

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



August 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things are finally quieting down in August, with fewer meetings. But we still look to your input on issues of concern or questions we can help answer. Let us know.

- Carol Fuller, CCCA President

CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

Farewell to Aaron Bethencourt who served temporarily for the last few months on an appointment as our Membership Liaison. Welcome back to Emily Norton.

July 19 CCCA General Meeting

Our meeting agenda included:

1. Updates by JBG Smith on development: 223 S 23rd Street/2250 Crystal Drive; pocket parks on 18th Street; and construction on 1900 Crystal Drive and 2000/2001 S Bell Street.
2. Update on VDOT Study on Route 1: Why bring it down to grade? Why do the three 22202 civic associations say the study is “incomplete”?
3. Briefing on Civic Federation study on Arlington County governance
4. Briefing on Arlington County requirements for building inspections

You can watch the full meeting [here](#).

September 15 CCCA General Meeting

Our tentative agenda is:

1. Presentation by Dweck on its new development strategy and outreach to the community on its 6 buildings in Crystal City– Andy VanHorn, Senior VP
2. Presentation by Amazon representatives on what operations Amazon has in 22202 and also on its plans for PenPlace

Stay tuned for details

Project HUG (Highlands Urban Garden)

We hosted a small media event July 26 to thank our donors, volunteers, and our contacts with Arlington County for their support for the HUG. This is a collaborative project between Livability22202 and the Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA) sponsored by the National Landing BID and Arlington County Department of Parks & Recreation to develop a demonstration urban garden. The HUG is now almost a year old, and we have already donated more than 100 pounds of produce to various charities, with the goal of reaching 250 by the end of the



year. The pilot project has been very successful. To learn more about the HUG and volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://arlingtonurbanag.org/project-hug>

National Night Out

The three civic associations in 22202--Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, Crystal City--have joined with the National Landing BID to co-sponsor National Night Out in the Summer House and park at 101 S. 12th Street. National Night Out is a community-police awareness-raising event in the United States, held the first Tuesday of August. It's a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. We will have fire trucks, police cars, food trucks, games, music, and lots of goings on. Thank you to Amazon for sponsoring the refreshments! Although no more vouchers for food are available via the RSVP due to an overwhelming response, you can still visit the park and join the festivities.



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:

- August 3, 5-8 pm, National Night Out, 101 S 12th Street (see below)
- August 3, 2-4 pm, mock election using Ranked Choice Voting; tabulation 5-7 (see below)
- August 18-19, Tour of Aquatic Center for 22202 residents (see below)
- August 20-22, Arlington County Fair
- August/September TBD, JBG community meeting on the Future of the Underground

New Issues:

- CC2DCA: engineering firm hired in March to prepare a draft environmental impact statement by 2023, setting it up for a final approval from the Federal Highway Administration in 2024; **comment deadline August 15**
- Pentagon City PDSP Study Update, **feedback due August 23** (see below)
- Crystal Square Central District Construction/Opening: *Tacombi* Taqueria will open in September; *Solidcore* is planning for August. *Grocery* still not announced but construction underway and may open by late 2021 or early 2022; *Alamo Draft House* has announced an opening in Spring 2022
- PenPlace Amazon HQ2: LRPC #4 met July 13; SPRC process to start in fall
- Long Bridge Aquatic Center: nearing completion; soft opening mid-August; grand opening September; watch for an invitation to register for a tour of the facility August 18 and 19.
- Transitway Extension to 12th Street and 12th Street Complete Project: public engagement fall 2021; Construction on combined projects expected December 2021 for 12 months

No Change In Information:

- 2000/2001 S Bell: demolition of the tower at 2001 Richmond Hwy began in July with the Underground passage from 20th to Crystal City Shops closed for about 3 years
- 223 23rd Street/2250 Crystal Drive site plan; southern end of Block M; revised site plan submitted in July; both JBG and Dweck will participate in the first LRPC when scheduled in September
- 241-251 18th Street renovation of plazas on both sides of 241; under design by JBG; no impact on pending 18th Street park design between current and proposed Metro entrances
- 15th Street/Clark Bell Realignment, 90% design, comment period closed July 9
- Water Park redesign: approved by County Board March 20; construction may start October 2021 with target completion winter/spring 2023
- 1900 Crystal Drive construction: 3 years construction to 2024; started mid-April; Center Park and library tied to construction
- 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
- 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
- New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive: Design approved by CB June 2021; Construction Begins 3rd Quarter 2022 and ends 3rd Quarter 2023

Metro 2nd Entrance in Crystal City

Arlington County, in coordination with Metro, is proposing a second entrance to the Crystal City Metrorail Station. The station is one of the more highly used stations in Arlington County, and the proposed second entrance would provide additional capacity to accommodate more riders as the region continues to grow. The proposed second entrance would be located at the east end of the station – near 18th Street S & Crystal Drive – and would provide easier access from Crystal Drive, the VRE station and the Metroway transit station. In addition, the proposed second entrance plan includes elevator upgrades to improve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide more conveniently located elevator access. The proposed second entrance would also serve as an additional emergency exit. [Read more here.](#)

CC2DCA Project

On July 15 the County held a public meeting on the process for studying a potential pedestrian/bike connection from Crystal City to National Airport. In 2017 the BID funded a feasibility study, which created the idea for this connection. In 2019 the Commonwealth of Virginia dedicated \$9.5 million in federal funding for project planning, NEPA, and preliminary engineering, one of five projects to be funded as part of the agreement to bring Amazon to Arlington. As the project sponsor, the County has contracted the engineering firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) as consultants on a \$4.23 million contract in March to shepherd the project through that process. The Federal Highway Administration is the lead federal agency and VDOT is the joint lead agency.

Due to federal funding requirements, the project can't build on the BID study, but must start again from scratch, although the BID study can be one of the inputs. This means completing a full NEPA process that will take 3 years till 2023. NEPA means evaluating the environmental impact of the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and ensuring that all federal regulations are followed. Step 1 in the NEPA process is a public survey to determine the purpose and need for the project. **The deadline for survey feedback is August 15.** [Click here to take the CC2DCA Questionnaire.](#) You can also send in comments to info@cc2dca.us. Step 2 is to develop and evaluate alternatives, and there will be a second public meeting in the winter of 2021-2022 to consider these. Once a preferred alternative is determined, there will be a third public meeting in the spring of 2023. The County hopes to get FHA approval in 2024.

Whenever the project secures the necessary approvals, Arlington should have most of the cash it needs to actually build it. Officials estimate a cost of about \$36 million, and the county currently has about \$27.5 million secured via state and regional transportation funding sources. The county itself would likely be on the hook to fill the gap. You can get more background and find the link to the July 15 meeting on the [project page](#).

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center Opening Soon

Around mid-August the new Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center will open! We're excited to see everyone return to the water. Once the new center is open, it will become the home for all Arlington County Parks & Recreation aquatics classes and private swim lessons, including the 55+ aquatics programs. There will be an array of aquatics offerings this fall, pending COVID-19 guidelines. [Online registration](#) begins at 7 a.m. for gymnastics classes and 7:30 a.m. for all other programs **on Aug. 4.** View our online registration guide. Also look for the 55+ Guide eNews in August; [fall registration](#) will open for 55+ County residents on **August 18.** For more information, [click here](#). We anticipate being able to provide more aquatic offerings and look forward to utilizing the amazing new space! There are over 200 parking spaces available when you arrive. If you have questions regarding Parks & Recreation 55+ aquatics programs or the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, please contact Allison Cheek at acheek@arlingtonva.us.

Tour of Aquatic Center for 22202 residents

We are coordinating with the Facility Manager a tour of the Aquatic Center on August 18 and 19. Register on [Sign Up Genius](#) as tours are limited to 20 people each. If the tours fill up, the County might agree to additional tours the next week.

Dominion Power Has Started Construction on Crystal City Substation

Dominion Energy is expanding the power substation to upgrade the local system in advance of increased power demands from the massive Amazon HQ2 being built nearby in Pentagon City. Construction has begun and will continue through third quarter 2022 and the full project until second quarter 2023. See the [project page](#) for details.

VDOT Feasibility Report is Incomplete and Unsatisfactory

After 10 months of study and public meetings, VDOT released its feasibility report on Route 1 at the final Public Information Meeting June 16. No surprise: the recommendation is to bring Route 1 down to grade. The Livability Working Group released [a press release on June 27](#). We also sent letters to

the [Arlington County Board](#), [VDOT](#), and our [Virginia legislators](#). Subsequently on July 2, a representative group from the Working Group walked back and forth across Route 1 with County Board member Takis Karantonis to show what the concerns are from the perspective of those of us who live here. He was engaged and interested in our position and concerns. As we walked, we crossed Route 1 at 23rd as well as 20th so there were opportunities to provide the full Route 1 experience. We discussed the need for the underpasses to allow pedestrians, cyclists, and even motor vehicles to easily cross Route 1. He promised to consult with all stakeholders and get back to us.

Pentagon City PDSP Study Update

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. 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](#).

A [first draft plan has just been released](#) with a 2-week window in August for feedback. We also will be holding (virtual) Public Office Hours on Wednesday, **August 11** from 1-3 PM and 7-9 PM so that there are opportunities to ask questions and share back and forth about the draft plan. These office hours do not have a presentation, and are a “drop-in” style; the broad range of time is to attempt to accommodate different schedule needs. Links to sign up for these office hours, to be hosted on zoom, will be posted on the County website shortly: To send any questions or comments directly, please email Kathleen.Onufer@godyclancy.com and Matt.Mattauszek@arlingtonva.us. If you have a specific comment, it is helpful to note the page number in the document. We are exploring creating a webform to allow for comment entry there. **We ask that you review this first draft no later than August 23**, so that your comments can be fully incorporated into a second draft plan that will be released in mid-September, concurrent with presentation of the draft plan to multiple County commissions over the following month.

A second draft will be released in September followed by a final Public Workshop/Open House and the beginning of County Committee/Commission briefings. Final Board consideration of the plan is anticipated sometime in the Fall. Upcoming meetings:

August 11 Office Hours

August 23: deadline for comments on Draft Plan #1

Mid-August: Release of Further DES Transportation Content and comment period

Mid-September: Release of Draft Plan #2, Presentations to Commissions begin, Virtual Public Open House

PenPlace Update

The fourth and final LRPC was held on July 13. Although the revised designs improved a number of issues, including space between buildings, a somewhat straightened east-west path through the center, and a new entrance at the middle of the Army Navy Drive site, there were a lot of remaining concerns. Planning Commissioner and community representatives alike said that they were more concerned about the lack of diversity in height of the block-shaped buildings which space between the buildings did not address: there is no sculpting. Although protected bike lines were welcomed on 3 sides of the site, many insisted that 12th Street must have protection for bikes, especially since the original plan for an 11th Street through the middle of the site has now been eliminated to favor a park. Although a new Army Navy Drive entrance was welcomed, it consists of steps and is not ADL compliant. The applicant (Amazon) via its architecture firm and JBG Smith developer, will need to

www.crystalcitycivic.org
www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic

address some of these issues before an SPRC can be scheduled, presumably in September. The applicant presentation and the meeting recording can be viewed on the [project site](#).

9/11 Eagle Scout Project Moving Forward



The County has approved a temporary project upgrade for the 9/11 memorial next to Fire Station 5 on 18th Street. Megan Mazel's scout troop and family began constructing a pentagon shape around the memorial on July 31 with lumber donation from Home Depot. A temporary plaza with mulch provided by the County was installed in preparation for the 9/11 memorial ceremony in September. A much larger permanent project is on hold due to cost, construction issues, and permitting.

Arlington County and Amazon to Facilitate Additional Affordable Housing on Crystal House Land Parcels

Amazon has announced its intention to assign its Option on the undeveloped land parcels on the Crystal House Apartments site to Arlington County for the purpose of developing new affordable housing. More than 550 units are planned to be developed as affordable for moderate- to low income households. The agreement also provides flexibility to the County to develop a portion of the overall unit count at other properties in Arlington County, if preferred. Amazon paid \$40 million to secure this land option when it helped the Washington Housing Conservancy (WHC) acquire the property in 2020 and will convey it to the County as part of an Assignment and Assumption Agreement. The County approved this on July 17 and will initiate a thorough, national-scale developer selection process with a master developer and sub developers to provide best practices for multiple-phase, mixed-income, urban block development and associated finance strategies. The project shall reflect goals of Arlington County's Affordable Housing Master Plan, the Housing Arlington program, and other related policies. [Read the announcement here.](#)

AT&T and JBG Smith Unveil Plans to Make National Landing the United States' First 5G Smart City at Scale

AT&T and JBG SMITH have entered into a letter of intent to deliver the first 5G Smart City at scale in National Landing. The first network infrastructure deployments are planned for the first half of 2022 and will expand with development of the community. They plan to work together to deliver one of the most robust network infrastructure deployments in any urban environment. 5G, with local area compute edges, could make National Landing a prototype for smart cities of the future and create a unified consumer experience across asset types. The area could also enhance offerings in mobility and self-driving vehicles, immersive retail and entertainment, and building automation and environmental sustainability. [Read more here.](#)

In support of advancing the creation of an innovation district in National Landing, the Arlington County Board approved July 20 signing an Indefeasible Rights of Use (IRU) Agreement with JBG SMITH, to use a share of County-owned excess dark fiber and conduit access in National Landing. This agreement will support and benefit businesses, federal agencies, educational institutions, the public and other organizations with cost-competitive and reliable access to high-speed wired or wireless (5G) data-transmission capacity to promote economic and community development. In exchange for

www.crystalcitycivic.org
www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic

conduit access for 75 years with an option of 24 additional years, JBG SMITH has agreed to provide Arlington with funds that offer an opportunity to support Arlington's digital equity goals. Arlington will receive \$2.8M upfront and an additional \$700,000 when connection is established to another section of dark fiber in the future. [Read the press release here.](#)

Arlington County to Resume Focus on Condo Affordability

Arlington County is looking to restart an initiative aimed at helping condominium owners stay in their condos that was halted by the pandemic. The Condominium Initiative, which is part of the county's Housing Arlington program, is focused on strengthening condo associations. A series of workshops this fall will include information on when capital improvement assessments should be performed and who should do them. Over the last couple of years, the County Board has received a growing number of accounts of deferred maintenance in certain condo communities, a trend that he predicted will continue as wages stagnate and fees climb. He added that the work should start now because sustainable solutions will require federal policies, which could take a few years to hammer out, he said. The board member said he wants monthly fees and assessments to be tax deductible just as interest on mortgages for homes is tax deductible. [Read more here.](#)

Homeowner Assistance Funds to Help With Mortgages

Later this year, Virginia will launch the Virginia Mortgage Relief Program, which will provide homeowners with assistance to prevent and/or ease mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic. Financial hardship could include an increase in living expenses, child care, change in household size, job loss or reduction in income, etc. The Commonwealth of Virginia expects to receive approximately \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds through the U.S. Department of Treasury. These funds are intended to support homeowners facing housing instability resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Virginia Homeowners will be able to request assistance when the program launches in early fall 2021. We're still working out the details of our program, and will post updates on this website when the program goes live. [Please check back for updates!](#)

Future Amazon HQ2 Park Will Draw on Local Water Systems

Three water "elements" will be the focal points of the planned park space at PenPlace, the second phase of proposed Amazon's HQ2. And Kate Orff, the landscape architect designing this park, is drawing her inspiration from Roaches Run and the historic Alexandria Canal, as well as the churning waters of Great Falls Park and the sylvan streams of Rock Creek Park. [Read more here.](#)

Common Replaces WeLive at 2221 Clark/Bell

JBG Smith, main developer of National Landing in Arlington, Virginia, has selected Common to manage the 216 co-living units at 2221 S. Clark St., formerly the WeWork co-living community WeLive Crystal City. WeWork's spokesperson said it turned over management of the Crystal City WeLive in April and the Wall Street WeLive in June. The building's co-living units are now available starting at less than \$1,000 per month. National Landing, a new mixed-use walkable downtown and home of Amazon's HQ2 and Virginia Tech's \$1 billion innovation campus, is expected to see consistent demand for attainable, desirable housing for young professionals, according to JBG Smith. [Read more here.](#)

Crystal City Bike Network

In March 2020 the County Board directed the County Manager to develop a plan for improving the bicycle network in Crystal City within the next four years, by Dec. 31, 2024. The area covered by this plan is bounded by Richmond Highway (Route 1) on the west and Crystal Drive on the east, from the Alexandria border north to Long Bridge Park. The initial draft route proposed at the first public meeting was widely criticized for being dangerous, confusing, incoherent, and incomplete, and for not supporting a northbound protected bike lane on Crystal Drive. Read the SUSMO critique of the first version [here](#). The second Public meeting was held June 15: Meeting recording, presentation slides, and Q&A are available through [the project page](#). The revised plan is better, but still needs improvement. DES will use this feedback to finalize a Preferred Alternative for the Crystal City Bike Network, which will be presented to the County Board this fall for action.

Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Opening Delayed to September 2022

Metro announced a delay of at least five months to complete construction of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station. Prior to the announcement, Metro notified the City of Alexandria of the delay. Metro engineers determined that the original design of the Automatic Train Control (ATC) systems, which was based upon specifications written by WMATA, did not meet all of the important safety requirements to ensure the safe operation of trains. The ATC system prevents trains from getting too close to one another and ensures trains always maintain a safe distance. The station, originally expected to open in April 2022, is now anticipated to open in or around Fall 2022 in order to complete the design and implementation of this safety critical system. Metro will work with its contractor to seek ways to prioritize completion of the ATC elements of this project. Alexandria intends to have its own expert construction consultant review the schedule to determine if there is a way to safely open this station earlier than September of 2022.

One year of lane closures in Potomac Yard

Starting today, much of Potomac Avenue where it runs through the Potomac Yard neighborhood will be cut down from four lanes to two for over a year as construction continues on the Potomac Yard Metro Station. The closures will run from E. Glebe Road, near the National Industries for the Blind, up to the city border with Arlington County.

Prioritizing Schools

The three 22202 civic associations-- Arlington Ridge, Aurora Highlands, and Crystal City--sent a letter June 23 to the County Board, voicing support for the Board to develop a plan for the creation of more K-12 seats in 22202. The letter, prepared by the Livability Schools Working Group, calls for the County to engage with APS with the aim of siting an elementary school within walkable distance of a significant percentage of children in 22202. It calls for a long-term plan in next year's CIP to address capacity issues at Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School, through construction of existing facilities or new and innovative solutions leveraging partnerships with industry and commercial real estate developers. [Read the letter here.](#)

Cultural reopenings:

The Arlington Historical Society celebrated the grand reopening of the [Arlington Historical Museum](#) on July 4th with traditional holiday food, special tours, and a chance to listen to and meet with local leaders. The museum, located in the historic Hume School, is returning to its regular open schedule:

www.crystalcitycivic.org
www.facebook.com/crystalcitycivic

Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. View a video, Hume School: Past, Present, and Futures, recorded in May 2021, that discusses the history of the Hume School and AHS plans for the future. Donations, memberships, and visitors are welcome and appreciated.

The Arlington County **Aurora Hills Branch Library**, which shares the building at 735 18t St. South with the Aurora Hills Community Center, reopened on Tuesday, July 6. Currently, all five opened libraries are providing the same hours (Mon-Tues 10-5, Wed-Thurs 12-7, Fri-Sat 12-5) and services, including access to printers and scanners, self service pick-up, free WiFi, seating, and collection access and assistance. Find out more [here](#). Better yet – check it out! It's great to have both of these facilities open again!

Study: Arlington Apartments Are Getting More Spacious

The average square footage of an Arlington apartment appears to be increasing, according to a new study from RENTCafé. Among 92 cities and jurisdictions, more than one-third are building bigger apartments now than they did five to 10 years ago, according to the website, which follows trends in the apartment market. And Arlington County had the seventh largest jump in unit size between 2016 and 2021. JBG Executive Vice President of Development Bryan Moll said the people seeking larger rental units fall into a few categories: first-time renters seeking units that fit roommates, those constrained by “the limited supply of affordable, for-sale housing,” and new or growing families. [Read more here.](#)

Target (and more) coming to Pentagon Row

According to Arlnow, a permit was submitted to the County for adding a Target store in the old Bed Bath and Beyond space, to “include retail sales of merchandise and groceries” but “no food or beverage preparation.” No opening date is known. This would add to other recently added businesses, mostly eateries, including an ABC store, Mattie and Eddie’s Irish pub, Bun’d Up & Wild Tiger BBQ pop-up, Napoli Salumeria, and Origin Coffee Lab and Kitchen. Opening soon: Nighthawk Pizza, featuring low-ABV beer; Lucky Danger Chinese restaurant; Mimi’s Handmade Ice Cream.

Yes, we have free bananas!

The Amazon banana stand is open from M-F from 7:30 AM to 3PM and a peppy, friendly Banista is ready to offer you your daily banana fix. Stop by the cart - under the overhang to the 1776 Crystal Drive building at the NW corner of 18th & Crystal Drive.

Restaurant and Store News

Tacombi, a New York City-based taqueria chain, will open in September at 1550 Crystal Drive.

Rasa opened July 1. Bowl-based, Indian fare. 10:30AM-9PM. 2200 Crystal Drive, Ste F

Mah-Ze-Dahr Bakery. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily to start, with plans to expand to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. 1550 Crystal Dr.

Lucky Danger, a Chinese-American pop up restaurant, opened July 21 in the former Aabee Express location in Westpost.

Elements Massage opened at Westpost on Monday, July 19th.

Also of note – **Freddies** on 23rd street celebrated their 20th anniversary in June. Congratulations!

ARLINGTON COUNTY ISSUES

Arlington County Board Adopts Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-24

The Arlington County Board approved a \$1.25 billion three-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) July 20 that focuses on meeting Arlington's existing commitments, addressing critical infrastructure maintenance, and beginning investments in long-term plans and programs that will ensure sustainability over the years to come.

From Lee Highway to Langston Boulevard

It's official! The Board voted unanimously to officially rename U.S. Route 29 to Langston Boulevard within the boundaries of Arlington County between North Lynn Street to the western border of Arlington County with the City of Falls Church. The renaming of Route 29, known as Lee Highway throughout the County, comes after the Lee Highway Alliance working group of residents and business owners underwent an effort to determine a name that better reflects Arlington County's values, promotes equity, and is welcoming to all people who work on, live on, and/or visit the corridor. While the legal name change is complete, signs and addresses won't change until early 2022. [Read more here.](#)

Ranked Choice Voting Mock Election to be Held 8/3/2021

The Arlington County Office of Voter Registration & Elections will conduct a mock election using Ranked Choice Voting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly allowed local councils and boards to be selected using an election method called ranked choice voting. This method allows voters to rank candidates in the order of their preference. The State Board of Elections is currently soliciting feedback on rules governing this election method. The public comment period ends 8/9/2021. The Arlington Office of Elections will conduct a mock election using ranked choice voting to gain a better understanding of this election method. The event will take place in 2 parts: Voting and Tabulation. The public is invited to attend both events to learn more about ranked choice voting.

Voting – Cast a mock ballot with a Ranked Choice Contest
2-4pm, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, 1st Floor

Tabulation – Learn about how ballots are counted
5-7pm, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, 1st Floor

For more information contact the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at 703-228-3456 or <mailto:voters@arlingtonva.us>.

Arlington County/City of Falls Church 2022 Juror Qualification Process Begins in August

The Arlington Circuit Court, which includes the City of Falls Church, will soon begin its annual juror qualification process. Juror questionnaires will be mailed in early August to randomly selected residents of Arlington County and Falls Church City. These questionnaires are used to qualify residents for jury duty which begins January 1, 2022, and ends December 31, 2022.

Vision Zero in Arlington County -- July Updates

[See the latest newsletter.](#) Speed limit reductions and signage.

Arlington County Board Adopts Community Oversight Board with Independent Subpoena Power

In an effort to improve transparency and accountability in the Arlington County Police Department, the Arlington County Board voted July 21 5-0 to establish a Community Oversight Board (COB) of the police department that will have independent investigative and subpoena power. The ordinance also calls for an accompanying Independent Policing Auditor to work with the Community Oversight Board. [View the complete ordinance.](#) [Read more here.](#)

Arlington Takes Next Steps in Race and Equity Work

Anticipating our Future, Examining our Past, coming in September, Arlington County continued its [commitment to racial equity](#) in County government and the greater community, releasing a new online resource and hosting a virtual community discussion July 21. Arlington County has released two 15-year spans of [its new Racial History Timeline](#), documenting key historical events in housing, education, community facilities, public safety, transportation, urban planning, public infrastructure, and more. The timeline allows Arlington's residents, employees, and other constituents to understand the history of local policies, marking key historical events on topics such as housing, education, community facilities, public safety, transportation, urban planning, public infrastructure, and more. The first two published spans encompass the years [1930–1945](#) and [1946–1960](#). Stay tuned for details on a virtual interactive discussion, [Race Matters: Anticipating our Future, Examining our Past](#), coming in September.

Community Conversations with the Chief

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) recognizes this is a transformational time in the law enforcement profession and a true period of opportunity for ACPD to work collectively with the community in determining the future of policing in Arlington. As we continue to advance best practices in alignment with 21st Century Policing, we also want to ensure the department is providing a level of service that reflects the values and expectations of the Arlington community. Chief Andy Penn appreciates the important insights our residents and businesses bring to the conversation about the role of policing. He invites community members, organizations and businesses to join him at Community Conversations with the Chief throughout Arlington this summer. For 22202, this would be Tuesday, August 31, from 12-2 pm at Pentagon Row on Joyce Street.

Similar to our popular Coffee with a Cop series, these community conversations will have no speeches or agenda. This is an informal opportunity for the police department to hear directly from you, our community, on areas we are doing well, areas for continued growth and the vision of the agency moving forward. This critical feedback, along with internal conversations with ACPD personnel, will assist in the formulation of our strategic plan and vision, which will be shared with the community later this year.

WATCH: [Community Message from Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn](#)

Arlington Named 'Fittest City' in U.S., Again

Arlington is once again "America's Fittest City," according to the annual [American Fitness Index](#) rankings. The new 2021 rankings were released July 14 by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the Anthem Foundation. It's at least the third year in a row that Arlington ranked No. 1 on the list.

Arlington Receives Top Digital Counties Award for 2021

Arlington County is once again ranked among the top digital counties in the nation. [The Center for Digital Government and National Association of Counties](#) has named Arlington to the No. 2 spot for their 2021 awards in the 150,000-249,999 population category.

OTHER ISSUES

COVID-19 News & Notes

Getting both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine gives you the greatest possible protection -- even if you have already had COVID-19. Find a site near you at [Vaccines.gov](#). The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) COVID-19 in Virginia dashboards now include [information on the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status](#). Because of the Delta variant, masking is recommended indoors for everyone, vaccinated or not. Americans who have been fully vaccinated do not need a booster shot at this time. FDA, CDC, and NIH are engaged in a [science-based, rigorous process](#) to consider whether or when a booster might be necessary. [Get help with eviction prevention, rent, food, and utility assistance and more.](#)
[Find out where to get a test for COVID-19](#)

Free Training: Until Help Arrives

A monthly training called Until Help Arrives is offered free to the public by the Arlington County Office of Emergency Management in partnership with the Arlington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Until Help Arrives is designed to help our community become more resilient in disasters and emergencies. UHA teaches life-saving skills bystanders can use to save lives, until professional first responders arrive. UHA training is free and open to all residents of Arlington. Teenagers 14 and over are welcome to attend, in the company of a parent. More information about Until Help Arrives, including upcoming events, can be found [here](#). All are welcome to register for the next event on Thursday, July 29, 6:30p to 9pm. Register [here](#).

DoD Commits to Looking at New Helicopter Noise Mitigation Strategies

Reducing local helicopter noise while conducting missions safely may be difficult, the Pentagon says, but the military is willing to try, according to a new report. The commitment and the recommendations conclude a Dept. of Defense report on the causes and effects of helicopter noise in the D.C. area. This document was completed as a result of Rep. Don Beyer's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which included noise mitigation recommendations that Beyer and other regional lawmakers have sought for years in response to constituent complaints. DoD said it will also work with FAA to obtain flight track data trends to look at compliance with local flight procedures and helicopter routes, and address any potential corrective actions. Finally, DoD said it will work with the Army and Marine Corps to ensure "fly neighborly" and "fly friendly" procedures are being reinforced and examine the procedures currently being used. [Read more here.](#)

Virginia's 3-Day Sales Tax Holiday | August 6 - 8, 2021

During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear, hurricane and emergency preparedness items, and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products without paying sales

tax. Detailed lists of qualifying items and more information for retailers can be found in the [Sales Tax Holiday Guidelines](#).

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