

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



April 2024

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Candidates Night Apr. 17th

Livability 22202 presents the Candidates for the County Board at Amazon's Visitor Landing on Wed. April 17th at 7pm. Come and see what the candidates say about our local issues. Questions may be submitted at the event or in advance to questions@crystalcitycivic.org. [See the flyer on our Facebook page.](#)

As I write this, the Entertainment District appears to be dead. [See the announcement here.](#) As a result, we are looking for topics for our May meeting. Send us your ideas!

- Eric Cassel, CCCA President

CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

County Board of Candidates Night with Crystal City and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations

Wednesday, April 17, 7 – 9pm

Amazon Visitor Landing, 545 15th St. S.

Parking: Visitors parking entrance on Elm, around the corner from 15th St. & Amazon HQ.

Amazon will host the panel meeting of prospective County Board candidates in its community room.

Candidates so far: Julie Farnam, JD Spain, James DeVita, Tenley Peterson and Natalie Roy

Library Lease in Crystal City

After succeeding in bringing the PopUp Library to Crystal City for three years, the CCCA has worked hard to get a more permanent library. E thought we'd succeeded. As a community benefit in conjunction with the 1900 Crystal Drive site plan reviews, JBG offered the County free space in 1901 S Bell Street for up to 10 years. Now, instead of providing a 10 year lease for a temporary library at 1901 S Bell, JBG has agreed to a County request for \$5.8 million over several years to fund a library somewhere else in Crystal City. This is an example of the flawed community benefit process as we've long expected this benefit from the 1900 Crystal Drive project. The County has now asked CCCA leadership to provide 3-4 potential alternative sites. The question is where? It needs to: be close to transportation, close to retail, close to a lot of foot traffic, and preferably at ground level. JBG and the County are talking about some of the requirements for an 8,000-10,000 sq ft space and length of lease, but things don't look good. We may be losing our CC library. Goodbye Synetic Theatre and goodbye library—and still no community center.

JBG Smith looks to pay \$5.8M in cash in lieu of building Crystal City library

JBG Smith may be bowing out of a deal with the county to build a public library in Crystal City within one of its existing office buildings. Instead of building the facility, JBG Smith now proposes paying a total of \$5.8 million across seven years of annual payments, per a minor site plan amendment filed late last month. The proposed change comes after a few years of stymied negotiations with county government.

[Read more here.](#)

The Monumental Arena in Potomac Yard is out

The City of Alexandria has ended negotiations related to the Potomac Yard Entertainment District opportunity and the proposal will not move forward. [Read the statement here.](#) See more below under **Development.**

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INFORMATION AND EVENTS – ARLINGTON COUNTY

CPCC Meeting April 3

The next meeting of the Crystal and Pentagon Cities Council (CPCC) will take place Wednesday, April 3, from 7-9 pm in the Aurora Hills Community Center. The CCCA is represented by 3 members on the Council. The agenda is:

1. Crystal City and Pentagon City Development Update
2. Summary of County Manager Feedback on CPCC CIP Priorities Letter
3. Green Ribbon Next Steps Discussion
4. Crystal City Library Discussion
5. Biennial Report Outline Review

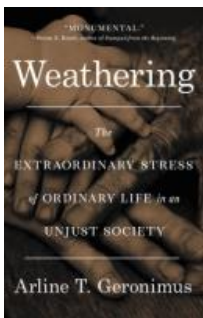
More details will be available shortly on the [CPCC website](#).

Women's History Month Proclamation Ceremony



Board Chair Libby Garvey delivered the proclamation on Thursday, March 14. [Watch the video here.](#)

Author Talk: "Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society" |



A Learn how the trauma and stress of structural inequities impact health outcomes. Renowned public health researcher Dr. Arline T. Geronimus explores the ways in which systemic injustice erodes the health of marginalized people. In recognition of Public Health Awareness Week, join the Library for a conversation between the author, Arlington County Public Health Director Reuben Varghese and Library Director Diane Kresh. The conversation April 3, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. at Central Library will be followed by an audience Q&A and book signing.

Solar Eclipse Extravaganza | April 6, 2 - 4 p.m. at Central Library

You're invited to a celebration of the upcoming Solar Eclipse! Join us for a short presentation on NASA's Eclipse Soundscapes project, and learn how the library and you can get involved in a citizen science study on eclipses. We will also be joined by Dr. Narcrisha Norman, from the National Science

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Foundation, who will give a talk about eclipses and the solar system. Additionally, we will have an eclipse story time and craft activities for children and families.

Arlington Secures Federal Funding for Community Projects

Arlington County secured more than \$1 million in federal funding for trail and playground improvements as part of FY24 appropriations legislation passed by Congress. The two Community Project Funding (CPF) requests – \$720,000 for the design of Arlington Boulevard Trail South Side Improvements and \$500,000 for the Monroe Park Playground Renovation – were among 15 projects in Virginia’s 8th congressional district secured by Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08). [Read more.](#)

Arlington County's Lt. Spencer Named Virginia Firefighter of the Year

Lieutenant Henry Spencer of the Arlington County Fire Department has been named the Virginia Firefighter of the Year as part of the [2023 Governor’s Fire Service Awards](#). The Governor’s Fire Service Awards, established in 2002 as a formal recognition of excellence in Virginia’s fire service, are facilitated by the [Virginia Department of Fire Programs](#), in collaboration with the [Virginia Fire Services Board](#).



Lt. Spencer has demonstrated an ability for complex problem-solving, unwavering commitment, and a passion for the community throughout his seven-year tenure with the Arlington County Fire Department. His diverse background encompasses specialized operations, continuous professional advancement, and active community engagement. [Read more.](#)

Arlington Announces 2023 DESIGNArlington Winners

The Arlington County Board honored 14 projects with the 2023 DESIGNArlington awards on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024. The biennial program recognizes excellence in architectural and landscape design and public art, showcasing the best of Arlington. Read [more](#).

Goodwill Site Redevelopment Approved, Adds Affordable Housing

The Arlington County Board approved a redevelopment of the existing Goodwill retail and donation center located at 10 S. Glebe Road that will bring 128 committed affordable housing units to the site and advance several other County priority goals, including childcare, sustainable design, trail enhancements, and streetscape improvements. The mixed-use project is a collaboration between

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Goodwill of Greater Washington and Affordable Homes & Communities (AHC) that will expand the existing Goodwill retail and donation center on the bottom two floors of a 6-story building. In addition to the affordable units above the retail space, a 3,000-square-foot childcare center is planned to accommodate up to 40 children. The building also has two levels of below-ground parking and features a covered drop-off area for donations and childcare. [Read more.](#)

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

[How Should Arlington Invest in Major Infrastructure? –](#)

Feedback Form through April 8: Please share your priorities for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is the County's plan for building, upgrading, and replacing facilities and infrastructure. It captures Arlington's planned investments in major infrastructure over a 10-year period and is updated every two years.



[Business Disparity Study - Feedback Form](#) through April 30: Arlington is conducting a Disparity Study to determine the effects of race, ethnicity or gender on a businesses' ability to do business in Arlington County. Share your feedback online or visit www.arlingtoncountyvadisparitystudy.com to learn more.

[Arlington 2050: Envisioning Tomorrow Together – A Postcard from the Future](#): Imagine you live, work, and or play in Arlington in the year 2050—and you love it! What makes it great? What's new? What's the same? What does the ideal Arlington look like to you? [Share your vision about the future of our community!](#)

[Understanding the Needs of Veterans and Service Members in Arlington](#): Arlington County's Military and Veterans Advisory Committee (MVAC) is interested in hearing from members of the military, veterans, and their families who live and/or work in Arlington about types of programs, services, and resources that could be helpful. [Click here to participate](#) so that we can explore programs and services that may better serve our Veteran and Active Military Community.

[Safe Homes, Safe Relationships - Feedback Form in English or español](#): Share your feedback with Project PEACE on any experience you may have been using, looking for, or if you are referring people to resources for those impacted by domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault in Arlington County. Your feedback is confidential. Results will help enhance and improve services for everyone in the county.

[Annual Spring Cleaning for Arlington Pipes Begins March 25](#)

Arlington County, the District of Columbia, and northeastern Fairfax will adjust their water treatment process starting Monday, March 25, as part of an annual practice that lasts through May 6, 2024. During

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this time, the year-round disinfectant chloramine will be temporarily swapped to chlorine to ensure water mains remain clean and clear of any flow issues. [Read more here.](#)

Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax Increase

The County of Arlington, Virginia, proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. **Assessment Increase:** Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 0.8 percent.
2. **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$1.005 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. **Effective Rate Increase:** The County of Arlington, Virginia proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$1.038 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.033 per \$100, or 3.3 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
4. **Proposed Total Budget Increase:** Based on proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of Arlington County will exceed last year's budget by 5.3 percent.
5. The County also proposes to maintain the real estate tax for properties used for or zoned to permit commercial and industrial uses at the current rate of \$0.125 per \$100. Revenue from this tax is dedicated for transportation initiatives.

[Read more here.](#)

April 2 County Board Hearing on Budget

The County Board will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on April 2 at 7 pm on the County Manager's Proposed Budget, which includes School transfers for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, which begins July 1, 2024. Interested persons may comment on the Annual Plan and past performance of these programs. Proposed budget may be examined by contacting the Office of the Clerk to the County Board at 703-228-3130 weekdays between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is available for review on County's web site at www.arlingtonva.us. The budget hearing is separate from the public hearing on real estate tax rate, personal property tax rate, fee changes and other ordinance changes, which will be held APRIL 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. or as soon thereafter as matters may be heard, at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 307, Arlington Virginia 22201 cablecast and live-streaming on Arlington TV.

April 4 County Board Hearing on Tax Rates and Fees

The county Board will hold a public hearing on FY2025 Tax Rate(s) and Fees. The meeting will be livestreamed at www.arlingtonva.us and broadcast on local cable stations on Comcast 25 & 1085 and Verizon FiOS 39 & 40.

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DEVELOPMENT

1800 S Bell

Demolition package being developed. The Underground passage will be closed until the tower is complete.

1900 Crystal Drive is now 19th Court

The two JBG residential towers (the Grace and the Reva) opened in February. There are 808 rental units in the two buildings which are at about 12% occupancy. Retail is expected, including two restaurants.

2000/2001 S 20th Street

JBG expects to deliver 775 units in 2025.

Americana

JBG is looking for financing but hopes to begin construction of 664 residential units by the end of the year or next year.

2250 CD/233 23rd Street

JBG has paused plans in the current economic market with no date for construction of the approved buildings. Instead, they hope to go before the Board in April or-May for approval of temporary volleyball and pickleball courts. A third party will handle the courts: A fee will be charged for use, with reservations required. All details are still being developed.

Crystal City Block W/2451 Crystal Drive/2525 Crystal Drive

The first SPRC was held 1 March 14 for a 370 unit JBG residential building. VDOT will need to remove the 233 Ramp down to Crystal Drive to make room for the new building; the ramp removal is also recommended in the CCSP. Not all of the proposed plans are compliant with CCSP guidance however: amount of open space, location of services & loading docks, architectural features; and the building envelope (see slide 5). Site design for the first floor is shown on slide 9. Note that SW and NW corners now have more prominent architectural features (slides 7 and 13). Staff highlighted some ongoing concerns with the layout for transportation (service road, loading, PUDO, curb cuts) on slide 10. These concerns will be discussed further in SPRC 2. Staff also noted the summary of public engagement

comments on the project page. SPRC 2 will address transportation, open space, sustainability, community benefits Date TBD.

Metro Market Square and Center Parks

Public engagement for Metro Market Square Park design planning anticipated Q2 2024. Construction is not expected till 2027 because construction of CC Metro entrance must be completed before constructing the new park. JBG is providing \$6.152 million for park planning from the Americana community benefits. JBG is providing \$300,000 JBGS cash contribution for the design of Center Park as a community benefit from the 1900 Crystal Drive project . See the CIP budget and plans for Crystal City parks (maybe 2025, 2027).

LRPC on 12th Street Landing April 1

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) will hold a second Hybrid Meeting April 1 from 7-9 pm to consider the 12th Street Landing Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) at 601 12th Street S. Attend in person at the Bozman Government Center or attend virtually via MS Teams. A public link is posted to the [LRPC webpage](#).

April 8 Planning Commission Special GLUP Study

The Planning Commission will consider the following action pertaining to the 750 23rd Street South (Melwood) Special General Land Use Plan Study: Acceptance of the 750 23rd Street South (Melwood) Special General Land Use Plan Study Document. Additional information about this study can be found by visiting the [project's webpage](#).

The Underground (and post office)

JBGS is extending the post office lease only through the end of 2024. The post office has not found “acceptable” space anywhere else in Crystal City. Most tenants in the Underground have not had their leases renewed; lots of empty spaces remain.

Clark Construction for Utility Work at PenPlace Site

On March 22, Clark Construction sent out a notice that they would begin utility work construction around PenPlace. Westbound lanes and the northside sidewalk along 12th Street are closed for two weeks during this construction phase. Following this two week period, new temporary traffic patterns will be used on 12th Street S during the remainder of construction activities. The sidewalk on the north

side of 12th Street S will remain closed. Note: This utility work does not imply the imminent development of Amazon's HQ2 expansion to PenPlace.

RiverHouse

JBGS is modifying the Townhouse plans to provide more integrated parking and fewer units; will refile a 4.1 in May. Expect additional online engagement before the SPRC process begins (according to the project website).

The Monumental Arena Deal in Potomac Yard is Over

The City of Alexandria has ended negotiations related to the Potomac Yard Entertainment District opportunity and the proposal will not move forward. [Monumental ALX - AEDP \(alexandriaecon.org\)](https://alexandriaecon.org)

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser and Ted Leonsis, owner of the Wizards and Capitals, signed a deal Wednesday March 27 that — if approved by the D.C. Council — would keep the teams in downtown D.C. until 2050, abruptly ending the owner's planned move to Virginia. The news comes after the city of Alexandria announced it was ending negotiations to bring the teams to a new arena in Potomac Yard. Under the terms of the deal, D.C. will spend \$515 million over three years to help Leonsis modernize the arena, and Leonsis will sign a new lease keeping the teams in D.C. for 25 more years.

Among the provisions to which the two sides have tentatively agreed, D.C. would allow Leonsis to take over the Gallery Place retail center, assume management of the Mystics home arena in Southeast D.C., utilize parking at some District-owned buildings for Monumental employees, keep a minimum number of police officers downtown and plan for a new future downtown practice facility for the Wizards. [Read the Washington Post article here.](#)

D.C. Attorney General says Monumental's Potomac Yard arena plans breach legal obligations.

A letter from D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb said that D.C. publicly financed \$50 million in extensive improvements to the current arena in Chinatown in 2007, ten years after it opened, and part of that agreement was a condition to play home games at the arena through 2047. A spokesperson from Monumental Sports and Entertainment responded: "We fundamentally disagree with the Attorney General's opinions, which are contradicted by the DC General Counsel as recently as 2019 when the city ratified the Ground Lease." ([ArlNow.com](https://arlnow.com))

The Alexandria arena is dead: Potomac Yard claims a second governor

There must be something magical about Potomac Yard that, like mythical sirens calling out to sailors, lures unsuspecting governors to their political doom. More than three decades ago, then-Gov. Douglas Wilder looked at the old railyard in Alexandria and saw a football stadium. He negotiated a deal with Jack Kent Cooke, then owner of Washington's National Football League team, and in July 1992 announced with great flourish a plan to move the team to Virginia.

This arena deal went south for basically the same reasons the stadium deal did 32 years ago: neighborhood opposition and lack of legislative buy-in. The former was always inevitable — when has any big project ever not had local opposition of some sort? — but the latter was not. That raises the question: What happened? [Read the Cardinal News article here.](#)

TRANSPORTATION

New VRE station in Crystal City to get new source of funding

It won't quite be equivalent to robbing Peter to pay Paul, but more like asking one to pick up some of the tab from the other. The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission is planning to use a different funding bucket than expected to provide \$8 million to fund a portion of the costs for a new Crystal City station to serve Virginia Railway Express and, potentially, Amtrak. [Read more here.](#)

VRE has reached to 60% design stage for the new station, focusing on the northern entrance next to the Water Park. Their goal is a 90% design by the end of the year. We continue to push VRE for a town hall public outreach and have met with no success.

VPRA 4th Track project

VPRA was created in 2020 to expand and promote passenger and commuter rail in Virginia. The Alexandria Fourth Track project will design and construct 6.0 miles of railroad track and related infrastructure in Arlington and Alexandria. To get the latest news and updates, find out about upcoming events and public meetings, and download materials, visit the project page [Alexandria 4th track project](#) (which also runs just east of Crystal City as well). This is critical RR infrastructure needed with the Long Bridge Project to decrease bottlenecks, increase RR freight traffic, and potentially allow through-running commuting and Amtrak trains. It was VPRA that cut down the trees along the Esplanade in Long Bridge Park to accommodate the fourth track and prevent trees from hanging over the trains. For the next 5-6 months they will be working on relocating existing fiber optic duct banks.

The Acela express Amtrak trains are electric and will not be able to cross the new bridge to Virginia when it's completed. The regular trains can since they are electric and diesel. The design for the Amtrak station in Crystal City will be a higher platform than the one for VRE, but they will be next to one another. Virginia funds more Amtrak routes than anywhere else in the country.

WABA's new Crash Tracker and Reporting Tool for the Washington Region

Washington Area Bicyclist Association is launching a new crash tracker and reporting tool that will allow residents in Northern VA, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Washington, DC to report near-miss incidents, traffic crashes, cars parked in bike lanes, and dangerous street locations.

With our new tool, you will also have the option of sending your report directly to your local elected official and local department of transportation. Our tool will not only allow us to monitor where traffic crashes are taking place in the region but it will also serve as an advocacy tool to tell our local governments that there are traffic incidents taking place in our communities. Whether you are walking,

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biking, on the bus, or driving, we want you to use this tool when necessary! And we are always looking for ways to improve it, so let us know how we can make it better! [Read more here.](#)

BAC/PAC Meeting with VDOT March 13

The purpose of this hybrid meeting at the Long Bridge Park Aquatics Center was to invite [VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility study](#) staff to present an update on their Phase 2 study and to discuss BAC-PAC concerns and questions collaboratively. VDOT presentations were brief: the TDM has not been updated further, the speed study is waiting for approval, the draft Phase 2 report is still in development, full funding is not yet available, and the final Public Information Meeting has not yet been scheduled.

As suspected, project progress has been slowed while waiting to hear the status of the proposed [Monumental Arena Project](#). VDOT has continued to develop plans for the proposed Barnes Dance intersection of an at-grade Route 1 at 18th Street South, as well as the streetscapes along Route 1 and some details of the project at both the northern and southern ends of the project. Draft Phase 2 report (featuring 10% design, an interchange analysis report, and 5.5 acres of new land for development) and PIM 5 are planned for “Spring.” Note that the Route 1 project funding is incomplete and the I-395 interchange project has no funding, but VDOT is seeking funds for both projects.

Master Transportation Plan Update

The Crystal City Sector Plan, published in 2010, is increasingly outdated, especially for planning car-free alternative modes. However, the County is getting ready to kickoff plans to update the equally outdated Master Transportation Plan. This update will provide an opportunity for BAC-PAC engagement and guidance for a modern, more balanced approach to transportation planning. A. Bullock, who will be coordinating the MTP update, provided the proposed schedule: procurement is happening now; engagement kickoff will be later this year. The entire project will take one to 1.5 years, from Winter 2024 through sometime in 2026.

Crystal City Metro East Entrance:

This is a 3-year construction project starting in Summer 2024 with delivery in Q1 2027. MOT is currently being designed. Construction will impact WB 18th and SB Crystal Drive.

CC2DCA:

NEPA is finishing up this Spring. There will likely be a September County public outreach on design. Goal is to deliver in 2028.

Arlington Ridge Road/Mt Vernon Avenue Bridge Reconstruction Project

The County held an Open House Project Update at the Aurora Hills Community Center, March 19 on the upcoming reconstruction of the Mt Vernon Bridge. At least 4 County staff – and one or two Alexandria staff – were available to explain the poster contents and answer questions. The County project manager

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is Jason Widstrom. This is a joint project with the City of Alexandria to reconstruct this heavily used bridge that is falling apart. Weight restrictions were applied in 2018; without reconstruction of the superstructure, the bridge is at risk of being closed to all traffic. Project goals also include: Better lighting and access; improved bike-ped facilities; and implementing the vision for the 4 Mile Run Plan and Design Guidelines. Engineering, community engagement, procurement (Spring, 2024); Contract award (Fall, 2024); Anticipated start of construction (Winter, 2024); Anticipated completion (Spring, 2026). See the [poster boards](#).

Construction Update: Shirlington Road Pedestrian Bridge

Construction on the Shirlington Road Pedestrian Bridge is underway, with crews working on the abutments that will support the bridge when it is installed. From April through the summer while crews are preparing these bridge components, there will be intermittent closures of the sidewalk and right lane on westbound South Arlington Mill Drive at the intersection of Shirlington Road. These closures will take place between the permitted hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, on weekdays. On weekdays outside of these hours and on weekends, the sidewalk and right lane are expected to remain open. Pedestrian access will be maintained through the intersection of S. Arlington Mill Rd. & Shirlington Rd. When traveling through the area, remember, be alert to others walking, driving, and biking, and obey all directional signage. This project is expected to be completed in late summer or early fall of 2024.



Report A Problem

Don't forget that you can report problems to the County like: potholes, street lights, scooters, etc.: [Request Service / Report a Problem – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government \(arlingtonva.us\)](https://www.arlingtonva.us) This service is for non-emergency requests and monitored weekdays. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For Water and Sewer Emergencies, call 703-228-6555 (24-hour hotline)

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LONGER TERM ISSUES

Neighborhood poll reveals widespread opposition to Potomac Yard arena

Neighborhoods next to the proposed \$2 billion arena at Potomac Yard are against the project, according to results from a recent poll.

Of the 496 survey respondents from the Del Ray Citizens Association, Hume Springs Civic Association, Lynhaven Civic Association and the Rosemont Citizens Association, 58% oppose the project, 29% support it, 12% have mixed feelings and just under 1% aren't sure. The survey was created with Zoho and fielded from Feb. 13 to Feb. 26 to more than 1,200 members from the four associations. There was an overall response rate of 43%. [Read more here.](#)

Melwood to Receive \$500K in Congressional Funding for Arlington Inclusive Housing Community

Melwood, a leading employer, advocate and service provider for people with disabilities is pleased to share it will receive \$500,000 in congressionally directed funding to convert one of Melwood's existing properties into affordable and inclusive housing. Melwood recently **announced** it is collaborating with leading nonprofit affordable housing developer Wesley Housing to create over 100 new units of affordable housing, as well as space for on-site programs and services for people with disabilities, responding to a critical need in Arlington County, Virginia. [Read more here.](#)

FUN STUFF TO SEE OR DO

National Landing BID's Pink in the Park

The BID rescheduled [Art of Pink](#) to **April 6** because of inclement weather. This event, to be held in MetPark from 1-5PM, celebrates artists, makers and small businesses from across the region, featuring the Sari Sari Pop-Up Market by SAMASAMA. Experience a variety of art activities throughout the afternoon, including live mural paintings inspired by all things pink. Explore a preview of EatLoco's Farmers Market and enjoy musical vibes throughout the event provided by DJ Em-Pulse and Les the DJ. Enjoy a special art experience at the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington as they activate their Innovation Studio + Store. Guests can dive into the world of digital art and repurposed technologies, including the chance to create light-up cherry blossom brooches. National Landing BID's Pink in the Park cherry blossom festivities will also include [Pink in the Pool](#) on the morning of April 6 in the Long Bridge Aquatics Center and [Pink Beats](#), a live music event in the Water Park on April 13. Find additional National Landing BID promoted events listed [here](#).

Trader Joe's continues to make progress on likely Crystal City store

Trader Joe's is seeking an alcohol license at a Crystal City location but is keeping mum about its plans. The grocery store chain applied for the right to sell beer and wine at 2450 Crystal Drive on March 1 and is still awaiting approval, according to Virginia ABC. A statement from Trader Joe's declined to confirm the store opening and provided little clarity on the company's intentions. "We are actively looking at hundreds of neighborhoods across the country as we hope to open more new neighborhood stores each year," Public Relations Manager Nakia Rohde told ARLnow. "At this time, we do not have a location confirmed in Arlington." [Read more here](#).

Freedom Concert Netherlands Carillon May 5, 2024

In recognition of the United States' support during and after World War II, the Netherlands gifted a carillon (bell tower) to the United States in the 1950s. Today, the [Netherlands Carillon](#), stands in Arlington, Virginia, as a proud symbol of freedom, embodying the enduring bond between the Netherlands and the United States.

Join us for the annual Freedom Concert, organized by the George Washington Memorial Parkway of the National Park Service and the Netherlands Embassy. This gathering offers a moment filled with music and the spoken word, allowing us to both celebrate and contemplate the multifaceted essence of freedom. [Read more here](#).

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Sounds and Sights of a Colonial Farmhouse

5620 3rd St. S. April 6, 1 – 4pm

The Ball Sellers house opens for the season with a celebration in music of the colonial era with the Monumental City Ancient Fife and Drum corps from 1:30 – 2:30pm and songs from the era by the Guillotine Theatre. Bring a chair and enjoy the show as you are transported back in time.

Guide to Solar Eclipses

On April 8, scores of people across parts of North America will gather outdoors at the same time to witness this year's most anticipated celestial event: a total solar eclipse that will turn daylight into darkness for up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds. [Read more here.](#)

Inside Amazon's studio where AWS customers demo and build the products of the future

20 photos of Amazon's 8,000-square-foot lab in NYC where you can see different AWS technologies in action. [See more here.](#)

NiHao Restaurant to Open in Crystal City

James Beard semifinalist Peter Chang's second restaurant in Arlington is expected to open next month in Crystal City. Located at 1550 Crystal Drive, the Chinese restaurant NiHao initially planned to open in January next to the Alamo Drafthouse. However, the timeline has since been moved to early April, spokesperson Molly Hippolitus told ARLnow.

Westpost (Pentagon Row) Makers Market

Turn your Sunday into a fun day on the Westpost plaza with the Makers Market Series: pop-up shopping, food, drinks, games, music, and more. Makers Market at Westpost brings together 20 local creators and artists for an afternoon of outdoor shopping on the plaza. Explore trendy and unique creations, enjoy ambient music from the live DJ, and take in all the plaza has to offer from tasty dining options to retail shops and services. The markets are free to attend and parking is available on-site.

The Market will be open on the first Sunday of each month starting in April and ending in October, from 12 - 5 PM. Each market will feature some new vendors and some returning vendors.

- April 7th
- May 5th
- June 2nd
- July 7th
- August 4th
- September 1st
- October 6th

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WalkArlington Presents: Walk & Learn: Engineering Safer Streets

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m..

Location: Crystal City Metro (Meet at rainbow Harmony mural near S. Bell & 18th Sts.)

If you're interested in transportation, planning, and design, join Arlington County's Vision Zero Program Manager Christine Baker on a guided walk in National Landing. She'll explain a variety of improvements the County has made to this busy corridor to increase safety for all people. Since 2017, Baker has worked as a principal planner within the Engineering Design Section of Arlington County's Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau. In 2022, she began managing Arlington County's Vision Zero transportation safety program. Vision Zero is an international movement that employs a multidisciplinary approach to achieving a goal of zero transportation-related deaths. It aims to achieve this goal through system-wide improvements instead of reactive responses to traffic deaths. Arlington County joined the Vision Zero Network in summer 2019 and hopes to achieve its goals by 2030. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walk-learn-engineering-safer-streets-tickets-859129428247>

ABOUT CCCA

The Crystal City Civic Association (CCCA) was formed on January 28, 2014. We are a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with the express purpose of advancing the common interests of the residents of the Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington County, Virginia. CCCA gives a voice to our residents. CCCA officers represent community members at county meetings, function as liaisons to state and local lawmakers, coordinate with the Crystal City BID on important issues and projects and ensures the needs of residents are met.

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

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Membership Liaison Jeramy Olmack

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Join on our website:

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

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Send a check for \$10 to:

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