

# CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

October 2020

**Meetings, Meetings, Meetings:** We're in a period of many virtual meetings that will affect our community. Plus we have 6 Livability 22202 working groups started which are actively working. This is why a) we aren't holding CCCA meetings; and b) this newsletter is late. We try to post regularly on our CCCA Facebook page and as often as possible on our CCCA and Livability22202 websites. This Newsletter covers many of them—read this carefully. Stay tuned for updates. We really need volunteers for a number of issues—please consider getting involved.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

### Community Outreach and Feedback

With so much going on that can affect the lives of all residents in Crystal City, not to mention all of 22202, keeping you all informed and getting your input is increasingly critical. Its not enough to have a few people representing some 10,000 or more in the County's SPRC development process. Or a larger group of volunteers participating in the (now) 6 working groups of Livability 2220. We really need to hear from residents who don't have time to get actively involved.

With so many Livability and community engagement meetings, we haven't even tried to organize a CCCA virtual meeting. (Our next meeting will be in November after the election: our Annual General Meeting where we will have elections of new officers.) We may be going out with some surveys in the near future, but they need to be based on information we have provided, or will provide. We absolutely want your input to appropriately represent you.



**Please, please feel free to email us with your questions, requests for more information, or thoughts on any issue of concern to you:**  
[board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org).

### VDOT Feasibility Study for Route 1

VDOT has been tasked by the State to conduct a feasibility study for Route 1 multimodal connectivity in the vicinity of Crystal City and Pentagon City over the course of the next year, with a report due June 2021. The tasking stems from an MOU between the Commonwealth and Amazon in 2018 to improve safety, accessibility, and the pedestrian experience crossing Route 1. Two reasons for this study: 1) transportation demand will increase with Amazon and development growth; and 2) the areas to be studied are already heavily developed with limited space for expanding the footprint of the transportation network.

The study on Route 1, from approximately 12th Street to 23rd Street South, will explore an at-grade urban boulevard, but also review and compare potential improvements to the current elevated condition, and the elevated urban boulevard described in the Crystal City Sector Plan. Ultimately, the study aims to provide

sufficient information to make the best decision on a future project on Route 1 in Crystal City. The first virtual meeting of the project Task Force took place Monday, September 28, and 22202 residents were well represented. [See the website and sign up for updates.](#)

### **Livability 22202: Route 1**

Obviously the VDOT study will have an impact on residents of 22202. The working group is concerned that the scope of the study is very narrowly limited to the feasibility of bringing Route 1 down to grade, including at 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, and is not considering other alternatives. The 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan envisioned “the transformation of the highway into an urban boulevard with wide landscaped usable sidewalks and real building frontages,” but without specifics. A Livability22202 working group has been studying the issue and conducted a survey of residents (with almost 300 responses) and two community meetings August 26 and September 30. The results of the survey will be posted on the CCCA website, as well as the presentations from both meetings, including a study done by the National Landing BID. The live recording of the September 30 meeting is on our [Facebook](#) page. The major community concern is to preserve safety of the pedestrian/bike crossings at 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets and avoid another bad situation like 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. We will be inviting VDOT to a future 22202 community meeting.

### **Livability 22202: Future of the Underground**

The Underground Challenge officially ended July 31, and there were a lot of great submissions. We are now scheduling a virtual community meeting for **October 14** where the judging results of the competition will be announced. [You can register here.](#) We will also a) provide background on why the Underground is in trouble and what is happening currently; b) ideas for non-retail use

in potential “clusters” (e.g., Arts, Education, Family); and c) hold a conversation with the community on the future of the Underground. Eventually, we will prepare a White Paper on proposals. In the meantime, see the recent article on the Underground and the Challenge [here.](#)

### **Livability 22202: Exploring a Home for Synetic and Performing Arts**

Are you concerned that we might lose Synetic Theatre in the future when its lease expires? Would you like to see a Black Box Theatre somewhere in 22202 to house various performance groups as well? Could it be developed in Crystal City or PenPlace? Another working group of stakeholders (Livability22202/BID/JBG/Synetic/Embracing Arlington Arts/AIM) has studied the options and made briefings to all 5 County Board members this week. No funding or management is required from the County with this proposal. This will be a big lift (cost) for community benefits, but a huge economic and cultural contribution to 22202 and Arlington County if we can pull it off. We plan to send out a Livability survey in the near future asking the community about priorities when community benefits must be used. To join the working group, email [board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org).

### **Livability 22202: Housing and Open Space**

Both working groups will be sending out their final report soon of the workshops and subsequently studies. We will be sending them to the County as well.

### **Livability22202: Schools**

A new working group on advocating for a school in the 22202 area has recently formed with representatives from all 3 civic associations. With so much development coming, we really need one. To join, email [board@crystalcitycivic.org](mailto:board@crystalcitycivic.org)

## Highlands Urban Garden (HUG)

Livability 22202, in partnership with the Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA), The National Landing Business Improvement District, and Arlington County Department of Parks and



Recreation, have launched an urban agriculture demonstration project in Virginia Highlands Park, the Highlands Urban Garden

(HUG). The first work to prepare the ground and spread mulch was done by a group of volunteers September 28. **Volunteers are needed!** To sign up for more information about the project, and learn how you can get involved visit <https://urbanag.social/projectHUG>

## CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

### LRPC Process for the Crystal Plaza Block M

The County began its public review of JBG Smith's next two site plan applications through a very limited community engagement process July 27-August 3. Since these are both located within the same Block M in Crystal City delimited by 20<sup>th</sup> Street on the north and 23<sup>rd</sup> on the south and Clark/Bell on the west and Crystal Drive on the east, the review considered both applications as part of a broader discussion of this large block plan with the Long Range Planning Commission (LRPC) on September 10. Follow the links to each project page here:

[2000/2001 S. Bell Street](#)  
[2250 Crystal Drive/223 23<sup>rd</sup> Street](#)

There are 3 major issues consistently highlighted by the community:

#### Underground

- [LRPC Presentation](#) slides 18 – 20

- [JGB Smith Presentation](#) slides 20 – 29, 38 – 42

a) The tunnel connection along two long corridors from the shops to the 20<sup>th</sup> Street tunnel would no longer be all underground. When walking from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street to the Metro, a pedestrian would have to exit from the shops to an outside plaza, walk outside to 20<sup>th</sup> Street, descend an elevator, and walk through an open parking garage area before being able to reenter the Underground tunnel under 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

b) The entrance to the Underground at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street would be moved back to approximately where the Post Office is currently located in the Underground. Access would be along a sidewalk of a new alley between two new buildings. Pedestrians would be unprotected from inclement weather compared to the existing protected corridor.

#### Open Space

When the median strip on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is removed and the street improved, JBG would build 223 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and two interim parks, but the permanent park on the corner of Crystal Drive would not be built as in the Sector Plan. Instead, JBG substitutes an open plaza as the entrance from 20<sup>th</sup> Street to the shops, with potential enlargement if/when the remaining buildings on Crystal Drive are redeveloped. Timing of the parks is very unclear and seems to offer less open space, rather than more as recommended in the Sector Plan.

- [LRPC Presentation](#) slides 14 – 17
- [JGB Smith Presentation](#) slides 16 – 19, 43 - 53

#### Clark/Bell

JBG proposes to move the northern part of Clark/Bell eastward between its two proposed sites on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, as the first step to realigning the entire street to the east from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street as set forth in the Sector Plan. Concerns were raised about the turning requirements for the Metroway buses, as the Crystal Plaza apartment building owned by

Dweck is not planned for any changes in the next 20 years.

- [LRPC Presentation](#) slides 11 – 13
- [JGB Smith Presentation](#) slides 11 – 15, 31 - 37

### SPRC Process for 101 S. 12th Street

The County has hosted two community engagement sessions July 1-10 and July 27-August 3, and a Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meeting September 14 on JGB Smith's proposed site plan for a building at 101 S 12th Street. The site plan has been greatly improved, following community and SPRC member comments. One remaining issue is the proposed Ball Street extension from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Street. To avoid cut through traffic, the community will need to continue opposing a full service road at an upcoming Planning Commission and Board meeting by the end of the year. The park is the private property of JGB Smith and a building in that park was included in the [2010 Crystal City Sector Plan](#), so if the site plan is approved by the end of the year, the building can be constructed next year once a tenant has been secured. [Project page.](#)

### Crystal City Parks

The BID has now hosted two of three community engagement sessions to foster community dialogue and feedback to inform an open space framework for the five new Crystal City parks and open spaces being developed by



JGB Smith. The first was June 24 and the second July 22. The videos of both can be found on the website. The overview of the project can be found [here](#).

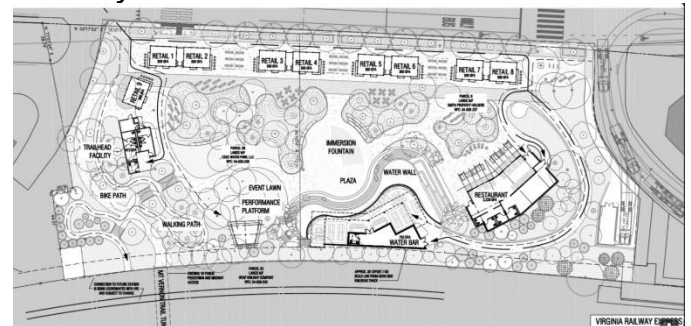
The final conclusions meeting will be **October 7** from 7-9 pm and include a slide on the work of the Livability22202 Open Space working

group. In anticipation of the workshop, the Hoerr Shaudt landscape architectural team contracted by JBG has put together a [presentation](#) which reviews the refined open space programming framework and park programming recommendations. [See here for overviews on the 5 Crystal City Parks.](#) There is also a slide on the Livability22202 Open Space Working Group. Please register ahead [here](#) for the final community workshop on October 7th at 7PM.

### JBG Proposed Changes to Water Park Raise Concerns

*JBG Smith is pitching a major makeover for the Water Park, envisioning some new retail and even a bar atop a water feature. The developer owns much of the park, along with Equity, the owners of 1801 and 1501/5 Crystal Drive and filed plans with Arlington County in early September requesting an additional 6,100 square feet of density for the 1.6-acre park, located across the street from JBG Smith's massive "Central District" project at 1770 Crystal Drive.*

*JBG discussed this plan with some of us on the CCCA Executive committee and we are concerned. There are some good things and some bad things about this plan. Please read the [Washington Business Journal article](#) carefully.*



*JBG's draft plans call for eight new "retail kiosks" along Crystal Drive, with 300 square feet available in each, matching a small kiosk selling food and drinks on the site already. This is the most obvious problem since the kiosks would block the view of the park and*

fountain from the sidewalk and Crystal Drive. We have made a strong objection to this idea and suggested no more than 2 kiosks on either end of the park and perhaps one in the interior. We have asked JBG for a community presentation, since feedback is already quite negative about the kiosks. Stay tuned for more information on this.

## Share Your Vision for a New Park in Crystal City

Help re-imagine the New Park at South Eads



Share your vision for a new park in Crystal City

Street and Army Navy Drive (the “teardrop”)! This project is an exciting new opportunity that will help meet the County's goals of increasing public space in Arlington. Tell us how you currently use it and share ideas about what would make it better. Your input today will help kick off the engagement process and shape the Park Master Plan and Design Guidelines.

[CLICK HERE to get started now!](#)

Engagement opportunity open through Oct. 14)

Learn more about the project by visiting the [New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive project page](#). Questions?

Concerns? Email us or call 703-228-1865.

## Arlington Adopts Metropolitan Park Master Plan

On September 12, the Arlington County Board adopted a park master plan and design guidelines for the expansion and transformation of Pentagon City’s Metropolitan Park. The 2.47-acre public park will create an urban oasis on the site of Amazon’s east coast headquarters. Amazon agreed as part of its community benefits package for its headquarters site plan to provide the \$14



million needed for the renovation, and to maintain the park in perpetuity. The headquarters and park are expected to open in 2023. [Read more here.](#)

## MetPark 6/7/8 Construction Conversation

Join Clark Construction for the first in its series of community conversations about this key phase of Amazon's Arlington Headquarters: Tuesday, Oct 6, 7-8 pm. [RSVP for this event here.](#) An event link will be provided to all who register and will be posted to the project [website.](#)

## Arlington Starts Planning Effort to Guide the Future of Pentagon City

Arlington County has launched a new Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) study to determine how best to shape the new density coming to Pentagon City. As nearby Crystal City and Potomac Yard undergo new development spurred by Amazon’s second headquarters, the new study is intended to shape development around Pentagon City, where the permanent HQ2 campus will be located. The 12-month planning process is broken into four phases, which will examine the existing conditions and look at varying scenarios for how to shape density could shape the area, “including urban design and streetscape elements, building heights, transportation infrastructure, and public realm recommendations.” Interviews with various stakeholders, including civic association representatives, took place in August.

The kick off meeting took place September 24, with representatives from all 3 civic associations in 22202 and the CCCRC. The eventual goal, according to the study preview, will be the establishment of new urban design guidelines, implementation strategies, and guiding documents for Pentagon City. [Read more here. Visit the study page](#)

### Construction starting on first phase of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street improvements

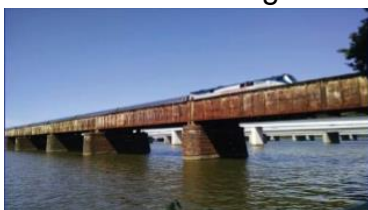
In the spring the County Board approved a \$1.33 million contract with Ardent Company LLC to construct this project's first phase, which will improve pedestrian access and safety on both sides of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South between Route 1 and South Eads Street. This phase will widen the sidewalk and retail parking areas on the south side of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street between Route 1 and South Eads Street. Lane widths on this section of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street will be reduced, but the number of travel lanes will remain the same as today. Construction activities for Phase 1 began the end of September. [Visit the project page](#)

### Long Bridge Park Aquatics Center

The project is moving forward rapidly, and it is on track for the projected early 2021 completion. The budget impact from Covid-19 has caused the County Manager to delay the opening of the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center until sometime in FY22 (FY22 starts July 1, 2021). The park portion of Long Bridge Park is expected to open with completion of the project and won't be delayed until FY22.

### Long Bridge rail project between D.C. and Virginia barrels ahead

With the state budget in tatters and commuter



levels at record lows, now might hardly seem the right moment for Virginia to embark

upon a \$1.9 billion rail project. However, the recent conclusion of the [Long Bridge's environmental impact study](#) has cleared the way for the commonwealth to do just that. The plan to add a second set of tracks to the 116-year-old rail crossing between D.C. and Virginia will allow the state to realize the full potential of the \$3.7 billion deal with CSX Gov. Ralph Northam struck last December.

### City Council Approves Adding Virginia Tech Initials to Potomac Yard Metro Station

On September 22 the Alexandria City Council on Tuesday night unanimously approved a proposal adding Virginia Tech's initials to the Potomac Yard Metro Station. Council approved the name to be the Potomac Yard – VT station. Now the name change goes before the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority for final approval. Virginia Tech's \$1 billion Innovation Campus is promised to bring a massive redevelopment to the area. Earlier this month, Council deferred the name change after expressing concerns that the site would not meet Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority naming guidelines. The Metro station is planned to open by spring 2022 and the Innovation Campus is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024. The campus will accommodate 750 computer science master's degree students per year and more than 100 doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. [Read more here.](#)

### Demolition of Potomac Yard Movie Theater Going to Board of Architectural Review

The Alexandria Board of Architectural Review will consider a permit to demolish/capsulate the Regal Potomac Yard movie theater, which closed in March due to the pandemic. The one-story theater first opened in 1998, and "is an example of a typical multi-screen movie theater built during the late 1990's throughout the region," according to a city staff report. In its place will go a pump station that is part of Virginia Tech's massive Innovation Campus

development, and will handle sanitary sewer flows for Virginia Tech's Sewer to Wastewater Energy Exchange system. As previously reported, this and next month, the BAR and the Planning Commission will receive half a dozen plans for the 1.9 million square-foot mixed use North Potomac Yard development. [Read more here.](#)

### Virginia Tech Pump Station Approval Paves Way for 4.5 Extra Acres at Potomac Yard Park

The New York City-based property owner of the 65-acre Potomac Yard property will present



plans to the Alexandria Planning Commission December 1 to donate 4.5 acres for an extension of Potomac Yard Park. The property is located at the former Regal Potomac Yard movie theater.

[Read more](#)

[here.](#)

### Memorial Circle Safety Improvements

The National Park Service is taking action to make the roads and trails at Memorial Circle safer. Starting September 29, drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists will see higher visibility crosswalks, new signage & flashing beacons, clearer lane markings & repaved road markings.

### Restaurant Adjustments and Openings

**Italian Deli** Coming to Pentagon Row — “Napoli Pasta Bar, the Bib Gourmand-designated Italian restaurant in Columbia Heights, will expand into Northern Virginia next month when it adds a sister deli in Arlington.

Napoli Salumeria is expected to open in early October at 1301 South Joyce Street. The Pentagon Row space was largely turnkey ready, as it formerly functioned as a deli called **A-Deli** which has gone out of business. [Eater] [Bed Bath & Beyond to Close at Pentagon Row](#)

USA Today reported September 18 that the store is on a list of 63 Bed Bath & Beyond locations that will shutter by the end of 2020. The store first opened about 20 years ago, shortly after the opening of the shopping center itself. The parent company is retrenching amid a difficult business climate for bricks-and-mortar retailers, the paper reported. Bed Bath & Beyond also owns the World Market retail chain; World Market closed its Pentagon Row store last year. (ArlNow.com)

### Amazon landlord JBG Smith lays foundation for National Landing 5G network

JBG Smith has paid \$25.3 million for licenses to use small parts of a new class of wireless spectrum to set up a 5G internet network in National Landing, home to Amazon's second headquarters and Virginia Tech's innovation campus. [Read more here.](#)

### Amazon names first D.C.-area exec to its board of directors

The newest member of Amazon.com Inc.'s board of directors is Keith Alexander, a retired general and former National Security Agency director, the company revealed in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing September 9 and on its investor page shortly after. Alexander, who is well-known in the cybersecurity and national defense arena, is an interesting addition for Amazon. The company's cloud computing subsidiary, Amazon Web Services, is currently in a legal dispute with the Department of Defense over the \$10 billion Joint Enterprise Defense Initiative (JEDI) contract, which was awarded to Microsoft Corp. last year. For the company that has named Greater Washington,

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

specifically Arlington, its second home, Alexander is the only board member who count's this region as home. [Read more here.](#)

## ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

### Officials Sound Warning About County Budget Shortfall

Arlington County is facing a possible budget gap in the tens of millions dollars during the current fiscal year, as a result of the pandemic. That's the message from county staff, who raised the alarm during September 15's County Board meeting. "We had hoped that the recovery that we had anticipated at the time in March and April would be further along, and that's simply not the case," said County Manager Mark Schwartz. As a result, tax and fee revenue is coming in significantly lower than expected, and Arlington is now facing an estimated budget gap between \$42-60 million for the fiscal year that started on July 1. On the high end, that comes out to a gap of about \$39 million for the county government and \$21 million for Arlington Public Schools. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Named Top Digital County for 2020

Arlington was named the No. 1 Digital County in the U.S. by the Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties 2020 awards. This marks the fourth time Arlington has received the top spot for its 150,000-249,999 population category. The annual awards recognize achievement and best technology practices in areas of open government, transparency, public engagement, planning, cyber security and operations. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Offers Guidance for a Safer Halloween During COVID-19

While Halloween is not an official holiday, and is not regulated by the County, Arlington is

asking everyone to continue to practice the behaviors we know slow the spread of COVID-19. If you may have COVID-19, may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, you should not participate in trick-or-treating or any other in-person Halloween festivities.

"Everyone planning to celebrate Halloween this year should avoid close contact with people who do not live in their household, wear a mask, keep 6-foot distance and practice frequent and proper hand washing," said Arlington County Public Health Director Dr. Reuben Varghese. "There are still ways to celebrate Halloween, but it will have to be on a more limited scale." [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington-Based Company Finding Success With Election-Themed Board Game

With a mission to create educational, yet fun games, Arlington-based Semper Smart Games has a hit on its hands: a board game called Election Night! Jim Moran, the creator of Semper Smart Games, is a retired Coast Guard officer and SAT and ACT tutor (no, he's not the former local Congressman of the same name). Moran turned his passion for helping students learn math into games. Election Night! was created to give students a better geographical, mathematical and mechanical understanding of the Electoral College. The game, launched as a result of a successful Kickstarter campaign, has recently seen its sales ranking rise on Amazon, as the presidential election nears. [Read more here.](#)

### Arlington Introduces New Open Data Portal

Arlington County today unveiled a new [Open Data Portal](#) with several benefits and features that make it easier than ever to access and use Arlington data. The new portal, a centerpiece of the County's Open Government Program, builds upon the first open data solution that launched in 2016. The new one-stop information hub features data from and about Arlington. The portal serves as an important



community resource that can be used by residents, businesses and County staff alike to make better informed decisions based on past and current data. The portal also helps ensure transparency by sharing County government data sets with the public and making them easily accessible. [Read more here.](#)

### **Arlington County Reviews Refined Scope and Charge for Missing Middle Housing Study**

The Missing Middle Housing Study is anticipated to kick off in late October. Under the umbrella of the Housing Arlington program, this study will investigate the possible role of missing middle housing in increasing the County's housing supply and diversifying the range of housing choices. [Read more here.](#)

### **Arlington Reaffirms Commitment to Fair Housing Practices**

Arlington will continue to follow the federal government's 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, despite the federal government's July 2020 action to rescind that rule within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the County Board said in a resolution approved at its September 15 Recessed Meeting. [Read more here.](#)

### **By-right non-conforming duplex expansions in multi-family Zoning districts**

On September 12, the County Board approved a change to the Zoning Ordinance that will allow by-right expansions and additions to nonconforming duplexes in multi-family districts. There are some 432 such duplexes, located in 14 civic associations across Arlington. Non-conforming buildings do not meet current zoning requirements.

Currently, owners of nonconforming duplexes in multi-family districts must seek a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals to make such changes. They must demonstrate that the nonconformity is unreasonably restricting the

utilization of the property and that the variance would alleviate a hardship. The amendment furthers the goals of the [Affordable Housing Master Plan](#), which called for reinvestment in existing housing stock that contributes to the overall diversity of housing countywide and preserves and supports existing affordable housing.

### **County Board Member Katie Cristol Named UNUM Fellow**

Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol has been named one of 14 Southern elected leaders who will form the inaugural class of E Pluribus Unum (UNUM) fellows. The program is designed to equip Southern leaders with resources that advance racial and economic equity within their communities. Over the next year, the cohort will address inequitable and discriminatory policies and practices within their communities. The program comes with a commitment of up to \$75,000 to support the implementation of an equity-focused project led by the fellow. [Read more here.](#)

### **Vote Vote Vote!**



The November 3 ballot will include US President/Vice President, US Senate, US House of Representatives, 2 Virginia constitutional amendments, 1 Arlington County Board member, 2 Arlington County School Board members, and 4 bond Issues. See [the listing here](#), with links to candidates' pages and the [sample ballot here](#). Everything you need to know about voting in the 2020 General Election is available through the [County Voting website](#):

Arlington voters have three options for casting their ballots: in-person on Election Day, early in-person voting, and mail-in ballot. Arlington voters who choose to vote by mail have to request their ballot—and can do so in [one of six different ways](#). The first round of vote-by-mail ballots have been sent to people who

requested them, but ballot applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Oct. 23.

To help you understand how voting by mail works—and feel confident in submitting your ballot—we've broken down the facts you need to know. [Learn about how voting by mail is free, easy, and private here.](#) You can now cast a no-excuse-needed early vote in the lobby of the Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. From October 17-31, you can vote at **the Aurora Hills Community Center** or other early voting centers.

#### Absentee by Mail

Request your absentee by mail ballot through this [link](#). **Deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you is Friday, October 23, 2020.** After you receive and fill out your absentee ballot and paperwork, seal everything in the correct envelope. Then, either mail it back or [drop it in a drop box](#). **Make sure you return your completed ballot and envelope at least 10 days before November 3!** (see article below on required tracking codes). *Note: If you lost your absentee ballot or don't have a chance to complete it in time, just bring the ballot mailing to your precinct on Election Day and you can vote in person.*

#### ID requirements have changed

Whether you vote early or on Election Day, bring an acceptable ID with you. *Note that the Virginia law has changed, again, and many types of IDs that were not acceptable in recent elections are again acceptable. (Examples: your voter registration card, a utility bill with your current name and address, or any current photo ID from an American college or university.) However, out-of-state drivers' licenses are still NOT acceptable.* But any registered voter who does not possess an acceptable form of ID may vote by signing an ID Confirmation Statement.

#### **Virginia will require tracking codes on absentee ballot envelopes**

All Virginia voters who cast absentee ballots will send their forms back in envelopes marked with tracking codes, according to a new rule adopted August 4 by the State Board of Elections. The regulation, approved in unanimously, requires local election officials to print a 65-character U.S. Postal Service Intelligent Mail barcode on both the outgoing envelopes sent to voters and the return envelopes voters use to mail completed ballots back. The regulation also requires all ballot envelopes to be marked with an official insignia identifying it as election-related mail, which officials said will help the U.S. Postal Service spot and prioritize votes moving through its system. [Read more here.](#)

#### **Vision Zero Wants Your Feedback**

In July of 2019, the Arlington County Board committed to [Vision Zero](#), an effort to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. As this work continues, the County needs community-wide, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary participation from residents. To accomplish this, county staff want to hear from you in a new round of public engagement. Between now and October 30, [share your feedback on transportation safety in Arlington](#) with opportunities including an online feedback form and phone line.

#### **Arlington County has Allowed Sidewalk Physical Distancing Ordinance to Lapse**

The Arlington County Board has allowed the Emergency Sidewalk Distancing Ordinance it adopted on July 31 to lapse on September 29. The ordinance required pedestrians on posted sidewalks and streets to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from others and prohibits groups of more than three people from congregating on streets and sidewalks posted with the restrictions. A majority of the

Board said the ordinance has proved ineffective. [Read more here.](#)

### 100 Years of Arlington Through the Census

It's been 100 years since Arlington took on its name – changing from “Alexandria County” to the more distinct “Arlington” to avoid confusion with the nearby city of Alexandria. But how else has Arlington changed since then?

Delve Into [Arlington's History Through The 1920 Census.](#)

### Arlington to Examine its Names, Symbols and History

Arlington County is taking the first steps toward changing the County logo and seal through a community-wide process that will also consider changing the names of places and facilities belonging to the County. The process will begin this fall with educational presentations, recommended reading, and community discussions around Arlington's history. The renaming process will be one aspect of the County's work to advance racial equity, that seeks, among other things, to normalize community conversations around issues of race and equity in Arlington, in partnership with [Challenging Racism](#). It will also build on this fall's community process to update the County's [Historic Preservation Master Plan](#). The renaming process would get underway in early 2021.

The logo change comes after a push from the Arlington branch of the NAACP, which earlier this summer called the illustration of Arlington House a “racist plantation symbol” that “divides, rather than unites us.” The County is intensifying its broader commitment to prioritize and advance racial equity. Schwartz said he will present in December a summary of community feedback, as well as recommendations to the Board for next steps. [Read more here.](#)

### Library Operations Fall Update

Arlington Public Library will continue to operate the Holds Pickup service at Central Library and book drops at six branch locations in order to prioritize safety and ensure access to print materials for as many residents as possible.

### ACPD Online Reporting

As we work to continue to reduce unnecessary exposure and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Arlington County Police Department continues to encourage the public to report applicable non-emergency incidents using the online reporting system. Officers continue to proactively patrol the County and respond to in-progress crimes and emergency calls where there is an immediate threat to life, health or property. [More information about online reporting.](#)

## OTHER ISSUES

### CDC: What is the difference between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?

Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some key differences between the two. [Read the differences here.](#)

### Census Bureau Announces Survey to Measure 2020 Census Online Response Satisfaction

The U.S. Census Bureau announced August 21 the new 2020 Census User Experience Survey, a survey measuring how satisfied respondents were with their online experience with the 2020 Census questionnaire. The data collection for the online response satisfaction survey began Aug. 17 and will end in October. The 2020 Census marks the first time

households have been invited to respond online using a computer, smartphone or tablet.

[Learn More](#)

### Moratorium on Utility Service Shutoffs

At the request of Virginia Governor Northam, the State Corporation Commission has extended the moratorium on utility service shutoffs to Oct. 5, 2020 but not till the end of the year as he later requested. [Read more here.](#)

### Project Journey is well on its way

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority offered an update on its two-pronged,



roughly \$650 million modernization program at Reagan National Airport. The final product will deliver a new north concourse, replacing the oft-maligned Gate 35X ([see a 5 minute video here](#)), and new security checkpoints. The former is expected to open in July 2021, and the latter by the fourth quarter of 2021. [See photos and read more here.](#)

### On the Move: National Landing Mileage Challenge

The BID has partnered with Pacers Running to hold a month-long mileage challenge from Oct 1-31 for runners and walkers of ALL LEVELS! Participation is FREE, open to anyone and you can earn badges and prizes for hitting milestones. This is not a race, it's a challenge and the only thing you're competing against is your goal and the trail. [Register here.](#)

### Farmers Market

[The Farmers Market](#) has moved back to the courtyard and parking lot at 2011/2121 Crystal Drive. The BID has also launched the [Farm-to-Families](#) program which provides fresh produce to local families in need.

### Gallery Underground's show for October

Autumn's Palette: Art for the Season  
All-member Exhibition at Gallery Underground in October, October 1 - 31, 2020  
Gallery Underground in October presents Autumn's Palette: Art for the Season, an all-member show featuring themes and colors of fall in media including painting, ceramics, mixed media, glass, wood and metal work. Artists have interpreted the theme in both abstract and traditional concepts, including landscapes, ceramics and glass in hues of orange and red, and bold abstracts featuring traditional autumn colors. No opening reception due to health safety regulations.

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