

# CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 2020

This has been a hard month for us all. But it's at times like these when we can truly pull together as a community – even if we have to keep six feet between us at all times.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay inside.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

## LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

We have been regularly sharing on our [Facebook page](#) and [Nextdoor.com](#) information about the Coronavirus and what the community is doing about it. There is no way of knowing how long our lockdown will last, but we should be prepared for another 4-8 weeks, whereas the pandemic itself may last for 18 months. A few highlights follow.

### Virginia Executive Order 4/1-6/10

Temporary Stay at Home order due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Issued March 30, Effective 4/1 to 6/10, Effective 4/1 to 6/10.

- Only leave for essential purposes
- No groups of 10+
- Mandatory; no fines, but ticket for misdemeanor
- Beaches closed except for exercise or fishing

Find answers to the [frequently asked questions](#) about Virginia's Stay at Home Order, and get details on [what it means in Arlington](#). [Read the full order here](#).

And Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser issued Stay at Home orders Monday, March 30, 2020, for their respective jurisdictions and released a [Virginia released a joint statement](#) on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### CDC Website

We encourage you to remain informed and follow the latest guidance set forth by the CDC and local

health officials, as it is up to all of us to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Older adults and those with compromised

immune systems are particularly at risk. Arlington County has set for guidance for those who are especially vulnerable at this time. See the [website](#).

### BID Centralized Web Information

The BID is monitoring developments and websites and providing updates on their [website](#). This webpage will be regularly updated. If you have items to add or ideas for supporting the community during this difficult time, please email [admin@crystalcity.org](mailto:admin@crystalcity.org). Sign up for COVID-19 related alerts from the BID [here](#).

### Arlington County Hot Line

Arlington County announces new COVID-19 Call Line. Community members who cannot find the information they need on the [County's website](#) or through other resources, should call 703-228-7999 for assistance. The call center will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### COVID-19 Testing

Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) has partnered with the Arlington County Public Health Department, the Arlington County Police Department, the Arlington County Fire Department, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Environmental Services to open a [temporary drive-through COVID-19 sample collection site at 1429 N. Quincy Street](#). This site is for sample collection from symptomatic patients (fevers, chills, cough, or shortness of breath) who have received a written order for COVID-19 testing from a licensed healthcare provider. This is not meant for

asymptomatic patients, even those who have had a close contact with a known COVID patient.

## Facebook Group Helps Locals Connect and Help Out During Outbreak

A Facebook group called [Arlington Neighbors Helping Each Other Through COVID-19](#) opened at the outset of the coronavirus crisis, and now is approaching 7,000 members. “This group was created as a space to ask for help, share information, and connect to our neighbors,” the group’s about page says. “Many of us are still healthy and able to lend a hand to those who may be at higher risk.” Posts range from the mundane to the inspiring. Group organizer Kellen MacBeth’s post raising money for the Arlington Food Assistance Center, for instance, is nearing its \$20,000 goal after just a day. Those seeking help getting groceries or medical items are finding it thanks to group members. [Read more here.](#)

## CARES Act and Suspension of IRA RMDs

On March 27 the president signed into law a \$2 trillion coronavirus emergency stimulus package called [the CARES \(Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security\) Act](#). It suspends RMDs from retirement accounts for 2020, allowing them more time to recover from the recent severe stock market downturns. [Read more here.](#)

## Taxes

Income tax payment deadlines for individual returns, with a due date of April 15, 2020, are being automatically extended until July 15, 2020, for up to \$1 million of their 2019 tax due.

## Arlington To Open One-Day Donation Site for COVID-19 Response

Arlington County is seeking donations of unused, unopened containers of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and certain food to assist essential employees, nonprofits and community organizations with coronavirus (COVID-19) response operations. A drive-thru donation station will be available on Friday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Library parking lot on 10th Street North. This activity conforms to the requirements of Governor Northam’s Stay-At-Home order, but if you are ill, please do not come or donate supplies. [Read more here.](#)

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION ISSUES

### Suspension of CCCA Meetings

With the threat of COVID-19 hanging over us and the Governor’s Stay at Home Order, it’s clear that we’re not going to be holding any meetings for the foreseeable future. Obviously the April 18 Workshop on the Future of the Underground will not happen. We are working on a plan to keep you all informed and engaged on our Livability Framework campaign and will provide details when we have them. In the meantime, stay safe.

### National Landing Lands It!

What an outpouring of support from our 22202 neighborhood: a partnership of residents, JPG Smith, property managers, the BID, and Flare. The three 22202 Civic Associations teamed up to collect 824lbs of food which Flare Rides delivered to the Arlington Assistance Center (AFAC) on Saturday, March 21. JBG Smith provided food donation boxes at 2100 Crystal Drive which were overflowing by 11 am March 21. This was a great example of how our community is ready to rise to the challenge, especially if when we work together.

### Continued Support for AFAC

But the need continues. Flare Rides has agreed to continue picking up food in larger quantities and delivering it to AFAC to avoid numerous cars delivering smaller quantities. The National Landing BID and the Crystal City Civic Association invited residential property managers to participate in our ongoing food drive. Flare will pick up the donations twice a week or more frequently if necessary.

The following properties agreed to put out an AFAC food donation box:

- Crystal Plaza
- Crystal Park
- We Live
- Waterford House
- Crystal Flats
- Crystal Lofts



- Crystal Towers
- JBG Smith 2100 Crystal Drive

We're all in this together! Please help out with this food drive.

## Census 2020

The U.S. 2020 Census is underway. You should have received an invitation (and by this time a follow-up) in the mail. It is very important that you respond now to minimize the need for the Census Bureau to send census takers out into communities to follow up during this unique time of the COVID-19.

The Census counts every **resident** (citizenship not required) in the nation—everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, America gets just one chance each decade to count its population. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how much federal money Arlington will receive every year for the next decade—funds that shape the future of roads and transportation, local schools, health care, housing assistance for older adults, fire prevention, and much more. The data also helps determine the number of seats Virginia has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Everyone is strongly encouraged to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online, using “Your Census ID” included in your invitation letter.** (Responding by phone or by paper are additional options.)

**Click the link below to respond.** It includes information on “How the Census Bureau Protects Your Data,” and provides extensive guidance on “Who To Count” (such as foreign citizens, college students, the military, people who live or stay in more than one place, etc.).

<https://2020census.gov/en.html>

## Airport and Helicopter Noise Survey

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, the audit and review agency of Congress, is currently conducting two studies related to aircraft activity and potential noise in the D.C. area. The first study focuses on Washington Reagan National Airport’s perimeter rule and is examining how this rule affects air service and at other local airports and aircraft noise, among other topics. The second study is a review of helicopter activity and noise in

the D.C. area, including an examination of potential strategies for addressing helicopter noise in the area.

They are interviewing a variety of civic associations and community groups on these topics and the impact in their neighborhoods, and have offered a telephonic meeting with the CCCA on **April 15 from 11-12 noon**. If you are interested in participating or would like to provide responses to the questionnaire they have sent out, please contact CCCA President Carol Fuller directly: [fullercarols@gmail.com](mailto:fullercarols@gmail.com) It would be very helpful to receive input from a number of you about your concerns and experience with noise.

## Restaurant TakeOut and Delivery in Crystal City

The BID has [a list of restaurants](#) on its website that are offering takeout and delivery during the crisis. Ordering out is generally safe, according to the CDC and experts, and doing so will help the restaurants try to survive this difficult period. Note that the information can change quickly and some restaurants have already shut down.

## AMAZON IN CRYSTAL CITY

### Amazon's HQ2 campus on schedule despite coronavirus

Construction of the first of Amazon.com Inc.'s HQ2 towers remains on schedule, but the planning process for the green space around them may slow as the spread of the novel coronavirus forces public meeting cancellations. Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) expects to open its first towers, which will include 67,000 square feet of retail, in early 2023. The next public meeting in the master planning process for the HQ2-adjacent park space, scheduled for April 2, has been postponed, however. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington to bulk up tree preservation efforts with HQ2 on the way

It’s not just housing affordability and increased traffic Arlington County officials are concerned about in the wake of Amazon’s arrival. They’re also watching out for the trees. County officials are proposing to add one urban forester position to the

[www.crystalcitycivic.org](http://www.crystalcitycivic.org)  
[www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic](https://www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic)

Department of Parks and Recreation. The new hire is needed to expand tree preservation efforts and work through the surge of site plans developers are pitching in the area of Amazon's HQ2. [Read more here.](#)

## CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY) IN DEVELOPMENT

*Note: A number of these articles were written before the depth of the COVID-19 crisis was known.*

### JBG Smith gets extra 1 million square feet in Crystal City in exchange for building parks, affordable housing and more

JBG Smith has struck a deal with Arlington County to provide new affordable housing, park space and transportation improvements in Crystal City in exchange for being able to increase the size of three of its Amazon-adjacent mixed-use projects. As a result of the commitment, the developer will be able to build an additional 1 million square feet across all three projects beyond what the zoning would ordinarily allow. That represents the maximum amount of bonus density the zoning code allows for the three sites, which are 1900 Crystal Drive, an office and residential tower at 2300 Crystal Drive and 223 23rd St. South, and an office building at 101 12th St. South. [Read more here.](#)

### County May Consider Plan for Trails, Boating at Roaches Run

A stone's throw from Crystal City is Roaches Run, a waterfowl sanctuary on the northern flight path to and from Reagan National Airport. The body of water, surrounded by woods, is home to birds, ducks and dragonflies. Accessible primarily from a small parking lot off the southbound GW Parkway, most human activity is confined to fishing and birdwatching. But that may eventually change. Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey toured a portion of woods around Roaches Run last week with the chair of Arlington's Planning Commission and representatives of Crystal City property owner and Amazon landlord JBG Smith. Though Roaches Run is controlled by the National Park Service and is part of the GW Parkway, JBG owns parcels of land adjacent to the waterfowl sanctuary and could

help link it to Crystal City. That would give the rapidly-developing neighborhood newfound accessibility to natural spaces. [Read more here.](#)

### Long-Ignored Crystal City Bike Lanes Could Get Upgrade with New Development

Thanks to some push from local advocates and the county's Transportation Commission, a new mixed-use development at 1900 Crystal Drive could be required to include protected bike lanes on Crystal Drive, a long time sore spot for bicyclists in the area. There are bicycle lanes on Crystal Drive, but motorists notoriously ignore the lane markers and drive or park in the lanes designated for bicycle traffic. At the Transportation Commission meeting March 5, the Commission recommended that developer JBG Smith be required to turn the existing bicycle lanes into protected lanes while adding new protected bike lanes to 18th Street S. [Read more here.](#)

### County Board Meeting April 18

At its April 18 regular meeting the Board will consider the ordinance to change the name of the Crystal City Business Improvement District (BID) to the National Landing BID. This has been a long time coming and should be resolved now by approval.

The Board will also consider amendments from JBG Smith to construct a 5,640 sq ft building in the existing courtyard area at 2121 Crystal Drive and modify the façade and landscaping, convert ground floor uses, and add an approximate 1,500 sq ft addition at 2345 Crystal Drive.

### Alexandria Haggles Metro to Acceptable Price for Southwest Potomac Yard Access

The long squabble between the City of Alexandria and Metro over the Potomac Yard Metro station's southwest access entrance has ended with an agreement within the initial \$50 million framework. Over the last year, the City has been in dispute with Metro over whether or not southwest access to the station could be achieved within the \$50 million in funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal Transit Administration. [Read more here.](#)

### The Potomac Yard skyline is taking shape. Here are the first Virginia Tech and office building designs.

The first phase of the North Potomac Yard overhaul, including a part of Virginia Tech's \$1 billion campus, is taking shape in Alexandria. Drawings from New York's CookFox Architects, D.C.'s Hickok Cole Architects and Smith Group, the firm picked by Virginia Tech to design its premier structure, show what four of the seven buildings — one academic, two office and one sewage pumping station — at the 18.7-acre site could look like. The height and massing images were just posted to the city of Alexandria's website ahead of a Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee scheduled for Wednesday. [Read more here.](#)

### **Inova strikes deal for health complex near Potomac Yard**

Inova Health System plans to open a new health care facility on part of Oakville Triangle, giving another try to the 13-acre site on Richmond Highway in Alexandria across from a planned Virginia Tech campus and a short distance from Amazon.com Inc.'s second headquarters. The health care system has signed an agreement with Stonebridge Associates and Carras Partners to anchor the long-planned development, but details are still being worked through, said Doug Firstenberg, principal at Stonebridge, which is developing the site for owner Blackstone Group. [Read more here.](#)

### **Former Bloomberg Campaign Office Might Become Liquor Store**

Mike Bloomberg's former Arlington campaign office at Pentagon Row might soon become a liquor store. A notice posted in the window says Virginia ABC is "considering establishing a retail store at this location," on the 1300 block of S. Joyce Street. The sign first went up last month, before Bloomberg dropped out of the Democratic presidential race. [Read more here.](#)

### **'Chocolate Dipped Wine Bottle' Seller Coming to Pentagon City Mall**

An Ohio-based company that offers boozy, candy-covered gifts is planning to open at Pentagon City mall, according to a permit filing. Bliss in a Bottle, which previously opened a kiosk at Tysons Corner Center, sells beer and wine bottles covered in chocolate, sprinkles and other candies.

## **ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES**

### **County Board Meeting Friday, April 3**

A special meeting will be held electronically at noon, or as soon thereafter as matters may be heard, as a virtual town hall to discuss the County's response to COVID-19. The County Board meeting will be a virtual meeting conducted using electronic means. The public may participate in the town hall via a link that will be available on the [County Board's web page](#) on Friday, April 3, 2020 by noon.

### **Treasurer Will Not Impose Penalty and Interest for Those Affected by COVID19**

The Treasurer of Arlington County has determined that late payment penalty and interest will not be imposed on local taxes with a payment due date between March 13 and April 30, 2020, if such taxes are paid in full by May 31, 2020. This decision primarily but not exclusively affects Arlington County Meals, Food, and Beverage Taxes and Transient Occupancy Taxes, which would ordinarily be due March 20 and April 20. Taxpayers should still file the required returns with the [Commissioner of Revenue's Office](#) even if they are not paying the tax until a later date. Taxpayers are encouraged to pay their taxes on time if they have the financial means to do so. Any taxes previously paid will not be refunded. Taxpayers should direct payment questions to [treasurer@arlingtonva.us](mailto:treasurer@arlingtonva.us) and filing questions to [business@arlingtonva.us](mailto:business@arlingtonva.us).

### **Arlington Joins Biophilic Cities Network**

Arlington County continued its commitment to environmental sustainability and community health this week when it was accepted as a partner in the Biophilic Cities Network. The network includes cities around the globe that are dedicated to improving the connection between residents and urban nature. [Read more here.](#)

### **Airport Noise Update - Noise Study Contract Awarded**

The County completed the procurement process for a joint study of aircraft noise created by air traffic at Reagan National Airport. The County executed the contract with ABCx2, LLC on March 24, 2020. This

study will identify, evaluate and propose important mitigations to reduce aviation noise impacts on Arlington residents, Montgomery residents and other communities north of the airport. The contractor's work will begin shortly. Two subcontractors, Vianair and Grindal Nauen PLLP, will support the lead contractor. Vianair will work on airspace and flight procedure design and testing, and Lockridge Grindal Nauen will work on advocacy and community engagement. [Read more here.](#)

### **Arlington County on Airport Noise**

To follow up on our recent email about the new north-bound departing flight procedure (HOLTB) at DCA that went into effect on January 31, 2020, Chair Libby Garvey wrote to let you know that the FAA recently informed us that they have opened a public comment period for HOLTB that closes on March 30, 2020. [Read the letter here.](#)

### **Online Meeting: Resurfacing Projects for Complete Streets**

As we respond to COVID-19, we have determined that the County will move forward with essential programs, such as routine street maintenance. The Master Transportation Plan identifies routine street maintenance as an opportunity to provide cost-effective and easy to implement measures to improve safety and access for all people using the street. Community engagement is a core value in Arlington, and we wanted to provide opportunities for community members to share their experiences and provide feedback on the street segments being considered for the 2020 Street Maintenance season.

Potomac Avenue - S Crystal Drive to Alexandria City Line (Potomac Yard) – is one of the streets being considered for Resurfacing Projects for Complete Streets.

Join Arlington County staff for an [online open house](#) on Resurfacing Projects for Complete Streets on Monday, April 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Staff will share background information on potential projects and how community members can share their experiences of the street to help staff develop concept plans. Use the [County Event listing](#) to add a reminder to your personal calendar. At the appointed time, you can join the Microsoft Teams Live Event. You do not need to download any

software to participate if using a supported web browser (Chrome, Firefox or Edge). For more information on attending a [Microsoft Teams event](#), please review this resource and feel free to email me with any questions.

If you are unable to join us for the live event, we will have a recording available on the [project page](#) after the event.

### **Arlington Pubic Schools on Closures**

As you know, Governor Ralph Northam announced on 3/23 that all K-12 schools will remain closed through the end of the school year. A few highlights on what APS is doing:

- Providing free Grab-and-Go lunch/breakfast for students M - F at five APS school sites, info on other food resources
- Implementing continuity of learning plans, facilitating learning at home, adjusting instructional models
- Closely collaborating with Arlington County on multiple fronts, and following CDC guidance to protect our school community

Sharing Coronavirus Updates and updating frequently asked questions (FAQs). Have a question you don't see? Email [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us).

### **Proposed Real Property Tax Rate**

A Public Hearing on the Proposed Tax Rate will be held on April 2, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as possible. After the hearing is held, the County Board may adopt a tax rate lower than \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed value, but it cannot adopt a higher rate. [Read more here.](#) Arlington TV – Comcast Xfinity 25 or 1085(HD) and Verizon FIOS 39 & 40 – live broadcasts County Board Meetings, County Board Work Sessions, and meetings of the Planning Commission. You can also watch [Arlington TV's live stream](#) on the County website or archived video.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### **Trump extends Real ID deadline amid coronavirus crisis**

President Trump said March 23 that he is pushing back the deadline for when Americans will be required to have the new Real ID credential to board domestic flights. At a White House briefing, Trump said he is postponing the Oct. 1 deadline, citing the coronavirus crisis and concerns of crowding at state departments of motor vehicles from people trying to meet the looming deadline. Most states are in the early phases of issuing the new security-enhanced licenses and identification cards. About one-third of Americans have a Real ID credential, according to Department of Homeland Security data. Because Real ID requires an in-person visit to the DMV, applicants are not able to get the credential during the coronavirus closures. Trump did not say when the new deadline was but said it would be announced "very soon." [Read more here.](#)

### Crystal City BID Updates

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

## CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

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