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Newsletter
No. 8, 2016

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Notices

For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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

Reminder to Pay Annual Dues

The 2016 dues are \$10.00 per voting member for membership in the Association. Use the form on the website "Join" page or just send a check to the CCCA Treasurer at 1200 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202.

Civic Association Issues

CRYSTAL CITY LIBRARY COMING IN SEPTEMBER



If you missed the informational meeting August 16, watch the space in the Underground across from the Tech Shop and facing Au Bon Pain: "The Connection." The Arlington County library hopes to open its temporary pop-up library by the end of September.

Crystal City was chosen as the prototype for Arlington County's innovative pop-up library format designed to integrate the library into the daily lives of residents, geared to our community dwellers. Technology, DIY information, tool lending library, events, meetings, etc. This is a **direct result** of the November 2015 CCCA meeting where Diane Kresh, Director of the Arlington County Libraries, raised the concept and met with an enthusiastic response from participants

The library is increasingly looking for greater outreach to connect with communities and to embed its libraries inside the community. There will be library tablets available preloaded with magazines and reference material. There will be daily delivery of books Monday to Friday, but can be open on Saturdays. The online survey showed three key areas of interest: 1) best sellers; 2) DIY materials; and, surprisingly, 3) DVDs. Library staff are also considering the borrowing of "things"; e.g., tools, games. There can be events, under room usage guidelines published on the library's website; e.g., authors, topics, CCCA meetings, NGO meetings, game night. Some participants asked for a children's nook and after school (5-7 pm) and Saturday morning activities for children, noting that there are indeed quite a few school children in the apartment

buildings. There was some discussion of workshops for younger kids, perhaps in partnership with the Tech Shop, which cannot host the workshops due to liability concerns.



Next CCCA General Meeting: September 21

Michael McGurk of Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's private partner on the I-95 Express Lanes project, the Virginia Department of Transportation's private partner on the I-95 Express Lanes project, will give an update on plans. He also wants to share with the community a more concrete proposed design at Eads Street and get feedback. This project will convert today's two HOV lanes into three Express Lanes within the existing roadway. As public input from communities is key during the project development phase, Transurban wants to ensure Crystal City residents are kept in the loop from the very beginning. Your feedback is critical to advancing the project's final design and scope.

Mitch Bonanno of Vornado/Charles E. Smith will present preliminary plans for two proposed projects located on Crystal Drive: 1) the adaptive re-use and expansion of the retail space located between 15th and 18th Streets along Crystal Drive (aka Shops at 1750) as well as a Metro Market Square and 2) a new public plaza and retail buildings located in front of 2121 Crystal Drive. Both projects are envisioned to invigorate the implementation of the Crystal City Sector Plan—including the dynamic transformation and improvements to neighborhood amenities and the public realm.

Stefanie Echeveste, Vornado's Placemaker Officer, will give a quick explanation of plans to install a colorful light display at the Water Park, as a lead-in to a short visit to the Water Park for a brief demonstration of the lights. Vornado will be seeking feedback on these plans, and you may want to offer your opinions, especially if you live in buildings where the lights could be seen.

November Annual Meeting: week of November 14: 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.

The CCCA is planning to invite speakers to brief us and seek community feedback. Stay tuned for more information in coming weeks.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Scoping Meeting on Long Bridge Study

Note: This is the Bridge study, not Long Bridge Park!

Public involvement for the study will include 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: Community Meeting #2 (Public Scoping) will be Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the

L'Enfant Plaza Club Room, Promenade Level

470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC

L'Enfant Plaza Metro and VRE Station

The Club Room is located in the hallway between retailers Gadget TLC and Jay Jewelers.

<http://longbridgeproject.com/public-involvement/>

ADA Compliance at the Shops at 1750

Have you wondered why the stores were all closing near the steps in the Underground near Starbucks? Vornado/Charles E. Smith entered into a voluntary compliance agreement to address ADA issues in the Shops at 1750. Part of this agreement required the relocation or closure of four stores that were not ADA accessible due to elevated landings with stair access. Vornado gave the store owners the option to relocate to comparable space that was ADA accessible. Two of the stores relocated to other locations. One of the stores closed when their lease expired. And one of the stores elected to terminate their lease agreement.

New Stores

According to an [ArlNow.com article](#), two new stores will open on Pentagon Row in the near future: **Express Jewelers** and a **menswear and tuxedo rental store**. Also, **Honeygrow** opened August 22 in the recently expanded Fashion Centre at Pentagon City mall, featuring sesame garlic and Philly roast pork stir-fry bowls and other food. See more at [Simon.com](#).

Earth Treks: Now Open

With a massive footprint exceeding 45,000 square feet, [Earth Treks Crystal City](#) at 1235 S. Clark St is the largest gym to date and has more than 400 amazing roped routes and boulders just begging to be climbed. They have spent the last seven months building the best climbing and fitness gym in the region and can't wait to share it with you!

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.

Vornado to Present Preliminary Plans for Two Crystal Drive Projects

At the September 21st CCCA meeting and the September 22nd CCCRC meeting representatives from Vornado/Charles E. Smith will present preliminary plans for two proposed projects located on Crystal Drive—the adaptive re-use and expansion of the retail space located between 15th and 18th Streets along Crystal Drive (aka

Shops at 1750) and a new public plaza and retail buildings located in front of 2121 Crystal Drive. Both projects are envisioned to invigorate the implementation of the Crystal City Sector Plan—including the dynamic transformation and improvements to neighborhood amenities and the public realm. Plan on attending the meeting to hear about these exciting projects!

Water Park Light Display Project



Vornado is working with the [Crystal City Business Improvement District](#) to install a light experience this fall/winter in the Water Park. 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.

At the September 21 CCCA meeting, they will present a questionnaire for reactions, after a walking demonstration in the park. In the meantime, take a look at the various possible iterations of the lights. These are just [video "samples"](#) as the final design is not fixed.

ART 92 Schedule and Route Changes

Effective Monday, August 22, service to the Pentagon on ART 92 was discontinued due to low ridership. The revised ART 92 route will provide service between the Crystal City Metro and Long Bridge Park only. These changes will go into effect on Monday, August 22. [View the new ART 92](#) schedule and route that went into effect on August 22, 2016.

ART 43 Schedule and Route Changes

Effective Sunday, August 21, the temporary service expansion for the ART 43 serving Crystal City, Rosslyn, and Courthouse was made permanent and improved by eliminating a congested stretch in Rosslyn. The route

now heads directly up Wilson Boulevard from Route 110 with a new stop at Wilson Blvd & N. Moore St. for Northbound buses and at Wilson Blvd. & Ft. Myer Dr. for Southbound. [View the new ART 43](#) schedule and route that will go into effect on August 21, 2016.

Arlington County Issues

Public Scoping Meeting Long Bridge Project

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) invite you to attend a public scoping meeting for the Long Bridge Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

L'Enfant Plaza Club Room, Promenade Level

470 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC

L'Enfant Plaza Metro and VRE Station

The Club Room is located in the hallway between retailers Gadget TLC and Jay Jewelers. For more detailed directions to the meeting room, [click here](#).

The EIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The scoping meeting will provide the public an opportunity to express their comments on a comprehensive study to address long-term railroad capacity and reliability issues for the Long Bridge corridor, which crosses the Potomac River from Arlington, VA into Washington, DC. The scoping meeting will focus on recent project activities, next steps in the NEPA process, the proposed EIS Study Area, purpose and need, alternatives evaluation criteria, environmental effects to be considered and evaluated, and methodologies to be used for evaluating effects.

The September 14th scoping meeting will be conducted as an open-house. Interested members of the public are invited to stop in at any point from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The current two-track Long Bridge was constructed in 1904 and is owned and maintained by CSX Transportation (CSXT). It is the only freight railroad crossing over the Potomac River between DC and VA. Currently, the bridge serves CSXT freight trains, Amtrak passenger trains, and VRE commuter trains. Norfolk Southern also has trackage rights on the bridge and connecting CSXT tracks.

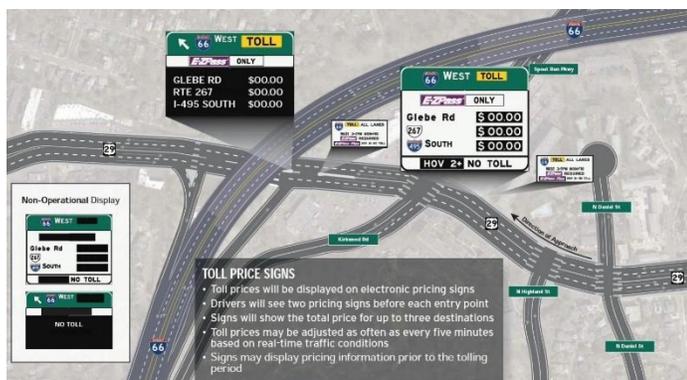
The Long Bridge is located within the Washington Monumental Core. The EIS Study Area extends

approximately 3.2 miles from VRE Crystal City Station in Arlington, VA to Control Point (CP) Virginia near Third Street, SW in Washington, DC. The Study Area includes federal park land managed by the National Park Service; historic and cultural properties; the Potomac River; offices, hotels, and apartment buildings; and transportation facilities (VRE Crystal City Station, VRE L'Enfant Station, Long Bridge, eleven other railroad bridges, and four roadway bridges); and numerous pedestrian and bicycle trails.

The goal of the EIS is to develop project alternatives; analyze the potential impacts of the alternatives on the social, economic, and environmental resources; identify measures to avoid and/or mitigate significant adverse impacts; identify a preferred alternative; and obtain a Record of Decision pursuant to NEPA. Preparation of the EIS will be coordinated with other federal and local laws and regulations, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966, and Section 139 of the FAST Act of 2015.

If you are from unable to attend the scoping meeting, FRA and DDOT are accepting public comments August 26 - September 26, 2016. For more information, visit www.longbridgeproject.com, or call 202-671-2218.

Virginia breaks ground on I-66 HOT lanes project



See the [Washington Post article](#) for more details on the August 1 ceremony for the high-occupancy toll lanes on Interstate 66. The project's go-ahead was marked by the illumination of an electronic message board proclaiming that the transformation of the interstate was about to begin. Workers will install eight toll gantries and 125 signs over and around the interstate. Next year at this time, rush-hour drivers heading in the peak direction will need an E-ZPass transponder to use the existing lanes of I-66. If they're driving solo, they will pay a variable toll as they pass under the gantries. If they have at least one

passenger, they can get an E-ZPass Flex transponder and use the carpool setting to qualify for a free ride. Tolls will also be charged during peak periods to and from Dulles Airport.

Arlington leads regional pack in per-square-foot housing costs

According to [Inside Nova](#), Arlington led the pack among Northern Virginia jurisdictions with a median sales price of \$453 square foot for sales of existing homes, according to figures reported Aug. 12. Second was the city of Falls Church at \$417 per square foot. A typical 2,500-square-foot home that might go for \$397,500 in Stafford County would fetch \$472,500 in Prince William County, \$715,000 in Loudoun County and an eye-opening \$1.13 million in Arlington, at least based on new per-square-foot figures from RealEstate Business Intelligence, an arm of the local multiple-listing service.

WMATA SafeTrack

Metro's SafeTrack program continues. Know your options by checking out the full [SafeTrack schedule](#) as well as [Arlington County's mitigation efforts](#). You can also find a wealth of alternative transportation information at www.commuterpage.com.

Arlington Fun Ride

Saturday, October 1, 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. The [ride](#) starts at 1900 Crystal Drive.

Bryna Helfer Appointed as Director of Communications and Public Engagement



Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz announced August 19 that he has appointed Dr. Bryna Helfer as Assistant County Manager and Director of Communications and Public Engagement. She will join Arlington County government on Monday, Sept. 19. Helfer currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement at the U.S. Department of Transportation and also serves as Senior Advisor to the Secretary on Accessibility and Workforce. She is responsible for developing and leading a comprehensive

public engagement strategy with thousands of senior level government, business, and community leaders across the country to advance national transportation policy. [See full press release.](#)

County Board/Federal Aviation Administration Community Outreach Session

The County Board will meet Tuesday, September 13, at the Washington Lee High School, 1301 N Stafford St., from 6:30-9:30 pm for the purpose of attending a [Federal Aviation Administration Public Meeting](#) regarding proposed departure procedure changes for Reagan Washington National Airport. This community workshop is one of three FAA community workshops to be held in DC, Virginia and Maryland next month to provide information about proposed departure procedure changes for Reagan Washington National Airport. The changes were recommended to the FAA by the Reagan National Community Noise Working Group. The outreach sessions will also provide interested members of the public with an opportunity to submit comments on the changes.

Arlington County residents, and residents throughout the National Capital Region, have grown increasingly concerned about noise from Reagan National Airport (DCA). While Arlington County does not have any jurisdiction or authority to regulate aircraft operations at DCA, we understand that this has become a quality of life issue for many of our residents and hope that you will join us in sharing your concerns with the FAA. It is important that residents understand how the proposed changes may affect them and share their views about these changes with FAA. Arlington County residents affected by airplane noise are encouraged to attend the September 13 FAA community outreach session. For more information and background documents, please visit the FAA's [NextGen](#) webpage.

No action or other business is planned. The public is welcome to attend.

FRAUD ALERT: IRS Phone Scam Targets Arlington County Citizens

The Arlington County Police Department is warning the public about an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) telephone scam targeting County residents. Citizens have reported receiving unsolicited phone calls from individuals fraudulently claiming to be members of the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Office or the Internal Revenue Service. These individuals accuse the victims of owing money to the IRS which must be paid immediately using iTunes gift cards, or other means. The caller remains on the line while the

victim purchases the payment and provides the card number over the phone. If you receive a call of this nature, immediately hang up with the caller and verify the claim by calling the non-emergency police line at 703.558.2222. Never use a phone number provided to you from the caller to verify their credibility. [See full press release.](#)

Other News:

Metro Expands Select Pass

Following a successful initial pilot phase, Metro today announced that it has expanded its new discounted monthly SelectPass to include additional pricing levels. SelectPass was introduced earlier this year to give customers the option of selecting their own price for unlimited travel. The pass is priced based on 18 days of round-trip travel while customers can take unlimited rail trips (up to the selected value) all month long. Effective immediately, SelectPass offers nine price points for September passes. The rail passes will be priced at quarter increments starting at \$2.25 up to \$4.00, plus the \$5.90 maximum fare. For more information and to [view full news release:](#)

DMV2go

1900 Crystal Drive

Thursday September 22nd and November 3, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

[DMV2Go](#) is a handicapped-accessible full service office-on-wheels that is equipped to process all DMV transactions including: apply for or renew your ID card - available for adults and children, apply for or renew your driver's license, get a copy of your driving record, apply for certified copies of Virginia birth certificates, get fishing and hunting licenses, and much more!

Crystal City: "Sweets and Sips"



Four Movies
Tues. Sept. 6 - 27 at 1901 S. Bell St.: Willy Wonka, Bottle Shock, Chocolat and Sideways.

Vintage Crystal: Wine in the Water Park

Fridays in September - 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Crystal City Water Park - 1750 Crystal Drive

Featuring live music, hand-selected beer and wine from the Washington Wine Academy, and a free outdoor ArtJamz session, Crystal City's pop-up beer and wine garden returns every Friday in September from 5 PM to 10PM.

Vintage Crystal: Sip and Salsa

220 20th Street

Sunday, September 11th - 2pm to 6pm

Crystal City's signature wine and food tasting event, Sip and Salsa, boasts the DC region's only inside the beltway, outdoor wine festival with the ease of safe and responsible transit access. Sip and Salsa brings wine tastings from Spain provided by Jaleo, South American wine provided by the Crystal City Wine Shop, and tempting tapas and tastes from local restaurants. Free Salsa dancing lessons from The Salsa Room and live music round out the 10th installment of this local favorite. Presale tickets are \$20 and \$25 at the door so save by purchasing [online](#). Food only tickets are available for \$10.

Vintage Crystal: Pups and Pilsners

12th Street and Crystal Drive

Sunday, September 18th - 2pm to 6pm

Fly solo or bring your furry friend to the Pups and Pilsners outdoor beer festival in Crystal City. This dog-

friendly festival features a massive beer garden with craft brew and offerings from local breweries. Plan a picnic or grab a bite from a local Crystal City restaurant or on-site food truck. Purchase [online](#) tickets and save \$5!

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.

Crystal City BID News

If you're not yet set up to receive the weekly Newsletter from the Business Improvement District (BID) of happenings in Crystal City, you can view the newsletter [here](#) and sign up.

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