

# CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

March 2020

Lots going on in our neighborhood. Stay informed. [Join or renew on our website](#) by PayPal or send a check to our Treasurer. We need everyone to engage!

~ Carol Fuller, CCCA President

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION ISSUES

### Livability Framework Workshops

**Open Space February 22:** We had about 70 participants for a very productive workshop at the Crystal City Marriott on four topics: 1) Re-envisioning Virginia Highlands Park as the backyard for the Pentagon City



community; 2) Developing a holistic approach to planning Crystal City Parks; 3) Connecting residents to the natural world and enhancing biodiversity throughout 22202 green spaces; and 4) Planning a publicly accessible greenway from Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary along the railroad tracks to the southern end of Crystal City. With a combination of walking tours and table top discussions, as well as some personal experiences with nature, parks, and open space planning, we covered a lot of ground. A summary will be available in a few weeks.



**Housing Affordability #2 March 7:** The invitation is out by email and on our website and Facebook page for the second round to on Saturday March 7th, at Calvary Methodist Church on S. 23rd St. to determine the 22202 agenda for housing. This is the second of two workshops led by and for community members wishing to better understand and influence the issue of housing affordability.

Given both Amazon's arrival and pre-existing trends, as well as ongoing county and state policy initiatives, housing is changing fast and our voices need to be part of the discussion. The first workshop ([summary here](#)) focused on working through issues of housing barriers and neighborhood values. If interested, you can also see Michelle Winters presentation on housing needs [here](#). Participants in this second workshop, who need not have attended the first, will learn about the tools available to address housing issues and coalesce around which ones we wish to advocate for. We will hear from experts, such as representatives from JBG, Arlington County and the Alliance for Housing Solutions, and then work together to find common ground. Registration will begin at 1:45 pm and the workshop will start promptly at 2 pm and run to 5:30pm. It will be held at Calvary Methodist Church, 2315 S Grant St. Please [RSVP](#) to attend.

**Get engaged.** Don't leave decisions to others.

**Here are the dates for the remainder of the Housing Workshops:**

**March 28:** Future of the Underground/Community Facilities

**April 18:** Route 1/East-West Connectivity

## Collaboration drove effort to create National Landing

You may also be interested in a [Letter to the Editor](#) of the Washington Business Journal co-written by Brooke Oberwetter, Amazon's head of Community Affairs, and Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, President and Executive Director of the BID which mentions our [Livability Framework](#).

## Crystal City Renters Happy Hour Meetup

Co-hosted by the Crystal City Civic Association and Crystal City Business Improvement District, our happy hour February 6 attracted some 50-60



renters. With renters making up 90% of CC residents and the largest age group from 21-45, this was a great opportunity to reach out to them and encourage them to get engaged, get

involved, and get a little refreshment in the process. This event was targeted at renters in our area to promote how to get involved in civic engagement and advocacy, with the rapid changes in the neighborhood. Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board member and former Crystal City resident, gave a few remarks. Many thanks to the BID for funding the food and drink from the Crystal City Sports Pub and the Crystal City Wine Shop. And Many thanks to JBG Smith for use of their beautiful Marketing Center. Read an interesting WAMU story about the event [here](#).

**Census: Mark Your Calendar for 2020 Census Dates. It's important to be counted.**

**March 12-20:** Initial invitations to respond online



and by phone will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with the

invitation to respond online or over the phone.

**March 16-24:** Reminder letters will be delivered.

**March 26-April 3:** Reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not responded.

**April 8-16:** Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not responded.

**April 20-27:** Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not yet responded before census takers follow up in person.

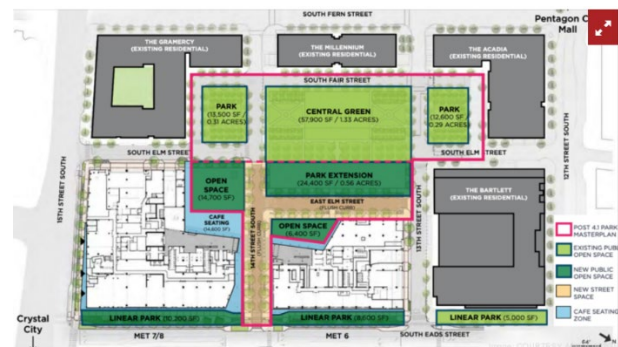
**May 13-July 31:** If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person.

## AMAZON IN CRYSTAL CITY

## Amazon leases more Crystal City space, with plans to occupy former PBS headquarters

Amazon.com Inc. is gobbling up more office space in Crystal City, signing a lease for another full building owned by frequent partner and current landlord JBG Smith Properties. The tech giant is now set to occupy another 272,000 square feet at 2100 Crystal Drive, according to a letter from JBG Smith CEO Matt Kelly to his company's shareholders released Tuesday. The developer signed the new lease with Amazon in December, Kelly wrote. This new lease means Jeff Bezos' company will soon occupy about 857,000 total square feet across five JBG Smith buildings in the Crystal City area. It's also leasing space at 241 18th St. S., 1800 S. Bell St., 1770 Crystal Drive and 2345 Crystal Drive. [Read more here.](#)

## HQ2-adjacent open space could be much larger if Arlington gives up surface parking



The green space adjacent to the first pair of Amazon's HQ2 towers could be so much grander if

it weren't for some redundant on-street parking. That is what New York-based James Corner Field Operations, the urban design and landscape architecture firm Amazon has enlisted to mold Metropolitan Park's open space, said Thursday night during the first step of the park master planning process. Much of the presentation from James Corner was meant to promote thought on what could be at the site, Astheimer said — there are no designs yet for the park. Arlington County and JBG Smith are seeking community feedback through multiple meetings and online surveys.

[Read more here.](#)

### **The latest HQ2 employee count, courtesy top Amazon exec Brian Huseman**

Amazon's Arlington headquarters seems to get larger by the week. At latest count, there are just shy of 715 employees in leased office spaces in Crystal City and about 125 pending starts, Brian Huseman, Amazon's vice president of public policy, told the Washington Business Journal. Amazon has said repeatedly that it wants to largely staff up the new headquarters with folks already living in Greater Washington. And, at this point "it's mainly local hires," Huseman said, though an exact break down was not available. As for the 272,000 square feet Amazon recently leased from JBG at 2100 Crystal Drive? Amazon plans to open its new-hire orientation and meeting space there — it is currently home to the Public Broadcasting Services' headquarters which will move to another location in Crystal City. By mid-2021, Amazon will put actual office space there. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon is ramping up its HQ2 employment. Here's the latest worker count — and what they'll do.**

Less than two months into the new year and Amazon says it has more than 600 employees at its second headquarters — a fairly significant staffing jump considering there were some 400 employees there as of late December. Those employees are currently occupying roughly 300,000 square feet in Crystal City, or about 51% of the 584,000 square feet Amazon is leasing from landlord and development partner JBG Smith.

[Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon's first employee says breaking up the company could make sense**

PBS's "Frontline" took a deep dive into Amazon and its founder Jeff Bezos in a two-hour episode that aired Tuesday night, tackling everything from antitrust to trusting Alexa. Read [the article here](#) and see the [documentary here](#).

### **Amazon buys its first HQ2 site. Here's how much it paid.**

Amazon has quietly purchased the 6.2-acre Pentagon City site where its first pair of HQ2 towers will be built. Acorn Development LLC, an Amazon subsidiary that is often listed when the company files for permits or makes land acquisitions, purchased the Metropolitan Park site on Jan. 15 from JBG Smith Properties (NYSE: JBGS) for \$154.95 million, according to Arlington County records. [Read more here.](#)

### **Will Amazon's HQ2 Trigger a Housing Market Frenzy?**

Louis Andors, an area real estate agent for 26 years, says the Amazon question dominates cocktail party chitchat, although there's no consensus on exactly how the tech giant will shape the housing market. Predictions run "across the spectrum." He says some potential home sellers are watching and waiting, rather than selling and possibly leaving money on the table. "They're trying to find the sweet spot." [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon's self-driving delivery robots are green-lit Virginia. And not just on sidewalks.**

The General Assembly has made quick work of a bill that would clear the way for Scout, Amazon's six-wheeled delivery robot, to operate in the commonwealth. The legislation was adopted by the House of Delegates Tuesday by an 88-12 vote. It unanimously cleared the Senate Feb. 11. Minor differences between the House and Senate versions will have to be worked out in committee before the bill heads to Gov. Ralph Northam for his signature. Under the bill adopted the House, the robots would be allowed to travel on sidewalks or on the side of a maximum 25 mph roadway if a sidewalk isn't available and the vehicle's movement doesn't disrupt traffic. The House bill also removes



these robots from a list of motorized-wheeled contraptions — like scooters, skateboards or electric bicycles — that city and county governments are allowed to ban from sidewalks and crosswalks. [Read more here.](#)

## CRYSTAL CITY IN DEVELOPMENT

### Two of JBG Smith's HQ2-adjacent projects held up by height

Two of JBG Smith Properties' proposals for large developments in the shadow of Amazon's HQ2 appear to be on hold indefinitely, as Arlington County planners have registered concerns about the height of the planned buildings. County staff are specifically concerned about the proposed apartment towers at 2525 Crystal Drive and 2001 S. Bell St. in Crystal City. Those are set to hit heights of 300 feet in some places, well above the 200-foot limit mandated by the county's zoning ordinance. The county has argued for similar delays in nearby Pentagon City, urging both JBG Smith and Brookfield to press pause on the firms' redevelopments of the RiverHouse apartment complex and TSA headquarters, respectively. (WBJ reporting)

### County Invites Feedback on CIP

The County has just launched development of the County Manager's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Fiscal Years 2021 – 2030, which will be presented to the Arlington County Board in May. As part of this year's budget season, you're invited to share your input on capital priorities for Arlington County Government. Where should the County make investments? Which types of projects top your list? (Note: This is not/not the operating budget.)

The CIP is Arlington County's 10-year plan for building, maintaining, upgrading or replacing County facilities, equipment and infrastructure. This includes water, sewer, stormwater, transportation infrastructure, libraries, parks, community centers, technology systems and more. Public input will be collected through April 30.

Obviously, if you attended our Livability Framework Open Space workshop on Saturday February 22, you saw lots of ideas for how we can make our parks and open space more natural and user friendly. For Crystal City, our top priorities are for

the 18th Street and Center parks, along with funding for a redesign of 15th Street. Aurora Highlands is interested in a master plan for Virginia Highlands Park. The survey doesn't ask for that kind of information specifically at this point, but it does ask what your general priorities are for funding capital projects and Open Space figures in it a great deal. [Be sure to respond.](#)

There is also a public forum scheduled for March 19, but you have to [RSVP](#) by March 13 since space is limited.

### South Clark-Bell Street demolition update

North of 18th Street South, the contractor has



placed topsoil in the green space area and has permanently closed the Bell Street ramp to the former Clark Street. To close the former Bell Street on-ramp, the contractor will install curb and gutter and sidewalk pavers in

place of the old ramp opening. South of 18th Street South, the contractor has stockpiled topsoil for placement between 18th Street and 20th Street. Remaining work in this area includes sidewalk replacement, curb replacement, and commercial entrance installations. At the 20th Street South and Route 1 intersection, the contractor is scheduled to energize the new traffic signals on Friday, Feb. 14. The new signals will not change the existing traffic pattern at the intersection. Arlington County Police will be present for the equipment switch over. Project completion is expected this winter. [Visit the project page.](#)

### JBG Smith Development Timeline1 Smith Development Timeline

1. Ongoing Construction at Central District Retail 1550 & 1770 Crystal Dr; Key Completion Milestones:
  - Central District Retail at Crystal Square top out and Crane removal in late Feb/early March
  - 15th Street Sidewalk August 2020
  - Crystal Drive Sidewalk September 2020

- Crystal Drive Travel Lane September 2020
- Turnover of Crystal Square to new tenants (e.g., grocery) anticipated by summer; their buildout could continue till the end of 2020.

2. 1900 Crystal Dr: County Board consideration delayed to March 2020

3. Riverhouse Apartments - an application for revisioning was submitted on 7/22; review may be delayed due to new density study, as will Brookfield's site plan for TSA Headquarters on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

4. 2121 Crystal Dr (Dining in the Park) – 4.1 approved, minor site plan amendment pending approval for restaurant and adjustment to park entrance

5. Preliminary 4.1 applications for 101 S. 12th Street, 223 23rd St/2300 Crystal Dr, 2525 Crystal Dr, and 2000 & 2001 South Bell, were submitted, but the last two have not been accepted by the County due to height concerns.

6. SPRC on Crystal City PDSP for 3 site plans February 27: 1900 Crystal Drive; 101 S. 12th Street; 223 23rd St. S./2300 Crystal Drive This PDSP will bind these three (3) non- contiguous projects together from the perspective of the maximum amount of density achievable with the associated Final Site Plan applications and a community benefits package related to the cumulative amount of additional density associated with the three (3) site plan projects.

### London-based luxury concierge sets up shop across from HQ2

London-based luxury concierge company Quintessentially has struck a partnership with LCOR Inc. to offer its services to some residents of the Altaire, a high-end apartment building across from the PenPlace development site where Amazon plans to build part of its second headquarters. It will be the first Quintessentially in the D.C. region, though the agency has forged similar partnerships in other areas of the U.S., including Amazon's hometown of The idea of a multifamily concierge is not new for Greater Washington. It has featured prominently in many of the new rental and for-sale developments that have sprung up across the region over the past few years, and each bills itself as distinctive and luxurious. Seattle. The Quintessentially service will be offered only to residents in the Altaire North

tower, which comes with a higher price tag, starting from \$2,327 for a 539-square-foot studio up to nearly \$16,444 for a 3-bedroom, 2,832-square-foot unit. [Read more here.](#)

### Developer Proposes Converting Part of Planned Office Complex into Apartments

A long-delayed development project in the Potomac Yard area is likely to go back before the Arlington



County Board this year with some changes. Developer Meridian is expected to seek a modification to the earlier plan to build four office buildings on the empty plot of land along Richmond Highway, south of Crystal City, known as Potomac Yard Land Bay C. A county spokeswoman tells ARLnow that half of the planned complex may be switched from office to residential use, with an option to also build a hotel instead. The change was foreshadowed in a conceptual site plan submitted to Arlington's planning department. [Read more here.](#)

### Architects selected for Potomac Yard overhaul, Virginia Tech campus

Five architectural firms have been selected to design the nine buildings that are planned for the first phase of the North Potomac Yard overhaul, including the Virginia



Tech campus. The use of multiple firms, similar to the choice made by the developers of The Wharf on D.C.'s Southwest waterfront, is meant to avoid having a neighborhood of buildings that look too alike. An affiliate of Houston-based Lionstone is the owner of North Potomac Yard and Bethesda's JBG Smith is its development partner. The project's first phase, to include Virginia Tech's first academic building, is targeted for the area where the Regal Potomac Yard movie theater stands today.

Virginia Tech has chosen SmithGroup, from a number of Greater Washington design firms that vied for the job, to design the first building that will be stood up for the \$1 billion computer science-focused graduate campus at the northern end of Potomac Yard, Puskar said after the meeting. SmithGroup expects to reveal a general shape and height of that first structure — a 300,000-square-foot academic building — during the committee's March 4 meeting, said David Johnson, a vice president at the firm who specializes in higher education design. That building is expected to deliver by August 2021 and could cost \$257 million to construct.

The other six buildings, to be located south of the university and closer to the future Potomac Yard Metro station, will be designed by four firms. D.C.'s Hickok Cole Architects is expected to design two office buildings and Boston's Elkus Manfredi Architects is slated to design a third. Hord Coplan Macht is slated to design two residential buildings. And New York's CookFox Architects is expected to design one building. [Read more here.](#)

### Virginia Tech names leader of future Alexandria campus

Virginia Tech has chosen the man who will lead its new Northern Virginia campus, and he's someone who has led a similar engineering-focused satellite campus for a university in New York. Lance Collins will be the Vice President and executive director of the so-called Innovation Campus planned for Potomac Yard in Alexandria. Collins is currently the dean of engineering at Cornell University and helped launch Cornell Tech, that university's new New York City engineering campus, in 2017.

Collins, who will start the job in August, will begin overseeing university programs long before that, however. The first graduate students in the new program are expected to arrive in the fall of 2020. Those graduate students will take classes at a

satellite Virginia Tech location in Falls Church. That plan is different from what Virginia Tech shared in October, which suggested the first graduate students would take classes in unoccupied retail space at the Potomac Yard shopping center, which will eventually be replaced by mixed-use development that includes parts of the Virginia Tech campus. Instead, some "start-up" space will open at Potomac Yard later this year and be used for administrative offices, seminars and other engagement, according to a Virginia Tech spokesman. [Read more here.](#)

### Video: Timelapse of Pentagon City Warehouses Being Torn Down for HQ2

The old warehouses that once stood along S. Eads Street, between 12th and 15th streets, are no more. The buildings have been torn down over the course of the past month to make way for the first half of Amazon's permanent HQ2, which is expected to open in 2023. A Reddit user who lives near the site captured a unique, bird's-eye view of the demolition, posting a minute-and-a-half video showing the warehouses being methodically leveled over time. [See it here.](#)

### Help Us Re-imagine the Metropolitan Park Public Space

Arlington County is expanding and improving The Metropolitan Park Open Space. The project involves the development of the Master Plan and design guidelines for this wonderful new community space. The existing two-acre park, will be increased by .56 acres and design for the park will be informed by approved site plan conditions and community input. On Dec. 14, 2019 the County Board approved a plan for the first phase of Metropolitan Park's development, which includes public open spaces. Help make the Metropolitan Park Public Space the best it can be [Learn more here.](#)

### EPA may relocate 1,200 workers from Northern Virginia to D.C.

The General Services Administration is seeking \$48.7 million to renovate the Clinton building at 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW for additional EPA personnel, per a congressional justification the administration released with its fiscal 2021 budget. The GSA plans to shift workers from One Potomac



Yard in Arlington starting in March 2021, boosting occupancy in the Clinton building by about 1,200 employees. [Read more here.](#)

### The Dining Scene: Fast casual Indian restaurant Rasa is expanding

Award winning restaurant Rasa in Navy Yard, which opened in 2017, is opening 2 new locations. They will be opening in Crystal City (former Taylor Gourmet shop on Crystal Drive) spring 2020 and Mount Vernon.

### Mezeh to Open at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City

The fast-casual Mediterranean grill, which just opened a new location at Ballston Quarter mall, is planning to open at the Pentagon City mall in late summer or early fall, according to Renaud Consulting leasing agent John Marigliano. The restaurant is set to open on the same level as the food court, Marigliano said. It is not yet clear as to which space it will occupy. The company's first stand-alone restaurant opened in Crystal City, at 2450 Crystal Drive, in 2015.

## ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

### Absentee Voting Dates & Deadlines for March 3, 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary

#### Absentee Voting – By Mail Deadlines

*Notice to voters using US mail service: Current USPS delivery standards for First Class mail is 2-5 days. Take this into consideration, and allow ample time to apply for and mail-in your ballot so that it is received by the Office of Elections by Election Day at 7:00 pm.*



Application for a mail ballot must be received in our office via fax, email, or mail by 5pm on Tuesday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.

Ballots must be received to be counted by 7pm on Election Day – **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### Absentee Voting – In Person runs from:

Thursday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> until 5pm on Saturday, Feb 29<sup>th</sup>.

Verify where to vote and what's on the ballot [here](#).

### County Board Advertises No Real Estate Tax Increase in 2020

The Arlington County Board on February 25, citing increased assessments and increased revenues, voted not to increase the real estate tax rate for Calendar Year 2021. The Board voted 4-0 to advertise a tax rate of \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed value for Calendar Year 2020 (\$1.026 including stormwater). By law, the Board can adopt a tax rate no higher than the advertised rate, although it may adopt a lower rate. With no increase in the property tax rate, the County expects \$51.1 million in additional ongoing revenue. Should the Board adopt the current tax rate and other proposed fee increases, the average Arlington homeowner would see their fees and taxes increase by \$376 from what they paid in FY 2020, based on a home value of \$686,300. [Read more here.](#)

### What's 'Missing Middle Housing' Anyway?

Arlington County is in the midst of a "Missing Middle Housing Study," to determine whether legalizing additional housing types in certain areas could "address the shortage of housing supply in Arlington." So what is "missing middle housing" anyhow? [Read more here.](#)

### Want to Understand the County's Housing Programs?

Attend the quarterly [Housing Matters Forum](#) on Thursday, March 26 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.! The DHS Housing Assistance Bureau and Community Planning, Housing and Development staff are hosting another community Housing Matters Forum at Arlington Mill, and this time the forum will focus on housing programs that lower rental costs for eligible residents. [Learn more about the discussion here.](#)

### A Closer Look at Arlington's Proposed Flood Mitigation Measures

After last summer's devastating flash flooding, Arlington is ready to move forward with a new set of changes to try to prevent the same level of flood damage. Staff said at Tuesday's Arlington County Board meeting that the trend of increasing intensity and frequency of the storms has forced the county

to take flood resilience more seriously. Shorter-term solutions that are in progress include new flood sensors, included in this year's budget, and plans to change regulations for new developments. The most immediate plan is \$129,000 for a flood sensor pilot program. These would include sensors at two key intersections that indicate hazardous levels of water. Staff noted that it only takes six inches of water to sweep someone off their feet and two feet of water to disable a vehicle, meaning signs with warnings about depth could help those in flooding situations make informed choices. The pilot also includes dozens of residential sensors that staff said could be installed in some of the most vulnerable homes, like smoke detectors.

An open house for the county's stormwater plan is scheduled for Thursday, March 26 from 6-8 p.m., at Washington-Liberty High School (1301 N. Stafford Street). [Read more here.](#)

### When a county changed a Confederate highway name, some navigation apps were slow to change it

If you were driving through Arlington in September, you might have noticed a change that was almost five years in the making: Jefferson Davis Highway was no more. Instead, the stretch of U.S. Route 1 that runs through Crystal City — where Jeff Bezos's Amazon empire is setting up a new headquarters — had been renamed Richmond Highway. But soon after the change, some drivers in Arlington noticed that when they typed a Richmond Highway address into Apple Maps, the app kept redirecting them to Richmond Highway in Alexandria. By contrast, Google Maps — the most widely used navigation app, with about 150 million monthly users — began employing the new name in January 2019, almost nine months before it went into effect. But don't try entering Richmond Highway in Arlington into MapQuest, which still uses Jefferson Davis Highway. [Read more here.](#)

### Airport Noise Update from the Arlington County Board

Below is a full reproduction of a statement from the Arlington County Board.

*"Dear Members of the Arlington Community, As you know, there has been an operational change at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)*

*that has resulted in more commercial aircraft flying directly over Rosslyn, and more exposure to aircraft noise for our residents and businesses in that area of the County. We wrote to the FAA last November protesting these changes.*

*On January 30, 2020, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) published a new flight procedure for DCA departures called HOLTB ONE (RNAV). Under this procedure, for north bound departures, the first navigational waypoint after departure has been moved 781 feet west-southwest. This shift moves flight paths previously located well over the Potomac River and instead places them directly over Rosslyn. All other things held equal, more flights mean more noise exposure.*

*This new flight procedure was initially presented by the FAA and the United States Secret Service (USSS) to the DCA Community Working Group at their May 23, 2019 meeting. The FAA is acting at the direction of the USSS to shift flight paths away from the restricted airspace known as P-56A, which extends from the Kennedy Center eastward and covers the White House, the United States Capitol, and the Supreme Court of the United States. There has been no documented environmental review process associated with the publication of HOLTB ONE (RNAV), and both the County Board and Congressman Beyer have previously written to the FAA in opposition to this procedure roll out and the lack of environmental impact analysis, as well as the lack of direct community engagement. The new procedure will be in place until July 16, 2020 as a validation period, after which the FAA will decide whether to apply this shift in flight paths to other departure procedures.*

*We are close to completing the procurement process for an aircraft noise consultant. Once they are officially under contract, we plan to have our noise consultant explore possible alternatives to the waypoint relocation and path shift that will keep flights over the Potomac River and still respond to national security concerns over P-56A incursions.*

*We also plan to file an official complaint with the FAA and are considering other actions we might take. We encourage residents and businesses disturbed by airplane noise to also register official noise complaints with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), and to let us know.*

*These complaints will be part of the public record and useful in future actions we might take to protest these changes and, hopefully, have them rolled*



back. Information on the MWAA reporting process and links for the on-line reporting system to lodge a noise complaint may be found at the very top of the County webpage on aircraft noise. We have added an easy link to report these complaints to us as well, so we can also have a record of what complaints MWAA is receiving. It is most important that MWAA receive the complaints, but useful for us to also have them.

The hiring of our joint consultant with Montgomery County and public protest about these flight changes should help us finally be able to make some progress in addressing this difficult and frustrating issue. One of the first tasks of the consultant will be to meet with our community and with Montgomery County. We will continue to update you as we have new information.

We hope this information has been helpful."

Sincerely,

Libby Garvey

Chair, Arlington County Board

Matt de Ferranti

Member, Arlington County Board

## New Rules for Shared e-Scooters and e-Bikes in Arlington

Arlington County's new shared micro-mobility device ordinance went into effect on Dec. 31, 2019, after the County Board adopted changes in November. With the



ordinance comes new opportunities for where to ride shared e-scooters, e-bikes and similar micro-mobility devices, along with some new restrictions. Users can now ride e-bikes on all trails, while e-scooters are allowed on Arlington County trails and sidewalks unless signed or marked otherwise. Visit [ridedockless.com](https://www.ridedockless.com) for a comprehensive list of where you can operate dockless devices in Arlington. All users of Arlington streets – whether you drive, walk, bike or use a scooter – are reminded to be a PAL — Predictable, Alert and Lawful.

Later this month, new signage prohibiting sidewalk-riding will be installed next to protected bike lanes. The only location so far in Crystal City is the protected bike lane on South Eads Street between 12th Street South and 22nd Street South, and between Fort Scott Drive and South Glebe Road. Arlington's new ordinance allows the County Manager to further restrict sidewalk-riding access for e-scooters, e-bikes and motorized skateboards in the interest of public safety and welfare, even where a protected bike lane is not available. County staff are developing criteria to evaluate potential future no-sidewalk-riding areas. **We will continue to urge the County to designate Crystal Drive as a no-sidewalk area for scooters. There's a criteria being established for no sidewalk writing that should be out in the next couple of weeks. There will be no follow up until the manager has approved it.**

## OTHER ISSUES

### Metro Updates

Metro is inviting the public to comment on its proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget, which aims to improve service and fare options, support ridership growth, and manage costs for the transit agency. Metro's budget year begins July 1. Several key initiatives are being considered [Provide your feedback by March 2.](#)

### No E-ZPass? No problem. You can now use an app to pay for Virginia toll lanes

Drivers in Virginia can now pay tolls on the state's Express Lanes via smartphone app. Transurban, the private company that operates the lanes on the Capital Beltway, Interstate 66 and others, on Tuesday rolled out the GoToll app. It allows drivers to register their car's license plate and a payment method to use the toll lanes. The app gives those without an E-ZPass transponder a lower-cost option for using the lanes. Toll transactions through the GoToll app come with an 85-cent transaction fee, according to WTOP. Currently, those without an E-ZPass can use the lanes but are later sent a bill for the cost of their toll plus a \$12.50 administrative fee. [Read more here.](#)

## Taking a limo, SUV or sedan from Reagan or Dulles? It'll cost a bit more come April.

The fee for all limousine trips from Northern Virginia's two major airports will increase by \$1 beginning April 6.

And by limousine, we mean any for-hire vehicle that's not a taxi or an Uber (or the like). The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is in the final stages of instituting the increase from \$4 to \$5 per trip at Reagan National and Dulles International airports. The same fee increase took effect in January for transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft. [Read more here.](#)

## The Acton Children's Business Fair

The Acton Children's Business Fair of Washington, DC is an outdoor market where children ages 6 to 14 become entrepreneurs for a day, creating a business and selling to real customers. Each year, over 125 young entrepreneurs delight more than 3,000 customers with homemade bread, hand-sewn stuffed animals, custom paper airplanes, original jewelry, and more. [Learn more about the Acton Children's Business Fair and how your child can participate.](#) We are excited to announce that the Acton Children's Business Fair of Washington, DC will be in two locations this year!

Join us in Cleveland Park and also—new this year—in National Landing (Crystal City), next door to Amazon's new HQ2. Please save the dates!

Acton Children's Business Fair National Landing  
**Saturday, May 2, 2020, 10am - 1pm**  
1102 S. Eads Street, The Grounds, Crystal City

The Acton Children's Business Fair is hosted by [Acton Academy of Washington, DC](#), a new Montessori preschool/kindergarten and student-centered elementary school in Foggy Bottom. At Acton, students work at their own pace, learn by doing, and begin a journey to discover a calling and change the world.

## Garage Races Registration Open

**Thursdays in March, 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.;** Garage at 2345 Crystal Drive

The area's ONLY underground bike race is back for the 6th year! Named "The Best Use of a Garage that Doesn't Involve Your Car" by Washingtonian Magazine, Crosshairs Garage Races returns on Tuesdays in March. [Register here.](#)

## 5K Fridays Returns in April

**Fridays in April, 6:30 P.M.;** Courtyard at 2121 Crystal Drive.

Who wants to spend extra time in your stiff work clothes, fatigued at a Friday happy hour? That's why you gotta love your favorite spring evening race series, the Crystal City 5k Fridays. Select any one event or join us every Friday in April at 6:30 p.m. for one of the most popular and fun 5k races in the metro area. [LEARN MORE .](#)

## Are You Shopping Less Frequently at Bricks-and-Mortar Stores?

There's little doubt that a retail apocalypse is underway, though there is some debate about how to assign blame. Store closures and imminent closures in Arlington since last summer include Abercrombie & Fitch, Swatch and Papyrus at the Pentagon City mall; World Market in Pentagon City; Rite Aid in Crystal City; and Pier 1 in Rosslyn. Malls in Tysons have also seen a spate of recent closures. The prime suspect in the retail woes is the rise of e-commerce — driven in large part by a company that's opening a large new office in Pentagon City. But there are other potential factors: long-time retailers not adapting to the current consumer environment, private equity firms loading retail chains like Toys R Us up with debt and watching them deteriorate, and an over-building of malls and other retail space. [Read more here.](#)

## What's new with EcoAction Arlington and the community

Volunteering is an act of love. As a volunteer organization we'd love your help. Part of our work to maintain a clean and sustainable community is through service projects, such as park clean ups, and getting the word out to the community, by tabling at events like farmers markets, fairs and festivals. We are calling on you to help us lead these projects in order to continue and expand the work we do. We can not do it without YOU. Apply for Service Project Leader or Outreach Leader Training this March to help Arlington collectively engage in creating a sustainable community.

Measured Energy Savings and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from LEED-Certified Buildings, Monday, **March 2**, 7:00 p.m., Arlington Central Library  
 Service Project/Outreach Leader Training, Saturday, **March 7**, 10 a.m. - noon, Fairlington Community Center

EcoAction Arlington Annual Meeting - The Role of Nature in our Community: Embracing Biophilia, Wednesday, **March 11**, 6:30 - 9 p.m., Washington-Liberty High School Cafeteria

### Furry Convention Coming to Crystal City

The Mid-Atlantic region's "premier anthropomorphic convention" is moving from Tysons to Crystal City this year. Hundreds of fuzzy, costumed animal

characters will touch down in the National Landing area in March for the 8th annual event. The furry convention, dubbed Fur the More, will be held from March 6-8 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City (2799 Richmond Highway), organizers announced. Tickets range from \$55 to hundreds of dollars for a VIP "Raven God" pass. [Read more here.](#)

### Crystal City BID Updates

You can [subscribe to our newsletter](#), follow us on [twitter](#) or [instagram@ccbid](#), and Like Us on [Facebook](#) for the most current information.

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