.

### New Restaurants on 23rd Street

Café Italia has been reincarnated as **Federico Ristorante**. Freddie (of Freddie's Beach Bar) bought Café



Italiano, renovated it, and has reopened it as Federico Ristorante Italiano, at 519 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Although open for a few weeks in September, the big opening is scheduled for Sunday, October 1, with an ice

cream social from 3-5 pm.

We also understand that **Los Tios Grill** - which describes their food as "fine tex-mex & salvadorean" - is coming soon to 23rd Street! With two locations in Alexandria, they're already a local favorite, with their homemade sangria and house specialty.

### Metro chooses contracting team to build Potomac Yard station

Metro and the city of Alexandria have selected a contracting team to build the Potomac Yard Metro station, with an anticipated opening of late 2021 or early

2022. Potomac Yard Constructors, a joint venture of Halmar International and Schiavone Construction Co., have won the \$213.7 million contract, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Alexandria announced Monday. Both companies are "well-established subsidiaries of global construction companies," according to a release. The \$320 million station, serving the Blue and Yellow lines, is the driving force behind the redevelopment of the Potomac Yard area, dominated by 7.5 million-square-foot overhaul of Potomac Yard Center. Station construction is expected to start in the spring of 2019, after the city solicits public input on design changes — including improved access from the south to its lone entrance. Work should be on the fast-track next summer when WMATA temporarily shuts down all Metro stations south of Reagan National Airport for platform work. [Read more here.](#)

### New Pentagon Fashion Center Stores

Yong Kang Street, a long awaited dumpling and noodle restaurant, is open for business in the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City mall. The restaurant features a mix of flavors from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. The restaurant is named after a street in Taiwan famous for its restaurants and street food. Yong Kang Street is located between Garrett Popcorn and Haagen-Dazs. The restaurant is open 10 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sunday. [ArlNow.com](#)

### Crystal City Store Closings

**Taylor Gourmet** closed all 17 of its DC-area stores Sunday, September 23. This includes the store at 2200 Crystal Drive and the one at National Airport. [Read more here.](#) **Noodles & Company** also closed its store at 2011 Crystal Drive. Noodles & Company once operated as many as 500 locations across the country, but persistently declining revenue figures have forced the chain to shutter dozens of its restaurants in recent years. The company also closed its Pentagon Row location back in 2016.

## Arlington County Issues

### Election Alert! Absentee In-Person Voting Begins September 21

The November 6, 2018, midterm election is fast approaching, but in Arlington County, eligible voters can line up to vote absentee in-person at the County

Courthouse beginning **September 21 through November 2, from 8-5 (until 7 pm October 30 to November 1)**. In addition, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the last three Saturdays before Election Day (Oct. 20 and 27, and Nov. 3.) [Click or copy and paste this link](#) for the full schedule and eligibility requirements for early in-person absentee voting or to request a mail-in absentee ballot. And if you need to register to vote, or to change your voting address, you must do so by Oct. 15. [You can apply online.](#)



What's on the Ballot: One US Senator (3 candidates), 1 Member US House of Representatives (2 candidates), 1 County Board member (2 candidates), 1 School Board member (2 candidates), 2 Virginia constitutional amendments, and 4 County bond referendums! Find links to information on these candidates, bond referendums, and proposed constitutional amendments [through this link.](#)

### County Manager Warns of Another Tough Budget Year

Arlington County faces an estimated budget gap of \$20-35 million for its 2020 fiscal year, which could require cuts to County services, increased taxes and fees, or a combination of the two. County Manager Mark Schwartz provided the news in a briefing to the County Board at its Sept. 25 meeting. He said that County revenues are forecast to grow by a modest 1.5 percent, while expenditures for the County's current set of programs are anticipated to grow twice as fast. [A Virtual Town Hall: FY 2020 Budget meeting](#) will be held October 17 from 7-8:30.. See [County Manager's FY 2020 Early Budget Outlook](#)

### (Editorial) The County's Financial Situation Goes From Bad to Worse

**Be prepared for both a tax hike and reduced County services and investments.**

*When preparing the budget for the current fiscal year, the County early anticipated a \$ 20 Million gap between expected revenues and anticipate expenditures, and there was a sense that this would not be the end of problems. But the County Board had already issued an edict that a hike in the real estate tax rate was out of the question. So a partly temporary fix was put in place: almost half of the gap was closed through cuts in programs and services. But another substantial portion was "papered over" through accounting gimmicks, moving money between different types of funding. So it was now not surprising to hear County Manager Mark Schwartz reveal at the outset of the*

*process for the next fiscal year, that the situation has gotten considerably worse. The gap is this time expected to be in the \$ 20-35 Million range, and that is before the exact requests from the schools system are known. Office vacancy rates and a decline in revenue also from the residential side have contributed. Moreover, Moody and other credit rating agencies have started reminding the County that the reserves have been kept at a level lower than what is desirable and should be built up, in order to avoid the risk for downgrading of County debts.*

*It is clear that further, more substantial cuts in services and programs will be needed. County staff will need to be reduced through attrition. And, above all, a tax hike, perhaps a substantial one, now seems unavoidable. While the discussion about the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has not yet started, it is very likely that resources for investments in high-density areas requiring substantial growth, like Crystal City, will be even more limited than last time. This could be expected to create a substantial dilemma, when the land-owners and private investors will want to move forward with development projects and then need to rely on County support for infrastructure and other County investments. The County's unwillingness to recognize explicitly that areas such as Crystal City subsidize the low-density areas of the County and are vital to the County's financial situation, will yet again become an obstacle.*

### Energize Arlington

For anyone wanting to improve their community leadership skills Join us for a SERIES of interactive workshops developed from community conversations. Every Thursday evening this

October with networking from 6:30-7 p.m. and program from 7-8:30 p.m.

**OCTOBER 4:** Energizing Neighbors to be Active Participants in their Community. Learn how to spark neighborhood interest and engagement. Location: Langston-Brown Community Center. [Learn more and RSVP](#)

**OCTOBER 11:** Improving Communication with Multi-Family Buildings. Gain tips on how to broaden connections to neighbors. Location: Walter Reed Community Center. [Learn more and RSVP](#)

**OCTOBER 18:** Essentials for Community Leadership. Add valuable tools and resources to your leadership toolbox. Location: Walter Reed Community Center. [Learn more and RSVP](#)

**OCTOBER 25:** Networking Happy Hour. Meet and engage with other influential leaders like you! Location: New District Brewing Company. [Learn more and RSVP](#)

**Background:** The [Energize Arlington](#) workshop series emerged from a series of earlier roundtable conversations with 55 civic and condo association presidents. Hosted in the spring of 2018, these interactive sessions focused on exploring both the successes and challenges community leaders experience in their neighborhoods, and were co-hosted by County Manager Mark Schwartz and Civic Federation President Duke Banks. The robust dialogue and interactions led to finding several connections as well as topics and resources that were of interest for participants. Now, Arlington Civic Federation and Arlington County are pleased to offer Energize Arlington, a series of free interactive workshops for community leaders. To learn more about the roundtables, read the [Roundtables with Civic and Condo Association Presidents Summary Notes](#).

### Medicaid to Cover More Arlingtonians

The Arlington County Board voted unanimously on September 22 to accept state funding that will help pay for additional staff needed to process an expected flood of new applications for Medicaid under the state's expanded program, [Cover Virginia](#). The Board authorized the County Manager to accept \$277,057 in state funding, money that will fund ongoing staff and operations in the County's Department of Human Services associated with determining eligibility. In the coming months, the state will automatically enroll those now covered under the [Governor's Access Plan](#), who meet residency requirements, and [Plan First](#), a state family planning program, with their coverage beginning in November 2018.

The County expects to begin processing new applications in November and anticipates some 7,000 new Medicaid applications. Of those, about 3,000 are expected to qualify. Currently, about 12,500 households, representing about 18,400 persons, are enrolled in Arlington in one of Virginia's two medical assistance programs: Medicaid or the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan. [Read more here](#).

### Arlington to Study Dockless Bikeshare Bikes, Scooters

The Arlington County Board has approved a nine-month demonstration program to evaluate dockless bikeshare bikes and electric stand-up scooters, referred to as shared mobility devices. The Board voted unanimously September 25 to start the trial on Oct. 1 and ban scooters from sidewalks and trails. No one younger than

16 will be allowed to rent them. Companies renting the dockless bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters will have to pay Arlington a one-time \$8,000 fee for each category they offer and will have to agree to provide data on usage, trips and where the vehicles are parked. Arlington is also limiting the speed of scooters to 10 mph and bikes to 15 mph. The District is running a similar pilot program until December, and Alexandria is likely to consider its own regulations in the next few months, Arlington transportation officials said. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

### **(Editorial) Pedestrians - You Need to Watch Your Back More Than Ever!**

*Over the years, pedestrians on Crystal City sidewalks and crosswalks have become uncomfortably alert to the dangers created by bikers who ignore traffic lights and rules or generally show a lack of concern. But more recently you are likely to have noticed the influx of electric scooters, electric bikes and also skateboards. This development is now likely to 'explode' after the County Board just approved a formal testing program for nine months, encouraging vendors and regulating the number of electric vehicles in the Arlington mix of transportation modes.*

*However, the program features do not include any focus on the safety for pedestrians and others who may encounter the new vehicles when and there the least expect it. **(You should be aware that electric bikes are allowed on sidewalks, whereas the scooters must stay in the street or bike lane.)** The somewhat cynical notion is that hazards and remedies will instead become clear during the test period. But as the County will not have the resources to monitor or enforce regulations, it will be up to all of us, out of self-interest, to be diligent in reporting incidents and dangerous behavior. [ArlNow.com reports on Arlingtonians reacting](#).*

*The mailing address for reporting is [mobility@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mobility@arlingtonva.us). You should also feel free to copy [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) regarding particularly serious issues, and we in the Civic Association would appreciate being copied on [board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org) so that we can have an overview of your concerns and suggestions.*

### ART Bus 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This fall Arlington is celebrating ART's 20th Anniversary of serving the County! Arlington Transit -- ART began providing bus service in the fall of 1998 with its initial route in Crystal City. ART supplemented the Metrobus system and helped to connect Arlington neighborhoods to Metrorail stations. Today, ART has grown to 15 routes and carries 3 million passengers annually, becoming an important transportation link between

Arlington neighborhoods and regional transit systems such as Metrobus, Metrorail and VRE. Throughout the year Arlington Transit plans to celebrate our 20th Anniversary with events, rider appreciation days and some fun surprises. Thanks for riding ART. See [the new buses headed your way!](#)

## 'X' Marks the Spot for Arlington Public Library's New Logo

Arlington Public Library has unveiled a new lineup of fall activities, along with a new tagline and a controversial new logo. [A series of lectures](#) throughout the fall



**Arlington  
Public  
Library**

include talks from a variety of authors. [Events throughout September](#), which is National Hispanic Heritage Month, include

classes, activities, and movies focusing on the history and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans. Finally, during "Banned Book Week" at the end of September, the library [will host activities spotlighting books](#) that have been challenged in schools, bookstores and libraries. [Read more here.](#)

## County Manager Announces Ben Aiken as New Resident Ombudsman

Ben Aiken has been named as Arlington's Resident Ombudsman and Director of Constituent Services in the County Manager's Office, effective October 8, 2018.

Arlington's Resident Ombudsman is part of the Constituent Services Team helping to ensure Arlington's government works effectively and maintains a high degree of transparency. The team provides a critical link between residents, visitors and employees who have problems or are seeking information and solutions.

[Read more here.](#)

## ACFD Taps Northern Virginia's First African-American Female Battalion Chief

Almost 24 years after she answered a radio ad seeking to recruit new firefighters, Tiffanye Wesley has been selected as Arlington's southern battalion chief. The county's fire department tapped her for the post September 2, making her both Arlington and Northern Virginia's first African-American female battalion chief. Before being selected as battalion chief, Wesley was commander of the Crystal City station, Arlington's largest and one of its busiest stations. Wesley stepped into the battalion chief role temporarily in 2016, which she said gave her an opportunity to get to know the other stations in the battalion. [Read more here.](#)

## Where to place the Arlington County car Decal? And the end of an era.

This year's decal must go on the lower left side of the windshield, just to the right of the inspection sticker.



### Directions for Applying your Decal

1. Slowly lift the edge of the decal to remove it.
2. From inside of the vehicle, apply the decal to the right of the State Inspection Sticker.

**Starting next year, Arlington drivers won't need to display a car decal on their vehicles for the first time in decades.** The County Board voted unanimously September 25 to end the requirement that owners of vehicles parked in Arlington use a sticker to prove they've paid personal property taxes. The "motor vehicle license fee" associated with the decal, which helps the county pull in about \$5 million each year, will remain under the Board's plan. But starting July 1, 2019, the county will now rely entirely on license plate readers to track whether drivers are up to date on their taxes.

## Arlington Gauging Community Satisfaction with County Services

Arlington County is conducting its fifth Countywide, statistically valid community survey to measure satisfaction with major County services and to gather input about issues facing the community. The results will enable County officials to assess performance across many County agencies and services. They also will be used to guide management decisions, inform budget development, identify areas for improvement, and ensure the best possible customer service. The County conducted its last such survey in 2015. The 2018 survey will be mailed to approximately 8,500 randomly selected Arlington households in all parts of the County. Survey questions cover a wide range of topics, including budget, public safety, parks and recreation, public works, transportation and human services. [Read more here.](#)

## Arlington Schools Make a Connection that Counts

Arlington Public Schools (APS) is kicking off the 2018-19 school year with a brand-new connection—

[ConnectArlington.](#) Thanks to a yearlong collaboration, 40 Arlington school facilities are now up and running on the County's own fiber optic network. APS made the switch from a commercial provider to take advantage of ConnectArlington's high-speed, dedicated network for digital telecommunications and broadband services.



ConnectArlington connects County and Schools facilities together, providing secure and cost effective Voice, Video and Data services. As a fiber optic network, ConnectArlington has virtually unlimited potential to deliver digital services, meeting today's needs and laying a robust foundation for the future. ConnectArlington also provides a secure, seamless connection for other County operations including the libraries, public safety, transportation and traffic management. [Read more here.](#)

### Permanent Drug Take-Back Boxes Collect Hundreds of Pounds of Prescription Medications

In June, Arlington County installed three permanent drug take-back boxes to address a crucial public safety and public health crisis facing communities across the country – prescription drug abuse. In the first three months of the program, the public safely disposed of 407 pounds of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications. Due to the success of the program, the police department is exploring expanding the program to provide residents with additional access to safe and secure disposal locations.

Arlington County Fire Station #2 – 4805 Wilson Boulevard

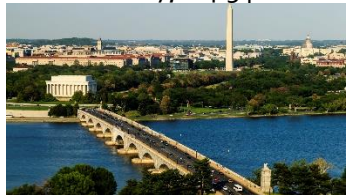
Arlington County Fire Station #9 – 1900 S. Walter Reed Drive

Arlington County Police Department – 2000 block of 14th Street N.

Items accepted at the drug take-back boxes are prescriptions, vitamins, prescription ointments, pet medications, prescription patches and over-the-counter medications. Items not accepted are needles, inhalers, aerosol cans, thermometers, lotions or liquids and hydrogen peroxide. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Tourism Revenue Hits Record \$3.3 Billion in 2017

Tourism revenue for Arlington reached a record \$3.3 billion in 2017, a 4.5 percent increase over 2016,



according to the U.S. Travel Association. Arlington has led Virginia counties in visitor spending since 2009. Tourism generated nearly

\$92 million in local tax receipts, benefiting County programs and services, as well as state tax receipts of \$123 million. Local tourism-supported jobs totaled 26,321, nearly 400 more than in 2016. Among other accolades in 2017, Arlington was named by Expedia as the third "Super Cool U.S. City," and one of the

"Happiest Cities in the United States" by National Geographic magazine. Arlington also received a 2017 Readers' Choice Award from ConventionSouth magazine, recognizing it as a top location for meetings and conventions in the South. [Read more here.](#)

### USS Arlington Sails on Eve of 9/11 Anniversary

Three years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Navy announced it would commission three ships to honor

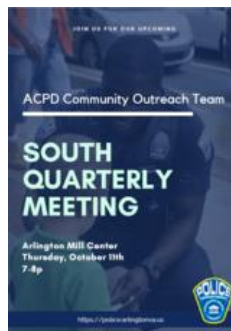


victims and first responders. One of the ships would be the USS Arlington, to honor those lost in the attack on the Pentagon, as well as those

who served in its aftermath. Fast-forward to today, and the USS Arlington is at sea preparing for its second overseas deployment since its official commissioning at Naval Station Norfolk in 2013. This sailing holds special meaning, coming on the eve of the 17th anniversary of 9/11. Under the command of Captain Todd Marzano, the ship's crew along with members of Arlington County's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC) are working to strengthen the connection between the Arlington community and its namesake ship. [Watch: Emotional 2013 commissioning for the USS Arlington](#)

### Police Community Outreach Teams Quarterly Meetings

The Community Outreach Teams will host their third quarter Community Meetings in October. Community members are invited to hear from our Outreach Teams, who will share our latest crime stats and crime trends across the County. This is also another opportunity for the community to share neighborhood concerns and information share with their assigned community officers. South Outreach Team, **October**



**17, 2018 - 7-8 p.m., Arlington Mill Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.**

### Save the Date: Opioids Epidemic Community Forum

**October 10, 2018 at 7 p.m.**

Chief of Police M. Jay Farr will speak at a community forum, hosted by the Virginia Hospital Foundation on the Opioid Epidemic and its effect on our community. This event is free, but advance registration is requested.

[Additional Information and Registration](#)

# Other Issues

## National Project Journey Update Escalator and Stairway Closure Near Delta and United Ticket Counters

One of six sets of escalators and stairs connecting Terminal B/C Ticketing to National Hall (concourse level), is permanently closed. Delta and United passengers using the ticket counters can reach the security screening checkpoint from other escalators, stairs or elevators. Other escalators open; minimal impacts expected.

In 2021, National Hall will be reconfigured to a connected [post-security terminal](#) that allows ticketed passengers to move freely between all gates in Terminals B and C. [View advisories on our website](#) When [Project Journey](#) is completed in 2021, two new 50,000-square-foot buildings with security checkpoints will replace three smaller checkpoints currently serving Terminal B/C – increasing the post-security space to include all of National Hall and its premier shops and restaurants for ticketed travelers. In addition, a new 14-gate concourse will replace Gate 35X – ending the need for travelers to ride buses to board regional jets parked outside. Concourse amenities will include jetbridges, holdrooms, concessions and an American Airlines Admirals Club lounge. [Read more here.](#)

## Officials unveil new facial recognition system at Dulles International Airport

With much fanfare, officials on September 6 unveiled a new system that eventually will replace boarding passes with facial scans for international travelers at Washington Dulles International Airport. Instead of pulling out their passports and handing over a boarding pass, travelers will instead have their faces scanned. That photograph, shot by an iPad mounted on a stand, will then be matched with a collection of photos maintained by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. If the photos — from passports and visa applications — match the one taken at the gate, the traveler will be cleared to board. U.S. citizens can opt out of being photographed, but non-U.S. citizens are required to have their pictures taken. Images of U.S. citizens are held for 12 hours and then discarded. Travelers who declined to have their faces scanned will have their identity confirmed manually. [Read more here.](#)

## Arlington Neighborhood Village October Events

Age in Place. Everyone is invited to participate in these ANV Activities: Join [Arlington Neighborhood Village's](#) "Coffee and Conversation" series. Bring your own coffee, learn about aging in place, and hear from the speakers listed below. No RSVP Needed. **Wednesdays in October**, 10 - 11 am. Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 South 16th Street, Arlington, VA 22204. Free parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to the Center.

## Foster Care Parents Needed

Looking for an opportunity to help children in your community? We're looking for foster parents! For Children's Sake of Virginia is a local therapeutic foster care agency, which works across counties all over Northern Virginia to take the cases that the counties do not have homes available for. This may include large sibling groups, children with behavior or medical needs, teen parents, or teenagers. As an organization, we provide training, dedicated staff, and a 24/7 on-call line to help those who are kind enough to open their homes and hearts to those foster children most in need. If you think you may have the time and patience to devote to helping us raise a child, please give us a call today at (703) 817-9890 or email us at [fcsvanow@gmail.com](mailto:fcsvanow@gmail.com) to learn more. Not sure you're ready to foster? Visit our website at [www.fcsva.org](http://www.fcsva.org) to learn more about our donation wish lists! [This is our Facebook page](#) and the [link to one of our videos here.](#)

## Multifamily Recycling and Waste Management Survey

Do you live in an apartment or condo in Arlington? If so, we'd like your input on a short [survey](#) to help EcoAction Arlington craft strategies for encouraging improved access to recycling containers in these dwellings and more educational initiatives among properties to improve waste management.

## Tenant and Homebuyer Fair

**Oct 13**, 10a.m.-3p.m. Live-In Arlington Info-Fair Special event for Tenants and Homebuyers. Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie Street. Free admission and parking (4 hrs. free parking).

--Free Seminars & Workshops!

See the list of classes in the LAIF webpage or click the blue logo on the left. Limited seating, first come first served! Registration needed for "The Condo Seminar" Call us at 703-228-3765 to register!

--Talk to Housing Experts:

Realtors, mortgage companies, banks, nonprofit organizations and Arlington County housing representatives! From workshops for Tenant's Rights to First-Time home buyers to starting your business, the

Arlington Info-Fair has something for everyone! Special women's empowerment class!

For more information, Call the Housing Division at 703-228-3765 or the LAIF team at 202-599-0665 or see the [webpage](#).

### Congressman Beyer's Fourth Annual Women's Conference and Forum

Breaking Through: Women Work For Change.

Saturday, **October 13**, 8:30 a.m. – noon, George Mason University, Arlington Campus, 3351 Fairfax Drive.

[Limited Space -- RSVP Here](#)

### Arlington Fun Ride is Saturday, October 13

The 7th Annual Arlington Fun Ride is Saturday, **October 13**! This scenic, family-friendly bike ride will give the anticipated 250+ participants a chance to experience the paved, multi-use trails that make up the "Arlington Loop" while enjoying support from rest stops in Crystal City, Columbia Pike, Ballston and Rosslyn.

To ensure the ride is accessible and inclusive of all experience levels, riders may choose to start at any of the 4 rest stops along the loop to complete 16-, 12-, 8- and 4-mile distances, ending at our Environmental Action Festival at the finish in Crystal City. Optional environmental challenges will also be offered at each rest stop for the chance to win raffle entries. There will also be a shorter 3-mile Kidical Mass Arlington children's loop in Crystal City, suitable for riders ages 10 and under. The event is hosted by Phoenix Bikes and EcoAction Arlington, and supported by Arlington County, local businesses, bike advocates and other community partners. For more all event info, visit [www.phoenixbikes.org/afr2018](http://www.phoenixbikes.org/afr2018).

**REGISTRATION:** \$15/person; \$40/family of 4

ALL RIDES FINISH IN CRYSTAL CITY, where the Environmental Action Festival will be held from 10:30am-12pm. PLEASE NOTE THAT WALK UP / DAY OF REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO STARTING IN CRYSTAL CITY ONLY

### Boundary Stone Bike Ride

Saturday, **October 27** at 9:00 AM.

History buffs, bike nerds, and adventure junkies unite! On October 27th, join us for the annual bike ride around the oldest federal monuments, the DC boundary stones: <http://www.boundarystones.org/>

This is a self-paced ride. People split off into smaller riding groups based on pace, distance, and interest in actually stopping to see the stones.

You can ride 1, 2, 3 or all 4 sides of the DC perimeter, up to 60 miles. There are rest stops, limited bike repair, and

an afterparty with beer. Here is the electronic cue sheet: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/17131594>

As always, the ride will be sponsored by Boundary Stone DC & Phoenix Bikes, with support from Gearin' Up Bicycles, Bikes for the World & VéloCity Bicycle Cooperative. And don't worry, DC Brau Brewing Company beer will be flowing at the after party!

**REGISTRATION:** registration is free, but a donation to one of the 4 bicycle nonprofits is recommended & appreciated.

### EcoAction Arlington EcoExtravaganza - Celebrating 40 Years

Friday, **October 19**, 2018 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. We are looking forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary with you at the EcoExtravaganza on Friday, October 19 at the Arlington Arts Center. Join Arlington's environmental leaders and your fellow community members in celebrating this milestone, while sampling our region's best sustainable cuisine, wine, and craft brews against the backdrop of the beautiful Arlington Arts Center. Proceeds from the event will support EcoAction Arlington's programs and operations plus development of our online Sustainable Choices Resource Center. Celebrate the legacy of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and be part of EcoAction Arlington's exciting future! Details at [ecoactionarlington.org](http://ecoactionarlington.org). EcoAction Arlington, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22206

### The Connection Library

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

### Crystal City BID Updates

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



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

Established January 28, 2014

**Join on our website:**

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

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

Treasurer, CCCA  
1200 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202