

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



September 2024

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JBG Smith will present a response to our letter about the Underground at our Sept. 18 meeting. Many in our association have expressed concern about the company's decision to close retail outlets there and question what it plans for the sprawling space. At the meeting we will also hear from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority on its capital plans and from Virginia Tech on its innovation campus due to open in spring just over the Alexandria line. You can register for Zoom [here](#).

Looking ahead to our annual meeting in November, we will be celebrating the association's 10th birthday, with special guests and food. Three officer positions will be up for election: secretary, membership liaison, and communications director. We are always looking for candidates and other volunteers. If you are interested, please [contact us](#).

- Eric Cassel, CCCA President

CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

The Crystal City Insider will be undergoing major changes aimed at providing readers more perspective and context on commercial and residential development, changes in the retail and restaurant scene, and plans for transit and traffic in the area. We welcome your ideas and your contributions to the newsletter.

The county has informed us of numerous minor site plan amendments, including one to allow loading dock access for a grocery store at Century Center One, 2450 Crystal Drive. Rumors are that loading dock issues had prevented Trader Joe's from leasing the space. The grocery chain would be a welcome addition to Crystal City – but until the doors open, nothing is certain. As far as we know, JBG Smith is still trying to rent the old Amazon Fresh site at 15th and Crystal Drive.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority has sent a letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation objecting to the removal of the exit ramp from the Airport Access Road to Crystal Drive. JBGS wants to build a low-rise residential unit on what are now volleyball courts but says the car ramp is in the way. VDOT would have to approve its removal; we have no indication yet on when it will make its decision.

Artist rendering of planned transit hub on Crystal Drive near Water Park.

INFORMATION AND EVENTS – ARLINGTON COUNTY

Annual 9/11 Memorial 5K race to close streets around Pentagon

Organizers hope to raise more than \$1 million at the [22nd annual Arlington Police, Fire, Sheriff & EEC 9/11 Memorial 5K](#) race on Saturday, Sept. 7. The race, which kicks off at the DoubleTree Hotel, 300 Army Navy Drive, at 6 p.m., benefits military personnel and civilians affected by the war on terrorism and the 9/11 attacks. Racers take a [route](#) that circles the Pentagon. To accommodate the event, Army Navy Drive from S. Eads Street to 12th Street S. will be closed from 3 to 9 p.m. Numerous surrounding streets and ramps will be closed from about 5 to 8:30 p.m., as listed [here](#).

Race attendees are encouraged to take mass transit. Paid parking is available at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City garage. Look out for temporary “No Parking” signs; illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

Early voting at Long Bridge Aquatic Center

You can avoid Nov. 5 election day crowds by voting early. Ballots can be cast from Sept. 20 through Nov. 2 at various county sites including the Long Bridge Aquatic and Fitness Center. Hours are:

Sept. 20 to Oct. 15 Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Oct. 16 to Nov. 2 Weekdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

For information on voter registration, same-day voter registration, absentee ballots, Election Day polling locations, and other voting matters, visit [here](#).

Police launch Crime Data Hub for residents to track incidents, trends

The Arlington County Police Department has launched a [Crime Data Hub](#) as a new tool to update residents about criminal incidents in the county. The hub includes dashboards, maps, and arrest data. Residents can search for criminal offenses over date ranges for specific geographical areas, see how crime offenses have changed over time, and query arrest data.

Courthouse Plaza to host overdose awareness vigil

A vigil will be held Sept. 4 to remember those who have lost their lives to overdoses, provide information that could prevent more deaths, and recognize first responders and other health care workers. Speakers will share their experiences and explain how to recognize signs of an opioid overdose and to administer Narcan/Naloxone. The event will be held at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington. [Learn more here](#).

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Historic Reevesland property transferred to Habitat for Humanity

The Reeves Farmhouse will be renovated and converted into shared housing for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Arlington County Board over the summer agreed to convey the property to Habitat for Humanity of Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia for the renovation work. L'Arche Greater Washington, D.C., a nonprofit residential service provider for adults with intellectual disabilities, will own and operate the facility. [Read more.](#)



Reevesland is the site of the last operating dairy farm in Arlington. Three generations of the same family raised dairy cattle there from 1863 to 1955.

PhotoSPEED aims to reduce accidents in school zones

Arlington County is installing 10 new speed cameras to increase safety in school zones as part of the PhotoSPEED program. After a warning period ending Sept. 24, \$100 tickets will be issued to the registered owners of cars in violation. The speed will be limited to 20 mph when zone lights are flashing. Warning signs will be posted 1,000 feet ahead of the cameras. [Read more.](#)

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD

Walk/talk on Gulf Branch Stream Resilience Project

The Gulf Branch Stream Resilience Project hosts a community meeting Sept. 5 at 5:30 p.m. Meet county staff outside the Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 North Military Road, for a stream walk, which will be followed by an indoor presentation. If you can't make it, take to the Web for a [project update](#) and share your [feedback online](#).

County seeks public comments on renovating Douglas Park

Through Sept. 6, you can go online to weigh in on preliminary plans for renovating Douglas Park, a five-acre site at 1718 South Quincy St. The draft concept design replaces existing structures, improves paths, and upgrades site furnishings. County staff will revise plans after reviewing community input. Share your thoughts [here](#).

Veterans panel wants to know how county could improve services

Arlington County's Military and Veterans Advisory Committee wants to hear from members of the military, veterans, and their families who live and/or work in Arlington about types of programs, services, and resources they would find helpful. [Click here to participate](#).

How well is the county doing helping people facing domestic abuse?

Arlington County's Project PEACE (Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone) is asking residents to share their experiences seeking and accessing resources to address domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual assault in Arlington County. Feedback will be kept confidential and help the county improve services. Share your thoughts here. If you need help, click [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT

Is your cat or dog ailing? New vet clinic moving to area

Cats and dogs in Crystal City will soon have a new place to visit the vet in Crystal City. GoodVets, a nationwide comprehensive veterinary services provider, will occupy a 2,035-square-foot space on the ground floor of The Grace and Reva at 1900 Crystal Drive. JBG Smith, which owns the residential/commercial complex, has also announced that Colada Shop, a D.C.-based Cuban café and bar, would open there this month. Van Leeuwen Ice Cream and Tatte Bakery & Café have recently opened as well. [Read more here.](#)

Cortland buys another Arlington apartment property for \$104M

An Atlanta-based developer has purchased a 298-unit apartment building near Amazon HQ2. Cortland, which bought four Arlington apartment buildings in 2022, paid \$104 million to Deck Properties for its latest acquisition at 801 15th St. S. Washington, D.C.-based Dweck had purchased the building in 2019 for \$117 million. “We plan to continue the successful renovations that Dweck Properties began and revitalize the community to deliver an elevated experience that aligns with the vision and energy of the larger National Landing community,” a Cortland spokesperson told the website Bisnow. [Read more here.](#)

TRANSPORTATION

CC2DCA will land walkers, bikers in lobby of airport's Metro station

The airport's Metro station lobby – that is where a direct pathway for cyclists and pedestrians will end, according to the latest plans for the Crystal City to Reagan National Airport Multimodal Connection (CC2DCA). Yet to be determined is the exact route the pathway will take over the GW parkway to Crystal City. Plans call for the pathway to begin at a new Virginia Rail station, which will have entrances near the Water Park and at 2011 Crystal Drive. Eventually, the station will also serve Amtrak and Maryland's MARC commuter rail. If all goes well, the project will wrap up by 2030. Read more [here](#).



Artist rendering of proposed transit hub on Crystal Drive.

Mystery solved; construction continues on east entrance to Crystal City Metro

A mysterious electrical line temporarily held up work on construction of the east entrance to the Crystal City Metro. After much research, construction engineers found that it belonged to the Metro's parent organization, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The project has resumed work and is still ahead of schedule. Completion is expected within three years.

Expect the possibility of the station to be closed sometime in 2025-2026, either over several weekends or for one long continuous stretch. Closure will be needed to construct a new mezzanine over both sides of the tracks. Meanwhile, construction continues to restrict traffic in the area. One bright spot: A right turn from Crystal Drive onto 18th Street should be allowed again in the next few days. For updates on construction progress and traffic impacts, visit the [project page](#).

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LONGER-TERM ISSUES

Fire department first in state to deploy advanced life-saving device

The Arlington County Fire Department will provide enhanced emergency medical care thanks to its purchase of the [LIFEPAK 35 monitor/defibrillator](#). The lightweight device includes a digital touchscreen and clinically advanced therapy tools to help save patients in cardiac arrest. “This equipment will undoubtedly save lives,” said Fire Chief David Povlitz. The 37 units will be ready for field use this fall.

The department will be the first in the state to use the state-of-the-art equipment. LIFEPAK 35’s advanced connected capabilities enable rapid data transmission to hospitals, allowing for swift analysis and preparation. Additionally, the device boasts a live-view EKG, significantly improving the diagnosis of heart attacks in the field.

The acquisition of the LIFEPAK 35 units is part of the department’s \$3.6 million investment in advanced medical devices that included 19 Lucas chest compression systems and 12 CR2 defibrillators.

BID chief on what makes a more productive, sustainable city



What’s the vision behind the growth of National Landing? In an interview with [Authority Magazine](#), the president and executive director of the National Landing Business Improvement District discusses innovative approaches to making cities work better for residents, retailers, and companies. “If you look at National Landing as a model, we’ve integrated a number of technologies into our community, including creating the first 5G-enabled smart city at scale and introducing next-generation transportation initiatives that reduce our footprint and increase walkability and livability,” says Tracy Sayegh Gabriel (left). [Read more here.](#)

FUN STUFF IN CRYSTAL CITY AND NEARBY

Rosslyn Jazz Fest features eclectic lineup of stars

Arlington's largest free outdoor music festival returns Sept. 7, 1-7 p.m., with a [diverse array](#) of established and upcoming jazz musicians. Tiny Desk and El Laberinto Del Coco bring Bomba fusion from Puerto Rico, led by former DC-percussionist Hector Barez and featuring trumpeter and vocalist Jerry Medina. The 32nd annual Rosslyn Jazz Fest also hosts New Orleans' 2024 Grammy nominees The Rumble, the Gullah-jazz roots music of two-time Grammy winners Ranky Tanky, and DC singer-songwriter Cecily. Food trucks, outdoor bars, yard games, and other activities for all ages round out the day at Gateway Park, 1300 Langston Blvd. Read [here](#) to make the most of the experience.

Community festival kicks off Hispanic heritage celebration

The third annual Hispanic Heritage Community Festival on Sept. 7 kicks off a month of Hispanic-themed events in the county. The free festival features music, dance lessons, storytelling, snacks, and an opportunity to meet and chat with county police, staff, community leaders. It will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at Tyrol Park, 5101 7th Road S, and is sponsored by the Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association, Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Office, and Arlington County.

Other Hispanic-themed events will take place over the rest of the month, including games of lotería (similar to bingo), dance classes, story times, and talks with Spanish speaking officers, at various sites throughout the county.

The celebration culminates Sept. 27 at Arlington Mill Community Center, with morning dance classes and, at 5 p.m., the annual Festival Latinoamericano, featuring live music and dance, vendors, kids' entertainment, and food. The center is at 909 S. Dinwiddie Street.

Read more about month's activities [here](#).

Amazon sends summer off with HQ2 Community Day

Amazon hosts its second annual HQ2 Community Day at Met Park, marking the end of summer on Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will feature HQ2 retailers, neighborhood businesses, and more than 50 farmers market vendors. Also on tap: lawn games, interactive art installations, live screen painting, and a DJ. For kids, a Lego wall, face painting, bubble artists, and glitter tattoos. For refreshments: a culinary treasure hunt, and a beer and brunch garden. [Read more here](#).

National Landing celebrates Oktoberfest

Beer, brats, pretzels, sweets, and live music by the Alte Kumpel Band are on tap and on the menu at Oktoberfest: National Landing, Sept. 28, noon-4 p.m. at 2200 S Eads St. The beer is from Port City Brewing and the food from 23rd Street businesses. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. [Read more here.](#)

MoCA Arlington marks 50th anniversary with highlights from past

The MoCA (Museum of Contemporary Art) Arlington celebrates its 50th anniversary with a group exhibition by artists who it has shown over the decades. “[Golden: Fifty Years of New Classics](#),” which winds up Sept. 8, includes artists who have been both central and tangential to its mission. The show, as The Washington Post writes, “reflects Arlington’s status as both a local launchpad and a national stage.” MoCA is at 3550 Wilson Blvd. [Read more here.](#)

Open Studio Art Class at MoCA: Thursdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Create art with community, with feedback from an artist-in-residence. Note: Held at MoCA’s Innovation Studio, 525 14th St., South Arlington.

Young Explorers Art Class at MoCA: Tuesdays 10 a.m.-noon. Drop-in art program for young children and their caregivers. Note: Held at MoCA’s Innovation Studio, 525 14th St., South Arlington.

What’s doing at Met Park

Here are regularly scheduled events at Metropolitan Park, 1330 S Fair St.:

Tuesday Farmers Market 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through Oct. 29.

Fit @ Met Wednesdays, 8-9 a.m. Through Oct. 23. Instructor-led classes vary weekly. [Read more.](#)

Jazz @ Met Select Thursdays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 12: Lyle Link Group (jazz fusion). Sept. 19: Collaboration (jazz fusion/smooth jazz). Sept. 26: Veronneau (from bossa to swing).

Saturday Market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Fresh produce, hot food, local crafts. Through Oct. 26.

Plants in the Park: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 11 (second Wednesday of the month through October). Join Plant House for a 30-minute botanical activity.

Movie Nights Every other Friday, 7-9 p.m. Sept. 6: “Wish.” Sept. 20: “Little Mermaid.” Oct. 4: “Wonka.”

What's doing at Water Park

Here are events this month at [Water Park](#), 1601 Crystal Drive:

Labor Day Celebration Sept. 2, all day. Live DJ, 4-7 p.m.

Fitness at the Fountain Mondays, 6-7 p.m.

Strong Start Saturdays 8-10 a.m. Two free 45-minute classes with a personal trainer. Bring water and a yoga mat.

Fall Concert Series. Sept. 14, 5-8 p.m.: Skull & Roses (Grateful Dead cover band). Sept. 21, 5-8 p.m.: Three bands of the School of Rock.

Artbae Festival Sept. 20, 6-10 p.m.: Art and awareness for water and environmental justice.

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 ensure the needs of residents are met.

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

President Eric Cassel

Vice President Tarsi Dunlop

Meeting Secretary Sheryl Eaton

Communications Director Jay Ahuja

Membership Liaison Vacant

Treasurer Steve Miller

Join on our website:

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Send a check for \$10 to:

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