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Newsletter

No. 9, 2015

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Civic Association Issues

September 16: Next CCCA General Meeting

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 16 in the Crystal Park Condominium community room, 1805 Crystal Drive**. The main focus is on the planned completion of Long Bridge Park through an aquatics/recreation facility. To provide some context for that issue, Toby Smith, former Chair of the County's Parks Commission, will offer an overview of how our current situation regarding parks and open space in Crystal City compares with the rest of the County. Thereafter, Erik Beach, Project Manager for Long Bridge Park will give a presentation of where the project stands. He will engage the audience in a hands-on exercise to obtain input for the current efforts to prioritize the features of the facility in order to fit it in under the approved budget.

Heads Up On Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The CCCA was established on January 28, 2014, with the purpose of advancing the common interests of the residents of the Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington County, Virginia. An initial set of Bylaws was adopted at the same time. A year and a half later, we have identified some areas where changes to the Bylaws would be appropriate--clarification, simplification, and a few housekeeping matters, including more flexibility on when the Annual General Meeting will be held and duties of the officers. In order for these modifications to take effect prior to the Annual General Meeting in November, they must be approved at the **September 16** General Meeting. See the [CCCA website](#) for details.

Elections for Officers in November 2015

We currently have two vacant positions on the CCCA Executive Committee which are being temporarily filled by appointment, in accordance with our current Bylaws. Jesse Fonkert, a new apartment dweller in Crystal City, was appointed to temporarily fill the Membership Liaison position. Carol Fuller, our current elected Secretary, is temporarily also filling the position of Communications Director. Elections to officially fill these positions will be held at our next Annual General Meeting, most likely in November since our next General Meeting will be September 16, and we are starting to hold meetings every two months. In the meantime, we welcome any inquiry from members interested in serving in an officer capacity in the future.

October 22: Candidate Forum For County Board Elections

Mark your calendars to attend the Candidate Forum, which CCCA is organizing together with the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations. It will take place on Thursday October 22, starting at 7:00 p.m., in the Aurora Hills Community Center on 18th St. All four candidates for the Arlington County Board elections on November 3 have committed to attend: Kate Cristol, Christian Dorsey, Audrey Greene and Michael McMenamin. This will be a pivotal election, as two of the current five Board members are stepping down. Do not miss this opportunity to become informed about the candidates.

Crystal City Development and Planning Issues

Arlington, Alexandria to Gauge Community Interest in Long Bridge Park Partnership

Arlington County and the City of Alexandria plan to ask their residents if their governments should explore the possibility of a partnership to develop an aquatics, health and fitness facility at Long Bridge Park to meet the recreation interests of both communities. Both jurisdictions will survey residents as part of needs assessments for their respective park and recreation systems. Alexandria is asking residents this summer about their interest in collaborating with Arlington to develop an aquatics, health and fitness facility at Long Bridge Park. Arlington will do the same this fall as part of its community discussions to update its Public Spaces Master Plan.

A question included in the Alexandria survey asks about community interest in "a proposal to partner with Arlington County on development of a 50-meter pool at Long Bridge Park. This would be done instead of the expansion of the facility at Chinquapin Park." Arlington's fall survey will ask a similar question. If both communities show an interest, the next step will be to consider cost and operational questions, and report to respective leadership.

In March, the Arlington County Board asked the County Manager to seek broad public input to review Phase 2 of the 2013 Long Bridge Park Master Plan. The fall survey will be the Department of Parks and Recreation's broadest outreach effort. Phase 2 includes the aquatics,

health and fitness facility; 10 acres of parkland; continuation of the esplanade; and more environmental remediation. The County Board further instructed the County Manager to continue to seek partners for the project.

Meanwhile, the County continues to improve Long Bridge Park. The County Board voted unanimously in June to begin construction of playgrounds on three lawn areas at the south end of Long Bridge Park between 6th Street South and the sports fields. The \$1.082 million contract — including \$90,000 for contingencies — will provide play equipment for children ranging in age from two to 12 years. Children helped design the new playgrounds, which will include a cooling “fog” system, sculpted play forms, a tunnel, bridges, a shade structure covering the pre-school area, accessible paths, benches and fencing. The playgrounds complete the southern portion of the park with a much-needed, family-friendly amenity; these should open in the third quarter of 2016.

[Arlington County News Release/](#)

[Washington Post](#)

Assessing the Value of Arlington’s Parks and Open Spaces

What is the value of Arlington’s community parks and open spaces? That is the question that the County’s Parks and Recreation Commission has tried to answer in a White Paper, “Valuing Arlington’s Community Parks and Open Space,” presented to the County Board at its July meeting. The purpose of the analysis is to develop “more concrete data to inform the public discussion and advise the County Board in its evaluation of budgetary decisions to support the acquisition and preservation of open space and to support continuous maintenance of parks, recreation and open space in Arlington,” according to the report.

The bottom line? The Commission estimated that the annual, ongoing benefits from Arlington parks and open space is \$155 million. On top of that, “the existence of parks and open space may have resulted in a one-time increase in residential property values estimated at \$160 million,” according to the report.

[Arlington County News Release/](#)

Gateway and 15th Street Parks



Those of you familiar with the 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan know how hard residents

*fought to get and keep green space in Crystal City, since all of the parks and green spaces are owned by developers. Our editorial in July explained that the CCSP calls for 15th Street to be turned into a green promenade in the middle of the road, with traffic lanes on both sides of it: essentially, a median strip. An illustration in the CC Sector Plan implies that the County might like to consider the small Gateway Park on Crystal Drive at the entrance to Long Bridge Park to be changed from a “passive” to an “active” park, including the concept of hard surface ball courts and a “beach” for volleyball like that at the end of Crystal Drive. Yet this is a primarily residential area. We raised concerns about the concepts and advised members that we need to make known our desires for end use of the Gateway Park now in a positive, rather than negative way; i.e., suggestions on how the park can be used more actively, not just objections to ball parks. **There is a website survey available where you can provide input on ideas for the park:***

<https://us30.meetingsphere.com/peterbeck/park>

Long Bridge Park Playground Construction Starts



On June 16, the County Board awarded a contract to FHP Tectonics Corporation for construction of the Long Bridge Park playground. Construction began in August and is expected to conclude in spring 2016. Play features, safety surfacing and supporting infrastructure are included in the design of these areas. During construction the remainder of the park, including the athletic fields, overlook and esplanade will remain open for use. Project information and updates can be found on the County’s web site at

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/types/parks/>.

ART Bus Facility

Construction will begin on the new bus facility at S. Eads and 32nd Street about September 9 and is expected to take 18 months. See the project [webpage](#).

VDOT Public Meeting: I-66 Multimodal Project-Central

At an open meeting August 1, Representatives from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) explained current plans to address congestion on I-66.

Read the summary of the discussion and planning on the [CCCA website](#).

Transit Development Plan

In July, the County awarded a task order for consultant assistance to prepare our new Transit Development Plan (TDP), which identifies transit goals and needs County-wide and prioritizes improvements. The consultant team is preparing an overview of the County's current transit system and evaluating existing services, including a more detailed analysis of transit operations and performance in the Columbia Pike and Crystal City corridors. This will involve extensive data analysis, such as the results of our recent transit survey with input from more than 3,300 respondents, as well as coordination with other transportation providers such as Fairfax County, City of Alexandria and WMATA.

This fall – After reviewing the service and survey data, the team will report back to the community on our initial assessment of transit needs and possible strategies.

This winter – The County will release preliminary recommendations for new transit service and capital enhancements.

Public meetings, workshops and stakeholder briefings will be listed on the [Transit Development Plan](#) webpage.

New Pentagon City Metro Entrance

A third entrance to the Pentagon City Metro on the northeast corner of S. Hayes Street and S. 12th Street is expected to open by the end of September.

Arlington Loses Another Big Government Office Tenant

The Transportation Security Administration will move from its headquarters in Pentagon City to a new office in Alexandria, the federal government announced August 12. TSA currently occupies a complex at 601 and 701 12th Street S. in Pentagon City, across from the Pentagon City mall. It's planning to move to the Victory Center, an existing vacant office building at 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, near the Van Dorn Metro station, in 2017, when all new headquarters renovation and construction is completed.

http://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=86508

Metro Safety Investigation Meeting

The Metro Board Safety Committee Committee will hold an earlier than scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 3 at 10:00 a.m. to review the Interim General Manager's operational investigation [report](#) on the August 6 wide-gauge derailment incident.

1776-incubator Opens

1776 recently opened its Crystal City offices at 2231 Crystal Drive where it plans to provide classes, events, and mentoring for start ups.

<http://www.1776.vc/>

One Restaurant Closes/One Opens

Charlie Chang's has closed on 23rd Street, but a new Uyghur restaurant called Queen Amannisa is hiring and expected to open mid to late fall.

Arlington County Issues

James Schwartz Named Arlington Deputy County Manager

Arlington County Fire Chief James Schwartz will take a new position of Deputy County Manager. In his new position, Chief Schwartz will be responsible both for the County's public safety agencies, including Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD), Arlington County Police Department (ACPD), the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which includes the Emergency Communications Center (ECC – 9-1-1 center), and for the Department of Technology Services. Details on [County News Release](#).

Potential Change in Parking Fee Hours

The County is considering expanding the hours during which parking meters would be enforced: from 6 pm until 8 pm. County staff will host a public meeting on September 2, 2015, in the County Board Room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, to present and discuss the merits of the proposed amendments. Interested parties are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion. If you have questions or comments, please email us at park@arlingtonva.us

Neighborhood College Training

Learn how to become a neighborhood advocate and effect change through Arlington County's free [Neighborhood College](#) program, which will meet on eight consecutive Thursday evenings beginning **September 24**. This civic engagement and leadership development program, now in its fifteenth year, provides the knowledge and skills necessary for residents from across the County to get involved in local issues that affect their day-to-day lives and the lives of their neighbors.

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation/college/>

Community Emergency Response Teams

Enrollment is open for the fall Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes ... and seats are more than half filled. Since 2002, nearly 700 Arlingtonians have completed this invaluable training originally developed in California in the mid-1980s. Some have even used it to save lives. Space in this training is limited and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact ArlingtonCERT@gmail.com for additional information.

Arlington in Top 50 of U.S. Meetings, Events Destinations

Arlington has been named one of the top 50 cities for meetings and events in the United States, according to [Cvent](#), a leading cloud-based enterprise event management platform. Arlington ranked #36 on the list, which is based on meeting and event booking activity in the Cvent Supplier Network. The only Virginia locality to make the list, Arlington is amidst neighbors Washington, D.C. (#6), Baltimore (#30) and National Harbor, Md. (#35).

New Carsharing Car2Go

Arlington County is embarking on a year-long study of point-to-point carsharing, in partnership with car2go. This model of carsharing allows members to pick up a car in one location and drop it off in another. Expanded use of carsharing has the potential to benefit Arlington by reducing vehicle trips and greenhouse gas emissions, while increasing our quality of life and economic competitiveness in the region.

Public Hearings on Affordable Housing

Arlington residents will be able to weigh in on the county's [proposal for more affordable housing](#) before the County Board votes on the ambitious plan. Arlington County will hold the hearings on **September 8** with the Planning Commission and **September 19** with the County Board. Members of the public will be able to testify at the Saturday, September 19th, County Board public hearing. Board Chair Mary Hynes has assured that emails sent in advance of the meeting to countyboard@arlingtonva.us will be shared with all Board members.

New Group Urges Distribution of Affordable Housing Throughout County

A newly-formed citizens group is raising questions about the Affordable Housing Master Plan, the County's plan to address the need for more affordable housing. The Coalition of Arlingtonians for Responsible Development (CARD), which currently has around

70 members, is concerned with the geographic distribution of affordable housing units and the effect affordable housing has on Arlington Public School. CARD asserts that the County Board is prepared to move forward with an affordable housing plan that could perpetuate socio-economic segregation within Arlington and does not address currently overcrowded and underachieving schools in areas with high concentrations of affordable housing.

<http://www.cardarlington.com/>

Department of Parks and Recreation Community News

For the latest on activities you can join in County Parks, check out the Parks and Recreation website:

<http://parks.arlingtonva.us/>

Region's First Bicycle Comfort Level Map

Arlington County has developed the region's first [Bicycle Comfort Level Map](#), highlighting the most stress-free cycling routes to get around the community.

Attention People 55 and Over-New 55+ Membership Options

Starting July 1, you will have two options for enjoying discounted access to engaging programs, classes, trips and access to Arlington County's fitness facilities. 55+ Pass entitles you to bimonthly issues of the [55+ GUIDE](#) and access to fun and engaging programs, classes and trips. (This pass formerly included limited access to County fitness facilities). 55+ Gold Pass gives you all the benefits of the regular pass plus access to all of the County's fitness equipment any time a fitness facility is open. For more info or to register for your 55+ membership pass visit our [webpage](#).

Other News:

DMV2Go



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!

September 17th - 9am to 4pm, 1900 Crystal Drive

Do the Light Switch & Get a Free LED Bulb!

Ready to switch to the most efficient, durable, versatile light bulb available today? Be **Smart**, Think **LED**! Bring an old incandescent bulb to one of the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) light switch events, and AIRE will give you an LED bulb* — a \$7 value — for free! **One per household; while supplies last!**

<http://freshaireva.us/2015/03/do-the-light-switch-get-a-free-led-bulb/>

Connect with Kids Champions!

Do you know an exceptional summer camp counselor, neighbor, youth minister, teacher, Scout leader or sports coach? Someone who has a special way of relating to and mentoring young people? **Nominate** him or her as a Connect with Kids Champion! Nominations are accepted now through September 21. Questions? Please contact Michael Swisher at mswiper@arlingtonva.us, or 703-228-1671.

Welcome to Arlington Neighborhood Villages!



Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) is now open and ready for business—the business of serving the 55+

residents of Arlington County, Virginia. County residents now have an exciting new resource to turn to when they want to remain in their homes as they age.

<http://arlnvil.org/>

Medicaid Expansion: Who Benefits?

The League of Women Voters is hosting a meeting Thursday **September 10** from 7-9 pm at the Arlington County Department of Health & Human Services Auditorium (lower level), Sequoia Plaza, 2100 Washington Blvd. **Subject:** What will be the fiscal and economic impact if the VA General Assembly adopts Medicaid expansion? Currently, several hundred thousand low-income Virginia residents do not earn enough to afford health insurance and are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. Featured speaker include informed community leaders. Register [here](#).

Crystal City BID Events

See the BID's website for other events in Crystal City and sign up for their weekly newsletter.

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

Vintage Crystal: Sip and Salsa: Sunday, September 13th - 2pm to 6pm

Vintage Crystal: Pups and Pilsners

Sunday, September 20th - 2pm to 6pm

Vintage Crystal: Wine in the Water Park

Fridays in September - 6pm to 10pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Call the numbers listed below or contact Volunteer Arlington at 703-228-1760 or www.arlingtonva.us for information about the following:

September Shows at Gallery Underground

September 1-26: *Focus Gallery: "Rain of My Soul," Paintings by Nihal Kecici; and Members Show; Opening Reception: **Friday, **September 4**, 5-8pm

For more information about events, visit

www.galleryunderground.org

CCCA OFFICERS

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[Join on our website:](http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/)

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

[Or send a check for \\$10 to:](#)

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