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CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Message from CCCA's President

We have a survey about Park Names! Three parks around the new Amazon HQ2 need names. In the map below are the 3 parks. Park 1 is next to Eads and just north of the Whole Foods. Park 2 is the redesigned park. And the 3rd park is essentially inside the Amazon Property where the Helix will be.

Please take a survey below: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2M8VX3>

The Livability 22202 Housing Working Group wants to hear from renters in our zip code. Please take a few minutes to share your recent living experiences, rent increases, what you enjoy and what is challenging here. You can do so anonymously if you wish! Here is the [link](#).

Route 1 continues to be a major commitment for me. We had a great meeting on the 15th and VDOT's meeting on the 18th was interesting, but we had problem with not enough space outside the roadway. Sidewalks, bike lanes and trees are important for a road. We are working hard to get the best solution for our neighborhood.

- Eric Cassel, CCCA President

INFORMATION AND EVENTS – ARLINGTON COUNTY

TRAFFIC ALERT: Planned Road Closures for July 4, 2022 Celebration:

The Arlington County Police Department, Virginia State Police, United States Park Police, and Virginia Department of Transportation will close multiple roadways on Monday, July 4, 2022. These closures are designed to facilitate the safe passage of large crowds for the Independence Day events and fireworks. In addition to the below closures, Arlington National Cemetery, in collaboration with the Air Force District of Washington, will close public access to the Southern Expansion portion of Arlington National Cemetery on July 4, which includes access to the Air Force Memorial. See full details [here](#).

County Board member talks ‘missing middle’ housing on WAMU

County Board member Takis Karantonis says if the county has the “political will,” a sufficient amount of affordable and “missing middle” housing can get built.

Karantonis appeared on June 10th’s Friday “Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi on public radio station WAMU. On the radio program, Karantonis described his and the Board’s efforts “to lift barriers” that might better allow young families, middle-class households, and seniors to afford to buy a home in Arlington County. As the study proposes, that could mean building duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and other smaller-scale multi-family dwellings on lots that were previously zoned for only a single-family house. [Read more here](#).

Arlington Achieves Highest Walking Status Among American Communities

Arlington has stepped to the summit in the world of walking. The County has been named one of five Walk Friendly Platinum Communities in the U.S. this year, joining an exclusive group comprised of much-larger New York City, Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco.

The lofty status comes from the Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) initiative of the University of North Carolina’s Highway Safety Research Center, which previously set the County’s wide-ranging efforts to boost walking at gold status for more than a decade. [Read more here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Scheduling

Arlington County is now offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for everyone ages 12 years and older at Arlington Mill Community Center (AMCC) and Walter Reed Community Center (WRCC). Arlington County will update the [COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling webpage](#) when The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) enables local health districts to order the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for those ages 6-11 years old. [Read more here](#).

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Renames Gates and Terminals

Changes were made to the way terminals and gates are named and numbered at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. No airlines or gates moved physically, but officials think re-naming things could make traversing the airport a little more logical. Here is what travelers need to know.

- Terminals A and B/C were renamed Terminals 1 and 2.
- Gates have a concourse letter A through E added before the gate number.
- Outdoor signs were updated to reflect the changes for drivers trying to access garages and drop-off areas.
- Parking garages were renamed from A Parking, B Parking and C Parking to Parking 1, Parking 2 South, and Parking 2 North.

[Read more here.](#)

CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND LIVABILITY 22202 ISSUES

Route 1 Working Group

The CCCA sponsored a meeting of Livability22202 and the three civic associations on June 15 to prepare residents for the upcoming VDOT Public Information meeting on June 21. It was a good overview of why VDOT is conducting a feasibility study on bringing Route 1 down to grade, what we see as the problems with the VDOT plan, and suggestions that Livability22202 has for the intersection at 18th Street and the Right of Way (width of the road). [Read more here](#). If you missed the meeting, you can see it [here](#).

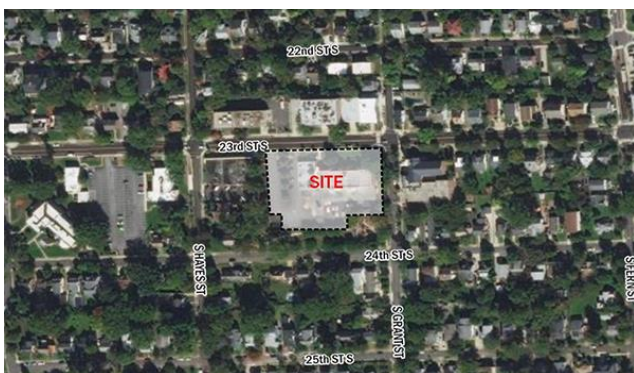
VDOT held its second Public Information Meeting on June 21. You can review the meeting recording and presentation through the [VDOT meeting website](#). Send your ideas and comments to VDOT by July 15.

Housing Survey

The housing workgroup of Livability 22202 is a community, volunteer-run effort in our neighborhood to address unmet housing needs. We know there have been a lot of changes in the past year, especially in terms of the cost of living and housing. As development continues, Housing Livability 22202 is curious about your housing and rental experiences, particularly in terms of the cost of living. We will use the results to highlight the pressing need to make sure everyone has access to housing that they can afford. If you are a **renter** in the 22202 zip code, please consider taking a few minutes to fill out the [survey](#). You can remain completely anonymous if you so choose.

Special Land Use Study – 750 23rd St. S. (Melwood)

On June 7, 2022, 750 23rd St. S. (Melwood) was granted a Special GLUP Study. See Application and Other Materials below to view the staff memo and acceptance letter. A request was submitted for the subject properties located on 23rd Street South between South Hayes Street and South Grant Street to change the GLUP designation from "Public" to "Low-Medium" Residential with an associated rezoning from C-1 and R-6 to RA8-18. The subject site is located on 23rd Street South between South Hayes Street and South Grant Street. [Read more here](#).



Be Prepared for the 2022 Hurricane Season

The 2022 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins on June 1, and now is the best time for Arlington residents to prepare for hurricanes, tropical storms, and flooding. For helpful tips to help you and your loved ones prepare for hurricane season, [read more here](#).

New Program to Address Helicopter Noise Complaints

Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey and Takis Karantonis, along with Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), today announced a pilot program to address helicopter noise complaints in the National Capital Region. Residents will be able to submit noise concerns by [web form](#) or by voicemail at 877-209-3200 to collect data that can be used to help mitigate helicopter noise in our area.

County Board Public Hearing on the Proposed FY2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan

Arlington's Proposed Fiscal Years 2023 - 2032 [Capital Improvement Plan](#), has implications for Crystal City. The CIP finally includes funding for creation of the Metro Market Plaza between the 2 Metro entrances slated for 2023-2024. But the funding for Center Park (connected to the 1900 Crystal Drive construction) is only slated for 2028. That means we could be facing a staircase from Crystal Drive to an empty lot. There is also no funding budgeted for the required improvements to 23rd Street from Route 1 to Crystal Drive. These are problematic.

Security/Safety Concern in the Underground

There have been several reported instances recently of young boys 15 and younger skateboarding from the Metro in the Underground tunnel from 15th to 12th Street. This is both dangerous and prohibited. JBG Smith tells us that security officers are aware of this issue, and they are working on a solution. If anyone sees this type of activity, they can report it to JBG Security Operations Center here in Crystal City at 703-413-0150.

Development Plans to Watch for in Quarter 3 and 4

- Crystal City Building Heights Study – final consideration
- Crystal City Bicycle Network – start of implementation stage
- 223 23rd Street/2250 Crystal Drive Site Plan – final consideration
- Americana Site Plan – public review process
- Crystal Towers Infill – public review process
- Pentagon City Sector Plan Redevelopment – initial site plan submissions
- VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Study (Phase 2)

223 23rd Street/2250 Crystal Drive SPRC

A virtual Site Plan Review Committee meeting will be held July 11 from 7-9 pm for [2250 Crystal Drive/223 23rd Street S. - Crystal Plaza 5](#). The Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) will host a virtual public

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

meeting to review a proposed site plan at 2250 Crystal Drive and 223 23rd Street S. known as [Crystal Plaza 5](#). You can review the May 12 [Walking Tour Handout](#). The [project website](#) hosts important information about the proposed project, such as:

- Project background and details
- Previous community engagements
- Staff presentations

\$10 million revamp of Army Navy Drive

A major project to make Army Navy Drive in Pentagon City more bike- and pedestrian-friendly is expected to kick off later this year. The Arlington County Board approved a \$10.6 million construction contract for the long-planned “Complete Streets” project at its meeting June 25. “The project will rebuild Army Navy Drive within the existing right-of-way as a multimodal complete street featuring enhanced bicycle, transit, and pedestrian facilities and street trees,” said a Board report. Construction is expected to start in late summer or early fall and wrap up in the summer of 2025.

The Long Bridge Project

Check out updates from last week's meeting about the [Long Bridge Project!](#) Review the design of the proposed bike-ped bridge over the Potomac, landings by Ohio Drive in DC and Long Bridge Park in Arlington, and plans for connections to the Mt Vernon Trail. [Complete the Long Bridge survey](#). **Deadline Sunday, July 10.**

Update on 12th Street/Crystal Drive Construction

The 12th Street S and the Transitway Extension to Pentagon City Segment I projects are being built concurrently by the same contractor. The timeline to complete both projects is Spring/Summer 2023. Right now, crews are working on underground utilities for the 12th Street improvements project, and they are anticipating to initiate electrical work for the Transitway Extension to Pentagon City Segment I around the week of July 11th. Regarding construction progress on the Transitway Extension to Pentagon City Segment I, the street parking has been eliminated at the locations of new transit stations, and tree removal and installation of the erosion and sedimentation control measurements are ongoing in preparation for the upcoming electrical work. In order to minimize the impact to the community, the County decided to keep some of the street parking on Crystal Drive and 12th Street open where crews are not working. The conversion of the parking lane into the designated bus lane is one the last activities on the contractor's construction schedule, so street parking can remain active for a few more months. The County will provide the public with advance notice of elimination of the parking lane to help facilitate the transition.

LONGER TERM ISSUES

[Amazon Acquires 12-Acre PenPlace HQ2 Site for \\$198M](#)

Amazon has purchased a 12-acre site from developer JBG Smith for \$198 million to become the development site for PenPlace, the second phase of Amazon's HQ2 in Arlington, Virginia. The site is located at 12th Street South and South Fern in Pentagon City, Virginia. [Read more here.](#)

[Raytheon is moving its global headquarters out of Massachusetts](#)

The Waltham-based defense contractor is heading to Arlington, Virginia. The CEO said the new location will better serve their government and commercial aerospace partners. [Read more here.](#)

[Following Arlington HQ move, Boeing announces new veterans' initiative with Virginia Tech](#)

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, and Rep. Don Beyer joined the leaders of Boeing and Virginia Tech at the former's Crystal City headquarters this morning to announce a new veterans initiative.

The announcement that drew the state's top elected officials was the creation of the Boeing Center for Veteran Transition and Military Families at the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus at Potomac Yard in Alexandria, just down the road.

It comes just over a month after Boeing announced that its existing Crystal City office campus would become the company's global headquarters. [Read more here.](#)

[George Washington Memorial Parkway \(GWMP\) has \\$220 Million in Project Pipeline](#)

The *good news* is that the George Washington Memorial Parkway has \$220 million of projects in its funding stream including the Mount Vernon Trail North rehab as well as rehabilitation of three wooden bridges on the trail. The *bad news* is that GWMP has an estimated \$600 Million in deferred maintenance and repairs. The Park maintains 105 buildings, 51 miles of trails, 79 miles of paved roads, 2 water systems and 10 wastewater systems along with 149 other assets including bridges, marinas, and monuments.

FUN STUFF IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

Go Green: 3 Public Spaces to Enjoy in Crystal City

With warmer and sunnier weather settling in our region, it is a great opportunity to plan outdoor activities around Crystal City. Some of the nearby parks may be undergoing renovations or being built, but there are plenty of green spaces around the neighborhood for individuals looking to exercise outdoors and for families and friends to enjoy outings during the summer.

Long Bridge Park

Located adjacent to I-395, Long Bridge Park has more than 36 acres of open space for multiple recreational activities. It features a nearly mile-long esplanade that overlooks the Potomac River and Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary, and serves as a great spot for train, plane and bird watching. At the northern end of the esplanade is a walking loop with outdoor fitness stations adjacent to the trail. There is also a network of walkways as well as multi-sport courts, numerous playgrounds, and an overlook with views of Washington, D.C.'s national monuments.

Location: 475 Long Bridge Drive

Hours: Sunrise to 11 p.m. every day

Virginia Highlands Park

With nearly 20 acres of space, Virginia Highlands Park offers courts for playing tennis, basketball and volleyball, a spray ground to cool off on hot days and two rectangular fields that can be used for multiple outdoor activities. Visitors can also find picnic shelters and tables as well as grills to host their next cookout, birthday, or other celebration.

Location: 1600 South Hayes Street

Hours: Sunrise to 10 p.m. every day

Bike Trails

Arlington has an extensive network of trails for those who prefer biking to walking, including a nearly 5-mile-long stretch of bike trails that allow you to explore Aurora Highlands. Starting off at the intersection of Four Mile Run trail and South Eads St., this 30-minute route includes stops along Eads Park, Virginia Highlands Park, and Fraser Park if you want to take a short rest or have another activity planned during your ride. Find information about this route and others at www.bikearlington.com

Experience the “Surreal” Magic of Dining in the Park

Developer JBG Smith is collaborating with Chef Enrique Limardo to bring year-round indoor/outdoor dining to National Landing with the aptly named Surreal. [Read more here.](#)

New Amazon grocery store to open ‘in the coming weeks

Amazon has just announced the grand opening of its Amazon Fresh store at 1550 Crystal Drive for July 7. The store wants to make sure that everything is perfect for customers and appreciates our patience in opening. See the [Facebook announcement.](#)

Arlington County Library Summer Reading: Oceans of Possibilities

Arlington Public Library’s Summer Reading has started! Join the 30-day reading challenge now and claim prizes no matter how much or how little you read each day. [Read more here.](#)

Rosa Mexicano is coming to Pentagon City

A new casual Mexican restaurant is looking to start serving later this year at the Pentagon City mall.

Rosa Mexicano is aiming for a September 1 opening, according to the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City website. It’s moving into the 5,500-square-foot former Sugar Factory space, which has an outside entrance facing S. Hayes Street. [Read more here.](#)

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema aiming to have its Crystal City premiere in October

The new Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Crystal City is hoping to open in October. The Texas-based movie theater chain expects to complete construction on its nine-screen, 50,000-square-foot complex at 1660 Crystal Drive by late September, co-owner Joseph Edwards tells ARLnow, meaning it could open to the public in October. [Read more here.](#)

Fort Scott Park Walking Tour

Built by the Union Army in 1861, this fort had a commanding view of the Four Mile Run Valley and protected approaches to Washington from the south. Explore the remaining earthworks at [Fort Scott Park](#) and participate in a discussion of how and why the fort was built . This event is on **Sunday, July 10 from 2-2:45 p.m.** This event is free, and you can [sign up here.](#)

TRANSPORTATION

Metro announces travel alternatives for major Blue and Yellow Line construction this fall

Metro announced travel alternatives to help customers prepare for major Blue and Yellow line construction this fall. Starting Saturday, Sept. 10, Metro will begin work to connect the future Potomac Yard Station with the mainline rail system and to rehabilitate the Yellow Line tunnel and bridge between Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza stations. The projects will impact Blue and Yellow line service in two phases over eight months, and free shuttle bus service will be available for customers throughout the duration.

PHASE ONE: Sept. 10 – Oct. 22, 2022

Rail Service:

- No rail service south of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Station
- No Yellow Line service, but Yellow Line stations north of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport Station will be served by the Blue or Green lines
- Additional Blue Line service, with trains departing every seven to nine minutes from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and New Carrollton stations (every 15 minutes after 9:30 p.m.)
- Blue Line customers traveling between Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza stations should plan on approximately 15 minutes of extra travel time
- Limited shuttles will be available during weekday rush hours only.
 - **VA-DC Shuttle 1:** Crystal City-L'Enfant Service between Crystal City, Pentagon City, Smithsonian, and L'Enfant Plaza stations every 12 minutes. Shuttle does not stop at Pentagon Station
 - **VA-DC Shuttle 2:** Pentagon-Archives Service between Pentagon, Smithsonian, and Archives stations every 12 minutes
 - **VA-DC Shuttle 3:** Mt. Vernon-Potomac Park (11Y Route) Service between Mt. Vernon, Alexandria, and Potomac Park every 20 minutes. Peak direction service only

[Read more here.](#)

About CCCA

The Crystal City Civic Association (CCCA) was formed on January 28, 2014. We are a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with the express purpose of advancing the common interests of the residents of the Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington County, Virginia. CCCA gives a voice to our residents. CCCA officers represent community members at county meetings, function as liaisons to state and local lawmakers, coordinate with the Crystal City BID on important issues and projects and ensures the needs of residents are met.

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

President Eric Cassel

Vice President Tarsi Dunlop

Meeting Secretary Alistair Watson (by appointment)

Communications Director Idris Clay

Membership Liaison Emily Norton

Treasurer Steve Miller

Join on our website:

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

Or [Renew Your Membership](#)

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Send a check for \$10 to:

Steve Miller

Treasurer, CCCA

1301 S Fern St

PO Box 2844

Arlington, VA 22202