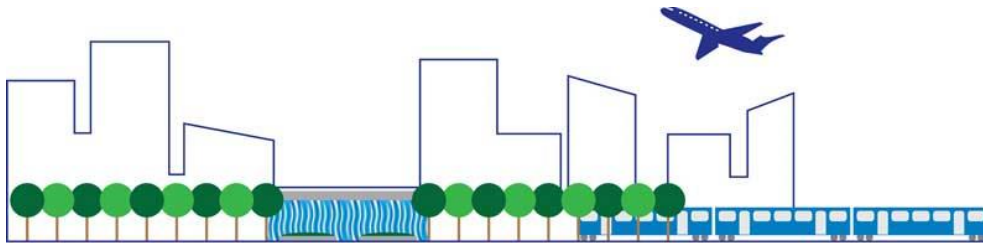


**Note:** The complete Newsletters is distributed by email only to paid members.

# Newsletter

No. 10, 2016

November 2016



## CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic/>

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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.*

#### **Annual Dues for 2017 Due Soon**

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

# Civic Association Issues

## [Next CCCA Meeting Focuses on Rail Transportation: November 16](#)

**WHAT?** How will Long Bridge Project planning affect Crystal City?



Will the train bridge expand from 2 to 3, 4, or 5+ tracks? Will CSX and VRE increase train traffic at night and on weekends? Will VRE upgrade/expand its train station? What are the environmental and quality of life implications for Crystal City?

### **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

#### **Long Bridge Project (FRA and DDOT)**

Amanda Murphy, Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Railroad Administration

Anna Chamberlain, District of Columbia Department of Transportation

#### **CSX**

Steve Flipping, Federal Affairs Office

Randy Marcus, State Government and Community Affairs Office

#### **Virginia Railway Express (VRE)**

Tom Hickey, Chief Development Officer

#### **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)**

Peter Burrus, Chief of Rail Transportation (DC-Richmond high-speed project)

#### **Office of U.S. Representative Don Beyer, Eighth District of Virginia**

Ann O'Hanlon, Chief of Staff

**WHERE?:** Crystal Park Condominium Party Room at 1805 Crystal Drive.

**ELECTIONS:** **NOTE that we will hold brief elections for CCCA officers at the beginning of the meeting.**

## [Elections of CCCA Officers](#)

*Four CCCA officers will be elected at the CCCA Annual General Meeting on November 16. As of November 1, the date that nominations closed, the following are applying:*

**For President: Christer Ahl**



Christer has represented the Crystal City community in Arlington planning processes and on policy issues during the last fifteen years. He wants to enable our Civic Association to continue to draw on his vast experience and his insights by moving on to the position as President of our Civic Association.

From the time of his participation in the Crystal City Sector Planning, Christer has established strong relations with County officials, with landowner and business representatives, and with the leaders of the neighboring Civic Associations. Christer has gained their respect and trust, as evidenced by his many important appointments over the years.

Last year, Christer was appointed to serve as member of a countywide task force, developing recommendations on fundamental issues, such as demographic projections, future income sources, expected needs for County facilities and services, and processes for prioritizing such needs. Christer is also the Vice-Chair of the Crystal City Citizen Review Council, a County entity where all the stakeholder groups monitor progress in Crystal City. He also serves as a Board Member of the Crystal City Business Improvement District ('the BID'). Earlier, he was on the County's Parks & Recreation Commission.

Christer's educational background is in Business Administration, and he spent 30 years as Human Resources Manager at the International Monetary Fund. He also held senior positions in international sports during several decades.

### For Vice President for Policy and Planning: Judy Freshman (no photo)

Judy has lived in Arlington for 40+ years and in Crystal City since 2007. Her interests and training (Master of Planning, UVA) have led her to membership on many County task forces and working groups, and she spent 12 years on the Planning Commission from 1983 to 1994. Currently, she is Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals and has been a representative on the Crystal City Citizen Review Council (CCRC) since its inception in April 2011. Judy participated in the formation of the Crystal City Civic Association and has served as an ex officio member for several years, primarily monitoring long range and site development plan submissions in Crystal City and Pentagon City.

### Treasurer: Diane Oksanen-Gooden



Diane Oksanen-Gooden is a candidate for CCCA Treasurer. She and her husband moved to Crystal City in 2013. Diane is a charter member of Crystal City Civic Association as treasurer. When the opportunity to start a civic association for Crystal City came up, she enthusiastically joined. Diane feels a civic association helps give a community a better sense of having an input into the local government by giving the community a common voice. Diane has a BS in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a Navy veteran. Diane has worked in research and development in the fields of chemical oceanography and energetic materials. She is presently working in the finance department as cash manager in a privately-held company.

### For Membership Liaison: No candidates

Although Teresa Rusin has served in this position this year on temporary appointment by the Executive Committee, there are currently no candidates for the official position. We would welcome participation in this capacity, especially from the apartment rental community, in order to increase representation from that sector of Crystal City.

# Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

*The next two articles show how important the November 16 CCCA meeting focused on rail transportation issues is.*

## Long Bridge Study and Crystal City Tracks



The situation: Long Bridge is a 2-track railroad bridge over the Potomac River. It is the only freight railroad bridge between the District of Columbia and Virginia. The next closest bridge is in Harpers Ferry, WV. The current bridge was built in 1904, and is owned and maintained by CSX Transportation. In addition to freight trains, the bridge is used by VRE and Amtrak. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is completing a comprehensive study for the rehabilitation or replacement of the Long Bridge over the Potomac River.

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

improving crossings, signals, safety systems, and accommodating VRE platform improvements.

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

#### Possible Impact on Crystal City?

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

Lastly if you wish to comment to the Federal Railroad Administration, here is the [comment form](#).

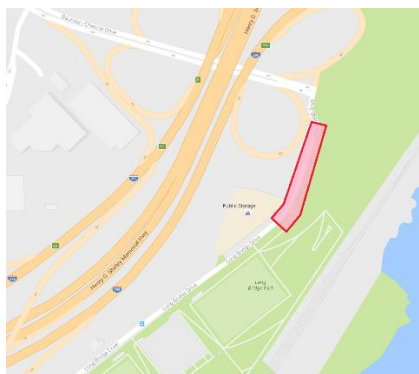
### VRE Planning for Crystal City

#### *From VRE's [September 2016 CEO Report](#):*

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

On July 19, 2016, VRE and Arlington County staff met with the Crystal City Business Improvement District and Vornado Realty Trust to learn about changes anticipated at and around our station. VRE provided a briefing on the upcoming project to Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol and Arlington County transportation and planning staff on August 4, 2016."

### Long Bridge Drive Utility Work Starts



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

[Learn more about the project](#)

### Aurora Hills Community Center Renovation

The County has fixed firm dates for the closing of the Aurora Hills Community Center (AHCC) for renovation. Aurora Hills 55+ Programs will temporarily relocate to [Gunston Community Center](#) on Nov. 7. The renovations are expected to take approximately 8 months.

The Board voted 5 to 0 September 24 to approve a contract with D&A Contractors, Inc. for approximately \$555,800 to provide general construction services for interior upgrades at the Aurora Hills Community Senior Center and Library, located at 735 18th Street S. Upgrades to the facility will include a new kitchen, ADA compliant bathrooms and reception desk, circulation desk, an administrative office and two storage rooms, new paint and flooring, additional storage cabinets and related electrical upgrades and finish work. [Learn more about the project.](#)

**Note: Elections on Nov. 8 will still take place in the Aurora Hills Community and Senior Center.**

### A video sneak peek at the future Reagan National Airport

Reagan National will be getting a major facelift in the next few months, part of \$1-billion modernization of the 75-year-old airport. Plans include a new terminal to house short-hop flights on the north side of Terminal C, currently home to the airport's executive offices. The project also includes space for new security checkpoints. On Wednesday, members of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority's board of directors, got a preview of what the new National will look like when work is completed in 2021. [See the Washington Post article of October 19 here.](#)



## Vornado Spin Off/ New JBG Company in Crystal City

VORNADO REALTY TRUST (NYSE:VNO) ("Vornado") announced October 31 that its Board of Trustees has approved a tax-free spin-off of its Washington, DC business, currently known as Vornado/Charles E. Smith and that it has entered into a definitive agreement to merge SpinCo with the operating company and certain select assets of The JBG Companies ("JBG"), a leading Washington, DC real estate company. The combined company will be named JBG SMITH Properties. It will be the largest, market-leading, best-in-class, pure-play Washington, DC real estate company. Read the full article [here](#). The detailed Vornado presentation to shareholders is [here](#).

**NOTE: Vornado/Charles E. Smith owns most commercial property in Crystal City, but it appears that this spin off, which has been in the making for two years, will not change development planning in Crystal City.**

## Place Making Project Group

Vornado is putting together a group to think through and push forward more art happenings and projects in Crystal City. In addition to the Crystal City Business Improvement District, Arlington County Public Arts, local residents and workers, we're also looking for local artists/creators and art enthusiasts who would like to be a part of this group. It will be very fun and we'll probably meet once a month to start and then less frequently once we have some projects going.

Please fill out this doodle if you or anyone from your team would like to attend:

<http://doodle.com/poll/pnwrryy6iztnpxu3>

Feel free to forward this to anyone who lives, works, or enjoys Crystal City! Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Stephanie Echeveste  
Placemaking Manager, Strategic Projects  
Vornado/Charles E. Smith  
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 1100  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
Phone: (703) 842-2962  
Cell: (415) 508-7241  
Email: [secheveste@vno.com](mailto:secheveste@vno.com)

# Arlington County Issues

**Elections: Don't Forget to Vote!**



You all know that you are voting for a new President and Vice President of the United States on **November 8**. Also on the ballot will be voting for the House of Representatives (8th District, one seat), County Board (one seat) and School Board (two seats). The ballot will also include a special election for two proposed Virginia Constitutional amendments and four County bond referenda, totaling \$316 million. The projects included in these bond questions are components of the [County's ten-year Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#) and [Arlington Public Schools' CIP](#), both adopted in July 2016. Proceeds from the bonds will be used to pay for several projects. Detailed project descriptions can be found in the [County's FY 2017-2026 CIP](#). See the bond [explanations here](#).

**REMEMBER: You must have a photo ID!**

**Notice: Precinct 06 Moves For One Year**

*Due to renovations at Water Park Towers, this year's election voting center is being moved to 1801 Crystal Drive (Crystal Place Apartments). The Crystal Plaza voting center does not change.*

**VDOT Project Update: I-395 HOV Tolling**

The Arlington County Board received an update October 18 from state transportation officials regarding the potential traffic, environmental and fiscal effects to Arlington resulting from the [I-395 Express Lanes Northern Extension](#). The state project to add a third high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and convert the three HOV lanes to managed HOV/toll lanes is currently under environmental review. County staff have been working closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to ensure the I-395 project's environmental review includes a thorough analysis of impacts to Arlington. VDOT has indicated the additional express lane will be constructed completely within its right of

way. County staff will provide a detailed analysis for the County Board in December regarding traffic impacts to Arlington, impacts from possible noise mitigation, and sufficient transit funding. [See full information here.](#)

### I-95/I-395 Transit/TDM Study - online survey

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation held an open house in Arlington last month to discuss its I-95/I-395 Transit/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) study. As part of that review, to be released for public comment in December, the department is seeking [online input](#) on transit and TDM needs along the I-95/I-395 corridor.

### Pedestrian, Bicycle Access and Safety with More Street Types

On October 15, the Arlington County Board adopted proposed amendments to the Master Transportation Plan Street Element, incorporating two innovative changes: a new pedestrian priority street type — a car-free street that provides pedestrians access to adjacent buildings — and “shared streets” — for pedestrians, bicyclists and low speed vehicular traffic. These amendments will accommodate street variations as envisioned in the [Rosslyn](#) and [Courthouse](#) Sector Plans and provide guidance for potential use in other parts of the County. The idea of new street types is the result of considerable public involvement. The two new street types were initially envisioned during the development of the sector plan updates, with the names and definitions further refined in hearings by the Arlington Planning and Transportation commissions.

Now that these changes have been accepted, the new street types can be applied elsewhere in the County when approved through a community planning process and action by the County Board. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Names New Director of Management and Finance

Stephen J. Agostini has been named Arlington County's new Director of Management and Finance, and will start November 17. He will be responsible for approximately 50 staff involved in the County's financial operations, including management and budget, accounting, purchasing, and real estate assessment.

Arlington is one of only a handful of counties across the nation that maintains the highest debt rating available – Aaa/AAA/AAA from all three credit ratings agencies. For 16 years, the County has won praise from the ratings agencies for its sound financial operations and management. [See news release here.](#)

### Around Arlington Videos

Arlington TV publishes a You Tube video with a regular roundup of news and notes each week. The October 26th edition covers the honor given to Arlington's Commuter Services, and the Street Beat takes a look at the creative ways that heavy equipment operators prepare for the winter season ahead in an equipment rodeo. You can view the edition and subscribe to the service [on this link.](#)

## Other News

### Holiday Wreath Workshop

Come create delightfully decorative winter wreaths you can use to spruce up your home or give as gifts, on **Sunday, December 4,** 1 - 4 p.m. at [Long Branch Nature Center.](#) We'll provide music, refreshments, basic instruction and materials. Bring hand pruners or wire cutters (if you have them) and any extra materials or special decorations you may wish to add. Learn more [here.](#) Register [online](#) or call 703-228-4747. Use Activity #622946-A

### Virginia Hospital Center Senior Health

#### Program: Healthy Aging Lecture Series for October - December 2016

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

Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

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

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

Please RSVP for each event at 703.558.6859. Should you have any questions, please contact Mary Belanich at. [MBELANICH@VIRGINIAHOSPITALCENTER.COM](mailto:MBELANICH@VIRGINIAHOSPITALCENTER.COM).

### Metrobus to National Harbor from Alexandria

On October 20, Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld joined state and local officials from Maryland and Virginia along with the Peterson Companies to celebrate the launch of the NH2 Metrobus service between Alexandria and National Harbor starting on Sunday, October 23. Metro, Alexandria and Fairfax County officials boarded the NH2 for a preview ride from the Huntington and King Street-Old Town stations to National Harbor, where Maryland officials got on board

to complete the trip. The new route is operated by Metro and funded by National Harbor developer Peterson Companies, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and the Maryland Department of Transportation in a unique public/private partnership. For more information and to view full news release, [click here](#).

### Arlington Historical Society Presents Arlington's New Deal Murals with Toby McIntosh

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) will host Toby McIntosh who will discuss Arlington's New Deal Murals at its next public program on **Thursday, November 10, 2016** at Marymount University's Reinsch Library auditorium. Author, Toby McIntosh will discuss his book *Apple Picking, Tobacco Harvesting and General Lee*, which describes the murals in the Arlington, Va., post office and their unusual muralist. McIntosh will recount the origin of the WPA-era murals in the Clarendon post office and tell the stories depicted in each of the seven colorful murals. His presentation will also focus on the intense and spiritual artist who painted the murals, Auriel Bessemer.

The program will begin at 7:00 pm at Marymount University in the Reinsch Library auditorium (2807 N. Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207). The program is free and open to the public. For additional AHS information, please contact 703- 892-4204 or visit [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

### Bike Light Giveaway

**Mount Vernon Trail @ the Crystal City Connector** ([view map](#)); **Friday, November 4th ~ 4:00pm to 6:00pm**

Don't get caught in the dark! Join us along with the National Park Service as we give out free lights, arm/leg bands, and more at the intersection of the Mount Vernon Trail and the Crystal City Connector.

### CaBi Hack Night VI

**WeWork Crystal City - 12th Floor**

**Thursday, November 3rd ~ 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

CaBi Hack Night is a show & tell of apps and data visualizations about Capital Bikeshare. Join [Mobility Lab](#) and [WeWork](#) for the sixth edition. Doors open at 6:00 for pizza and soft drinks, with speakers starting at 6:30.

Stay tuned to [@techiesdc](#) for updates. Our hashtag is [#cabihacknight](#). Event is free, but please register online.

### Gardening in Small Spaces and Container Gardening

VCE Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will present a workshop on gardening in small spaces, including container gardening on **Thursday, November 10** at 1 pm at the Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 N. Pershing Drive, Arlington, VA 22203. The presentation will discuss the basics of gardening in small spaces, including container gardening. You will learn about the wide range and variety of plants that you can easily grow in small spaces and out of pots and other containers from one of our Master Gardeners. This is primarily a class for those 55+. Free. Advance registration requested at <http://bit.ly/VCESenior>.

### Town Hall With Congressman Beyer

Please join me on Veterans Day, **November 11th**, at 2pm for a [Veterans Town Hall](#) at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield, Virginia. Nearly 60,000 veterans call Virginia's 8th Congressional District home. It is very important to me to recognize the tremendous sacrifices veterans have made to this nation. One form of recognition is building stronger bonds between local veteran communities and the friends and neighbors for whom they fought. I hope you will join me to share your story of pride, grief, or anger, and to give voice to your concerns and challenges. Each veteran will have time to make brief remarks about what their service means to them, either through a story, message, letter home, or commendation. Non-veterans are encouraged to attend, listen and learn. I would be honored if you would join me on Friday, November 11th. Please RSVP to attend through [Eventbrite](#).

# CCCA OFFICERS

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[board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org)

President  
Vice President for Policy and  
Planning  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Communications Director  
Membership Liaison

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Christer Ahl  
Claudia Yarus  
Diane Oksanen-Gooden  
Carol Fuller  
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Established January 28, 2014

Graphics Designer: Colleen  
Zellmer

[Join on our website:](http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/)  
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[Or send a check for \\$10 to:](#)

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