

# CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 2020

We are not out of the woods of the COVID-19 crisis. Maintain social distancing. See the updates below. Be wise, cautious, and stay safe.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

## Arlington County Mourns the Death of Erik Gutshall - Loss of a Good Man

Arlington County government is mourning the death of County Board Vice-Chair Erik Gutshall, who died of brain cancer on Thursday, April 16, 2020. Gutshall, 49, had announced on April 6 that he was resigning from the Board due to ill health. We mourn his loss and express our deepest sympathy to his family. Erik was a good friend of Crystal City and we will miss him greatly. The County has created a [memorial page](#). Read the [County's statement here](#).

## LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

**Update as of Thursday, April 30:** A new high in COVID-19 tests reported in a 24-hour period in Virginia also led to a record day in new cases of the coronavirus, as the state climbed to 15,846 total reported cases Thursday. The Virginia Department of Health reported 885 additional cases of coronavirus and more than 5,500 new tests. The state has made 10,000 new daily test results a goal as part of reopening some businesses. There have been 249 deaths in Northern Virginia linked to COVID-19, with 134 in Fairfax County, 41 in Arlington, 24 in Prince William County, 21 in Alexandria, 15 in Loudoun, three in Spotsylvania and two each in Fairfax City, Falls Church, Fauquier, Manassas and Stafford, and one in Manassas Park. Fairfax County has the most deaths in the state. Northern Virginia, including the Fredericksburg area, accounts for more than half of the cases of the coronavirus statewide, with 8,580 cases, an increase of 464 from the day before.

**Arlington new cases since 4/29: 967, up from 912**

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

Governor Northam's Temporary Stay at Home order due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Issued

March 30, Effective 4/1 to 6/10, remains in effect. Northam's blueprint on reopening Virginia established on April 24 calls for the commonwealth to see two weeks of declining daily case totals before we can enter Phase 1 of the process. Gov. Ralph Northam [announced April 30](#) that, starting today, Virginia residents can start having nonemergency surgeries and dental procedures again.

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](#).

## 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](#). You can also find a list of restaurants doing takeout and delivery services.

### Arlington County Resources

Virginia Dept of Social Services has launched [COVID-19 Virginia Resources](#), a mobile app and website that provides a one-stop for many benefits and resources. Community members who cannot find the information they need on the [County's website](#) or through other resources, should call the hot line 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. 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

Federal 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.

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. 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).

### Help Tell Arlington's Story of the Pandemic

Arlington Public Library announces the COVID-19 Archives project, designed to create a comprehensive picture of Arlington during an extraordinary period in our history. The Center for Local History (CLH) seeks donations of journals, photos, and objects to help document this time of difficulty and struggle, but also of resilience and hope. [Read more here.](#)

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION ISSUES

### Livability 22202 Framework Endorsed

In an online Zoom meeting April 21, the Arlington County Civic Federation (umbrella for all of the civic associations in the County) endorsed our Livability Framework. The comments in the article reflect what was said in the meeting. [Read it here.](#)

### AFAC Food Drive in Crystal City

Do you have enough food to eat? Many in Arlington don't, due to the COVID-19 crisis and lost jobs. Since February, the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) has seen the number of active referrals to AFAC increase by 30%. They

expect this number to keep increasing. More and more new families continue to seek help from AFAC, in addition to the thousands of families that AFAC already serves.

Ten of our Crystal City buildings are participating in the food drive each week. Just imagine: If everyone in each multifamily building in Crystal City donated just one can to the food box in the lobby, imagine how many people we could feed. On the 3rd week we got 20.26 Cubic ft, on the 4th week 20.47, and on the 5th week April 29 22.98. That's a rough estimate of 300 pounds each week.

Pickup is every Wednesday morning by Flare Rides. Please donate cans. Otherwise, you can donate money on the AFAC website. Funds raised will go towards AFAC's food budget so they can continue to get wholesale prices directly from food vendors.

The BID is offering a pizza party to the multifamily building providing the most food during the campaign. Crystal Park (1805 Crystal Drive) is beating everyone hands down so far with a full box every week.

## Census 2020

***Don't Forget to Respond: 2020 Census Reminder Postcards Arriving starting April 27.***

The U.S. Census Bureau is beginning to send reminder notice postcards to an estimated 69 million households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. Arlington County's response rate as of April 30 was 63.5%, but Crystal City was only 54.3%. Our area is one of the harder to count areas in Arlington because of the nature of the multifamily buildings. Those households that have not yet responded to the census will receive an in person visit by a census taker to collect their information later this summer.

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>

## 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 shut down and then reopened. Note also that delivery services take a cut of the payment made to the restaurants for the food.

## AMAZON IN CRYSTAL CITY

### Nonprofits and Amazon Team Up for STEM Packages to Arlington Children

Rosie Riveters, an Arlington-based non-profit that focuses on getting girls between 4-14 years old interested in STEM, partnered with Arlington Housing Corporation (AHC) Inc. — a local affordable housing nonprofit — and Amazon to deliver STEM kits to some families. These are kits put together by Rosie Riveters and include the materials for six different projects, access to online lessons, and additional materials like notebooks, pencils and rulers. Rosie Riveters said Amazon donated gift cards and the supplies to assemble the kits, as well as helped to deliver them to AHC. An initial 15 kits were given out in the first round, with 30 more planned to be delivered over the next few weeks, Rosie Riveters told ARLnow, adding that the boxes are delivered with Arlington Food

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Assistance Center (AFAC) distributions. Eight boxes were also sent to community center participants and the supplies for 60 more boxes will be delivered over the next few days and distributed to other program partners. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon looks to hire tens of thousands of additional workers for warehouse, delivery jobs**

In less than a month, Amazon added roughly 100,000 workers to its warehouse and delivery operations and on Monday, it said it would seek to add 75,000 more. Amazon noted the jobs are temporary and, in part, an effort to alleviate the surging number of people out of work as the novel coronavirus decimates other industries. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon wants to use public park as construction staging for first HQ2 towers**

On April 28 the Arlington County Board gave Amazon permission to use about 19,300 square feet of green space dubbed Metropolitan Park for a general contractor's base, medical trailer and pump equipment. The site, located between 13th and 14th streets South, sits between several residential buildings that are part of the larger Metropolitan Park planned development district, including The Bartlett and The Acadia. It's also adjacent to the former warehouses on S. Eads Street between 13th and 15th streets that were recently demolished to make way for Amazon's office towers. County staff is recommending Amazon pay \$10,000 per month for the use of the public easement on the park, as well as least \$2,400 for every tree it destroys during the process. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon to donate \$3.9M to Virginia education nonprofit**

Amazon will give \$3.9 million to CodeVA for computer science education in Virginia, the company said Tuesday. The funding will come in three installments during the next three years, with the first \$1.3 million going primarily to support virtual computer science education through online training, Virginia first lady Pamela Northam announced in a virtual press conference Tuesday. CodeVA is a nonprofit that works to make computer science training equitable throughout Virginia's schools. Gov. Ralph Northam recently committed

\$1.3 million in state grants to implement computer science learning across all public schools in grades K-12. [Read more here.](#)

### **Amazon Not Giving Up on HQ2 Helipad**

"The list of nongovernmental aircraft the Transportation Security Administration permits to fly inside the [Flight Restricted Zone], besides commercial flights to and from Reagan National, is basically nonexistent... In a statement, Amazon suggested it hasn't given up. 'We recognize there are several layers of approval for such a feature, and will continue to work with Arlington County and other relevant stakeholders as we determine its feasibility for our Arlington HQ,' the statement read." [Washington Business Journal]

### **High schoolers pitch Amazon on a green, reusable to-go box program for HQ2-area restaurants**

A group of Greater Washington high school students last week lobbied Amazon over Zoom of course, to fund a reusable food-container program to serve the general area of HQ2. The teens — members of green action group Eco-Teen Action Network, which was formed through a partnership of the Smithsonian Conservation Commons and Global Co Lab Network — pitched their idea last week to Brooke Oberwetter, Amazon's head of community affairs. [Read more here.](#)

## **CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY) IN DEVELOPMENT**

### **Crystal City Parks**

***Do you care what they will look like?*** JBG Smith is beginning a virtual community engagement process for our Parks and Open Space redevelopment work in Crystal City. The Open Space plan includes the redevelopment of 5 parks in Crystal City, which aim to bolster the vibrancy and livability of the community, as envisioned in the Sector Plan. We look forward to continuing the momentum generated by the community dialogue at the 3CA open space charette earlier this year.

As a part of this virtual process, they have created an online platform, CoUrbanize, to create a new

community engagement experience by allowing everyone to directly comment and follow the conversation.

**Get involved.** Respond to the CoUrbanize [survey](#) and make known what you want our parks to be.

### Share Your Thoughts on the Met Park Public Space Draft Design Concepts

**What do you want Met Park to look like?** Check out the two new draft design concepts for the Metropolitan Park Public Space! Watch a video presentation on what we learned from the first engagement opportunity earlier this year and take a look at the two draft design concepts your comments helped inform: The Social Gardens and The Forest Walk. After you're done, share your thoughts on features, park themes, recreational uses and more! Your feedback helps in the development of the Park Master Plan and design guidelines for this wonderful new community space.

**[GET STARTED NOW!](#)** (Engagement open now through May 14)

### BID Name Change Approved By County Board

On April 25, the Arlington County Board approved the BID petition to change the name of its organization. Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, President and Executive Director of the Crystal City Business Improvement District, issued the following statement:

*We are grateful to the Arlington County Board for its ongoing support of our efforts to expand the BID's reach and foster a more cohesive identity for the interconnected portions of Crystal City, Pentagon City and Potomac Yard. The Board's decision to approve our name change is the culmination of a robust community engagement process in which we sought and received positive feedback from residents, civic associations and other stakeholders.*

*Following the anticipated ratification of our new name by our full membership during our annual meeting in June, we will officially become the National Landing BID. We look forward to introducing our core set of services, programming, events and placemaking to all of National Landing, while continuing to celebrate Crystal City, Pentagon*

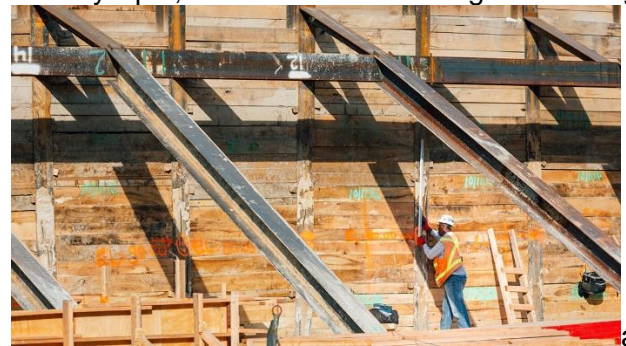
*City and Potomac Yard as unique and distinctive communities.*

### Met Park Phases 6/7/8 Spring Construction Update (Clark Construction message)

Being a good neighbor, keeping our workforce safe, and maintaining open lines of communication with the community are our top priorities as we build the Metropolitan Park project. We know this is a challenging time, and we thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we drive this project forward. Please continue to notify us of questions or concerns through our dedicated project email address: [metpark678@clarkconstruction.com](mailto:metpark678@clarkconstruction.com) and jobsite hotline: 703-538-7960. Many neighbors have reached out to us through these channels to date, and we are committed to responding to all inquiries in a timely manner.

We know pile driving can be noisy, and we are focused on performing this work in the safest and most efficient manner possible. Pile driving is a finite operation. Each day, we are getting closer to the finish line. Our entire project team is committed to working in full compliance with Arlington County's noise ordinance and operating within the county's permitted work hours of 7 AM to 9 PM. In response to Virginia's current Stay-at-Home order, we have shortened our hours for pile driving operations to minimize jobsite noise during the early morning and evening hours. Additionally, we have distributed ear plugs to residential properties surrounding the project site to help residents tune out construction noise. Please see your building manager if you would like a pair.

In early April, foundations crews began installing



support of excavation (SOE) system to provide temporary structural support for the jobsite during mass excavation. The project's temporary SOE system – a combination of steel support posts,

known as piles, and wood lagging – is designed to retain the earth, allowing the sides of excavation to be cut vertically along the site perimeter. Start date is April 9 or 10 with a duration of approximately Six Weeks. [Read more here.](#)

### JBG Smith Proposed Amendments

The County Board has postponed to its May meeting consideration of two 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. Staff want more time to discuss the amendments with JBG Smith.

### Photos: Hearts Across Crystal City at Local Hotels

The hotel industry has been hit hard by coronavirus crisis. Huge hotels are now only hosting a handful



of guests while most of the country hunkers down at home. But that hasn't stopped some local hotels from showing their community some love during tough times. The DoubleTree Hotel in Crystal City, one of the first buildings you see when driving into Arlington via the 14th Street Bridge, has turned one of its now-vacant wings into a large, lighted heart. Other hotels in the Crystal City area have followed suit. [Read more here.](#)

### Progress on New Cafe, Bowling Alley in Crystal City Amid Coronavirus Turmoil

**Bowlero** — a bowling alley, arcade and restaurant — was hoping to roll into an empty retail space at 320 23rd Street S. in June. It's not clear whether the opening will be further delayed amid ongoing social distancing measures; Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's new stay-at-home order is tentatively set

to expire on June 10. Nonetheless, construction is continuing and within the past few days a bright blue "Bowlero" sign went up outside its future home.

When it opens, **The Freshman** plans to offer "high-quality coffee, teas, and craft cocktails," in addition to "breakfast, lunch and dinner options made in-house with fresh local ingredients." Owner and local restaurant veteran Nick Freshman tells ARLnow that interior construction stopped as the signs went up and he has no idea when the restaurant will open. Freshman said that delays that set back the planned Valentine's Day opening of the restaurant by a few months may end up saving it. [Read more here.](#)

### 'Peruvian Brothers' Take Over 'The Stand' in Crystal City

The Stand, a small food pavilion in the Crystal City Water Park which formerly hosted a rotating cast of

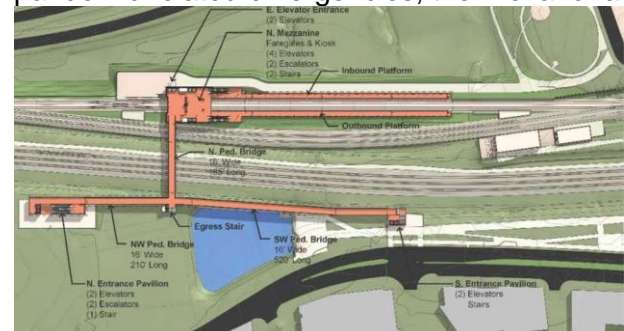


pop-up eateries, is now a full-time location for D.C. area food truck favorite Peruvian Brothers. The new Peruvian Brothers outpost officially opened this week. While perhaps not the best timing, given the pandemic, the stand does let customers order and pick up meals while never needing to go indoors. Options on the menu include three

types of empanadas — chicken, beef, plus spinach and cheese — as well as an Alfajor cookie and a selection of drinks. [Read more here.](#)

### Alexandria Moves Forward With Southern Access to Potomac Yard

While city business has mostly been limited to pandemic related emergencies, the Alexandria City



Council is moving forward with time-sensitive decisions about southwest access to the new Potomac Yard Metro station. Staff told council that it's a solution staff said will fit within the project budget. "Today, we are also letting council and the mayor know that the total cost will be covered within the \$50 million of state funding along with the credit from the original ramp," Daphne Kott, a project manager in the Department of Project Implementation, told council on Tuesday night. "[It] will be completed within the construction duration of the overall station." [Read more here.](#)

### Virginia Tech reveals edgy, lustrous design for first Alexandria campus building

The first building for Virginia Tech's \$1 billion computer science-focused campus in Alexandria



will be shaped like a gem but look like crown, according to new renderings released Tuesday. Virginia Tech revealed the latest design by architectural firm SmithGroup, which shows the 300,000-square-foot academic building with gold-colored fins running vertically. Another drawing from a southeast aerial view gives the impression the building might give off a yellowish glow and have reflective windows. For the first time, we also see that a planned rooftop balcony will have some green space. The building, expected to be finished in early 2024 and cost \$275 million to construct, is the first of three structures on 4 acres Virginia Tech intends to erect in the north section of what developers are calling the "innovation district." [Read more here.](#)

### Roots to permanently close locations in Georgetown, Pentagon City

The closure of outposts in Georgetown and at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City come as part of the liquidation of the apparel company's U.S. subsidiary through a Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing — a measure being taken to close the stores quickly

and in a cost-effective manner, the company said.

[Read more here.](#)

## ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

### Governor's Plan Delays County Board Primary

Gov. Ralph Northam announced a plan yesterday that will shift summer primary election dates across the state back by two weeks amid the coronavirus pandemic. The previously-scheduled June 9 primary will now shift back to June 23. The Democratic primary was to include incumbent County Board chair Libby Garvey facing off against challenger Chanda Choun, but Choun has chosen instead run for the seat vacated by the death of Board Vice Chair Erik Gutshall. On the Republican side, there is a three-way primary among Daniel Gade, Thomas Speciale, Alissa Baldwin for U.S. Senate. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington County Board to Seek Extension of July 7, 2020 Special Election

On April 30 the Arlington County Board directed the County Attorney to petition the Virginia Supreme Court on behalf of the Board to seek an extension of the July 7, 2020 special election to fill the Board seat vacated by the April 16, 2020 death of Vice-Chair Erik Gutshall. The petition will be filed at the soonest date possible.

The Board adopted a resolution saying the July 7, 2020 special election date ordered by the Circuit Court of Arlington to fill the vacancy "poses significant, unnecessary risks to public health, jeopardizing election officials, candidates, and the members of the public participating in the election process, and seriously undermining participation in it," due to the novel coronavirus pandemic state and local emergency. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington County Board Adopts \$1.3 Billion FY 2021 Budget

On April 30 the Arlington County Board adopted a \$1.3 billion balanced General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 that reflects the novel coronavirus's impact on County revenues and priorities and includes no increase in the tax rate for Calendar Year 2020. Noting the uncertainty

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surrounding revenues and expenditures in FY 2021, The Board approved a \$10.2 million contingent fund that includes \$2.7 million for housing grants, permanent supportive housing, emergency food assistance, and other emergency needs and \$7.5 million to assist small businesses and nonprofits, aid service delivery recovery, provide employee support, and offset any further revenue loss.

The budget reflects an estimated loss of \$56 million in anticipated revenue in FY 2021, resulting in a loss of \$34 million for County government and \$21.6 million for Arlington Public Schools. The projected losses are in sales, meal, business license and transient occupancy taxes, Parks & Recreation fees, development fees, parking meter & parking ticket revenue, and more. County seal

The Board voted 4 to 0 to adopt the budget, with no increase in the Calendar Year 2020 tax rate. The tax rate will remain at \$1.026 (including the sanitary district tax) per \$100 of assessed real estate value. Because assessments increased, the average homeowner, with a home valued at \$686,300 will see an increase in the taxes and fees they pay the County, up from \$9,023 in FY 2020 to \$9,399 in FY 2021.

The budget maintains current levels of service, foregoes salary increases for all staff, continues a hiring freeze put in place in March, places many projects on hold, **delays the opening of the Lubber Run Community Center and Long Bridge Park Fitness & Aquatics Center until Fiscal Year 2022** and uses \$4.0 million in funds from the Stabilization Reserve to close the gap between revenues and expenditures.

\$524.6 million will be transferred to Arlington Public Schools for its FY 2021 Budget, a slight increase over the FY 2020 ongoing funding level. [Read more here.](#)

### County Allocates \$300K to Arlington Thrive for Emergency Financial Assistance

Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz has allocated \$300,000 from the FY 2020 budget to meet increased demand for emergency financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The money will be provided from the FY 2020 budget contingency fund to Arlington Thrive, a nonprofit that provides financial assistance to County

residents who experience sudden crisis. Arlington Thrive serves as the County's primary vehicle for providing emergency financial assistance, as it can provide same-day money to residents, including low-income individuals, elderly and disabled residents on a fixed income, and people experiencing homelessness. The organization prioritizes families with children, and one-third of the people it serves are children. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Community Foundation Distributes \$300,000 to Local Charities

The Arlington Community Foundation has provided more than \$300,000 in emergency support this week, as the coronavirus crisis deepens. The distribution of funds comes after the nonprofit refocused its Prompt Response Fund to support other local nonprofit organizations that can provide emergency food supplies to those in need, healthcare for the uninsured or underinsured, and support for hourly workers who have been laid off or furloughed. The Arlington Community Foundation recently received a \$1 million grant from Amazon, with \$350,000 earmarked specifically for use in Arlington and the rest to be spent around the region in other community foundations. The Arlington-based Washington Forrest Foundation has contributed 25 percent of each grant awarded by the Arlington Community Foundation. The largest amount, \$25,000, went to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). AFAC has been on the frontlines of the pandemic, trying to get food and supplies to an increasing number of Arlingtonians without an income to pay for groceries. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington County Summer Programs Cancelled

The county's Department of Parks and Recreation announced Thursday that the activities for everyone from tots to older adults are the latest annual tradition to fall victim to the pandemic. The following programs have been canceled for the summer 2020 session:

- Enjoy Arlington classes
- 55+ programs, trips and classes
- Explore Nature & History programs
- Summer Basketball and Adult Pick-up Soccer and Soccer Clinics
- Summer Creative Playgroup



Regarding summer camps, the County will continue to monitor national and state guidance to determine what we can provide, with a decision coming in early May. All Arlington County/Arlington Public Schools (APS) parks, playgrounds, fields, restrooms, tracks, dog parks and athletic courts remain closed until further notice. [Read the press release here.](#)

### **Arlington County, Schools Work Together to Expand Access to Food During COVID-19**

As part of a countywide response, Arlington County Government, Arlington Public Schools and many other agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses and volunteers are working to provide food assistance during the COVID-19 emergency. In anticipation of increasing need, County Manager Mark Schwartz and APS Interim Superintendent Cintia Johnson have created the Cooperative for a Hunger Free Arlington (CHFA) and tasked it to help coordinate efforts to make sure that every Arlington resident who needs food has it during the pandemic.

CHFA will be working to expand community food distribution models that are working now and to add new initiatives, creating a network of resources to meet residents' needs. The faith community, PTAs, civic associations, nonprofit organizations, businesses and citizens all are engaged in important work that can grow. New methods of delivering meals and groceries directly to households are being explored. This includes more availability of groceries in more locations through the Arlington Food Assistance Center, an organization that is, and has been, pivotal in feeding families. [Read more here.](#)

### **Arlington CERT online basic training**

The Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will commence online basic training starting on May 7 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The classes will meet weekly via Zoom for 45 minutes per session, covering topics such as disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression and terrorism. The online training will take up to five hours per week and combines Zoom sessions, course self-study, YouTube, and FEMA online courses. The training will conclude with in-person practice sessions then

the Final Exercises Day at the ACFD Fire Training Academy (FTA) when in-person activities resume. For more information and to register, visit <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/> and click on "Request Info About CERT" in order to register.

### **Chief Farr Announces Deputy Chief of Police Appointment**

Arlington County Police Chief M. Jay Farr is



pleased to announce the appointment of Captain Adrienne Quigley to the position of Deputy Chief of Police, effective Sunday, May 10, 2020. Deputy Chief Quigley will assume command of the Systems Management Division at a later date. [Read more here.](#)

### **HOLTB Flight Path Changes - Board Letter Submitted**

Dear Community Member Concerned about the HOLTB Flight Path Changes at Reagan National Airport,

On behalf of my colleagues on the County Board, I wanted to share with you the letter that the Board has submitted to the FAA about its recent HOLTB flight path changes at Reagan National Airport, reiterating our strong opposition to the changes to the north-flow flight procedures at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport being proposed by the FAA and the United States Secret Service.

The Board is asking that the FAA, at a minimum, temporarily suspend the review process for the HOLTB flight path changes and pause any further consideration of the ADAXE>REVGGE waypoint shift and rollout to other north-flow SIDs until conditions at DCA stabilize in the wake of major disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that once normal conditions return at DCA, the FAA should resume the review process with fresh test data and begin the full NEPA process for a permanent flight procedure change for north-flow departures that will keep planes over the Potomac River or unpopulated or sparsely populated areas.

We thank you for having shared your experiences of increased noise from DCA affecting various

neighborhoods in Arlington with the FAA. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,  
Libby Garvey, Chair  
Arlington County Board

been moved from a scheduled March 2021 opening date to the fourth quarter of 2021. MWAA cited unforeseen underground conditions, weather and design changes for the delay. It is still on budget, however, according to the report. [Read more here.](#)

## OTHER ISSUES

### Reagan National Airport to temporarily close a terminal. No more Gate 35X, for now.

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said Thursday it will temporarily close Terminal C at Reagan National Airport, where American Airlines (NASDAQ: AAL) operates all 12 gates — including the oft-maligned 35X. Starting Saturday, the Fort Worth, Texas-based airline, which maintains a hub at Reagan National, will fly out of Terminal B/C, where Jet Blue also has gates. Specifically, gates 35 to 45 will be closed. American will operate gates 23 to 34. MWAA chose to close roughly a third of the airport's gates because of the overall "reduced activity" at DCA caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it said in a statement. No timeline has been set to reopen those gates or the concourse. The shuttering of Terminal C also means the closure of the remaining concessions and restaurants that stayed open despite the rapid customer drop off — a newsstand, Dunkin' Donuts and Five Guys. [Read more here.](#)

### Reagan National Airport plugs away on new concourse even as airline traffic has collapsed

The coronavirus pandemic has slowed air travel to a trickle, but it has not hindered Project Journey at Reagan National Airport. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority reports that the new 14-gate north concourse at Reagan Airport remains on schedule to open in July 2021. The project is also keeping to its \$391.55 million budget. The same report provides an update on the \$267 million project to secure National Hall. That effort — which will put the dining and shopping hall behind new Transportation Security Administration screening checkpoints to allow ticketed, screened passengers to move freely between terminals — had previously

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