

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2020

Life is different these days, but it is/is life. It can be fun to go virtual. The CCCA may be virtual for a long time to come. We are considering hosting a virtual CCCA meeting in June on Zoom, with an update on our Livability Framework and workshops. So stay tuned.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

LIFE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Update as of May 26

Governor Northam Announces Phase One in NOVA

Arlington and Northern Virginia began a phased reopening on May 29.

The first phase of the reopening allows non-essential businesses — salons, barber shops, restaurants, gyms, etc. — to reopen with additional cleaning, safety precautions and social distancing. Among Virginia's Phase 1 guidelines are:

- Masks or coverings are mandated anywhere that people congregate. It applies to all retail stores and personal care businesses such as barbershops and nail salons as well as public transportation. Masks are also required at restaurants except while a person is eating or drinking.
- Restaurants can operate with outdoor seating at 50% capacity if they have the permits to offer patio seating.
- Nonessential retail can operate at 50% occupancy, as can places of worship.
- Personal grooming services may operate with one patron per service provider
- Fitness centers may offer outdoor exercise services
- The ban continues on social gatherings of more than 10 people and maintains recommendations for social distancing, teleworking, and wearing face coverings.

- Gyms, theaters, concert venues, museums and indoor amusements remain closed in phase one of Virginia's plan.
- Outdoor swimming pools may be open for lap swimming only, with one person per lane.
- Beauty and nail salons, barbershops and other personal grooming services can provide services by appointment only and must follow strict guidelines.
- Places of worship can open for drive-in services or services inside at 50 percent capacity.
- Spray parks, basketball courts, and racquetball courts must remain closed, as well as entertainment facilities such as movie theaters.

Elected officials from 10 jurisdictions in Northern Virginia wrote a letter to Northam on May 25 saying they were preparing to move into phase one starting Friday and that they had met the majority of benchmarks for reopening. They did say contact tracing infrastructure and personal protective equipment for outpatient clinics were still not where they needed to be. The Northern Virginia leaders also said they would like to enter phase two of the reopening plan with the rest of the state, once Northam makes that call.

On May 27 the Arlington Board voted 4-0 to approve, on an emergency basis, a process that would allow restaurants to apply for a temporary, expanded outdoor seating area, on sidewalks or in parking lots. The Temporary Outdoor Seating Area (TOSA) process for restaurants would allow rapid approval by county staff and does not have an application fee. With written permission in hand, restaurants can then apply for an additional, needed permit from the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage

Control Authority that would allow beer, wine and cocktails to be served in the new outdoor dining areas. [Read more here.](#)

BID Centralized Web Information

The BID has launched a new section on its website dedicated to reopening resources and guidance: [Reopen / Reimagine](#). We will update this page with new information as we receive it to help guide businesses through reopening. Please also check out Virginia's guidance for restaurants in [Phase One](#).

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.

Arlington County, in partnership with Virginia Hospital Center and the Arlington Free Clinic, opened its first walk-up COVID-19 sample collection site at the Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 South Dinwiddie Street May 12. The clinic will operate weekdays between 1-5 p.m. To be tested, patients must obtain a clinician referral and then schedule an appointment by calling 703-558-5766. Patients must schedule an appointment before visiting the collection site. [Read more here.](#)

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.](#)

Update on Elections

All you need to know about the June 23 and July 7 elections can be found on the [attached URL for the County's Election #5 Update](#), including how to request an absentee ballot and where to drop it off. Key information:



Deadline to request mail ballot for June 23 Republican Primary is **June 16**.

Deadline to request mail ballot for July 7 Special Election is **June 30**.

In order to help your ballot make it on time, the County is adding additional supervised drop locations one week before the election. For us, it's:

Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 18th St S, Arlington, VA 22202

Thursday, June 18, 3pm-6pm

Thursday, July 2, 3pm-6pm

Finally, the two Crystal City Precincts 006 at 251 S. 18th Street and 50 at Crystal Plaza will be open for in-person voting. Election officials will have training soon on the protective measures that will be in place. **But to the extent possible, mail voting is recommended.**

CIVIC ASSOCIATION ISSUES

What happened to our Livability Workshops?

Because of the COVID-19 shutdown, our two remaining workshops have been postponed indefinitely. But the planning committee for the Underground Workshop came up with a new idea.



LIVABILITY22202
An Action Plan

Version 1.0 12 November 2019

Have either a writing, photography or videography interest? The Crystal City Underground workshop planning group is planning an “Underground Challenge” to spark creative thinking and conversation about the future of this space. We will be announcing several different creative exercises during the month of June.

We are hoping to gather insights and ideas about the future of the Underground, by drawing on the creativity and knowledge of the Crystal City community. Please stay tuned for upcoming information on the Underground Challenge! Prizes and honoraria to be announced!!

AFAC Food Drive in Crystal City

Ten of our Crystal City buildings have been participating in the AFAC food drive each week.



On Wednesday May 27th 2020, FLARE delivered approximately 250 pounds of food donated by Crystal City residents

to AFAC. The BID is offering a pizza party to the multifamily building providing the most food during the campaign. The next (and last) pickup will be on Wednesday, June 3rd 2020, as the Commonwealth of Virginia is reopening after the COVID-19 Pandemic and going towards Phase 1.

Census 2020

Once again, the Crystal City area has one of the lowest response rates in the County because of the nature of the multifamily buildings. Overall, Arlington County has a 69.4% response rate whereas Crystal City has 58.6%. 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.

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>

Finally, a Fun Video on How to Survive COVID Lockdown

See the [You Tube video here](#).

AMAZON IN CRYSTAL CITY

Amazon's Covid-19 response stars on '60 Minutes.' But how many Amazonians have the virus?

The company has deployed more than 150 Covid-19 safety measures to protect its warehouse workers. It expects to spend \$4 billion on its response. And it's hired some 175,000 more people and bumped base warehouse pay by \$2 an hour when so many other companies are furloughing or laying off workers. And there are the numbers Amazon says aren't exactly useful but it tracks anyway, like how many of those workers have tested positive for Covid-19. That's according to a recent interview the company's senior vice president of worldwide operations, Dave Clark, gave to "60 Minutes," which aired May 10. Pressed for the number, Clark told Lesley Stahl, "I mean, we know. I don't have the number right on me at this moment because it's not a particularly useful number." He insisted that the rate of infection among employees was just a smidge lower than the rate among the general population. That's good, but hard to know for sure because the company doesn't want to publish its count. [Read more here.](#)

www.crystalcitycivic.org

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Amazon said it will keep most it hired during Covid-19 boom

Amazon.com Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN) will turn most of the 175,000 interim warehouse and delivery positions created in March into permanent full-time jobs, the company said Thursday in a blog post. Worker pay will drop, however, from \$17 to \$15 an hour, as the company will end the across-the-board \$2 pay bump it announced during the first wave of hires. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon enlists Freddie's restaurant for COVID meal deliveries

As it continues to move into its new second headquarters complex in the Crystal City section of



Arlington, Va., the tech giant Amazon has hired Freddie's Beach Bar and Restaurant, which is widely known as an LGBT establishment, to

prepare and deliver 10,000 meals in the month of May for front line healthcare workers and first responders in Arlington and nearby Alexandria who are dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement released to the Washington Blade, Amazon said it was investing \$200,000 to pay for the 10,000 meals. The last week of April, Freddie's prepared and delivered over 400 of the meals to the Arlington County Police Department, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, and the Arlington Emergency Communications Center staff.

May 4-8, according to the statement, meals from Freddie's and possibly three other small restaurants located near Freddie's on the 23rd Street 'restaurant row' in Crystal City, were being delivered to firefighters in Arlington and Alexandria and emergency medical services staff. [Read more here.](#)

Amazon's landlord plans to give this HQ2 building a face-lift — and a new name

JBG Smith is looking to revamp, rebrand and add more leasable space to its Crystal Drive office campus, including one building partly leased and occupied by Amazon.com Inc. as part of HQ2. The new name for the entire office and residential

complex, long known as Crystal Park: The Parks at National Landing. The most significant changes are planned for 2345 Crystal Drive, where Amazon leases more than 47,000 square feet and operates a shuttle connecting HQ2 employees with Amazon Web Services' East Coast hub in Herndon. There, JBG Smith proposes a new lower-level facade and conversion of 18,327 square feet into leasable office or retail space. The space is currently used as a combination of hallway, circulation, retail and building management services. The project would add more than 1,400 square feet to the building from the facade remodel. [Read more here.](#)

CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY) IN DEVELOPMENT

Pre-Briefing on JBG Smith Plans to Develop 101 S. 12th Street

COVID-19 has changed all of our patterns recently, including community outreach and awareness of development projects in Arlington County. The County has recently issued an ordinance on public meetings that will limit in-person participation in SPRC, Planning Commission, and County Board meetings. Since we in the 22202 zip code may experience the majority of development plans that will come before the Board, it is important that we all stay informed and make our views known during the early stages of planning. Luckily we have a good partner in JBG Smith.

In advance of the expected SPRC meeting to be held by the County on JBG Smith's development plans for 101 S. 12th Street, JBG Smith is offering voluntarily an informal briefing open to the public for information purposes and questions. The Crystal City Civic Association is sponsoring this meeting since the development will be done in Crystal City in order to ensure substantial outreach to the community during the COVID-19 crisis which has made face to face meetings impossible. Anyone who plans to attend the virtual SPRC meeting (potentially in July) should plan to attend this virtual meeting.

JBG will be hosting this virtual meeting on WebX June 8 from 7-8 pm with a 20-25 minute presentation by JBG Smith followed by a Q and A

period. The participation will be by pre-registration only for security purposes and is open to 22202 residents and other invited guests, including County planners. In order to attend, please register on the link below. Registrants will be sent the link prior to the meeting and only registrants will be allowed to view the virtual meeting, in order to avoid internet bombing. Registrants who prefer to attend by phone can use the phone number below to call. In the same way that County Board virtual meetings are currently being held on the COVID crisis, a chat feature will be available to submit questions or comments that will be answered after the briefing.

[Here's the attendee link to register](#) and audio dial-in information as well:

Date and time: Monday, June 8, 2020 7:00 pm

Duration: 1 hour

Description: JBG SMITH development team is pleased to provide a project overview of 101 12th Street to our community neighbors.

Audio conference: To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or call the number below and enter the access code.
+1-415-655-0001
Access code: 477 254 163

What's happening at Crystal Square?

Construction of the Alamo Draft House and the (as yet un-named) grocery store at 1500 Crystal Drive is still on track, with potential completion by the end of summer or early September. At that point, JBG will turn over the space to the tenants who will fit out the interior and decide when to open. The COVID crisis may impact timing.

Update on Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center

On Thursday, April 30, the County Board adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Operating Budget, which was revised to reflect significant anticipated revenue losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several proposed expenditure enhancements in the originally proposed FY 2021 budget were removed, including a majority of the funding needed to open Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center.

The FY 2021 Adopted Budget includes \$685,000 in new funding for Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center for maintenance and operations of the

expanded outdoor features, the two previously authorized positions, and minimal utilities and maintenance for the interior of the building while it remains closed. This is a savings of \$1.9 million from the original FY 2021 Proposed Budget request of \$2.6 million to open and operate the facility.

The opening of Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center is delayed until sometime after July 2021, which is the start of the new fiscal year (FY 2022).
[Read more here.](#)

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.

Amazon Ending Pile Driving Ahead of Schedule at HQ2 Site

Clark Construction is wrapping up pile driving at the Amazon HQ2 site in Pentagon City May 15, two



weeks ahead of schedule. That's good news for Amazon's new neighbors. The noisy work drew protests from those sheltering at

home in the apartment buildings around the S. Eads Street construction site, and TV news crews reporting on the complaints.

The next round of work includes the excavation of nearly a half-million cubic yards of dirt, to make way for the 2.1 million square foot office-and-retail development. "Crews will continue to advance

mass excavation activities on site, which are anticipated to continue for the next 5 months,” the spokesman said. “Mass excavation entails removing 440,000 cubic yards of soil from the jobsite. The team has removed 75,000 cubic yards of soil to date, representing 17% of the total scope of work.” Phase 1 of HQ2 is expected to be completed in 2023. A second phase of nearly the same size is planned for the nearby Pen Place site, on the other side of 12th Street S. [Read more here.](#)

JBG Smith Proposed Amendments

The County Board has postponed to its September 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.

JBG Smith posts coronavirus-tied drop in retail rent, but says it's positioned to weather the storm

JBG Smith Properties CEO Matt Kelly said in an earnings release May 5 that his Bethesda-based development firm is positioned to weather the coronavirus storm despite headwinds including a drop in rental income from retail and restaurant tenants and the uncertainty created by the pandemic. JBG Smith reported April rent collections from office and residential tenants remained solid at 97% and 96%, respectively. Rent from retail tenants in April fell to 47%, not surprising given the outbreak's heavier impact on retail and restaurants.

JBG Smith, Kelly said, is holding off on construction of 1900 Crystal Drive, the planned redevelopment of a Crystal City office building into a pair of multifamily towers. The developer received zoning approvals in March, but while Kelly said in his letter that the project is a priority, JBG Smith is delaying construction as it waits for “an expected correction in construction costs.” On the construction side, Kelly said JBG Smith is bracing for anticipated supply chain and labor delays as a result of the additional precautions imposed on job sites. So far, however, the company's construction

projects are active and on schedule, including Amazon's first HQ2 towers. [Read more here.](#)

Virginia hotel uses empty rooms to illuminate messages of hope for commuters

In mid-March, as the virus began seizing American life in ways big and small, hotel occupancy across



the country plummeted. The 48-year-old hotel near the airport, perhaps best known for its revolving rooftop restaurant, consolidated its guests into a single building and kept its north tower empty. They were still operational, still booking guests and still meeting each day as a staff. They began to focus on the empty tower, so visible from one of the region's busiest thoroughfares. They viewed the tower as a canvas in need of a message. “We wanted people to know: You're not alone, people are thinking about you,” Hill said.

They settled on a heart, which felt like a unifying symbol that also seemed reasonably easy to execute. The feedback was positive and the hotel staffers continued throwing around ideas. They did “LOVE” in mid-April and “HOPE” a couple of weeks later. Now KIND. [Read more here.](#)

Walkabout Arlington and Little Free Libraries

Tired of staying at home or walking the same paths? Download a copy of [Arlington Walkabouts](#) and get out there and visit other parts of the County. Lots of trails and green space in other areas will remind you how much Crystal City needs parks, trails, and connectivity. We need to keep working on our [Livability Framework](#) and Open Space planning.

There are a lot of Little Free Libraries set up throughout the County, and even in 22202: e.g.,

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there's one in the Water Park in CC and one outside Drew Elementary in Arlington Ridge. There are others in 22202. But for some reason, none of the 22202 LFL's are listed on this [free map](#) where to find them. If you are in charge of one, please register it so folks can find it. One just went up outside Advent Lutheran Church on Arlington Ridge Road..

Open Space Featured Prominently in Plans for North Potomac Yard

When construction on the \$1 billion Virginia Tech Innovation Campus is completed, it will be a mostly walkable campus with underground parking and significant open space, according to a presentation Tuesday by the Virginia Tech Foundation and developer JBG SMITH. The first phase of development will occur at the current location of the Regal Potomac Yard movie theatre, which is closed



due to the pandemic. It is unknown if it will open again before construction begins. [Read more here.](#)

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.

ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

Will the Arlington Way Survive COVID-19?

The County approved this guidance on May 19 after removing the offensive section 4d which would have effectively eliminated public participation and consultation in the SPRC and PC processes. The Planning Commission, the three civic associations in 22202, and many of you wrote to object to the internal staff consultation only. It remains to be seen how things will play out now, with all the development coming our way in the next few years. But we're hopeful... [Read the guidance here.](#)

COVID-19 News & Notes

As Arlington County moves in Phase 1, [Arlington County government](#) is also beginning to renew operations in some areas.

- Find an AFAC food drive box nearest you to help us collect cans for families in need by visiting one of [8 drop-off collection sites](#).
- Changes Ahead: [A Message from the Library Director](#)
- The Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) helps the Arlington community meet their tax obligations by offering short-term loans to cover tax bills — [learn more](#)
- DMV is opening its Arlington location for service [by appointment only](#) on June 1
- ICYMI: Virginia receives USDA approval to join [SNAP online purchasing pilot program](#)
- At noon on Monday, June 1, join Arlington County Board Members in a personal moment of silence to remember the Arlingtonians who have died from COVID-19.

Arlington County Launches Initiatives to Ease Transition to Phase 1 Reopening

Arlington County has introduced two new ways to make it easier for residents and businesses to transition to Phase 1 of the Forward Virginia plan and to encourage personal responsibility as the County begins to reopen. In response to Gov. Ralph Northam's Executive Order that face coverings must be worn inside public places, the County created the "We Are Covered" program. This gives Arlington businesses, multi-family residences, and houses of worship a way to show

they have pledged to protect the people who come through their doors.

MORE: [Sign up for "We Are Covered"](#)

Businesses, multi-family buildings, and houses of worship are invited to fill out the online form to pledge their commitment to adhering to the face coverings requirement and receive a free "We Are Covered" badge that can be displayed on doors and windows to let workers, customers, and passersby know they prioritize the public's health.

As Arlington County moves into Phase 1, the County encourages all residents and visitors to take personal responsibility to follow state requirements for face coverings, as well as maintain a 6-foot distance from other people and avoid groups of more than 10 people.

Library Services News and Updates

At this time, all Arlington Public Library locations remain closed. In the meantime, you can use our online collections, and contact us through [Online Chat and Text](#). The due date for all physical materials is June 30, 2020. The expiration date for all existing regular and internet only cards has been extended to October 1, 2020.

Starting mid-June, Arlington Public Library will offer a walk-in/walk-out service for hold pickups and book bundles in the auditorium at Central Library. Operating hours for the holds pickup service are being decided and we will communicate details as we have them. Computers, self-check stations, and meeting rooms will not be available for use. All branch locations will remain closed; returns will be accepted via book drop at all branches.

Starting May 29, the Library will begin preparations for a system upgrade, which will affect all Library patron accounts. Fine payments will be unavailable after 5 p.m. on Friday, May 29. There will be a system transition from Friday, June 5 – Wednesday, June 10, during which time some account features will be unavailable. During the transition, access to eBooks and eAudiobooks will still be available. The upgrades will be completed by June 15. The system upgrade will include new, secure account passwords. To facilitate updating your PIN to a password after the upgrade, we encourage you to visit your [online account](#) before June 4 to verify that your phone and email information are current.

Candidate Debate (WEBINAR June 10): County Board Special Election

On July 7, Arlington County is having a special election to fill the County Board vacancy created due to the untimely death of Erik Gutshall. The Arlington Committee of 100 is hosting a debate between the candidates, via Zoom webinar. Online Program - Zoom Webinar Moderated by Dr. Lynn Juhl, Chair, Committee of 100. Speaker presentations followed by Q&A

Candidates:

Bob Cambridge, Republican nominee
Susan Cunningham, Independent nominee
Takis Karantonis, Democratic nominee

Wednesday, **June 10, 2020**

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Registration Required RSVP today!

Zoom link will be sent via email ahead of program

[Register Here:](#)

What Phone Numbers Should You Know in Case of Emergency?

Everyone should know to call 911 in case of an emergency, but if you're seeking help in a crisis, there may be other local resources available to you too. It's important to know these phone numbers as well - consider writing down a list and keeping it somewhere easily accessible.

Call 703-228-7999 with any questions related to COVID-19, including what to do if you feel sick, information on testing and access to County resources.

Call 703-228-1300 if you need to find shelter, emergency food, housing and other vital services.

Call 703-228-5160 in the event of a mental health crisis of emergency to reach Arlington County Emergency Mental Health Services.

Call 703-237-0881 to reach Doorways Dating/Domestic/Sexual Violence Hotline for free crisis support, safety planning, counseling, protective order support, hospital accompaniment, and safe shelter.

Call 703-527-4077 or text "Connect" to 85511 to reach the 24/7 regional CrisisLink hotline if you or a friend are suicidal, or if you need to talk confidentially with someone non-judgmental.

Arlington County Manager to Propose Scaled Back Capital Improvement Plan

As the County continues to experience the economic impacts of COVID-19, County Manager Mark Schwartz intends to present the Arlington County Board with a short-term proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) rather than the traditional 10-year plan. The short-term proposal will be submitted in early June and will focus on essential projects and those required under existing agreements or statutory requirements. The one area that will see increased investment is the County's Storm Water Infrastructure, and the County does anticipate proposing bond referenda for consideration by the voters for critical needs.

The short-term CIP will include the following limited list of investments:

- Metro and regional obligations
- Stormwater infrastructure investments – progressing on the County's commitment after the July 2019 storm
- Near-term Arlington Public School needs
- Investments to address COVID-19
- Life-safety, regulatory or legal commitments
- Investments in failing or critical infrastructure

[Read more here.](#)

Arlington County 2020 Summer Camps Canceled

In accordance with the health and safety guidelines of state, national and camp officials during the COVID-19 pandemic, Arlington County is canceling summer camps for 2020. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington's Mighty Park System Ranked Among Nation's Best

When it comes to public park systems, Arlington's ranks near the top of the nation's 100 largest cities. That's according to the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore® index, which recently ranked the County fourth on its list. The twin cities of With DMV Appointments Backed Up, Governor Northam Extends Deadline for Driver's License Renewals Minneapolis and Saint Paul, MN ranked first and third respectively while neighboring Washington, D.C. placed second. [Read more here.](#)

Arlingtonians Recycling Glass at Record-Shattering Rates

Arlingtonians have recycled over a million pounds of glass at the drop-off center since January, a record likely to keep up if everyone stays bottled up in quarantine. Last April, Arlington County ditched its curbside glass recycling program as separating out and recycling glass had become overly expensive. Instead, Arlingtonians were asked to drop off their glass recycling at dedicated containers that were then taken to Fairfax County for reuse in construction, building, and — more recently — recycling into new glass products. Since the launch of the drop-off recycling program, county officials say there have been two million pounds of glass recycled, half of which has been over the last few months. [Read more here.](#)

Arlington School Board Names New Superintendent

At the May 7 School Board meeting, the Arlington School Board named Dr. Francisco Durán as the



new Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools (APS). The School Board unanimously approved the appointment following a five-month nationwide search that included 39 applicants and a strong pool of candidates. The selection was informed by community

feedback collected in focus groups, community forums and an online survey. Dr. Durán will formally assume the role of Superintendent on June 1, 2020. [Read more here.](#)

Participate in one of [three Virtual Community Town Halls](#) with the Superintendent. Email a question in advance to engage@apsva.us.

Police Announce Expansion of Online Reporting System Services

The Arlington County Police Department is announcing the expansion of its online police reporting system. The system update builds upon the County's comprehensive effort to improve service delivery through its website and online platforms to better meet the needs of our constituents. [Read more here.](#)

Introducing the 'Get Help Guide'

As the needs, services, and priorities associated with behavioral healthcare are very individualized and often complex, it can be difficult to navigate the resources available while seeking help for oneself or a family member. Fortunately, the Arlington Community Services Board has now compiled mental health education and mental illness support resources that may be helpful for individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Through the new 'Get Help Guide' directory, you will find mental health and substance use disorder services for all ages, and specific services and information for children, youth and families, as well as a myriad of additional resources to foster self-reliance and recovery. [Check out the 'Get Help Guide' here!](#)

Volunteer Arlington

Arlington community needs are being updated on a daily basis. We encourage you to visit the Volunteer Arlington [COVID-19 Care for Community Page](#) to see how you can be of support to our many partner organizations.

Illuminating a Major Gateway into Arlington at Key Bridge

Marking a major milestone in the completion of the Corridor of Light, a 13-year effort to create a vibrant



gateway for Rosslyn's central corridor, the installation of Luminous Bodies by Cliff Garten is set to conclude on Monday, June 1, 2020. Located at the Esplanade Bridge, North Lynn Street and Lee Highway (above I-66 and adjoining the approach to Key Bridge), these monumental sculptures mark a major entrance into Arlington from Washington DC. In honor of America's

essential workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Luminous Bodies sculptures initially will be illuminated with a changing array of blue to blue-green light each evening (8 -10 p.m.). This #LightItBlue display will continue until the pandemic allows the artist to travel for the final programming and dedication of the sculptures. [Read more here.](#)

OTHER ISSUES

With DMV Appointments Backed Up, Governor Northam Extends Deadline for Driver's License Renewals

As Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles offices undergo phased reopenings, Governor Ralph Northam on Thursday announced an extension for residents who need to get renewals for identification cards and driver's licenses. Northam said that the licenses and IDs that need to be renewed before July 31 can be renewed by August 31. [Read more here.](#)

Report Recommends Widening Mount Vernon Trail in Arlington

Portions of the Mount Vernon Trail in Arlington should be widened due to heavy use and crash risks, according to a new study. The National Park Service this month released a report on its Mount Vernon Trail Corridor Study, which examined the condition of the trail, usage patterns and potential improvements. The trail, which runs along the Potomac from the Rosslyn area to George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, is used by more than one millions cyclists and pedestrians per year. But its 1970s-era design no longer reflects current engineering standards and the trail's heavy usage, the report says. [Read more here.](#)

Face coverings will be required on Metro trains, buses, and in stations

Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld accepted a recommendation of the transit authority's Pandemic Task Force that face coverings or masks be required when traveling on Metro effective Monday, May 18. The move strengthens Metro's position on the matter, which has "strongly recommended" the use of face

coverings since early April, in accordance with CDC guidance. While the overwhelming majority of riders already comply voluntarily, the requirement is viewed as a necessary step as Metro plans for an

eventual recovery with more riders using the system. [Read more here.](#)

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

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