

MAY E-NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

ARCA's May 2020 newsletter is online only, due to our reluctance to ask our delivery people to go out during the pandemic and touch all those mailboxes. We hope to resume our usual door-to-door delivery later this year.

Meanwhile, May is still the month when **we ask for your dues**: \$20 per annum per family. So please send your money to us at PO Box 2976, Arlington VA 22202, or go to our website and pay using PayPal. (arcaonline.org). It is money well spent, and guarantees our association a seat at the County table where all the decisions are made. We will be putting together **a slate for our 2020-21 Executive Board** for the next meeting, or if all goes well we might do it online. Stay tuned!

Our communications person is looking for someone who might be willing to help with getting the word out on **social networking** -- please let us know if you are interested. Arcaneighbor.org

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We need to ask ourselves how our world is going to be changed by the COVID-19 pandemic and how that could potentially affect our community in the years to come. Will Arlington County and area developers continue their inexorable march to urbanize 22202? Will high-rise, high-density elevator residential and office buildings continue to be the wave of the future? What living and working conditions will people want or be willing to accept after their frightening experience with the pandemic? Think crowded public transit versus the automobile. Will many homes become permanent offices? Or will the old normal be reestablished?

At this moment in time, the County is sponsoring a Pentagon City transportation infrastructure analysis to determine its capacity to accommodate additional growth above and beyond what is currently permitted by zoning. And that is the topic of a second study that is about to be launched. It will be sponsored by commercial property owners who are hoping to be able to demolish aging buildings and replace them with significantly larger structures. Of course, the County would welcome the additional tax revenue those larger structures would generate.

Unfortunately, the County has been anything but forthcoming in response to ARCA's requests for detailed information about these studies. Seemingly, they are narrowly focused on just Pentagon City (including the River House property) rather than holistically focused on the entirety of 22202's hemmed-in fortress. As a consequence they could be of little value other than, perhaps, to produce a desired result. *(ARCA was successful in persuading JBGSmith to put a hold on its proposal to infill 90% of the River House open space with new apartment buildings and row houses until conclusion*

of these studies anticipated to be around the end of the year.)

For those of you, sequestered in your homes, who may be just a little bored and interested in learning more about our 22202 neighborhood, including fascinating demographic and transportation information, you need only click on the following link and then crawl down into its various rabbit holes: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/22202-data/> Just remember, in a year or so when the 2020 Census results will be known, those numbers will likely climb. And don't forget to take into account the expected arrival of 25,000 Amazon employees at their new HQ2 campus in Pentagon City along with the inhabitants of the many new buildings JBGSmith will be constructing in Crystal City. Construction of additional square feet translates into additional people coming and going in 22202 over time. If you have questions or concerns, please share them with us at arcaneighbor@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, over the past year ARCA and the other two 22202 civic associations (Aurora Highlands and Crystal City) labored intensively to agree upon, and to assemble a "Livability Action Plan" for 22202 over the coming years which we invite you to peruse at: www.livability22202.org Cognizant of the likelihood that our neck of the woods will become far more densely populated in the coming years and thus more challenging to maintain the livability features that we currently enjoy, we set out to identify the various conditions we wish to preserve, as well as others that would enhance our neighborhoods' livability. We then presented our Action Plan to the County, JBGSmith and other commercial developers who agreed, at least in principle, to assist us to achieve those goals. Moreover, at its April meeting the County Civic Federation adopted a resolution not only supporting our Livability Action Plan, but also the process by which we achieved it as an excellent model other civic associations might wish to adopt. *(Exactly how genuine the County's support may be, at least during the pandemic, is subject to question given that it has seemingly suspended public input processes applicable to approval of new, high-density commercial construction.)*

One unique feature of our Livability Action Plan is that it is a "living" document given that it creates an ongoing process to evaluate in depth specific projects, the result of which may be to modify or refine its objectives or goals over time. This will be accomplished by the conduct of "workshops," comprised of interested/concerned neighbors and stakeholders focusing on specific Livability features or projects. Three workshops, focusing on 22202's Open Space, the Crystal City Underground, and Housing/Missing Middle, got underway before the coronavirus hiatus interceded; as a consequence their progress was slowed but draft reports will be forthcoming. A fourth workshop that has yet to get underway will focus on the prospect of Route 1 being lowered to grade north of 20th Street causing 18th, 15th and 12th Streets to become signaled cross streets. Going forward, we hope that many of you will get involved, particularly if you possess relevant expertise.

LIVABILITY UPDATE AFTER COVID

livability22202.org

Housing Workshops 1 & 2 were completed Jan. 25 and Mar. 7; the Housing Working group has been meeting weekly, and are currently drafting a report that will go out to the community for feedback, and subsequently to county staff, JBG, Amazon, BID, County Board, state elected reps.

- **Open Space Workshop**, held Feb. 22; its report is in the works and will follow a similar process of distribution.

- **CC Underground Workshop “Underground Challenge”**: Do you have either a writing, photography or videography interest, combined with an affection for dark underground places? The Crystal City Underground workshop citizens group is planning an “Underground Challenge” in June to spark innovative thinking about the future of this space by drawing on the creativity and knowledge of the 22202 community. Upcoming information in June.

Civic Federation 22202 Livability Framework Resolution Passes April 21

The sponsors of the resolution, ARCA, AHCA and Crystal City Civic Association, want to gain County Board recognition of the Livability Framework as a viable approach to a comprehensive, holistic review of development proposals that includes assessing development impacts to the entire neighborhood. This approach contrasts with the current, more narrowly focused feasibility assessments that focus exclusively on the development project itself and its immediate surroundings. Resolution sponsors also said that the entire County benefits from the revenue stemming from 22202 development, and that portions of the Livability Framework could apply to development projects in other County neighborhoods. This resolution passed.

CENSUS

The COVID-19 outbreak is impacting every aspect of daily life, including how the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the 2020 Census. Despite this, Arlington is over 65% counted, and ARCA census tracts show 64.5 – 72.9% responses. Arlington is depending on its network of community partners to help get the word out to the remaining households, with in-person visits beginning in August. Census personnel plan to use a variety of inventive strategies to reach hard to count groups like the homeless, immigrants, college students and small children. If you have not yet responded, you can still participate online, phone or paper. The Census results will drive the distribution of \$675 billion in federal fiscal resources to state and local governments that will fund public health, hospitals and community services.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The Democratic Primary for County Board seat held by Libby Garvey, previously scheduled for June 23, has been canceled as there are no challenges.

SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD ELECTION JULY 7

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/>

Special election to replace Eric Gutshall. The County is trying to persuade the state officials to change to date to the latest possible, even the date of the general election.

SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE DEBATE JUNE 10

Committee of 100 Webinar: 7 – 8:15pm

Register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Cc2oaUrSSkK1gpQBhARwWg

Candidates are Bob Cambridge (R); Susan Cunningham (I); Takis Karantonis (D)

ABSENTEE VOTING & REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

<https://vote.arlingtonva.us/absentee/>

Republican Senate Race: June 23, deadline for absentee voting June 16

SCHOOLS

NEW SUPERINTENDENT NAMED

Virtual Town Hall meetings with Superintendent June 12, 13, 23

<https://www.apsva.us/engage/engage-with-the-new-superintendent-virtual-town-hall-meetings/>

The School Board announced it has hired Dr. Francisco Duran for the school system's top job following a national search. Dr. Duran comes from Fairfax County Public Schools, where he served as Chief Academic and Equity Officer. He has a diverse background including top level leadership in a variety of large urban school districts.

SCHOOL BOUNDARY PROCESS

Community Urged to Share Input

<https://www.apsva.us/engage/data-review-for-fall-2020-boundary-process/>

Community members are invited to review the data that will be used in the Fall 2020 Elementary School Boundary Process. By sharing the data now and conducting this review with stakeholders before developing boundary scenarios, staff can gather valuable input from residents who know their neighborhoods.

CLASS SIZES TO INCREASE BY ONE IN THE FALL & OTHER SHORT TAKES

The Arlington Public Schools (APS) budget passed in May will increase by one student at all grade levels, starting in the fall. (Not sure what this means, but will it make a difference?). School will official end June 12. Graduations will all be "virtual". Summer School plans are currently being developed.

CIP SCALED BACK

<https://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-county-manager-to-propose-scaled-back-capital-improvement-plan/>

As the County continues to experience the economic impacts of COVID-19, the County Manager will present the Board a short-term Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) rather than the traditional 10 year plan. The short-term proposal will focus on essential projects, including the Storm Water Infrastructure, major transportation projects and school needs.

GLASS RECYCLING A “RECORD-SHATTERING” SUCCESS

ArlNow reports that Arlington has recycled over a million pounds of glass at its drop-off centers since January, with over 2 million since the launch of the program. The recycled glass is used in construction and even new glass products

ARLINGTON RANKS #1 FOR WORKING AT HOME (SURPRISE!)

Arlington has the highest proportion of residents who can work from home, according to a new study by the financial website SmartAsset, which ranked 200 largest US cities. The study, needless to say, was done before the enforced homestays of the pandemic. They estimated that 39.23% of the Arlington workforce has the ability to work from home, as they are management, business and financial operations workers. It also suggests that it enables a swifter return to consumer spending when stay-at-home orders are relaxed. Also good news from SmartAsset, Arlington ranked among the most recession-resistant places in the US.

VIRUS UPDATES

TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING NEEDED

Arlington’s Public Health Director, Dr. Reuben Varghese is leading Arlington’s virus response efforts, including an expanded workforce to work on testing and contact tracing, which Varghese says “is the key to allowing the economy to reopen while mitigating the spread of the virus. It is important to emphasize that all people are currently at risk for COVID-19, the germ is here and everyone needs to follow the steps to follow the spread. Until we see a consistent decrease in new cases we won’t recognize that transmission is declining”. You’ve probably heard this before, but it does bear repeating.

HELP TELL ARLINGTON’S STORY OF THE PANDEMIC

Arlington Public Library has designed a COVID-19 Archives Project to create a comprehensive picture of Arlington during this extraordinary time in our history. The Library’s Center for Local History (<https://library.arlingtonva.us/center-for-local-history/arlington-covid-19-archives-project/>) seeks donations of journals, photos and

objects to help document this time of difficulty and struggle. Examples include photos of your neighborhood, signs or temporary artwork, diaries, journals and notes, school lesson plans, revised restaurant menus.

RESTAURANTS FOR PICKUP AND DELIVERY

<https://www.crystalcity.org/delivery>

The Crystal City website has put together a list of local restaurants you can patronize, for delivery and pickup. Your patronage will help keep these small businesses alive. The website also has information for businesses and residents on other virus-related updates.

FREDDIE LUTZ DELIVERS MEALS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Neighbor restauranter Freddie Lutz (Freddie's Beach Bar and Restaurant, Federico Ristorante) was hired by Amazon to prepare and deliver 10,000 meals to front line healthcare workers. Recipients included the police, Virginia Hospital Center, sheriff and emergency communications center staff: Lutz was able to bring back temporarily laid off staff as well as several other local restaurants to help out.

INSTEAD OF NETFLIX

Arlington County has some streaming suggestions for us all, with some of Arlington TV's greatest hits from over the years: our reviewer has seen them all and gives them all 5 stars:

Emmy Nominated Columbia Pike Documentary Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-avc-cXpebU>

Here/Now: Iron and Steel, a Look at FDNY's gift of World Trade Center steel to Arlington

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Dq5P_Nueuw

Arlington's Smart Growth Journey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFHs1_P4qTU&feature=youtu.be

Rethinking Arlington's Energy Future

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZYABluY_DQ

Arlington: The Rap with Remy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T1RMuoQnKo>

STREAM ARLINGTON ARTS COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Synetic Theater's drama and exercise, childrens storytelling:

<https://synetictheater.org/synetic-streaming/>

Jane Franklin Dance classes: <https://www.janefranklin.com/online-classes>

Public Art Tour of Rosslyn self-guided

Bowen McCauley Dance movement classes: bmd.org

Encore Stage theater and dance classes: encorestageva.org

Signature Theatre weekly discussions with the Artistic Director and guests, sing some songs. Sigtheatre.org

Arlington Historical Society Online Discussion

June 11, 7pm online

“Shootout in Jackson City”, by George Axiotis

Local author and historian will discuss the true story behind his book. By the 1890's Alexandria County Virginia across the Potomac River from Washington DC was a place of some promise and much vice. Jackson City sat in the swamp area at the Virginia end of the famed “Long Bridge”. The area around it was known as Hell's Bottom, a lawless place of gambling, illegal liquor and vice where saloon owners and gamblers ignored the law, while politicians turned their backs. Armed with tenuous laws, newly elected Sheriff William Palmer and his Deputies were set to clean up the county. They busted up gaming and liquor parlors and brought those who worked them before ineffectual county judges only to see them get off lightly. On a cold night in February 1896, Deputy Sheriff Edward Deuterma decided to form a posse with a friend and eight local black men to raid a gambling saloon run by the all too well-known John C. Nelson. What was supposed to be a quick raid, instead ended in a hail of gunfire. Deuterma and his friend would come to near death from their wounds, one in his posse would be killed and four others wounded. The raid became the catalyst for a long and drawn out war against vice in Alexandria County which took nearly a dozen years to win.

<https://blogs.weta.org/boundarystones/2017/10/06/jackson-city-arlingtons-monte-carlo>

WORDS TO ART SPRING 2020

Through May 24

ArlingtonArts Facebook/Instagram/Twitter

One of our local artists, a resident of 22202, MazPaz, is participating in the community art project, Words to Art, in which the artists turn selected words into art each week. Mazpaz.co

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAMS ONLINE

<https://mgnv.org/reading-room/master-gardener-virtual-classroom>

The public education events for May are online: RSVP online at <https://mgnv.org/events> to receive the link to participate, then click on events title for each event to participate in a live presentation.

May 22: Weed ID and Management: 10am

May 29: Fruit Trees and Berries: 10am

The Help desk is still operating via email – send in your garden-related questions. mgarlalex@gmail.com