

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



May 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, those who responded to our survey on the Newsletter indicated that they want the Newsletter to be as long as necessary to cover the news—so I guess 14 pages is ok! The highest votes for what to include were the Timeline of Meetings and Development, followed by CCCA, Livability and Surrounding Area News. So we must be doing something right. We may make format changes in the future to liven up the text. Thanks to those who responded.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

COVID NEWS

Arlington County Offers Open Scheduling for Free COVID-19 Vaccines

Beginning Tuesday, April 27, individuals 16 years and older may directly schedule an appointment to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine at Arlington County public health clinics. Individuals can directly reserve a slot at one of Arlington's public health clinics by visiting [the County website](#) – or by searching [Vaccinefinder.org](#) for appointments at nearby locations.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

May 19 CCCA Meeting

Join us from 7-9 pm on Zoom. From 7-8 pm, we will have a presentation by the County on the opening of the Aquatic Center at Long Brige Park and meet the new facility manager. From 8-9 pm, the National Park Service will make a presentation on upcoming changes in our area and possible projects. Details and a registration link will be sent the week before the meeting.

CCCA Volunteer Table for COVID Vaccine sign Up

On April 10 over 200 volunteers around Arlington promoted COVID vaccine sign up. We held a CCCA table at the entrance to the Long Bridge Park Esplanade and signed up 9 folks. We were greatly pleased that about 98% of the folks we greeted had either been vaccinated or signed up.

CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

Development/Construction Timelines (TBD)

The following timelines are very tentative but will give residents an idea of what to expect and when from a variety of projects. We will go over these timelines at our CCCA meetings as well.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 3, 7-9 pm, [2000 S Bell/2001 S Clark Streets](#): Planning Commission; County Board possibly May 15 or 18
- May 6, 7-8 pm, [Clark Construction Conversation](#) on MetPark Progress
- May 12, 7-9 pm, LRPC #2, [PenPlace](#) (Amazon HQ2)
- May 13, 7-9 pm, The [Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee \(PSMP-IAC\)](#); Click [here](#) for more information
- May 17, 7-9 pm, LRPC, [Crystal City Height Study](#)
- May 19, 7-9 pm, CCCA General Meeting; Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center; National Park Service
- Mid-May, [PenPlace](#) Park Master Planning Process (14-day online engagement)
- May 25, 7-9 pm, [Parks & Recreation Commission](#) (Eads St/Army Navy Dr Teardrop Park)
- May 27, 7-9 pm, [Forestry & Natural Resources Commission](#) (Eads St/Army Navy Dr Teardrop Park)
- Late May, Time TBD, [Crystal City Bike Network](#)
- June, [Eads St/Army Navy Drive Teardrop park](#), County Board
- June TBD, [Task Force VDOT Route 1 Study](#)
- June TBD, [Bicycle Advisory Commission](#), [Crystal City Bike Network](#)
- June/July TBD, JBG community meeting on the Future of the Underground

Other Issues:

- [Crystal Square Central District Construction/Opening](#): Staged openings in 2021; [Mah Ze Dahr Bakery](#) may open by late summer as build out continues; *grocery* still not announced but internal construction will start by early May and the grocery may open by late 2021 or early 2022; *Tacombi* Mexican food coming later in the year; *Solidcore* gym delayed due to COVID; *Alamo Draft House* last to open due to COVID but build out could take a year
- [1900 Crystal Drive construction](#): 3 years construction to 2024; started mid-April
- [2000/2001 S Bell](#): preparation work for demolition of 2001 Richmond Hwy started April 12 with the Underground from 20th to Crystal City Shops closed; when demolition of the tower starts end May, Underground passage will close for about 3 years
- [Water Park redesign](#): approved by County Board March 20; construction may start late summer 2021 with target completion winter/spring 2023
- [Marriott Residence Inn, Army Navy Drive](#): building demolition to be completed by June 2021
- [Long Bridge Aquatic Center](#): target construction completion/opening summer 2021
- [VRE Design for New Station](#): final design 2021-2022; award and construction 2022-2024
- [Boundary Channel \(VDOT\)](#): award contract summer 2021; construction 2022; target construction completion fall 2023
- [MetPark Amazon HQ2 and Park](#): Target construction completion mid-2023
- [PenPlace Amazon HQ2](#): LRPC/SPRC process has started; target completion end 2025
- [101 S 12th Street](#): approved by County Board December; no construction in 2021 until tenant signed; Gateway Park design when construction finished in 2-3 years
- [2121 Crystal Drive](#) (Dining in the Park) site plan amendment (approved at December County Board); no construction earlier than end 2021 with 2023 opening if a restaurant tenant lease is signed in 2021

Amazon HQ2

The first LRPC for PenPlace on April 19 appeared to be fairly straightforward until the location of the innovative Helix came up. The proposed buildings mass towards the south blocking the view of the Helix for residents. The fact that the layout of the Helix is designed to point towards DC and attract attention to Arlington is not seen as a positive by residents. There were also questions about the height of buildings and a desire to see more variety. Finally, on Open Space, there were questions about what is sidewalk and what is actually open space. Whereas it's good to see a reduction of traffic through the block, it's still a super block, which is supposed to be reduced in County planning. What does the plan mean for protected bike lanes and pick up/drop off zones? The next LRPC meeting is **May 12** when the applicant is asked to provide more details on a variety of issues, including the height of the buildings and PUDO (pick up drop off) areas. You can see the [project website here](#). The County Board is anticipated to hold a public hearing on PenPlace by the end of 2021. All four buildings are slated to be fully built by the end of 2025.

Project HUG (Highlands Urban Park)



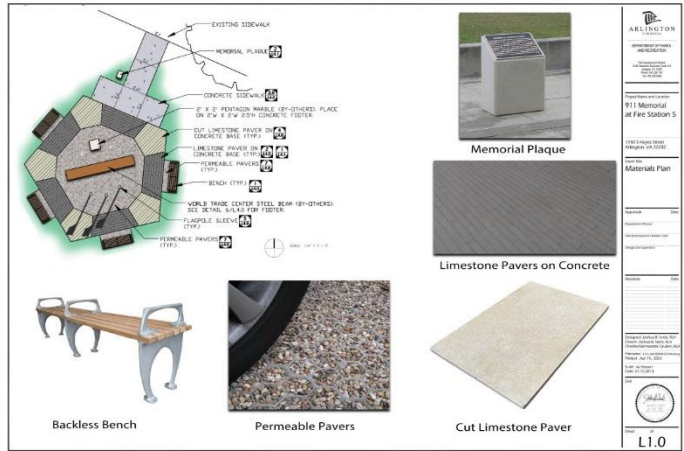
Our Livability Open Space project with the Friends of Urban Agriculture is moving towards the first harvest of lettuce! Lots of plants are in, the trellis is up for beans and tomatoes, the water tanks with art work are going in shortly to be hooked up to irrigation. We would love to have more volunteer gardeners. The majority appear to be residents of multifamily buildings, especially from Crystal City. Not surprising if your only gardening outlet is on your balcony. Fill out the [Volunteer Application Form for FOUA](#) in advance. This is required for FOUA insurance purposes and is not onerous. See the project on the [County website here](#) and on the [FOUA website here](#).

Temporary Dog Run Approved at Virginia Highlands Park

The Virginia Highlands Temporary Dog Run project has been given the green light! After a review of the site location, sponsor group funding and community input among other requirements, the County has determined that the Virginia Highlands Temporary Dog Run proposal meets these standards. Last winter, Arlington County shared an overview of the proposal and collected feedback from 152 community members. Overall, there was strong support for the proposal--highlighting it as an opportunity to activate this space and provide a resource for light exercise and relief. These were taken under consideration along with community concerns about having the right amount of space and recognizing desires for open space in the County. The sponsor group, Pentagon City Dogs, has signed the Adopt-a-Dog Park agreement and secured funding for the project. Construction will start this quarter and should be completed within 30 days, weather permitting. The temporary dog run will be in place until a Park Master Plan is developed for Virginia Highlands Park and funding is available to construct the plan. It will be reviewed annually to ensure it is safe and used appropriately. [See the project page here](#).

9/11 Memorial at Fire Station getting a Face Lift

As an Eagle Scout project, Aurora Highlands teenager Megan Mazel presented to Fire Station 5 on S.



Hayes Street last Fall a project to create a better memorial for the 9/11 iron girder that sits on the grass to the East of the station. The ACFD had long wanted to upgrade the memorial and the Livability22202 Open Space Working Group had proposed also doing something to improve that section of Virginia Highlands Park which we named "The Point" in the Working Group's "Naming Map." Those desires have now coalesced in a design which Megan is overseeing and which is now supported by the County Department of Parks & Recreation and Amazon, which is considering funding the project. Underground drainage has to be installed since the memorial is currently sinking in the ground. The final design is a pentagon shape with a circular walkway leading from the Hayes/18th Street sidewalk, with the girder pointing towards the Pentagon. A memorial plaque is part of the design. Now that the design has been approved, plans are to finish the installation in time to have an Arlington County memorial service at the site on September 11 this year. Kudos to Megan for her leadership, the ACFD for pushing the project forward, the County for approving the design on County property, and Amazon for hopefully funding the project.

Earth Day Cleanup April 17



Some 32 volunteers showed up at the Water Park April 17 to remove trash from the woods between the CSX tracks and the Mt Vernon Trail/GW Parkway, both north and south of the tunnel from the Water Park. Lots of enthusiastic volunteers, including a number of children with parents. We collected some pounds of trash and pounds of recycling, even a suitcase with a tree growing out of it. The object of this location was to raise awareness of the Livability22202 Open Space support for a trail/pathway to be built along the tracks from Roaches Run to the airport overpass. This idea was proposed by JBG Smith as part of community benefit for their site plan for 2525 Crystal Drive. That plan is delayed until completion of the ongoing Crystal City Height Study.

2000/2001 Clark/Bell Site Plan

The final joint LRPC/SPRC took place April 12 to review the many improvements to the site plan. It will go to the County Board **May 18** for approval. You can learn more about the project by visiting the [project website](#).

2450 and 2641 Crystal Drive Minor Site Plan Amendment



Lowe Enterprises Real Estate, which owns 2450 Crystal Drive and 2641 S. Clark Street, has applied for a minor site plan amendment to help break up the “mega block” along Crystal Drive south of 23rd Street S. Where a low-slung building space is currently sandwiched between two taller office buildings, Lowe envisions a plaza and retail pavilion, according to application documents. CCCA and Livability members participated in a community meeting April 1 with the developers and saw no problems with the plans which will “refresh” that section of Crystal Drive. This is next door to Lowe’s “Century Center Residential” development, a yet-to-be-built apartment building to go on top of the Buffalo Wild Wings at the corner of Crystal Drive and 23rd Street S, which was approved by the Arlington County Board four years ago.

This proposed minor site plan amendment for the Century Center at 2450 Crystal Drive is the third “minor” site plan amendment with “major” impacts on our community so far this year. The community, relevant commissions and committees, and County staff are still working on developing a “mini” review process that provides sufficient opportunity for relevant feedback from appropriate groups before sending the proposal to the County Board. Suggestions are welcome.

Retail Community Forum

The National Landing Business Improvement District (BID) sponsored a Retail Community Forum April 21 for JBG Smith to share the latest on evolving retail trends and how they inform JBG’s planning and overall retail strategy for Crystal Drive, Crystal City and the National Landing area. Their Master Plan focuses on retail returning within 4-5 years, just as planned development comes on line. The Retail Strategy follows a coordinated approach to what retail is there now, emphasizing local businesses, and considering how new retail will fit the neighborhood. The concept aims for a 15-minute neighborhood that residents can walk to. There are 4 key focus areas to the strategy: 1) Route 1 as a Grand Boulevard; 2) Crystal Drive as a Main Street 0.7 miles of shopping/dining; 3) connector streets crossing Route 1 between Crystal City and Pentagon City; and 4) the Underground. A separate meeting specifically on the Future of the Underground is being planned for later in response to Livability22202 input.

Pentagon City PDSP Update

The focus group consists of designated reps from neighborhoods, developers, and staff who are looking at existing conditions in the PC area, including approved plans/density, roads and pedestrian ways, transit, etc. The goal is to update and expand the 1976 plan resulting in a master plan for the PC area probably later this year though it may slide as the scope presents quite a challenge. Periodically there will be virtual public forums which anyone can attend. Scheduled virtual meetings are also posted there. After Public Community Meeting #5, the study has entered Phase 4 (April to

June): Review and Presentation of Final Plan. In case you prefer a full link, [this is where all project documents and products are posted](#). During the summer the County Board review process will begin, including with public hearings.

Crystal City Height Study

The 2010 Crystal City Sector Plan established a 40-year vision for Crystal City and led to the creation of the C-O Crystal City zoning district in 2011. Ten years later, increased interest in redevelopment within Crystal City has driven a need to review the Sector Plan and the C-O Crystal City zoning district to evaluate whether changes to maximum building heights could provide an opportunity to achieve additional community benefits and higher-quality architecture, beyond what was originally identified. The Crystal City Building Heights Study will develop recommendations for updates to height and related regulations found in the Sector Plan and the corresponding C-O Crystal City zoning district. At the March 24 LRPC meeting, the staff presented five scenarios to illustrate possible concepts for permitting additional height within the Crystal City Sector Plan boundaries. The highlights of the discussion will be analyzed by staff and the next iterations will be presented at the next LRPC meeting on **May 17**. The meeting materials can be seen [here](#).

Crystal City April 28 Bike Study Meeting Postponed

Since the conclusion of the engagement effort in mid-March, staff have been working to analyze and review feedback and look for opportunities to incorporate it into the recommended bike network. Because of the number of corridors and stakeholders involved, along with design work to determine feasibility, this process is taking more time than we anticipated. The good news is that there are a number of areas where we can consider changes to the recommended network to respond to public feedback. Staff are now working with our partners and stakeholders to pursue these improvements. In the meantime, we have shared [a summary of the feedback](#) we received from the first round of public engagement on the project website. We look forward to presenting the community with an updated recommended network later this spring at a virtual community public meeting. Thank you again for your interest in the Crystal City Bike Network.

Arlington County DES Transportation

Video: Amazon Touts Investment in Arlington, HQ2 Progress

Amazon has released a new, nearly [six-minute video](#) that touts its HQ2 investment in Arlington. The video discusses progress on Amazon's permanent second headquarters complex in Pentagon City, the inspiration behind the proposed Helix tower, and the company's various investments in the community.

JBG Applies for Alcohol License at Water Park

The Bethesda developer is seeking permission from the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Authority to let people sip on beer and wine at the Crystal City Water Park, located across the street from its Central District project at 1770 Crystal Drive. Should the ABC approve, the JBG Smith-owned site would be designated a consumption zone within a "commercial lifestyle center" where visitors can buy beverages at the Peruvian Brothers restaurant located inside the park and take them to-go anywhere within its 1.6 acres. [See more here](#). Or [here about Sip and Stroll](#).

Update on Pentagon Row Harris Teeter

At the County Board meeting March 23, many residents spoke against the amendment to remove the condition for a full-scale grocery on Pentagon Row. AED and the applicant assured the Board that they want to keep Harris Teeter (actually owned by Kroger), that it is not planning to go away, and that it has a long-term lease for 10 years, not subject to increased rent. The problem is that HT can unilaterally cancel its lease at any time and finding a replacement grocery could take up to a year, during which the space would remain vacant. This is why they requested more flexible language to negotiate in this changed market when few large-style grocery chains would be interested in opening a new store. The County Board then decided to defer the issue until its April meeting due to the complexities of the issue. The Board also instructed the County Manager to "work with the applicant on alternative amendments to Condition #52" and the rest "to balance market conditions and enforceability with maintaining essential retail offerings to the surrounding community." In the end, the applicant decided to leave condition #52 with no change. This was a major win for our community action. Read the [ArlNow article](#) here.

Clark Construction Conversation on MetPark Progress

A second Construction Conversation next **Thursday, May 6, 2021**, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. During this virtual event, we'll introduce new project team members, take a look inside the construction fence, share an update on construction progress over the last six months, and discuss key milestones ahead. Most importantly, we'll allow time to address your questions regarding the construction effort at Metropolitan Park during a live Q&A session. Register here.

Dominion Energy Crystal City Substation Improvement & Expansion

Construction will be starting in **mid-April** for the expansion of the Dominion Energy Crystal City Substation at 18th & S. Fern. All modes of transportation will be impacted, with expected sidewalks and lane closures needed during some construction phases. Watch the [March 17 public meeting recording](#) for details (construction details start at 7 minutes): During the meeting, project staff also introduced the artist and her proposed project her presentation starts at 18 minutes. Note that the County has swapped some of its land next to the existing facility for the now unused substation lot at the corner of 18th & S. Ives. Details on the condition of the land and future plans for this lot are still in flux. [The project webpage is here.](#)

Melwood Arlington Town Hall

Melwood, whose Arlington location is at 750 S. 23rd, held a [public engagement outreach](#) on Tuesday, March 30. This informative, but sparsely attended, town hall featured Melwood leaders who reviewed Melwood's history and current programs, followed by an interactive Jamboard planning exercise with participants and a quick survey of support for the ideas. The topics were: Open space, childcare, public art, community & social engagement, a potential Black Box theater, and affordable housing. Participants shared many suggestions and resources and supported most of the topics, with the most concerns about affordable housing on site. Melwood promised to continue to serve at a polling place for Aurora Hills (Precinct 3). Watch for further engagement opportunities!

Crystal City Farmers Market Is Back

Every **Tuesday** from 3-7 pm at the Courtyard Green at 2121 Crystal Drive. They're also bringing back a community compost collection. Just bring your compost to the FRESHFARM tent at the market and we'll take it from there! [Double check what is](#) and isn't compostable before dropping off your compost.

New Farmers Market Likely Coming to Pentagon City

On Saturday, April 17, the County Board approved a permit request from the National Landing Business Improvement District to hold an open-air farmers market at the plaza area in the northern portion of Metropolitan Park.. The farmers market would take place on Saturdays, April through November, from 8 a.m.-noon. However, the market would not start until June this year.

The Freshman Is Now Open in Crystal City

Area restaurateur Nick Freshman was the first to bet on Amazon's HQ2 when he signed a lease for a new restaurant in Crystal City in 2019, the first retail lease announced by developer and new Amazon Landlord JBG Smith following the tech giant's announcement to locate its headquarters expansion in National Landing, Virginia. The restaurant's doors at 2011 Crystal Drive opened April 14. [Read one review here.](#)

Electric Bike Store to Open in Crystal City

According to window stickers, Leafy Bikes will be opening soon at 570 23rd Street S., next to Burn & Brew. It is moving into the former Vintage Dress Company space, after the store moved completely online.

Other Restaurant and Store Changes

After first announcing their move to Crystal City in September 2019, Rasa is finally planning to open this summer. The D.C.-based, fast-casual Indian restaurant applied for a Virginia ABC permit to sell beer, wine and mixed drinks earlier in April, typically a prelude to an opening within a few months.

"Rasa National Landing" will be located at 2200 Crystal Drive, near a Sweetgreen, a Chick-fil-A, and an Amazon-assisted COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

The new **Virginia ABC store** at 1301 S. Joyce Street is set to open next Tuesday, April 6, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority announced today. The space previously housed a Mike Bloomberg for President campaign office.

ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

Arlington Board Adopts \$1.4 Billion FY 2022 Budget, Keeps Tax Rate Flat

The Arlington County Board voted 5-0 Tuesday, April 20, to adopt a \$1.4 billion balanced General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The Adopted Budget leaves the base real estate tax rate at \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed property value while investing in ongoing COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts, housing affordability, sustainability and effective changes towards improved crisis response and equity, among other priorities. [Read more here.](#)

Library Update

Based on the recently approved Arlington County FY22 Budget, the Library plans to expand open locations after July 1, as hiring and training of new staff allows. The Library hopes to open Aurora Hills and the newly renovated Columbia Pike branches during July.

The Library and the Friends of the Arlington Public Library (FOAL) cannot accept unsolicited donations at this time, as we do not have the space to store them or the staff available to sort them. The Friends are doing limited FOAL member book donation events by appointment only. For more information, please follow the Friends on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, or contact them at donations@arlingtonlibraryfriends.org.

Help Choose Arlington's New Logo: Voting Now Open

The search for the new Arlington County logo has been narrowed to five options by a panel of community members. Now, it is time for the greater Arlington community to weigh in. Everyone who lives, works or plays in Arlington is invited to select their two favorite logo options from the top five. The voting webpage is available in English and Spanish. [Cast Your Vote Now](#). The last day to vote is May 26. The Logo Review Panel will use the voting results to offer a final recommendation to the County Board in June.

Forestry Online Engagement Summary Report Now Available on FNRP Webpage

Late last year, Arlington County collected over 1,000 submissions and nearly 3,500 comments across three online questionnaires regarding the [Forestry and Natural Resources Plan](#). Questions about the three focus areas— Nature in Arlington, Natural Areas and Tree Canopy— focused on how community members currently experience Arlington's forestry and natural resources and what they envision for the future. Take a look at key findings, major themes and community comments in the [Online Engagement Summary Report](#).

Leadership Center for Excellence Programs

The Leadership Center for Excellence runs a local civic leadership program that trains and connects established and emerging leaders in the region to grow in their careers and community. They also have a summer fellows program for high school students who are looking to grow in leadership. They're currently focused on recruiting a diverse class of candidates who are reflective of the Arlington community and who will help make Arlington a thriving place to live. The alumni base includes elected officials, CEOs, Executive Directors, emerging young professional leaders, and awesome high school students (including two members of the National Landing BID!).

[Leadership Arlington](#): This nine-month program for established leaders is designed to strengthen and build community through an experiential and systems-based leadership education, framed around local issues. In each class, leaders from the private, nonprofit and public sectors will explore diverse perspectives and opportunities for individual and professional development.

[Ignite Young Professionals](#): Emerging leaders will have the opportunity to grow their leadership skills, put those skills into practice with a civic project, and gain relationships to support them in professional growth. This program is designed for high-potential leaders in the DC Metropolitan area.

[Summer Youth Fellows Program](#): This program brings together diverse groups of rising 9th – 12th grade Arlington students for a week during the summer. Students will learn leadership skills and then

leverage those skills to present recommendations on solutions to community problems. This program will be presented through a lens of training students in the importance of racial equity.

[Learn More & Apply:](#)

Leadership Arlington & Ignite Information Sessions at noon on May 4 & 13

LA & Ignite Applications due: May 28

Summer Youth Fellows Program Applications due: June 11 at noon

Annual Spring Cleaning of Region's Tap Water Network

The District of Columbia, Arlington County and the northeastern Fairfax County will clean out their tap water network started Monday, April 5—a safe, annual process. Water service continues uninterrupted during the process, which runs from **April 5 through May 17**. During that time, drinking water may smell or taste slightly different, but it's safe to drink for most people. You can run the cold water tap for about two minutes, then use a water filter or allow water to sit in a container in the refrigerator to remove chlorine taste and odor. If you already take special precautions to remove chloramine from tap water, you should continue such methods during the temporary switch to chlorine. Consult with your health provider if you have concerns.

Final Vision Zero Action Plan and Next Steps

View the final Action Plan, which will go to the County Board for consideration on May 15, 2021. We are proud of the collaboration that produced the Vision Zero Action Plan, and we hope you are, too. This is only the beginning! We look forward to working with you as we implement this first Vision Zero Action Plan over the next five years, and work toward Zero by 2030. Stay up-to-date on the Board approval process and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan by following the Department of Environmental Services [on social media](#), or by checking for updates on [the Vision Zero website](#). View the interactive [Vision Zero Crash Dashboard](#), which illustrates crashes that occurred in Arlington and were reported by either local or state police officers.

Aircraft Noise Mitigation Study

The latest community meeting #2 held April 5 was hosted by Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson and Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey. The study team reported on the [findings](#) from the community questionnaire issued after Community Meeting #1, the consultant's baseline conditions report, and the draft notional approaches (flight arrival procedures) prepared based on community flight procedure design principles. You can follow the study [here](#) and the County's [working group](#) here.

County Library: Looking Ahead to FY2022

The Library will hire new staff this spring, in order to begin opening more locations this summer. Community health metrics are not the driving factor in regard to opening additional locations and services. The County has been under a hiring freeze for more than one year. Libraries cannot open additional locations or services with current staffing levels. The County Manager recently approved exceptions to this hiring freeze for Libraries with a goal to reopen additional locations as soon as possible in FY 2022, which begins on July 1, 2021.

Arlington's Racist History

Lyon's Legacy is a biweekly limited-run opinion column on the history of housing in Arlington which is running in ArlNow.com. The views expressed are solely the author's, but give historical insight into the way racism was instilled in and maintained in Arlington until recent years. Four of the eight installments have appeared and can be read [here](#).

OTHER ISSUES

2021 Voting Begins



The 2021 election season in Virginia began April 23, when in-person voting began for primary elections. They are mostly Democratic primaries this year; most of the Republican races will be decided in a series of remote conventions May 8, although there will be a few GOP races on the ballot. The next election will be a Democratic Primary Election on June 8, 2021. Primary elections are for: Governor; Lt Governor; Attorney General; 1 County Board seat. No primary for House of Delegates 48th

District. [Here's the ballot for the 48th District.](#)

Project Journey at National airport



Project Journey reached a major milestone when the newly constructed 225,000-square-foot concourse opened at Reagan National Airport. The first arrival taxied early to Gate 57 on April 20. The 14-gate concourse will serve as the home of American Airlines' regional operations and provides direct, enclosed access to aircraft via jetbridges, as well as spacious waiting areas. This summer, when finishing touches on the building are complete, the concourse will also feature new shopping and dining options. The new concourse, which includes Gates 46-59, was designed to enhance passenger convenience and comfort. The opening marks the permanent end of operations at Gate 35X, where

passengers previously rode buses to aircraft before boarding via outdoor stairways and ramps. The new gates provide a one-for-one replacement of the former remote positions - without adding capacity for additional flights.

The theme for Synetic's Summer Camps is "COMMUNITY!"

Each camp will be a social experience where students interact with one another in their groups and build their own community. Together, students will work as a team to create their own show. Each summer camp student will have an action-packed day full of acting, dancing, and games ending the week with a performance on our mainstage! Are your students looking to sign up for the same session with a group of friends? We can help you! Email our camp Director Ashton Schaffer at ashton@synetictheater.org and we will help you find the perfect summer camp session for your group. Don't forget to ask about our group discount!. With limited capacity and only 13 students to a group, sign up today! [In-person](#) and [virtual](#) options are available.

Brood X Cicadas!

Brood X cicadas are due to emerge in our area sometime in May, once the soil temperature has reached 64-degree F, often after a rain. [Cicada Safari](#) is a free app that allows YOU to help track the emerging cicadas – and the website has terrific background information on these amazing insects. It's a great place to start your cicada adventure!

Changes to GW Parkway southbound in Fairfax

Some changes are coming to the George Washington Memorial Parkway to make it safer for travelers between Alexandria and the eponymous President's home at Mount Vernon. "The NPS will restripe the road to implement a road diet while maintaining driving capacity," NPS said in a press release. "On the parkway between Tulane Drive and Stratford Lane, the NPS will change markings so that there will be three travel lanes (2 northbound, 1 southbound) and one turn lane." All changes on the parkway are taking place in Fairfax — not Alexandria — but will affect travel to and from the city. [Read more here.](#)

Closure on Metro Green and Yellow Lines

Metro is reminding Green and Yellow line customers to plan ahead for scheduled track work May 1-9 that will require free shuttle buses to replace trains at four stations over one weekend and the weeklong closure of West Hyattsville. The work will upgrade the interlocking system at Fort Totten, which allows trains to safely cross from one track to another. [View news release.](#)

Metro begins phasing out older SmarTrip cards

Metro's original SmarTrip® cards will soon become a relic of the past, as Metro invests in new faregates, fareboxes and fare payment options that will make it quicker and easier to pay but won't be compatible with the old cards. Customers are encouraged to replace their old SmarTrip cards now to avoid issues later. The first generation SmarTrip cards contain outdated chip technology and were produced prior to 2012. Metro is phasing out use of the cards in conjunction with the year-long rollout of new faregates in stations starting as early as June and new bus fareboxes next year. As many as 400,000 of the old cards were in active use prior to the pandemic, affecting a small percentage of the six million SmarTrip cards that were in active circulation at the time. Metro is offering customers several convenient options, including mail-in, online, phone or in-person, to make the switch and transfer any balance to a new or existing SmarTrip card or virtual SmarTrip card on a mobile device. The best way to tell if you need to replace your card is to check the serial number on the back. *All newer SmarTrip cards start with the serial number "0167," any others will need to be replaced.* Additional information and instructions on how to transfer your balance to a new or existing SmarTrip card can be found at wmata.com/cardreplacement.

Crystal City Scaled-Back 5K

The BID is hosting a single event next month dubbed the Great Inflatable Race, Friday, May 7 at 6 p.m., kicking off from the "Courtyard Green" at 2121 Crystal Drive. As the name suggests, participants are being encouraged to come "dressed in your wackiest summer inflatable attire. Only 250 participants will be able to register, and even then runners will start the race in waves and will be required to wear masks "at the start and finish lines and while passing within 10 feet of other runners. [Sign up here.](#)

Movies in the Park

Join the National Landing BID for a month of outdoor movie nights **Saturday** night at Virginia Highlands Park. Movies will begin after sundown. [Pre-registration will be required](#). Please register for each individual week at the links below:

May 7: Moana

May 14: The Secret Garden

May 21: Mary Poppins Returns

May 28: Bill & Ted Face the Music

Social distance circles will be sprayed and there will be a four person limit per circle. Masks will be required while walking to or from your circle. Registration opens on April 14th.

National Landing Market

Head to National Landing each Saturday for a weekly market that features an extraordinary lineup of local vendors, representing cultures from around the world, selling furniture, vintage clothing, collectibles, antiques, a curated selection of jewelry, arts and crafts, and more! Plaza behind 220 20th street south. **May 15-July 31**, 11-6 pm.

Bike to Work Week

Join us at the Water Park (1601 Crystal Drive) every morning **May 17 to 21** from 7-9 am rain or shine. Riders who check in all 5 days will earn the coveted, exclusive National Landing Cycling Swag, but we will have fun bike swag available for all riders each day. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be providing pre-packaged food only and will NOT have a water refill station. Linger will not be encouraged or allowed to cut down on crowd size. We also encourage all participants to sign-up for WABA's Bike to Work Day on May 21. That is a separate [registration](#).

Fridays at the Fountain

Fridays at the Fountain is back every Friday from June through October! This outdoor concert series features local bands and musicians and is free to attend. Food and drinks are available for purchase through the Peruvian Brothers at The Stand. [Reserve your spot now](#) and enjoy great live music under the stars with your family and friends. Due to COVID restrictions, we will have strict attendance caps in place and pre-registration will be required to attend. Reserve your seat now for groups of up to 6. Children under 2 do not need a ticket. There will be no standing room and masks will be required at all times when not seated.

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

President Carol Fuller

Vice President for Policy & Planning Christopher Wimbush

Meeting Secretary Patricia Heath

Communications Director Idris Clay

Membership Liaison Emily Norton

Treasurer Eric Cassel

Join on our website:

<http://www.crystalcitycivic.org/>

Or [Renew Your Membership](#)

Pay through PayPal

Or send a check for \$10 to:

Eric Cassel

Treasurer, CCCA

1300 Crystal Drive #203

Arlington, VA 22202