

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



April 2025

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Two major street projects may start in April. The first will close 12th Street between Fern and Eads to all vehicles. The second project will change 15th Street between Crystal Drive and Route 1, creating a garden park. See articles in this newsletter for more information.

Our May meeting will include the all-important Virginia railroad representees. With the 4th Track project, the Long Bridge Project, and the Crystal City VRE station, the area will be significantly impacted.

Lastly, we hope to have a summer event! Stay tuned for details.

- Eric Cassel, CCCA President

INFORMATION AND EVENTS – VIRGINIA

Governor's veto blocks effort to revamp county government



Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin has vetoed a bill that would have allowed Arlington County to change the structure of its government. The legislation, which was introduced by Del. Patrick Hope (D-Arlington), was backed by the Arlington County Civic Federation.

The governor cited the opposition of the County Board, which has governed with five at-large members and a rotating chair for nearly a century.

The bill would have set the stage for a referendum on whether the board should have anywhere from three to 11 members; whether the chair should be a separate elected official; and whether the board should include district members elected by district as well as at large.

The ballot question would have required a petition of 10 percent of the county's registered voters or a majority vote of the County Board.

Youngkin vetoes gun-related bills, including those proposed by McClure

Governor Youngkin vetoed 24 Democratic-sponsored bills related to gun control as part of a record-extending 158 vetoes announced last month. Crystal City's delegate, Democrat Adele McClure, had 13 bills and one resolution approved by the Legislature in the most recent session, including designating May as ALS awareness month. Here is a sample of how her bills fared once they reached the governor's desk:

- Requiring licensed firearm dealers to provide locking devices when selling or transferring a firearm and written warnings that guns should be locked and kept away from children. **Vetoed by governor.**
- Closing the "dating partner loophole" by prohibiting individuals convicted of assault and battery against an intimate partner from purchasing or possessing a firearm. **Vetoed by governor.**
- Ensuring farm workers and temporary foreign workers are covered by the state's minimum wage. **Vetoed by governor.**
- Protecting defendants who have completed all the terms for deferred disposition from being convicted solely for failing to pay court costs. **Vetoed by governor.**
- Requiring landlords to provide a 60-day written notice if they decide not to renew a lease.
- Ensuring tow truck professionals and road construction workers have the proper authority to display emergency/safety messaging signs on the back of their vehicles. **Signed by governor.**
- Banning hidden "junk fees" by requiring businesses to disclose all mandatory fees in the advertised price of any good or service. **Action pending.**
- Updating the Washington Commanders' special license plate with the team's new name and logo. **Signed by governor.**

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McClure nominated for national rising star award



State Del. Adele McClure, who represents Crystal City, is a nominee for the [2025 Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award](#) presented by Emily's List. McClure is a first-generation college graduate and the daughter of an early childhood educator and a Filipino immigrant who served in the United States Army. She has pushed legislation to reduce gun violence, strengthen workers' rights, and make child-care more affordable. Previous Rising Star Award recipients include former Georgia House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams, US Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.), and state Sen. Sarah Anthony (D-Mich.).

The winner will be announced this month.

McClure appeared at last month's CCCA meeting, where she discussed her legislative agenda (see item above). Last year, she passed four bills into law, including one that allows Northern Virginia to create a permitting system for towing companies to combat predatory towing. McClure discussed efforts to update building codes for single-stair buildings and to address heating and cooling issues in apartment buildings. She also said she was working on securing long-term funding for the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, emphasizing the importance of dedicated revenue sources for transportation in Northern Virginia.

McClure said the general tone in the Legislature has been cooperative due to slim majorities, with partisan battles reserved for bills involving fundamental philosophical differences.

Arlington delegates announce for re-election to state Legislature

Three members of Arlington's delegation to the House of Delegates launched re-election bids last week. Adele McClure, who represents the Crystal City area, has launched a bid for re-election to the Virginia House of Delegates, along with fellow Arlington delegates Patrick Hope and Alfonso Lopez.

All three seats are considered Democratic strongholds. So far, only Hope faces a primary challenge, from Arjoon Srikanth. The deadline for Democratic candidates to [file](#) is April 3. The primary takes place on June 17.

Democrats hold slim majorities in both houses of the state Legislature. In addition to delegate races, this year's election ballot features governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general. Senators are next on the ballot in 2027.

Two Democratic candidates, Monique "Moe" Bryant and June Prakash, will vie for School Board seats in [caucus voting](#) to be held from April 19 to May 10 online as well as at two in-person sites in early May. No Republican has won the general election in more than two decades. ([ARLnow](#))

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INFORMATION AND EVENTS – ARLINGTON COUNTY

Pentagon City, Long Bridge tout some of county's lowest parking rates



A year into the county's experiment in [flexible parking prices](#) is finding some of the least expensive spots around Pentagon City and Long Bridge Park and the priciest in Ballston.

The [latest round of changes](#) increases the prices of 29 percent of parking spots included in the program, while lowering the cost of 12 percent of them.

Spots on S. Hayes Street and S. Fern Street in the Pentagon City area and in the Long Bridge Park parking lot are in the \$1 to \$1.50 per hour range. By contrast, in Ballston, parking spots near the intersections of N. Quincy Street and N. Randolph Street on Wilson Blvd. cost as much as \$4.25 per hour during part of the day.

"These adjustments are the fifth price change related to the pilot project and are based on parking occupancy data gathered at over 4,500 parking spaces between Dec. 9, 2024, and Feb. 16, 2025," the county's [project page](#) says. The [map of meter rates](#) shows parking spots costing as little as 75 cents an hour in Arlington Heights.

The goal of the parking program is to reduce the time drivers spend looking for a spot and to minimize double parking. Some areas [now have electronic signs](#) showing current parking prices. Rates are also listed on the [ParkMobile](#) and [eXactnav](#) apps, as well as on parking meters. ([ARLnow](#))

Resources offered to aid the surge in job seekers

The [Arlington Employment Center](#) reports a 45 percent year-over-year increase in clients seeking services as of February. In a story surveying the jobs picture in the wake of mass federal layoffs, [ARLnow](#) reports that business owners say they have been deluged with job inquiries. The Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council has a [webpage](#) devoted to resources for federal workers and is offering one-on-one counseling support. The Arlington Public Library, which hosted [a packed town hall](#) for federal employees and contractors, is offering a variety of services and events. They include [drop-in resume and search help](#) on April 9. Visit the library's [events listing](#) for more information.

Notice something off about your water? Arlington is cleaning its pipes

Arlington's water pipes are getting their annual cleaning through May 5. Here is what to expect:

- Water from the tap may have a distinct smell and taste of chlorine. These effects can be minimized by using a tap filter system or letting the water sit in an open container for an hour or two in the refrigerator.
- Discolored water generated from the process of flushing fire hydrants may stain clothes being washed in nearby homes. Flushing will take place between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays. The county can provide a special detergent to remove stains; call 703-228-5000 for more details.

For more information on Arlington's water treatment process, visit the [county website](#) or call 703-228-5000.

No-interest loans available to first-time, moderate-income home buyers

Moderate-income buyers purchasing their first home in Arlington may be eligible for a no-interest loan of up to 25 percent of the purchase price. The income cap for a family of four, for example, is \$123,760. The first mortgage must be from a conventional lender approved by the Virginia Housing Development Authority. The loans are offered through the Moderate-Income Purchase Assistance Program (MIPAP). Details can be found [here](#).

Want to make a difference? Enroll in Neighborhood College

If you want to better understand how Arlington County works and how you can drive change, consider enrolling in [Neighborhood College](#). Applications are due April 4 for the free program, which is open to anyone aged 18 or older who lives or owns a business in Arlington. Classes will be held Wednesday evenings from April 23 to June 25, featuring talks with county staff and tours of county facilities. Space is limited to 25 people. Graduates must commit to volunteering for 10 hours in the county within six months after completing the program. Launched in 2000, Neighborhood College has prepared more than 500 people for roles in neighborhood groups, county advisory committees, and non-profits. Apply [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT

Capital venture firm to offer incubator for defense, aerospace start-ups

A Los Angeles-based venture capital firm is accepting applications for an accelerator program it plans to launch as soon as June in Crystal City for aerospace and defense startups.

Starburst Ventures' National Landing Launchpad, which will be located in a 1,600 square-foot-site at 2231 Crystal Drive, will select 10 startups for its first cohort, its managing director, Lukas Oberhofer, told the [Washington Business Journal](#). The fledgling firms will be offered three months of business programming and office residency.

Evan Regan-Levine, chief strategy officer at JBG Smith Properties, told the *Journal* in December that more than four fifths of his company's leasing activity over the previous 18 months came from technology and defense companies.

A previously announced business incubator space is set to open late this year in Crystal City, the 40,000-square-foot [Virtus Innovation Center](#). It will provide startups with coworking, lab, research and development space, and access to a sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIF. The center's permanent location has yet to be made public. It has backing from JBG Smith, Virginia Tech, and Amazon Web Services.

Lidl puts off development of Potomac Yard site

Lidl is putting off plans for a long-approved office development on a 2.3-acre parcel at Crystal Drive and 33rd Street in Potomac Yard. Citing the sluggish commercial real estate market, the company has asked county planners for an extension on its site approval beyond its July 1 expiration date. The German grocery chain has approval for two office buildings of up to 12 stories each, totaling 587,000 square feet. The company announced it is looking to expand its marketing to a broader pool of users. The site now serves as a parking lot for employees.

TRANSPORTATION

Peace to settle by summer on Army-Navy Drive



Artist rendering gives general idea of the new configuration of Army-Navy Drive. It comes from [Sustainable Mobility for Arlington County](#).

If you find driving Army-Navy Drive like navigating a combat zone, the end is in sight. Work should be completed by the end of summer.

The 1.2-mile stretch through Pentagon City is bounded by 12 Street S on the east and South Joyce Street on the west. The project aims to transform what was once a free-for-all among motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and buses into an organized corridor where each mode of transit has its designated lanes. In roadway jargon, it's called a complete street. Here are details:

- **Motorists.** Two through-lanes of traffic in each direction.
- **Buses.** A dedicated lane in each direction between South Joyce and South Hayes streets. The lanes will accommodate the Transitway bus service that eventually will connect Alexandria to Columbia Pike.
- **Cyclists.** A protected, two-way path on the south side of the drive. The bike path will eventually connect to the [Crystal City Bike Network](#).

"The idea is that we move away from earlier generations of car-centric design that inhibited both transit operation and pedestrian and other modes, and try to strike a balance," says Mark Dennis, project manager. "What we are saying is yes to all modes and safety first."

Pedestrians will no longer have to take their lives in hand when crossing from the Pentagon parking lot to the Pentagon Mall. That crosswalk, Dennis said, "was not only one of the heaviest traffic pedestrian intersections in the entire county, it was also one of the most dangerous."

The project addresses a traffic nightmare at the east end of Army-Navy Drive by barring westbound drivers from making a left onto Eads Street. Since there is no room for a dedicated turning lane,

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westbound traffic heading straight must merge into the right lane, which is already clogged with drivers coming off the Route 110 ramp.

Also eliminated is the left turn from westbound Army-Navy Drive into the Harris-Teeter/Target underground garage. Drivers will have to make a U-turn at South Joyce or use the above ground lot behind the stores.

Dennis acknowledges that he cannot promise congestion-free travel. For example, eastbound drivers turning left into the Pentagon parking lot will not have a dedicated lane. They will have a brief protected left-turn, but those cars that don't make the signal could back up through traffic behind them.

Here are the intersections with dedicated turn lanes:

- **At South Joyce Street:** from east and westbound directions
- **At Pentagon Mall:** from westbound direction only; eastbound traffic has a brief left light, but not its own turning lane into the Pentagon parking lot (as noted above)
- **South Hayes Street:** from east and westbound directions
- **South Fern Street:** from east and westbound directions
- **South Eads Street:** from eastbound direction only; no turns from the westbound direction



To make room for the bikeway, some on-street parking will be eliminated, notably the block from Eads to Fern streets along the future Amazon headquarters.

Landscaped medians will be present between South Joyce Street and the mall and between South Hayes and South Fern streets. Otherwise, the medians will be painted white. Tree planting was limited to avoid roots interfering with the area's complex underground network of utility and communication lines.

Planning for the project began more than a dozen years ago. Construction began in early 2023 and will be completed this summer under its \$10 million budget and just about on time, Dennis said. For more details, visit [here](#).

Work on Transitway to close off section of 12th Street South for a year



Rendering of 12th looking east from Fern to Eads. The bus lanes will run in the middle red lanes and regular traffic on the outer lanes. Bus shelters will be erected above and below the Elm Street intersection.

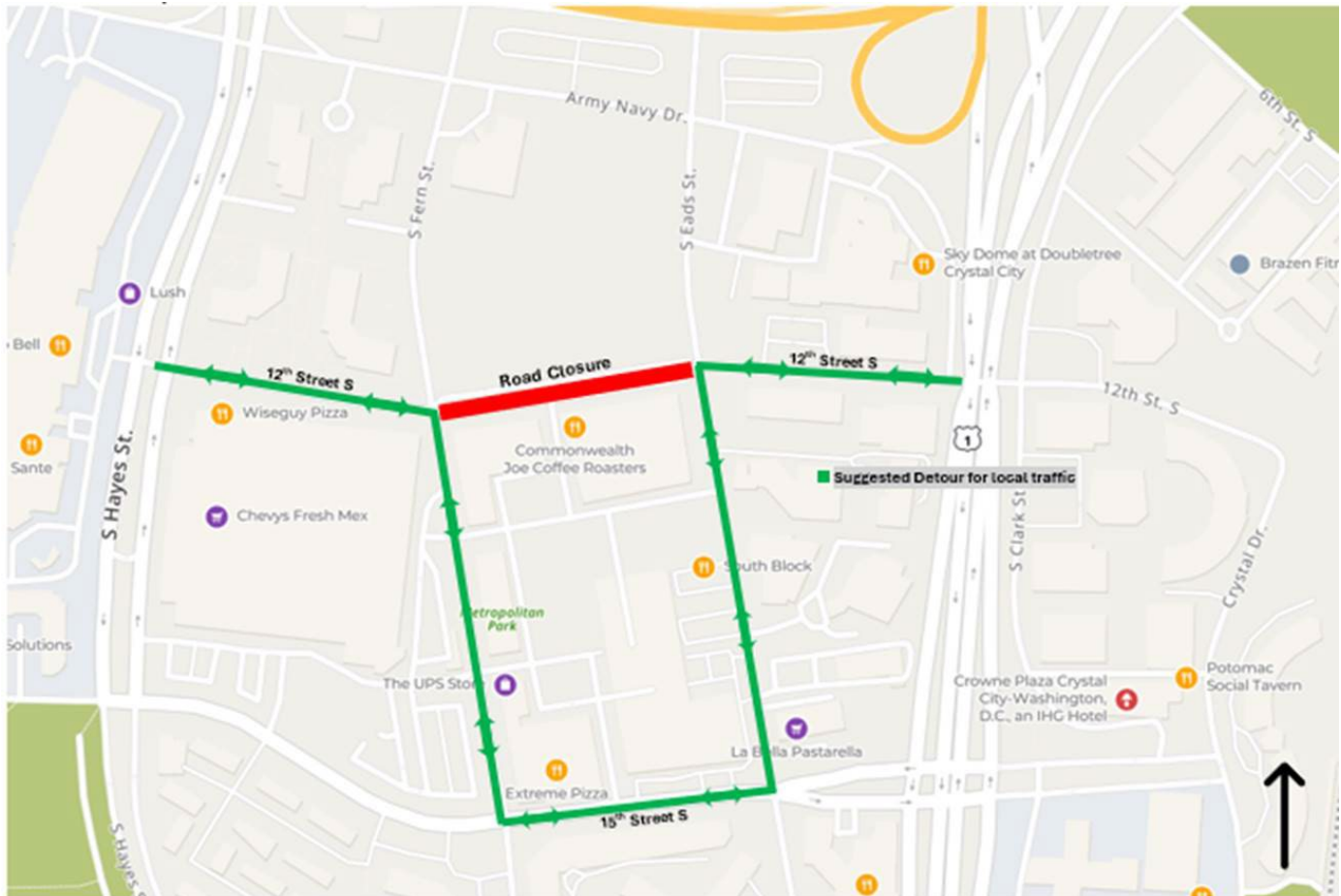
For the next year, 12th Street will be closed to traffic between Eads and Fern. The corridor is being overhauled as part of the extension of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway to Pentagon City. Businesses and residences will remain accessible to pedestrians; underground parking will be accessible from side streets.

Once finished, dedicated bus lines will run in both directions down the middle of the street, with east and westbound car traffic running on the outside lanes. Bus stop shelters will be erected at the Elm Street intersection, where a traffic light will be added. This [video](#) envisions the project.

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During construction, the sidewalk on the north side will be closed. While the sidewalk on the south side will be open, it will be undergoing repairs. For more details on the project, visit [here](#). For possible traffic detours see the map below:



The road closure is in red. The suggested detour is in green.

County offers rewards for a sustainable commuting

Called back to the office? Arlington County offers suggestions for money-saving, energy-saving ways to commute. Its [Commuter Page](#) provides details on ride-matching for vanpools or carpools, rewards for registered carpools, rewards for sustainable commuting, and the Guaranteed Ride home program.

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Floor of excavation at Crystal City East Entrance as of March.

Excavation hits bottom – a good thing – on Metro entrance

Construction on the east entrance to the Crystal City Metro reached a milestone last month as excavation hit bottom from the street surface at the intersection of Crystal Drive and 18th Street S. Next steps in the project will include preparation for excavation on the interior of the Crystal City Metro station to build a new mezzanine. The project is on track to be completed by summer 2027; the adjacent sidewalk on Crystal Drive will remain closed until then. For more on the project – including traffic, pedestrian, and subway service impacts – visit [here](#).

FAA bans all but essential copters from route of air crash

The Federal Aviation Administration has permanently banned all non-essential helicopters from flying near Reagan National Airport on the same route where an American Airlines flight and a Black Hawk Army helicopter collided in January. The FAA will allow copters on urgent missions, such as lifesaving medical, priority law enforcement, or presidential transport. The closure of the helicopter route near the airport makes permanent the restrictions put in place after the Jan. 29 midair collision of American Airlines flight 5342 and an Army helicopter on a training flight. The plane was about to land at Reagan Airport when the crash occurred, killing all 67 on board both aircrafts.

PARKS & RECREATION

At last: work to begin on 15th Street park



Renderings have changed over the years to the 15th Street park project, but the above gives a sense of what is planned. The garden park will be wedged between 15th Street and the Crown Plaza. Clark Street will be realigned to cross 15th Street directly to Bell. A dedicated bike/walkway will run between Clark/Bell and Route 1.

Arlington County has been working on a project to redesign 15th Street between Crystal Drive and Route 1 for more than six years. This year, the project might actually start. It would create a garden park by shifting 15th Street toward the south and removing its median strip. It will have two lanes in each direction. At the same time, the project will align Clark and Bell Streets, so you will be able to drive straight from the Metro Station north to 12th Street. Additionally, a bike/pedestrian path will be created between the Clark/Bell Street corridor and Route 1. Got that?

Boat launch slated to open in June at Four Mile Run Park

It's not Arlington, but it is close to us. We pass Four Mile Run Park as we drive down Glebe Road, Arlington Ridge Road, or Mt. Vernon Avenue. A canoe and kayak launch will make Four Mile Run and the Potomac River accessible to paddlers of all abilities. The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation has been contracted to build it between March and June this year. For details, visit [here](https://www.fmrconservatory.org).

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Seniors may see recreation fees increase

Residents age 55+ may be asked to pay more for programming as the County Board has unofficially asked the Department of Recreation to review the fee scale, according to [ARLnow](#). County Manager Mark Schwartz is weighing whether to increase the basic membership fee to \$30, up from \$25, and the gold-level fee to \$75, up from \$65. The changes would affect up to 7,000 residents. Fees cover about a quarter of programming costs.

Arbor Day walk reveals Arlington Cemetery in full bloom

Arlington National Cemetery marks Arbor Day with a free walking tour featuring the vibrant reds, yellows, and pinks of the blooms of more than 300 species of trees. The tour includes the cemetery's Memorial Arboretum, an overview of the urban forestry program, and State Champion trees. It will also highlight the horticulture program's techniques to create formal and informal landscapes and gardens. The tour takes place on April 25, 9-11:30 a.m. Meet at the Welcome Center Information Desk; wear sturdy shoes; and bring a bottle of water. Before you go, check the weather; the tour could be canceled due to stormy weather. For details, visit [here](#).



DOINGS IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

Farmers market back Tuesdays and Saturdays



The twice-weekly farmers market is back at Met Park, 1400 South Eads St., through October. Some 50 vendors offer goods including fresh fruits, vegetables, artisanal breads, teas, baked goods, and more. Produced by [Eat Loco](#), the farmers market is held Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Besides stocking up on goodies, visitors can connect with local farmers and artisans, learning the stories behind their creations. Find the updated weekly layout of the Saturday market [here](#) and of the Tuesday market [here](#).

MoCA on the Move brings art, music to Met Park

[MoCA on the Move](#) hosts free family events Sundays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the central green of Metropolitan Park. Sponsored by the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington, the spring series features live music, light snacks, and art-making activities. Here is the lineup for the next month:

April 6: Artist spotlight: [Molly McCracken](#)'s mixed media prints. Music: [Sean Tracy](#)

April 13: Artist Spotlight: [Margaret Jacobson](#)'s painting spring ornaments. Music: [Rook Richards](#)

April 20: Art: Spring ribbon wands & decoupage eggs. Music: [Laurel Halsey](#)

April 27 Art: DIY Pinwheels. Music: [Duck Chuck Goose](#)

May 4 Artist Spotlight: [Margaret Jacobson](#)'s 3D flower painting. Music: [Power Child](#)

In case of rain, the program will be held indoors, at MoCA Arlington's Innovation Studio + Store, 525 14th S, South Arlington.

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Tune up your body Wednesdays at Met Park

[Fit @ Met](#) offers a Wednesday morning fitness series for exploring new ways to exercise. The events are 8-9 a.m. and sponsored by [DC Fray](#). New this year: The more classes you attend, the more prizes you can win. Here is the next month's schedule:

April 2 [Barre by Pure Barre](#)

April 9 [Vinyasa Yoga by Maria Hochnowski Yoga](#)

April 16 [HIIT/Metcon by E60 Fitness](#)

April 23 [Group Function Fitness by E60 Fitness](#)

April 30 [Pilates by Onelife Fitness](#)

Concert series returns to Water Park

The Friday night [Concert Series at Water Park](#) resumes on April 18, 6-8:30 p.m. Besides local bands, the event features food vendors, lawn games, and an array of beverage options. Costume contests will be held each week to see who best reflects the night's themes. Here is what's coming up:

April 18 [Cathy Ponton King Band](#) (Theme: Neon Night)

April 25 [Hand Painted Swinger](#) (Theme: White out)

May 2 [Deanna Dove](#) (Theme: Peace and Love)

May 9 Oasis Island Sounds (Theme: Island Vibes)

May 16 [DWQ Jazz Band](#) (Theme: Jazz Night)

May 23 [DANDY](#) (Theme: College Night)

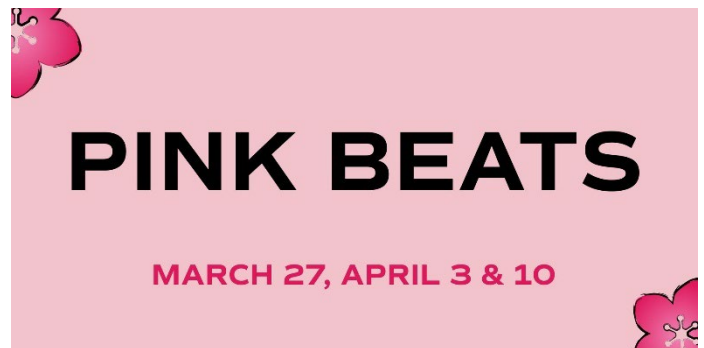
Pink in the Park celebrates Cherry Blossom season

The blossoms may be falling but the Pink in the Park series continues this month:

Pink Beats April 3 and April 10, 5-8 p.m., at Water Park. Live music, spring-inspired food and drinks, personalized haikus, lawn games, and art giveaways.

Art of Pink April 11, 5-10 p.m., at Metropolitan Park. Cherry blossom-inspired stationery, jewelry, and artwork at outdoor festival sponsored by Studio USAN and the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington. Lionz of Zion will also host a breakdancing competition to celebrate its 29th anniversary. Refreshment vendors include NUE: Elegantly Vietnamese, NiHao, Yunnan by Potomac, and PhoWheels. 1321 S. Elm St.

Reservations encouraged for both activities. Find out more [here](#).



Help spruce up the neighborhood for Earth Day

It's spring cleaning time for the neighborhood. Earth Day National Landing Community Clean-Up kicks off April 22 at 10 a.m. at Water Park, 1601 Crystal Drive, with a brief orientation. Volunteers will be able to borrow trash grabbers, buckets, gloves, and safety vests. The first 50 registrants on site will receive special T-shirts. A post-clean-up social hour will be held around noon at the Water Bar.

[Registration](#) is required for the clean-up, which entails agreeing to a [Photo Release and Liability Waiver](#). All ages are welcome, but a guardian should accompany minors. Bring water and wear comfortable clothes and closed-toe walking shoes. For more details, visit [here](#).

LONG BRIDGE AQUATICS & FITNESS CENTER PRESENTS:



Long Bridge Center hosts an aquatic Easter egg hunt

Here's an aquatic twist on an Easter tradition. The county recreation department is sponsoring an egg hunt at the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center April 13, 1-4:45 p.m. Children will jump into the water to find as many eggs as possible.

Everyone will be rewarded with a goodie bag prize. Finders of a golden egg will receive one free Family Day Pass to Long Bridge. Bring your swimsuit, goggles, and a waterproof basket. Additional activities will be held in Community Room 1 & 2. Learn more and register [here](#).

Water Park sponsors Easter egg hunt, festivities

The Water Park, 1601 Crystal Dr., will host an Easter egg hunt April 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Activities also include a photo booth, Easter Bunny meet & greet, face painting, and balloon animals. The egg hunt itself will be 10:30-11 a.m.

You'll find more than books at the library's annual sale

Friends of the Arlington Public Library and Arlington Public Library are holding their semi-annual book sale April 3-6. In addition to a wide selection of books, games and puzzles will be available. Teachers and librarians receive 50 percent off book purchases on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is half-price day for all. All proceeds benefit programming at the library. Visit [here](#) for hours and more information.

That buzz in the air? It's flea market time

It's flea market season. Arlington Civitan hosts an [open air market](#) the first Saturday of the month through November, beginning April 5, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Washington-Liberty High School I-66 Parking Garage. Arlington Civitan rents spaces to vendors for a modest fee and donates all of the money to local charities, particularly those that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The location is 4001 15th St. N.

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Local crafts people sell their wares at MoCA event

More than 10 local crafts people sell their wares at Made in Arlington, hosted by the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington on April 14, noon-3 p.m. Refreshments will be offered by Rossana coffee bar, Juicebox Old Town, and King of Pops' icy treats. Visitors are welcome to make their own art or listen to the Red Castle Blues Band. Indoors, you can view MoCA exhibits, listen to a story with Ms. Christina, and watch Jane Franklin Dance present The Big Meow. The location is 3550 Wilson Blvd.



Arlington arts fest takes over streets of Clarendon

The 11th annual Arlington Festival of the Arts will be celebrated on the streets of Clarendon April 26-27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vetted artwork includes sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, mixed-media, and painting. Admission is free. Start out at 3140 Washington Blvd. For details, visit [here](#).

Expo puts spotlight on military children

The Fashion Centre At Pentagon City hosts the Military Children World Expo April 26, bringing together a diverse array of exhibitors, activities, speakers, symposiums, and resources. Highlights include Military Children Got Talent, family friendly activities, and symposiums on family health and wellness, and education. For details, visit [here](#).

All-day session promotes minority vendors

[The Minority Vendor Showcase](#) will spotlight Black, Hispanic, LGBTQIA, and women-owned businesses in the area. It will include training sessions on managing finances, social media promotion, and other tools to help businesses grow. The event will be held April 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Richmond Hwy., in partnership with Arlington Economic Development's BizLaunch division.

Wondering where to walk or cycle? Download a map

The county is offering detailed brochures for pedestrians and walkers: the BikeArlington [Bicycle Comfort Level Map](#) and WalkArlington's [Walkabout Maps](#), which features 22 self-guided walks around the County.

For more activities, visit ...

- [Events at National Landing](#)
- [Arlington Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Arlington arts events](#)
- [Arlington Convention and Visitors Services](#)

DINING IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)



Lantern serves up karaoke and Chinese cuisine

Restaurant Row has a new attraction: karaoke and Chinese cuisine. [The Lantern Restaurant & Bar](#) has opened at 320 23rd St. The restaurant plans to host live music nightly in its main dining room, which seats 80 people. Additionally, it has six private karaoke rooms, accommodating from half a dozen to 25 guests. The menu features both Szechuan and Americanized Chinese entrees and finger foods. Luncheon specials are also available.

Bar Chinois opens in Crystal City next month

Bar Chinois will bring its French and Chinese cuisine to Crystal City next month. With its flagship spot in Washington, D.C., the new branch will be located at 244 19th Court S., on the ground floor of The Grace and Reva apartments. The restaurant won a RAMMY award last year as “Best Bar” in the contest sponsored by the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington. In addition to French-inspired cocktails, the restaurant offers such

dishes as red chili wontons filled with pork and shrimp, crispy crab Rangoon bites with apricot duck sauce and umami garlic noodles. Half-priced cocktails and \$1 dumplings are available 5-7 p.m. daily.

Coffee Republic offers signature drinks, all-day breakfast

Northern Virginia’s first [Coffee Republic](#) has opened on the ground floor of [Azure National Landing](#) apartments, 3130 Potomac Ave. The café offers eight signature lattes, such as the lavender “Calm Bean” and salted caramel “Salty Dog,” along with tea, blended drinks, and fruit-flavored energy “buzzers.” Food options include English muffin egg sandwiches, breakfast burritos, quiche, and baked goods.

SHOPPING IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

Specialty wine store opens at The Grace

Flight Wine celebrated its opening last month on the ground floor of The Grace apartments. A spinoff of the now closed Flight Wine Bar in Chinatown, the shop carries 300 wines from 17 countries, as well as beer, mixers, and non-alcoholic drinks. The shop, located at 269 19th Court S, plans to offer classes and wine tastings.

Forever 21 files for Chapter 11, leaving Pentagon shop in limbo

The days are numbered for Forever 21 discount clothing stores, including one at the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. The chain has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and announced it will end its US operations. Stores will remain open for now, but the company plans to hold liquidation sales and close all locations unless a buyer comes along.

The Wandering Shelf may park in a neighborhood near you

A mobile bookshop may show up on a street near you later this year. Clarendon resident Tessa Cannon told [ARLnow](#) that she plans to launch [The Wandering Shelf](#), a mobile bookshop, this spring. Cannon figures she can stock 700 fiction and nonfiction titles in her renovated camper van. She will focus on three categories: “cozy, fantastical and impactful reads.”

Given the turbulent times, Cannon said books “can be a helpful escape for people.” She said she also loves “books that challenge and inspire and ignite change in our conversations.”

She plans to take The Wander Shelf to Clarendon after Barnes & Noble closes for renovation in May. Future sites could be Columbia Pike and Crystal City.

Cannon, who works full-time in humanitarian aid, intends to operate the bookshop on weekends.



Tessa Cannon prepares her mobile bookstore.

ABOUT CCCA

The Crystal City Civic Association (CCCA) was formed on Jan. 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 ensure the needs of residents are met.

CRYSTAL CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

President Eric Cassel

Vice President Tarsi Dunlop

Meeting Secretary Sheryl Eaton

Communications Director Andrew Damitio (by appointment)

Membership Liaison Matthew Fuzi

Treasurer Steve Miller

Join on our website:

<http://www.crystalcitycivic.org>

Pay through PayPal

OR

Send a check for \$10 to:

Steve Miller
Treasurer, CCCA
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