

CRYSTAL CITY INSIDER

The monthly newsletter of the Crystal City Civic Association



October 2025

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Officers needed! Because of term limits, almost all officer positions are open. We especially need a new communications officer and membership liaison. Details on Page 3 of the newsletter.

Whole Foods' new [Daily Market Shop](#) in Crystal City is opening next month. The grocery store at 1550 Crystal Drive will host a grand opening at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23, offering samples and a tote bag giveaway for the first 300 customers.

Meanwhile, next door on Crystal Drive, Daydrift Book Café could open as early as next month in the spot vacated by Mah-Ze-Dahr.

Audit of Community Benefits. The county auditor has interviewed several officers about the process of Community Benefits. We are concerned about transparency and monitoring. A letter on our website provides our view of the process.

Adaptive Reuse Concerns. As of this writing, we have not received a response from the county on our letter about JBG Smith's plans to repurpose 1800 and 1901 S. Bell into apartment buildings and ground-floor retail. We will report any response as quickly as we can.

- Eric Cassel, CCCA President

CIVIC ASSOCIATION ISSUES

Nominations sought for officers of the CCCA

Nominations -- including self-nominations -- are now open as of Oct. 1 for all six Crystal City Civic Association officer positions. This unusual situation arises because of term limits and resignations. Terms are two years. Officers may not serve for more than two consecutive terms in the same office. All members whose dues are paid are eligible to nominate, be candidates, and vote in the election at the CCCA Annual General Meeting **Nov. 19**. This will be the first item on the agenda. The officers are:

- **President:** Preside at all meetings, coordinate agendas; serve as alternate signatory to Treasurer
- **Vice President:** Act in the stead of the President during absences
- **Meeting Secretary:** Meeting minutes-taker
- **Treasurer:** Maintain the association's financial records and financial assets
- **Membership Liaison:** Lead officer in recruiting new members and facilitating the CCCA activities of current members; maintain membership list
- **Communications Director:** Maintain the CCCA website; transmit notices of meetings; communicate with external entities as necessary.

To nominate yourself, or someone else, for one of these offices, please submit general contact information for the nominee (name, address, phone number, email address, and a brief written statement supporting the candidacy) to the Election Committee, specifying which office the nomination is for; (election@crystalcitycivic.org). If you are nominating someone else, please provide your contact information.

Should there be more than one nomination for a position, eligible nominees who are willing to serve in those positions will have an opportunity to present an oral statement supporting their candidacy before the election at the Annual General Meeting.

All nominations must be received by **Nov. 4**, when nominations will be closed. No nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

More details on the officer positions and operations of the CCCA are available from the Election Committee, whose members would be glad to provide additional information and answers to any questions of interested civic association members. Email election@crystalcitycivic.org.

The [CCCA's Bylaws containing descriptions of the open positions](#) are available at the Resources link on the Association's [website](#). This is an opportunity for Crystal City residents to advance the interests of the Crystal City community. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and response.

Election Committee

Carol Fuller, Claire Lauchner, Sean Denniston

Annual Meeting to vote on amendments to the CCCA Bylaws

The Executive Committee is proposing two amendments to the current CCCA Bylaws to be voted on at the Annual Meeting Nov. 19. These are minor changes needed to update our current operating procedures. This issue will be the second item on the agenda, following election of new officers.

14. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be revised by vote of a General Meeting.

First Amendment proposal: The CCCA has been operating for years with the position of Newsletter Editor being filled by someone other than the Communications Director. We recommend that the CCCA membership formalize a minor change at the November 19 Annual Meeting. The easiest way to do this is to make the Editor a non-voting ex officio Member at Large, rather than a formal Officer, since the latter would require an election. A non-voting ex officio Member at Large may attend the Executive Committee meetings at the request of the President without having to be an Officer.

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee may appoint non-voting ex officio Members at Large as appropriate. The Members at Large shall be responsible for attending Executive Committee meetings; assisting the other officers in the policy, planning, and administrative arrangements for General Meetings; serving as a temporary replacement for a vacant officer position if appointed to such position by the Executive Committee until election of a successor; and performing any additional duties specified elsewhere in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Therefore, we propose this change to the Bylaws **in red below**.

4.8. Duties of the Communications Director

*The Communications Director shall be responsible for maintaining the Association's website and email lists, producing a periodic newsletter for distribution to Association members, transmitting notices of meetings, communicating with external entities as necessary, and performing any additional duties specified elsewhere in this Constitution and Bylaws. All communications representing Association positions shall be subject to the direction and approval of the Executive Committee. **A non-voting ex officio Member at Large may be appointed by the Executive Committee as Editor, in place of the Communications Director.***

Second Amendment Proposal: Since COVID, the CCCA has been operating hybrid meetings, though this isn't considered in our Bylaws. The County had to change their rules to allow for hybrid meetings. We propose the following changes to the Bylaws **in red below**:

3.5. Quorum, Voting, and Participation in General Meetings

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Fifteen members eligible to vote, or 20% of the members eligible to vote, whichever is smaller, shall constitute a quorum. Only voting members who are physically present at the meeting or online in a hybrid meeting may vote or be counted towards a quorum.

4.10. Election of Officers

At the Annual General Meeting, the Election Committee shall report to the membership on all nominations received, and the reasons why any nominations were withdrawn or not accepted. No nominations may be submitted from the floor. The election of any officer position for which there is only one nominee may be by show of hands, either in person or by vote online at a hybrid meeting.

INFORMATION AND EVENTS: ARLINGTON AND STATE



Artist rendering of water treatment plant after Re-Gen project is completed. View is from west. As pictured, the plant site faces Eads Street at left and South Glebe at right.

Water plant open house includes tours and preview of its future

Off Eads and South Glebe is a facility that is essential to our lives. We contribute to it every time we do the dishes, wash our clothes, take a shower, or use the toilet.

The Water Pollution Control Plant is holding a free open house on Oct. 18 that will include group tours, activities, and games for kids. Visitors will learn about Arlington Re-Gen, a major construction project that will upgrade how the facility treats sewage. For more on the open house and to RSVP, visit [here](#).

By 2030 – a century after the plant first opened – it will be recycling most of the solids it extracts from sewage, rather than having them trucked away. Waste will be turned into natural gas – enough to power all the county’s public transit buses – and fertilizer.

The approved cost of the project is \$226 million. It will be funded through water and sewer rates and voter-approved bonds. The project will eliminate lime deliveries entirely and biosolids hauling truck trips by about half, reducing weekly trips from 26 to roughly 13 at startup. The majority of biosolids will be converted to fertilize agricultural lands in Virginia.

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The plant treats 21-22 million gallons of wastewater daily from most of Arlington, as well as parts of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax County. The treated water is discharged into Four Mile Run and eventually winds up in the Chesapeake Bay.

After the site is prepared this fall, the old incinerator building will be razed next year. It will be replaced with a new building containing equipment that will recover renewable resources from biosolids. The building is being designed to blend in with nearby apartment buildings. For more on the project, including a video of how your sewage will be recycled, visit [here](#).

County pays Amazon first subsidy as project falls short of expectations

Amazon has received more than \$80,000 from Arlington County, its first cut of taxpayer subsidies for locating its second headquarters here. The payment comes seven years after Amazon announced plans to build in National Landing. Initially, the company projected 25,000 high-paying tech jobs. Thanks to the pandemic, advances in AI, and assorted economic factors, the company is less than a third of the way toward its goal. While Amazon has built two office towers in Metropolitan Park, it has yet to break ground on its marquee spiraling headquarters building.

The county offered an Amazon incentive package of 15 percent of increased tax revenues from hotel stays and short-term rentals. Revenues did not exceed the pre-pandemic baseline of just under \$25 million until the last fiscal year. Increased revenues have fallen far short of the \$14 million projected in 2019. That would have given Amazon a \$2.5 million annual subsidy, according to [The Washington Post](#).

Early voting begins for November general election

Early voting has begun for the Nov. 4 general election, which features races for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, house of delegates, and County Board. The last day to register to vote or update an existing registration is Oct. 24. Same day registration begins Oct. 25, and the last day to apply for a mail ballot is Oct. 24. Early voting ends Nov. 1.

For more on the election and a sample ballot, visit [here](#). For more on early voting sites and hours, visit [here](#). Note that the Long Bridge Aquatic Center was dropped this time for early voting. For more on acceptable IDs for voter verification, visit [here](#).

Crystal City has two polling station precincts for in-person voting on Election Day: 250 S 18th Street (the Conference Room) for the northern part of the area and 150 Crystal Plaza in the apartment building community room for the southern part of our area. Be sure you have the right precinct. Find your polling place [here](#).

Want to see how many people have voted? Arlington posts daily reports [here](#).



Date set for rank vote count: Five candidates are competing for one seat on the County Board. If none of them receives more than 50 percent of the vote, ranked-choice counting will take place Nov. 8. Under the process, the lowest-scoring candidate will be eliminated, and that candidate's voters will have their second-choice picks allocated to the remaining candidates. The process repeats itself until one candidate obtains an absolute majority.

This year's race features incumbent Democrat Takis Karantonis, Republican Bob Cambridge, and independents Audrey Clement, Jeramy Olmack, and Carlos De Castro "D.C." Pretelt.

New voting equipment: The county could replace its voting apparatus as early as next spring. Typically, replacements are made once a decade. The new equipment will be able to accommodate larger candidate rosters for ranked choice voting in County Board races.

Share coffee and your thoughts with the cops Oct. 1

For most of us, contact with the police is an involuntary affair – being pulled over in traffic or reporting a robbery. On Coffee Day with a Cop, you can just sit down and chat with the police about who they are, what they do, and what you think they should do. Held nationwide, the Arlington version takes place Oct. 1 at two locations: 8-11 a.m. at Starbucks in Clarendon and 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Good Company Doughnuts and Café, 1350 S. Eads St., Suite 80.

Old MacDonald in Arlington? County celebrates urban agriculture

The Arlington County Board has proclaimed October as Urban Agriculture Month, celebrating the many green thumbs at work across our community—from farmers markets to food pantries, community gardens to balcony buckets. Leading the movement is Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA), now marking

its 10th anniversary. Visit [FOUA's website](#) to explore gardening in Arlington and discover special [Urban Agriculture Month programs](#) throughout October. Here are a few highlights:



Bees & Honey: The bees are more than pollinators and they come in many varieties, as you'll learn in this free lecture at Arlington Central Library, Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. It's one in a series of bi-weekly talks sponsored by FOUA and [Extension Master Gardeners](#). For this year's schedule, visit [here](#).

Park(ing) Day: Visit "Nourish the Block: Small Spaces, Big Impact," FOUA's Park(ing) Day installation at Wellburn Square, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, 900 N. Stewart St.,

Ballston. Learn how to turn tiny spaces into thriving gardens, even if you just have a five-gallon bucket. Details [here](#).

Farm Tour: See how Area 2 Farms grows greens, herbs, and veggies indoors. Visit the composting worms. Taste specialty items. Oct 5, 2:30-3:30 p.m., 2600 South Oxford St. Details [here](#).

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Looking for ways to promote environmental action?

A five-week training program begins this month for EcoAmbassadors, a new climate and energy-centered volunteer training and community engagement program. Deadline to apply is Oct. 5, with the training program beginning Oct. 8. For details, visit [here](#). For more on events and activities focusing on nature and the environment, visit [EcoAction Arlington](#).

County seeks residents to serve on advisory boards, commissions

Volunteers are sought to serve on county advisory boards and commissions. The 50 groups cover areas ranging from climate change to human rights, bicycle paths to building codes, child care to aging. For details, visit [here](#). To receive updates on vacancies, sign up [here](#). View commission meetings on YouTube [here](#).

Smithsonian official to address historical society dinner

A top official from the Smithsonian's National Museum for American History is the featured speaker at the Arlington Historical Society 2025 Annual Dinner on Oct. 14. Dr. Benjamin Filene, the deputy director of public history, will discuss the challenges and opportunities in teaching public history and the Smithsonian's plans for the nation's 250th birthday and will answer questions. The dinner will be held at the Army-Navy Club, 1700 Army Navy Drive and is open to all; reserve [here](#) through Oct. 7. The historical society's mission is "educating our friends, neighbors, and visitors about our history – good and bad, high and low, triumph and tragedy."

Wanted: 250 stories about the history of Arlington

The Arlington Historical Society aims to collect 250 stories about local history in conjunction with the nation's 250th birthday next year. The society can offer suggestions of areas worth pursuing or writers can propose their own. The suggested length is 300 to 500 words; submission deadline is March 2026. For details, visit [here](#).

Aurora Hills library offers wide-ranging catalog of activities

From yoga to yarn, board games to afternoon tea, reading and writing groups to intergenerational story times, the [Aurora Hills library](#) offers program for all ages. Job hunters can get help revising their resumes and polishing their search skills. Computer phobes can get tech help. Find event listings [here](#).

The Blue and Yellow Book club meets on Zoom the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Coming up: Oct. 13, "Mexican Gothic," by Silvia Moreno-Garcia; Nov. 10, "Braiding Sweetgrass," by Robin Wall Kimmerer; and Dec. 8, "The Three Mothers," by Anna Malaika Tubbs.

Feedback sought for county's Comprehensive Plan

The county is asking for feedback as it revises its Comprehensive Plan, which guides decision making as Arlington grows. It addresses issues such as transportation, housing, and public spaces and services. To respond on line, visit [here](#). Comment [here](#) on public spaces by Oct. 17. For other engagement opportunities, visit [here](#).

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DEVELOPMENT



The grocery store is located at 1550 Crystal Drive.

Whole Foods' Daily Market opens this month in Crystal City

The long-awaited Whole Foods' Daily Market Shop opens Oct. 23 at the corner of Crystal Drive and 15th Street South. Whole Foods will celebrate its first such shop outside of New York City with samples and a tote bag giveaway to the first 300 customers. The store fills the vacancy left more than a year and a half ago when Amazon Fresh closed (it has since opened a branch on Route 1 in Potomac Yard).

The Daily Market Shop, which will be open 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily, touts an "ample selection of fresh, seasonal produce, meat and seafood, prepared foods, including sandwiches and pre-packed meals, baked goods, alcohol and supplements." It will feature a large selection of goods from local suppliers, including ravioli from La Pasta and crab and shrimp from Jimmy's Famous Seafood. The shop will also offer Amazon pickup and return services.

Look for Daydrift, a bakery/bookstore, to open soon next door in the site vacated by Mah-Ze-Dahr.

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CCCA presses developer on adding library, theater to project

Developer JBG Smith hopes to seek County Board approval next month to convert a pair of office buildings into apartment buildings:

- **1800 S. Bell St.:** 129 residential units and 5,251 square feet of retail
- **1901 S. Bell St.:** 186 residential units and 4,692 square feet of retail

In a meeting with CCCA leaders last month, JBGS representatives said the apartments would be larger on average than in their other buildings with more two- and three-bedroom units. Rent would be market rate; no affordable housing would be included. Minor changes are proposed to both building exteriors, including window replacements, removal of rooftop equipment, and the addition of planters and screening elements. No changes are proposed to the existing building height, footprint, total density, and streetscape conditions. Amenities would be added to the rooftops, but no pools. Street-facing retail is planned for the first floor at market rate.

At the meeting, the CCCA leaders pressed JBG Smith about concerns it has raised in a [letter](#) to the County Board about the proposal neglecting cultural benefits called for in the Crystal City Sector Plan.



The Synetic Theater space in the Underground at 1800 S. Bell St.

The developer's representatives said they were open to considering a library branch for 1800 South Bell but questioned its feasibility at a time when the county is cutting back on library staff. The county has set aside \$5.8 million for a Crystal City library branch, money JBG Smith contributed in return for approval of an earlier redevelopment project (see ARLnow story [here](#)).

Asked about the return of Synetic Theatre to its now vacant space in the Underground, the representatives raised concerns about who would cover the rent and other costs. Still, they said they would consider cultural use of the

space. One possible source of support would be a new foundation created by the National Landing Business Improvement District (the BID).

CCCA leaders also suggested a child-care facility for 1901 South Bell, given the proposal for larger apartments; more EV charging stations; and a coffee shop/bakery in conjunction with the library branch. The CCCA repeated concerns that the repurposing of 1901 S. Bell could delay or scrap the creation of Center Park, a 74,200-square-foot civic space that the sector plan had envisioned for the site.

JBG Smith submitted plans for South Bell Street under Arlington's new adaptive reuse process, which is designed to speed the conversion of obsolete buildings. Over the summer, the developer won approval to convert office buildings at 2100 and 2200 Crystal Drives, one into a hotel and the other apartments.

Make your voice heard: Would you like to see a library and/or theater as part of JBG Smith's redevelopment of 1901 Bell Street? The County Board is expected to review the project in November. The CCCA board urges residents to contact the board with their concerns; email [here](#). Read a copy of the CCCA board's letter to the county [here](#).



Beach volleyball will continue after plans for apartment towers are scrapped.

JBGs Smith cancels plans for pair of apartment towers

JBG Smith has pulled back plans to build a pair of 30-story apartment towers at 223 S 23rd Street and 2250 Crystal Drive. The developer blamed high interest rates and escalating building costs stemming from tariffs, according to [Bisnow](#). It had razed a five-story office building and a one-story retail building for the project, first announced in 2021 and approved two years later. The two towers would have included more than 1,400 apartments and first-floor retail space.

Part of the site will continue be used for volleyball by [Volo Sports](#).

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Ground broken on affordable apartments at Crystal House site

Developers broke ground last month on a 432-unit affordable apartment project on the grounds of Crystal House. The project will include apartments ranging from studios to three-bedrooms targeting people earning 30 percent to 60 percent of area median income. The project is part of a multi-phase build-out of the site. Once known as Crystal House 3, the building at 501 20th Street South has been renamed “The Sweeney” after Jean and Jack Sweeney. The pair were founders of True Ground Housing Partners, which is developing the project. Major donations came from Amazon’s housing fund. Completion is expected in early 2028.

Affordable housing project announced for Potomac Yard

An 88-unit affordable apartment building is slated for a half-acre parcel in Potomac Yard on land donated by JBG Smith. Wesley House will develop the six-story building at 601 E. Glebe Road. It will include mostly two- and three-bedroom units. To be eligible, households can earn 30 percent to 80 percent of [area median income](#) (AMI). That means a three-person household earning \$88,560 would pay \$2,214 monthly in rent. The new building is located just over the line in Alexandria near the Potomac Yard Metro.

The apartment building is part of a larger development JBG Smith plans for Potomac Yard. The developer also proposes 120 townhomes for a 4.2-acre site at 2601 Main Line Blvd. and a seven-story mixed-use building at 2901 Main Lane Blvd, both in Alexandria, according to [ALXnow](#). The latter would include 432 residential units, retail, and a public park.



Rendering of proposed affordable apartment building.

TRANSPORTATION

Work begins on revamping 15th Street, Clark/Bell streets

Work has begun on a major overhaul of 15th Street between Crystal Drive and Route 1. The \$12 million project aims to enhance pedestrian safety, reduce vehicle speeds, expand green spaces, and improve connections for transit, biking, and walking. The realignment eliminates the existing curved section of S. Clark/Bell Street, creating a more direct street grid and freeing up land for public amenities. Completion is targeted for the end of next year. Based on Arlington County's [plans](#), here's a breakdown:

Component	Description	Goals
Narrowed 15th Street (between Crystal Drive and Route 1)	Using a “road diet strategy,” project will narrow roadway and remove the median strip. Sidewalks will be upgraded with pedestrian friendly paving; trees added, and lighting improved.	Calms traffic, enhances pedestrian and cyclist safety, and creates a more "humanized" streetscape. Supports slower speeds and better multimodal access.
Direct Clark/Bell connection	South Clark Street, which currently bends east in front of the Crown Plaza, will be brought in alignment with South Bell Street on the other side of 15th Street. The new intersection will have a traffic light.	Realigned S. Clark/Bell Street to create a seamless at-grade connection from 18th Street South to 12th Street South, crossing 15th Street.
Paved Multi-Use Trail (12th Street to Crystal City Metro Entrance)	Straightening Clark/Bell intersection allows for a shared-use path starting at 12th Street South and ending at the Metro station entrance, connecting pedestrians and cyclists through the project area.	Improves walkability and bike access to transit, linking to the broader Metroway bus rapid transit system and regional trails.
14th Street Access Road	A one-way, one-lane road connecting Crystal Drive and Clark Street.	Serves the hotel property, key for trash pickup, safety vehicle access.

Revamped 15th Street South



County illustration shows the straightened 15th Street, the new park (a central green area with paths and landscaping), and the 14th Street hotel access road.



Multiuse trail from 12th St. to the Metro

The new pedestrian/cycle runs on the west side of Clark/Bell. At left, connection with existing sidewalks near 12th Street. At right, connection with Crystal City Metro entrance.



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Expect delays over next 1-2 years

Early construction phases are underway, focused on the direct connection of Clark and Bell streets, followed by reconstruction of 14th Street. Delays could arise from coordination with nearby developments, but funding is secured through Arlington's Capital Improvement Program. This transformation is a step toward making Crystal City Virginia's largest walkable commercial district.

The county vows to keep traffic flowing despite the construction, making use of the existing median on 15th street for temporary lanes. However, at times there could be slowdowns and brief closures as vehicle lanes are shifted and narrowed.

For more details and updates, visit the county project site [here](#).

Transitway advances on 12th Street South as road closure continues

Crews poured concrete for the bus pad in the middle of 12th Street South as work continues on the [Transitway Extension to Pentagon City](#). The project will provide for dedicated bus lanes and is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. Until then, the block of 12 Street South between South Fern and South Eads will be closed to vehicular traffic. For more details, visit [here](#).



Vision Zero seeks feedback for 5-year plan for traffic safety

[Vision Zero](#) is hosting events throughout the month to gather feedback as it updates its five-year action plan. Events include an open house, a [library trail takeover](#), and a [virtual meeting](#). Vision Zero aims to eliminate severe or fatal traffic injuries by 2030 by through such means as [tactical speed humps](#), [PhotoSPEED](#) cameras, and [traffic pattern changes](#). For details, see the latest [Vision Zero bulletin](#).

Can you still pass a driver's exam? Take the [Vision Zero quiz](#) to test your knowledge of the old and new rules of the road.

PARKS & RECREATION



Artist rendering of Arlington Junction Park on South Eads Street, expected to open this winter.

County updates CCCA on status of National Landing park projects

Crystal City's first county park is on track to open this winter, Marco Rivero, Park and Recreation Commission staff liaison, told the CCCA at its September meeting. Arlington Junction park extends along the east side of South Eads Street at the intersection with Army Navy Drive (details [here](#)).

Rivero also provided updates on other parks in the area:

????? Park: It's only 900 square feet, but the space at 23rd Street South and South Eads Street has yet to be named. In a survey, residents suggested as possibilities "23rd Street S Plaza," "Restaurant Row Plaza," "Pride Plaza," and "Firehouse Plaza." The County Board is expected to decide it this fall, following a five-step review process that involved input from civic groups, the parks commission, and the historical landmarks board. The park is near Restaurant row and on the site of a fire station that was demolished in 1952. The park, budgeted at \$475,000, will feature plantings surrounded by wooden benches, with overhead lighting and shade trees. Construction starts in spring/summer of next year and should be completed in winter 2027. Details [here](#).

Metro Market Square: Planning for the 43,900-square-foot park is being coordinated with work on the new east entrance of the Crystal City Metro Station. After hearing comments from 160 people at the first public feedback session, the county will hold a second engagement in fall and a third in winter. Construction is to begin in winter 2026. Details [here](#).

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15th Street Park: The Crystal City Sector Plan had initially proposed a median park on 15th Street. Thanks to the efforts of the CCCA, that idea was scrapped in favor of removing the median to narrow 15th and allow for more green space to the north. Once the county completes overhauling 15th Street in 18 months or so, it will begin work on a temporary park on the site adjacent to the Crowne Plaza. A final park – with benches, gardens, and other amenities – awaits expected redevelopment of the hotel.

At last month's meeting, CCCA members raised concerns about the fate of the park that was to have been built at 1901 South Bell St. when the office building there was razed. JBG Smith instead is asking the county for permission to convert that building into apartments. Rivero said he would look into the matter.

CCCA members raised other ideas for parks, such as adding train-themed attractions to Long Bridge Park and asking Amazon to consider public use of its vacant headquarters building site opposite Junction Park.

Make your voice heard: Would you like to see a library and/or theater as part of JBG Smith's redevelopment of 1901 Bell Street? The County Board is expected to review the project in November. The CCCA board urges residents to contact the board with their concerns; email [here](#). Read a copy of the CCCA board's letter to the county [here](#).

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.

DOINGS IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)



Map shows AI Unlocked sites and related road closures.

In heart of Crystal City, festival explores how AI is changing our lives

[AI Unlocked](#), the largest event of its kind here in years in National Landing, will be held in the heart of Crystal City Oct. 3-4. With seminars, activities, food, and entertainment, the festival explores how artificial intelligence is transforming our lives, including the arts, science, music, and sports. It is free and open to professionals and nonprofessionals alike. To accommodate the festival and its setup, travel will be restricted along parts of Crystal Drive and nearby streets Oct. 1-4.

“AI Unlocked is designed with national relevance in mind, bringing together thought leaders, technologists, policymakers and creatives from across the country’s tech industry,” wrote



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Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, president and CEO the National Landing BID, in an email. “AI Unlocked is a signature moment in National Landing’s continued transformation into a national hub for AI, innovation, and policy.”

On Oct. 3, leading experts will hold panel discussions on how AI is shaping business and government policy and pushing the bounds of technology. Topics include real-world examples of how AI is being deployed to improve emergency responses and health care; transform classrooms; and enable autonomous driving. The free talks will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Alamo Drafthouse, 1660 Crystal Drive. Because of limited space, [registration is required](#).

Saturday’s programming, which runs 10 a.m.-5 p.m., is geared toward the entire family, with such activities as virtual reality auto-racing and baseball pitching; interactive digital art; robotics, and AI photobooths where you can transform yourself into whatever you can imagine. Food vendors and entertainment are also on tap. Outdoor activities will take place along Crystal Drive (between 15th and 20th streets) and South Bell Street. Indoor programming will take place at the Alamo Theater and the [Experience Center](#), which is located on the ground level of 241 18th Street S. Registration requested but not required.

The festival’s principal sponsors are the [Special Competitive Project](#) and JBG Smith.

For more on the festival, visit [here](#).

Road closures

The following road closures are slated to accommodate before, after, and during AI Unlocked:

Oct. 1 at 7 a.m. to Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.:

- South Bell Street from 18th Street S. to 20th Street S. Northbound-only traffic allowed from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Oct. 3 at 6 a.m. to Oct 5 at 4 p.m.

- 200 – 300 block of 19th Court S.

Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. to Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.

- Crystal Drive from 15th Street S. to 20th Street S. Northbound-only traffic will be allowed in the bus lane from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The Water Park Tower parking garage will be accessible.
- The 200 block of 18th Street S. (access parking garages between S. Bell Street and Crystal Drive via the alley between 18th Street S. and 20th Street S.).

Street parking in the area will be restricted, marked by temporary “No Parking” signs; illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed or [towed](#). Expect to see an increased police presence and pedestrian traffic. Additional street closures are possible depending on circumstances.



Scene from past Marine Marathon looking south toward Crystal City.

Crystal City offers front-row viewing of Marine marathon

Runners, not cars, will rule the roads when the [Marine Corps Marathon](#) winds its way through Virginia and Washington on Oct. 26. Crystal City is on the back end of the race, meaning street closures along Crystal Drive, 12th Street, Long Bridge Drive, and Army-Navy Drive. That also means Crystal City residents will have ringside viewing of the race; here is the [map](#).

One of the largest marathons in the nation, the race is expected to draw 30,000 runners from across the country and the world. The marathon begins at 7:15 a.m. between the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, continues through Rosslyn, then heads over Key Bridge into Georgetown, then along the mall, East Potomac Park, and across the Route 395 bridge, through Long Bridge Park before making a loop along Crystal Drive and heading back toward the Potomac.

Participants will gather beforehand at the Runners Village in the North Pentagon parking lot. The day's activities wrap up with live music and refreshments at a festival in downtown Rosslyn.

The marathon isn't the only race taking place that Sunday. A 50K ultramarathon and a 10K marathon will also take runners through Arlington and the district.

For more on the marathon, visit the official site [here](#) and the Arlington tourist service [here](#).

Road closure information was not available as of publication. [Subscribe to Police News](#) to stay up to date.

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Art Walk takes a detour to protest book banning

Grab a stick of chalk and strike a blow against book banning. This year's Arlington Art Walk on Oct. 4 includes the workshop "Bright Words, Bold Steets," at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. "[P]articipants will draw inspiration from titles that have been challenged or censored, transforming sidewalks into vibrant canvases of resistance, reflection and radical joy," according to the press release. "Bright Words" runs from 2 to 5 p.m., while the Art Walk itself is 3-8 p.m. Stretching from Clarendon to Ballston, the walk features galleries, artist studios, curated exhibits, hands-on activities, live music, and an artisan market. For details and a downloadable map, visit [here](#).



Beer garden pops up on Crystal Drive for Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest comes to Crystal Drive Oct. 4, 2-10 p.m., as Surreal Global Kitchen transforms its patio and adjacent park space into a beer garden. Seated at communal picnic tables, guests will be treated to German brews and local craft beers served in classic steins. On the dining menu will be bratwurst, pretzels, and schnitzel, as well as specialties offered by other local restaurants. Entertainment will include live music, DJs, and stein-holding and costume contests. Surreal is at 2117 Crystal Drive. Tickets, which come with a complimentary beer, are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the entrance. For more information and tickets, visit [here](#).



Anime fans to converge on Crystal City Hyatt

Anime USA will be held Oct. 10-12 at the Hyatt Regency, 2799 Richmond Highway. The nonprofit event celebrates all aspects of "otaku" culture, featuring industry guests, cosplay, musical groups, and cultural demonstrations. For more about the event and ticket prices, visit [here](#).

Artisan market with an autumn twist at Water Park

A fall-themed festival will be sponsored by the Landing Local Artisan Market, Oct. 25-26, noon-5 p.m. at Water Park, 1601 Crystal Drive. Besides an array of crafts for sale, the event features live entertainment, food and beverage carts, and international cuisine from the Water Park's kiosks.

Sip and paint at Water Park

Margaret Jacobson teaches painting al fresco in front of the waterfall at Water Park, 1601 Crystal Drive, Wednesdays through Oct. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. Details [here](#).

Latin music Thursdays at Met Park

NaLa Noches, a high-energy celebration of Latin music and culture, showcases live performances handpicked by DC trumpet legend Joe Herrera Thursdays 5-7 p.m., at Metropolitan Park, 1330 Fair St. Besides listening to the music, make crafts under the guidance of artists sponsored by the Music of Contemporary Art Arlington. Plus ethnic food vendors. Details and registration [here](#). Coming up:

Oct. 2: Boleros with Miramar. Art: Make tissue paper marigolds and flowers.

Oct. 9: Venezuelan jazz with Fran Vielma. Art: Folklorico craft from Mexico with David Amoroso.

Oct. 16: Salsa with Alfredo Mojica. Art: Mold plasticine clay figurines inspired by the folk pottery of Mexico.

Oct. 23: Psychedelic and traditional salsa with Bio Ritmo. Art: Watercolor prints of fall fruits and vegetables.

MoCA on the Move brings art and 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 series features live music, light snacks, and art-making activities. In case of rain, the program will be held indoors, at MoCA Arlington's Innovation Studio + Store, 525 14th S. Details [here](#). Coming up:

Oct. 5: Fall theme paper mosaics. Music from [The String Mamas](#)

Oct. 12: Sculpt a Clay Monster. Music from [Sean Tracy](#)

Oct. 19: Artist spotlight on [Allie Tripp](#), Autumn Print Postcards. Music from [Caleb Hacker](#)

Oct. 26: Artist spotlight on [David Amoroso](#), Calavera Masks. Music from [Duck Chuck Goose](#)



Miramar performs boleros Oct. 2.



Farmers market continues on Tuesdays and Saturdays

The twice-weekly farmers market continues at Met Park, 1400 South Eads St., through October. Some 50 vendors offer 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. Find the updated weekly layout of the Saturday market [here](#) and of the Tuesday market [here](#).

Get in shape at Metropolitan Park

DC Fray and National Landing offer free instructor-led classes Wednesdays, 8-9 a.m., Sept. 7 through Oct. 26, at Metropolitan Park, 1330 S. Fair St. No experience needed. Bring your own towels, water bottles, snacks, and mats. Seats are limited; [reservations suggested](#). Coming up:

Oct. 1: [Yoga by Onelife Fitness](#)

Oct. 8: [Barre by Pure Barre](#)

Oct. 15: [HIIT/Metcon by E60 Fitness](#)

Oct. 22: [Yoga by Core Power Yoga](#)

Get in shape at Potomac Yard

DC Fray and National Landing offer free instructor-led classes Sundays, 2-3 p.m., Sept. 7 through Oct. 26. No experience needed. Frequent participants receive prizes through punch card program. Classes take place in front of [Social All Day Bar](#), 3500 S. Clark St. Bring your own towels, water bottles, snacks, and mats. Seats are limited; [reservations suggested](#). Coming up:

Oct. 5: (Vinyasa) Flow +challenging balancing poses by Core Power Yoga

Oct. 12: Barre by Pure Barre

Oct. 19: Zumba by Onelife Fitness

Oct. 26: Group Function Fitness by E60 Fitness

Get in shape at Water Park

The Water Park, 1601 Crystal Drive, offers opportunities to tune-up your body:

Sunrise Yoga: Through Oct. 12 on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. in the stage/grass area. Participants are encouraged to bring their own mats and water. All ages welcome.

Hustle with Sunny Mae: Tuesdays at 7 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. through Oct 30 on the Water Park state lawn. Each session offers total-body, low-impact strength workout, using dumbbells and bands. Options for every level. Cost from \$25; details and signup [here](#).

For more activities, visit ...

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

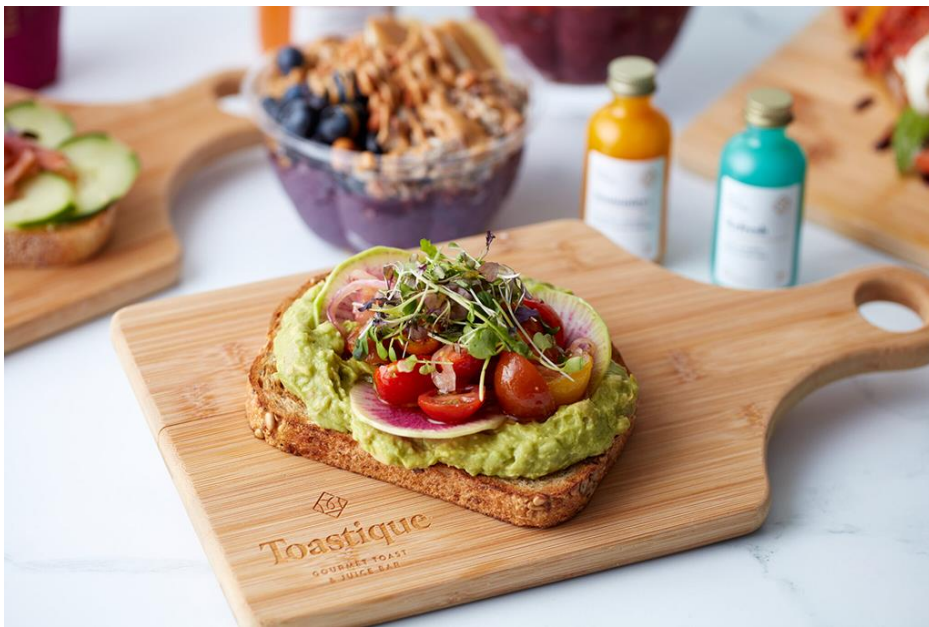
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DINING IN CRYSTAL CITY (AND NEARBY)

Enjoy a world of dining during Arlington Restaurant week

Arlington Restaurant Week returns Oct. 13-20 for the seventh year. A wide variety of restaurants are participating, offering three-course dinners to lunch and breakfast specials. Arlington's fare spans the world: Lebanese, Russian, Italian, Mexican, Japanese, Chinese, Thai, and more. For a list of participating restaurants and their menus, visit [here](#).



New Crystal City eatery goes gourmet with toast

[Toastique](#) has elevated the breakfast side into a gourmet treat. The DC-based chain opened its second Arlington outlet last month at 244 19th Court S, on the ground floor of Reva apartments. It offers nine signature toasts, with such toppings as watermelon radish, marinated tomatoes, smoke salmon, berries, and peanut butter. Also on the menu are smoothies, lattes, protein waffles, and cold-pressed juice.

Rise and shine to a Filipino breakfast

Enjoy Filipino breakfast sandwiches and baked goods at [Gwenie's Pastries and Lapu Lapu](#) in Pentagon City. The eatery, located at 1417 S. Fern St., is owned by siblings Stella and Javier Fernandez. It is the Maryland duo's first Virginia outlet.

Indian fare to replace Thai in Pentagon City

Bund-Up, a Taiwanese restaurant at the Westpost shopping center, is slated to close Oct. 19. The spot will be replaced by Pink Saffron, an Indian restaurant featuring street-food inspired small plates, curries, biryanis, tandoor bread, and specialty cocktails. Its chefs, Shashank Chhatrapati and Ankush Kumar, tout more than two decades of culinary experience. They hope to open as soon as Oct. 20, the Hindu festival of lights. The site is 1201 S. Joyce Street. Bund-Up plans to continue offering catering and special events. Its Union Market location in Washington will remain open.

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ABOUT THE 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

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Send a check for \$10 to:

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