



Newsletter  
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# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!

## For Quicker Updates on Issues and Events

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# Civic Association Issues

## January CCCA Meeting January 14

This is a big one! We will have a joint meeting with our other sister civic associations (Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands) on **January 14 from 7-9 pm** focused on the Livability Framework. You won't want to miss this three-part agenda:

1. Matt Mattauszek on "Beyond Amazon" with a PowerPoint on all the development areas in 22202. This sets the stage so folks know where things will be happening in the next year.
2. Presentation of the Livability Framework and the Action Plan. The talk will be tailored to our residents in the 3 CAs with more details on the Action Plan and implementation.
3. Panel on Open Space as an example of how we can implement the LF Action Plan: JBG Smith Andy VanHorn on the Crystal City parks; Amazon's Community Affairs representative Brooke Overwetter to

talk about community benefits in redesigning the Metropolitan Park; and Tracy Gabriel of the Crystal City BID on how the Livability Framework fits with the BID's Strategic Plan, how they did the mapping of Open Space, and what the BID's role is with implementing the LF for Open Space.

**Note the Venue: The Westin Hotel, 1800 Richmond Hwy**

## Livability Framework



*Throughout 2019, the Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City Civic Associations worked together to develop a **Livability***

**Framework**. *The purpose of this framework is to develop shared values and goals that will achieve a more livable neighborhood. Through a series of workshops bringing together residents with diverse backgrounds and extensive knowledge of their communities and county processes, we examined the many essential elements of such a community and refined these goals into an Action Plan with specific objectives and outcomes we believe are needed to accommodate the expected growth in the area over the next decade. The result of these efforts was presented in an **Action Plan** released November 12.*

*We will be conducting a series of charette workshops in January to March and beyond on key elements in the Action Plan. The January 14 3 CA meeting is the "launch" of this process.*

### **Arlington County Civic Federation Support**

The Livability Framework was presented December 17 to the Civic Federation of over 60 civic associations. The following resolution was introduced for future consideration:

*"Whereas, Arlington County is pursuing a massive density increase in the 22202 area;*

*Whereas, the Livability Framework developed by the three neighborhoods adjacent to Amazon's proposed new Headquarters 2 may have some applicability and usefulness in other areas of the County;*

*Whereas, all areas of the County depend a lot on the revenue-generation from development in the 22202 area, Now therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation:*

*Supports the development of the livability Framework as a tool for reviewing impacts holistically, including both the proposed building site and its neighboring communities;*

*Calls on the County to acknowledge the creation of the Livability Framework and recognize the viability of the Framework for tackling development challenges with holistic strategies based on shared livability themes to maintain and create better, more livable areas."*

### **Interview on Crystal City:**

*Your President was interviewed a few weeks ago by Renee Fisher on her podcast of This Sold House about Crystal City. I don't know what kind of audience they have (she doesn't either), but I actually feel fairly good at how the interview came out. [Thought you'd like to hear it.](#)*

### **Reminder of 2020 Annual Dues**

*Dues are assessed on a calendar year for \$10 and can be renewed online on our website. If you haven't renewed, please do so by **February 1** in order to remain a voting member and continue receiving the Newsletter and emails.*

# Amazon in Crystal City

## **Amazon HQ2 surpasses 400 employees.**

### **Here's how it will grow in 2020 and beyond**

Amazon said its second headquarters has reached and surpassed its first-year hiring goal, according to a year-in-review post published Friday on the company's Day

One blog. "We have more than 400 employees working from our leased office space on Crystal Drive, 18th Street S and South Bell Street in Arlington," the unsigned post reads. It's still a fledgling campus, but Amazon expects it to grow quickly. By the end of 2020, Amazon plans to reach nearly 1,600 employees at the Arlington headquarters, and by December 2021 it expects more than 3,500 workers. The hiring will accelerate further in 2023 and beyond, once the two 22-story towers deliver at Pentagon City's Metropolitan Park. [Read more here.](#)

## **American Legion Redevelopment to Get \$1 Million Affordable Housing Grant from Amazon**

A third of Amazon's \$3 million June donation for affordable housing in and around Arlington will go to the redevelopment of the American Legion post in Virginia Square. In 2016, APAH bought the 1.3-acre property, and the County Board in February approved a plan to tear it down in 2020. In its place will go 160 units of housing with a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, all at different levels of affordability. Half of the units will go towards housing low-income veterans, and plans to open to residents on a first-come basis are set for summer 2022. In addition to Amazon's June donation, the company has announced it will match employee donations to select housing- and homelessness-related nonprofits in and around Arlington, including AHC Inc., APAH, Carpenter's Shelter, and more. [Read more here.](#)

## **Amazon Makes Holiday Donation to Local Affordable Housing Group**

On December 10, officials from Amazon's charity group AmazonSmile met with residents at affordable housing developer AHC Inc.'s Gates of Ballston property, distributing school supplies, board games, and more. Amazon's donation was made in effort to support AHC's educational programming for residents utilizing the AHC's AmazonSmile Charity List, an online wish list platform. The donated items will be distributed across AHC's five different community centers in Northern Virginia with children's educational programming, which benefits dozens of students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade.

## **Housing Index: November brings home sales near Amazon's HQ2 back to reality**

Home prices in the neighborhoods where Amazon.com Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN) is setting up its second headquarters dipped to below pre-HQ2 prices for the first time since the company made the announcement just over a year ago. The median sale price for all home

types in the HQ2 ZIP code, Arlington's 22202, for the month of November was \$507,500 — a 12% drop from median prices in November 2018 and about \$300,000 lower than what homes sold for in October — according to data provided by MarketStats by ShowingTime, based on listing activity from Bright MLS. The last time prices were this close to half a million dollars was in September of 2018, when Arlington was still just on the short list of 20 cities for Amazon's HQ with D.C. and Montgomery County. [Read more here.](#)

## Crystal City in Development

### Amazon kicked off a development boom in Arlington. Here are the biggest projects planned for its backyard

Amazon's second headquarters is still only in its most fledgling stages, with the company earning approval December 14 to start its first new construction. Yet developers have already targeted the South Arlington neighborhoods adjacent to HQ2 for a massive increase in construction. Arlington once faced a crisis of an excess of empty office space in its Crystal City neighborhood, with soaring vacancy rates straining the county's budgets. Now developers are proposing plenty of new office construction to meet the Amazon-induced demand, a once-unthinkable change for the area.

And Amazon's development partner and landlord, JBG Smith Properties, is chief among the companies lining up to do business as the dominant landowner in the area. JBG Smith has a total of 6.9 million square feet of development in the pipeline, and has already submitted plans for half a dozen new projects separate from Amazon's HQ2 buildings.

In all, Amazon included, there are a dozen projects that were either proposed, entitled or delivered over the course of the last year. While there are surely more to come, [the slides attached](#) have details on all the biggest developments on the way for Crystal City and Pentagon City.

### Closing of The Connection Library

***Despite our best efforts, our beloved Pop Up Library in the underground is closing December 27. Our efforts now are on getting a permanent library in Crystal City as a community benefit. We're continuing to work on this and will be meeting with the County Manager in***

***January to discuss the future. Keep sending him emails--it helps. The following message was posted on the Library website:***

"After 3 years in Crystal City, the Connection Pop-up Library will close its doors on December 27, 2019. The Library would like to thank everyone who has supported the Connection Pop-up Library and the staff who have worked there. The Connection opened its doors in September of 2016 and was planned as a temporary pop-up project designed to integrate the Library into the daily lives of Arlington residents in Crystal City. This closure is a mutual decision between the County and the landlord, JBG, and was written into the leasing agreement. Connection patrons are encouraged to use the Aurora Hills Branch Library, located 0.8 miles west on 18th Street, behind Fire Station 5. ...

Serving our Communities in Ever Evolving Ways: Pop-ups allow libraries to innovate, engage with new users and experiment with new service models. The Library and staff are very grateful for the opportunities we had in Crystal City, and we thank you for your continued support of Arlington Public Library."

### JBG Smith Development Timeline

- Ongoing Construction at Central District Retail 1550 & 1770 Crystal Dr; Key Completion Milestones:
  - - Crane Removal April 2020
  - - Top Out April 2020
  - - 15th Street Sidewalk August 2020
  - - Crystal Drive Sidewalk September 2020
  - - Crystal Drive Travel Lane September 2020
- 1900 Crystal Dr is scheduled for SPRC #3 on 12/19; 12/19; County Board consideration Feb 2020
- Riverhouse Apartments - on 7/22, an application for revisioning was submitted;
- 2121 Crystal Dr (Dining in the Park) – 4.1 approved, minor site plan amendment forthcoming
- Preliminary 4.1 applications for 2000 & 2001 South Bell, 223 23rd St. & 2300 Crystal Dr, and 2525 Crystal Dr were submitted on 10/1;
- Preliminary 4.1 application for 101 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St submitted
- In total, these projects consist of ~5M sf of new development, including: – ~4K apartment units; – ~800K sf of commercial office; – ~330K sf of ground floor retail

### Transportation Plans for Remaking 15<sup>th</sup> Street

*The County plans to redevelop 15th Street as a crossroads with the new Clark-Bell connection currently underway. Unfortunately, this plan includes a median strip "cum park" between the east- and west-bound lanes of 15th*

*Street that we have long and repeatedly protested as useless, ever since the Sector Plan negotiations prior to 2010. The County Planning process has been seriously flawed. After CCCA voting members at our November 13 Annual Meeting approved the resolution quoted above, we learned that a compromise solution may be in the making. We will keep you informed.*

### **Met Park**

On December 14, the Arlington County Board unanimously approved a slew of zoning changes and permits tied to the tech giant's plans for a new development at Metropolitan Park, seven months after Amazon first submitted its application. The vote represents the most meaningful hurdle the Seattle company has cleared in setting up a second headquarters since county officials approved an incentive agreement in March. [Read more here.](#) *But see following article from our perspective.*

### **Amazon's promise of extensive HQ2-tied community benefits not enough for some Arlington neighbors**

Amazon grabbed headlines when the county first released the community benefits package attached to the Metropolitan Park project in Pentagon City, which includes a pair of 22-story office towers totaling 2.1 million square feet. The company will send \$20 million to Arlington's affordable housing loan program, the largest such individual contribution to the fund in the county's history, and has committed to a host of improvements on the Met Park property involving open space, transportation and public art.

Though Amazon's proposed investments may seem substantial, some people residing close to Met Park feel that these benefits will inevitably fall short in mitigating the impacts of the construction. The 22202 civic associations have begun urging the county to adopt a more holistic approach when pressing Amazon for community contributions, in order to ensure the company pays for improvements that stretch beyond the boundaries of each of its properties. But in this proposal they see more of the same, siloed approach that has left them frustrated with Arlington officials in the past. The money for housing is still inadequate to meet the size of the impact Amazon is likely to have on the local market.

Arlington officials don't share the same trepidation. They argue the company has delivered on its promises to be a good neighbor with its offers for community improvements, and they see little reason to deviate from

the same planning process that has served the county well over the years.

Amazon will return to the board soon enough, considering that Met Park is just one piece of the HQ2 puzzle. Sometime next year, the tech giant is expected to submit its plans for new office buildings at the 10-acre Pen Place, just north of Met Park, giving the county another chance to extract concessions. And that gives community activists some hope they can convince the county to change its ways.

Yet local leaders say Amazon could make a big difference directly, if the county would only ask. Open space is another emphasis for many neighbors, considering the urbanizing landscape in Pentagon City. Specifically, the county could set up some sort of open space fund for the neighborhood, letting Amazon and other companies moving in contribute cash so that the county can snatch up park land when it becomes available — not just on the sites of individual developments. It is an approach a variety of community leaders have tried to champion directly in conversations with Amazon and development partner JBG Smith.

Community organizers argue the board and county staff alike have not moved quickly enough to address this issue and a host of others. Even though Arlington leaders have praised the community's work to organize a holistic conversation on "livability" in the neighborhoods adjacent to HQ2, the county has yet to meaningfully change its practices.

### **Crystal Houses Project Still Has Problems**

*Although the County Board unanimously approved on December 14 the developer's proposal to expand the property, the three 22202 civic associations tried unsuccessfully for modifications because we felt the proposal was weak and had deficiencies. We are not happy with the flawed process nor the outcome:*

- 1. Parking: Board approval of additional parking spaces violates its own zoning restrictions that NO surface parking is permitted in that district.*
- 2. The urban orchard with fruit trees was not wanted by the community. We requested a park. Who will maintain the trees and pick up the fruit?*
- 3. No access is provided through the two block long building along South Eads Street. Simple design changes could have allowed for Crystal House residents to penetrate through that large building.*
- 4. Affordable Housing sounds great. But turning over space to the County to build 47 units instead of incorporating them into the proposed two new towers not only delays housing (when will the County have the*



money?) and segregate affordable housing, excluding future residents from the amenities in the Other Crystal House buildings.

[Read the County "take" here.](#)

**I-66 toll money shift could be key to major VRE, Metro expansion**

A piece of Interstate 66 toll money could be the key to major Metro and Virginia Railway Express improvements. The change for the use of I-66 inside the Capital Beltway toll revenue would allow Virginia to sell bonds to help pay for the construction of the rail projects. Low-interest federal transportation loans could be used to finance construction. At least \$10 million per year in toll revenues would remain reserved for other improvements along the corridor like additional commuter bus services. Virginia officials and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission are in the final stages of negotiations to dedicate a portion of toll revenue to construction of a new Metro station or tunnel(s) near Rosslyn and the construction of a second Long Bridge freight and commuter rail span between Virginia and D.C. [Read more here.](#)

**Union accuses contractors, owners of Amazon buildings of labor violations**

In a 24-page report based on its own investigation, the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters alleges multiple violations of federal labor law by general contractors, subcontractors and labor brokers who supply workers for projects owned and managed by four development companies and intended for Amazon. Three of the structures under renovation are owned by JBG Smith and are temporary space for Amazon employees in Arlington until their permanent headquarters is built. A warehouse in Springfield and data centers in Manassas and Sterling are also cited.

[Read more here.](#)

Amazon says it fired the contractor in question and pledged to ensure prevailing wages are paid to construction workers, while providing labor compliance oversight going forward, the [Washington Post reported.](#)

**South Clark-Bell Street Demolition**

The contractor has completed the structural concrete work and concrete barrier construction. The remaining work includes bringing in fill material for green spaces, top soil, grass pavers, guardrails, and flat work such as concrete entrances, curb and gutter, and sidewalk paver replacement. Dominion Energy is scheduled to energize the new traffic cabinet at the end of December. This will allow the contractor to complete the replacement of the

traffic signals and pedestrian signals at the Route 1 and 20th Street South intersection. Completion of the project is anticipated in winter 2020. [Visit the project page.](#)

**Synetic Theater Mural in Crystal City Now Complete**



A mural featuring detailed pink and mint line work on the outside of Synetic Theater, on S. Bell Street in Crystal City, is now complete. The

mural was painted in November.

**New Urgent Care Facility to Open on 23rd Street**

*Good News:* Virginia Hospital Center is moving its urgent care facility on Carlin Springs Road to its new location at 764 23rd St.. It's scheduled to open at the new location in the first week of January 2020. Similar to the previous operation at Carlin Springs, this new location will offer immediate care from 8am to 8pm every day of the week (only closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day). Walk-ins are welcome and no appointment is necessary. They will offer appointments and will be starting a new service at this location which will allow individuals to call ahead or go on-line to "reserve a spot" for an immediate care appointment. In addition to the immediate care services, they will also be adding primary care and obstetric services at this location. They are currently hiring physicians for those services and expect to have them up and running by the end of the first quarter. [See the website here.](#)

**Fees for Long Bridge Park Fitness Pools**

Proposed Membership Fees		
Membership Type	Proposed Resident Fee	Proposed Non-Resident Fee
Child Daily	\$5.00	\$6.25
Child 10-Visit	\$45.00	\$58.25
Child 25-Visit	\$110.00	\$143.00
Child 6-Month	\$200.00	\$260.00
Child Indoor Season	\$275.00	\$357.50
Child Annual	\$350.00	\$455.00
Adult Daily	\$9.00	\$11.25
Adult 10-Visit	\$81.00	\$105.30
Adult 25-Visit	\$198.00	\$257.40
Adult 6-Month	\$360.00	\$468.00
Adult Indoor Season	\$495.00	\$643.50
Adult Annual	\$630.00	\$819.00
Senior Daily	\$6.00	\$7.50
Senior 10-Visit	\$54.00	\$70.20
Senior 25-Visit	\$132.00	\$171.60
Senior 6-Month	\$240.00	\$312.00
Senior Indoor Season	\$330.00	\$426.00
Senior Annual	\$420.00	\$546.00
Family Daily	\$25.00	\$32.50
Family Annual	\$1,750.00	\$2,275.00
Matinee	\$5.00	\$6.25

- Non-Resident daily fees incur a 25% surcharge based on FWG recommendations.
- Non-Resident membership passes include a 30% surcharge based on FWG recommendations.

**Shoppers Closed Potomac Yard Store**

The supermarket, at 3801 Richmond Highway, was expected to close by the end of January, but suddenly closed December 21. Other Shoppers stores in Manassas, Baltimore and Severn (Maryland) are also

closing, and the company is selling 13 other locations. The shopping center at Potomac Yard is slated for a major redevelopment that will see the existing big box stores close to make way for a more dense mixed-use community. [Read more here.](#)

### County Board Advances Crystal City-DCA Pedestrian Connection to Design Phase

The Arlington County Board approved a funding agreement December 17 that will advance the proposed Crystal City-National Airport pedestrian connector to a preliminary design phase. The county plans to use up to \$9.5 million in federal funds for an environmental impact study and preliminary design work. [Read more here.](#)

### Bluebird Boxes Installed along Long Bridge Park

Partnering with the Virginia Bluebird Society (VBS), the Crystal City BID has installed four bird boxes along Long Bridge Park. The boxes are specially designed to attract Eastern Bluebirds and other native species and to keep predators out. VBS tracks the number of fledged birds from their boxes and releases annual reports available online. Learn how you can further support Virginia native bird species by visiting the VBS website. [Read more here.](#)

### Sport&Health to Expand, Renovate Location Near HQ2

Citing the arrival of Amazon's HQ2, the parent company of Sport&Health says it will be expanding and renovating its fitness club in Crystal City. The expansion will add 8,000 square feet to the club at 2231 Crystal Drive, adding additional space for strength training and studios to a location that already includes a cycle studio and indoor salt water pool. The work is expected to begin this spring and wrap up this summer. The club will remain open during construction. [Read more here.](#)

### Bozzelli's Expanding Into Larger Space in Crystal City

A space-themed pizza shop and deli in Crystal City plans to take off into a bigger space down the block. Bozzelli's, an "intergalactic" deli serving pizza and sandwiches, first opened at 2600 Crystal Drive in 2010. Nearly a decade later, the restaurant is moving to the opposite corner of the street where it will have room for an expansive dining room and bar. [Read more here.](#)

### Bun'd Up Opens at Pentagon Row

Bun'd Up opened Saturday at 1201 S. Joyce Street, featuring Taiwanese-style steamed buns filled with traditional Korean toppings, such as miso-braised pork belly and kimchi. For now, Bun'd Up — which offers "a

modern, Korean twist on the original Taiwanese 'gua bao' with handmade buns — will have limited hours from Thursday through Sunday, open for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. [Read more here.](#)

## Arlington County Issues

### Joint County Board and Civic Federation Meeting

The County Board's annual organizational meeting will be held January 2 at 6:30 in the Arlington County Board Room located on the third floor of 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. After the County meeting, there will be a break for light refreshments in the lobby outside the County Board Room. There will then be a joint meeting around 7:30 of the County Board and the Civic Federation. County Board members will make brief presentations and then answer questions submitted by Federation Committees on the following topics:

- Flood mitigation planning;
- A larger budget for the independent County Auditor;
- Insurance options for civic associations;
- Reserve Fund balances;
- A two-year budget cycle;
- Zoning changes that may address the lack of affordable housing for the "Missing Middle" in Arlington;
- A contribution from Amazon to help address the lack of K-12 capacity in Arlington schools.

### Arlington County to Begin Missing Middle Housing Study in 2020

The County Manager reviewed with the County Board December 17 a framework for the Missing Middle Housing Study, which is anticipated to begin in 2020. The study is under the Housing Arlington umbrella and will explore if and how missing middle housing could help address Arlington's limited housing supply and inadequate housing choices. Missing middle housing types—such as duplexes and triplexes—are currently restricted in many neighborhoods by Arlington's land use policy and Zoning Ordinance. Barriers to building them make it difficult to increase the County's housing supply and provide more choices at a broader range of prices.

The Missing Middle Housing Study is envisioned in three phases that will kick off in the second quarter of 2020. Starting from a blank slate with no proposed policy or

zoning changes, a County-led team will use inclusive public engagement, a cross-disciplinary team of experts, extensive data collection and analysis, and an iterative design process to create study recommendations for the Board to consider. In addition to establishing a shared definition for the term missing middle, the study aims to:

- Determine if, and how, new housing types can help address the shortage of housing supply in Arlington;
- Locate where new housing types could be compatible with existing neighborhoods; and
- Identify what strategies could be employed to mitigate any negative impacts. [Read more here.](#)

### Elder Care Facilities Allowed in More Areas

At their December Recessed Meeting, the County Board voted to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow elder care facilities, including assisted living and similar facilities, in more areas. The amendments expand the permissible areas to 18 zoning districts, located near and along Arlington's major transportation corridors. The study, part of Housing Arlington's Land Use Tools Initiative, was an effort to promote housing options for seniors and persons with disabilities. Next steps include further study on elder care affordability. [Read the complete news release.](#) [View the staff presentation.](#)

### Message from Vice Chair Libby Garvey Regarding Aircraft Noise

On December 20, Libby Garvey provided an update which you can read here. Key items are:

- 1) The joint RFP issued by Arlington and Montgomery Counties to hire a consultant to help us get good information to advocate for effective noise reduction from flights out of Reagan National Airport (DCA) will be evaluated early in 2020;
- 2) One of the selected contractor's first tasks will be to convene a public meeting to hear from both the Arlington and Montgomery communities about the aircraft noise problem, and their expectations for the study;
- 3) On December 17, Congressman Beyer introduced [the Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act in the United States House of Representatives](#). A companion bill was previously introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD). See the [press release](#) from Congressman Beyer's office and [the press release](#) from Senator Cardin's office.

### Video: Good Morning America Broadcasts from Fairlington

ABC's Good Morning America aired a live segment from Abingdon Elementary in Fairlington December 11. The five-minute segment, hosted by meteorologist Ginger

Zee, highlighted a donation Amazon made to the nonprofit Rosie Riveters STEM program for girls. [See the video here.](#)

### Glass Recycling: 1 Million Pounds and Counting

**Note to multifamily apartment dwellers:** Arlington county only collects trash and recycling from single-



family houses whereas multifamily property managers contract with a trash and recycling service. If your building does not recycle glass,

then it would be good to take your glass to the purple recycling bin at the Aurora Hills Library loading dock. Glass material collected in the drop-off bins is sent to Fairfax for recycling and reuse as roadbed aggregate, pipe bedding in wastewater and storm improvement projects, as well as other construction materials. If it goes in your trash, then it does not get recycled. Do your part, even if your building management doesn't by renegotiating the contract with your building trash collector. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington County Names New Director of Economic Development

Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz announced December 12 that he has named Telly Tucker as Director



of Arlington Economic Development (AED), following an extensive search. Mr. Tucker most recently served as the Director of Economic Development for Danville, Va., where he managed

business and expansion projects that brought many new jobs to the City. Prior to his position in Danville, Mr. Tucker served as the Assistant Director of Economic Development in James City County, Va., as well as an Economic Development Specialist for the City of Lynchburg, Va. Mr. Tucker will step into the role in mid-January. [Read more here.](#)

### 3 Benefits of a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community You Can Enjoy Right Now

Arlington County was honored once again as a Bicycle Friendly Community from the League of American Bicyclists. Our County is one of just over 100 communities honored with a Silver-level designation, out of 488 communities evaluated by the program.



1. 50 miles of shared-use trails and 40 miles of dedicated bike lanes, including a growing number of protected and buffered bike lanes
2. Meet some new friends on a bike ride
3. Learn to ride (or learn to ride more confidently)

[Read more here.](#)

### **D.C. area's rent increases among the highest in past decade**

People in Greater Washington paid the fifth most total rent during the past decade, but its rent growth was slower than several major markets, including Seattle, San Francisco and Atlanta, according to a recent report from Seattle-based Zillow. Zillow looked at the rent increases for 50 largest metros in the U.S., and the Washington D.C. metro area saw a 55.6 percent increase in the 2010s. The average annual rent increase was 3.7%. People in the D.C. area paid \$133.6 billion in rent in the past decade, behind only New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. Nationwide, renters spent a combined \$4.5 trillion during the 2010s with \$512 billion spent on rent in 2019 alone. While rent is up 2.3 percent from last year, overall rent increases slowed in the latter part of the decade, Zillow (Nasdaq: ZG) said. [Read more here.](#)

### **The 2020 Census**

One of the most important events of 2020 is the Census, which every 10 years counts everyone living in the country, regardless of immigration status. A fair and accurate count is at the heart of our democracy and is the basis for determining legislative representation, helps plan for needs and services, and is the basis for federal funding. As a result, Arlington receives millions of federal dollars for transportation, public safety, education, health and human services, and more. The invitation to take the census will arrive in mailboxes beginning March 12— and folks can take the census on line or by phone. For those who have not completed the census by April, an additional paper copy will be mailed to households. And if folks have not completed the census by May, the US census bureau will have workers contact households directly to assist them in completing the questionnaire. The online and phone option will remain throughout the process.

***FYI, Crystal City is one of the top 3 hardest to count census tracks in the entire county.***

### **Census 2020 Jobs Available**

The Constitutionally-mandated 2020 Census is underway and the US Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census is hiring hundreds of people temporarily in Arlington and the rest of northern Virginia

over the next few months to help carry it out. The principal position available is that of Enumerator. The pay is good (\$25-\$27.50/hour in Arlington) and the hours are flexible.

Additionally, there are many good reasons for our community to ensure that Census participation is as complete as possible, since the results impact Congressional representation and federal funding for education, healthcare, infrastructure, and other areas. Further, Personally Identifiable Information (PII) collected by the Census is confidential under Title 13 of the US Code. PII is never shared with other government agencies or any other entity or person.

For more information and to apply, please visit <http://2020census.gov/jobs>

## **Other Issues**

### **New Bus Route Dulles to Union Station**

The new year will bring new service from Virginia Breeze, the state government's two-year-old intercity bus service. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has announced plans for a pair of new routes for the coming year, including twice daily service between Danville and Washington's Union Station, a 250-mile route that will travel along U.S. Route 29 and Interstate 66, including potential stops in Lynchburg and Charlottesville and at Washington Dulles International Airport. [Read more here.](#)

### **Southern Entrance Debate Resurfaces at Potomac Yard Metro Groundbreaking**

After 20 years of planning, work has started on the Potomac Yard Metro station. Officials past and present came together December 19 at the future Potomac Yard Metro station, currently the parking lot of Regal Potomac Yard movie theater. The goal is to have the station opened by March 2022. Not all of those residents are happy with the way the station is currently structured. A southern entrance to the station was initially promised to local residents, but swelling costs for the site resulted in the entrance being eliminated. Almost as controversial as the change was the revelation that members of the City Council and staff privately knew about the change but continued to say publicly said the south entrance was still planned. [Read more here.](#)

### **Alexandria Bans Electronic Scooters from All City Sidewalks**

*Unlike the Arlington County Board*, the Alexandria City Council's voted December 14 to ban electronic scooters from sidewalks across the city. The new ordinance reads:



"Riding a micro-mobility device on all sidewalks within the city shall be prohibited." [Read more here.](#)

### Metro Capacity and Reliability Study

Metro released several preliminary concepts to improve reliability, meet future ridership demand, and better serve customers on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines. The concepts, part of the two-year Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study, include a range of infrastructure improvements and service alternatives to address both short- and long-term needs. View the invited to provide input and suggest additional ideas for improvements through an online survey. **The survey, available in English and Spanish, will be open through January 6.**

### Project Journey: Work moves forward on a new concourse at Reagan National Airport

Airport officials had originally planned to open the new security checkpoints in fall 2020, several months before



the new concourse was expected to become active. But unanticipated problems at the construction site have put that portion of the project more than

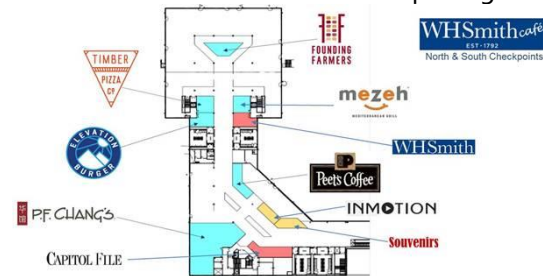
a year behind schedule. It is now scheduled to open in the latter part of 2021.

Work on the new concourse, however, continues to move forward. The building is slated to open in July

2021. The concourse, which will connect to Terminal C, will have 14 gates, an American Airlines Admirals Club lounge, and more than 14,000 square feet of additional retail and food offerings. The 230,000-square foot building will sit on the north end of the airport on a site previously occupied by MWAA's corporate offices and two hangars. [Read more here.](#)

### New Restaurants at Airport Gate 35X

A half dozen restaurants will be opening in the new 14-



gate concourse currently under construction at Reagan National Airport. The new eateries that will open to travelers in the replacement for DCA's infamous "Gate 35X" include four local companies — Elevation Burger, Timber Pizza, Founding Farmers and Mezeh — as well as two national chains: Peet's Coffee and P.F. Chang's. A WHSmith book store and a Capitol File-branded travel store are also planned. [Read more here.](#)

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