

June 2026 Newsletter

President's Report

- Recruiting event in late July
- Contacted by the land use attorney representing Mill Creek, the development team that will be developing Land Bay C West. They filed a Concept Plan early this year, and they are preparing to file a 4.1 Site Plan Amendment and PDSP Amendment likely in the next few weeks. They are looking to engage with PYACA throughout the course of the project and expressed interest in scheduling an introductory call in the next few weeks

Spotted Lanternflies Are Back: Here's How You Can Help

Spotted lanternflies have returned to our neighborhood and are becoming increasingly visible in gardens, landscaped areas, and on ornamental plants. While these invasive insects can damage trees, vines, and many common landscape plants, there are several effective ways residents can help reduce their numbers without resorting to harsh chemical pesticides.

Effective Control Methods

If you encounter spotted lanternflies on your property, consider one of these simple control methods:

- **Soapy water spray:** Mix a few tablespoons of liquid dish soap in a spray bottle filled with water and spray the insects directly. The solution suffocates lanternflies on contact. Rinse soap residue from plant leaves afterward, as prolonged exposure in direct sunlight can damage foliage.
- **Rubbing alcohol spray:** A solution of approximately 50% isopropyl rubbing alcohol and 50% water can quickly dehydrate lanternflies by penetrating their waxy outer coating. Because the alcohol evaporates rapidly, it is generally less likely to injure plants than many homemade mixtures.
- **Physical removal:** Don't underestimate the simplest solution. Squishing lanternflies or knocking them into a bucket of soapy water remains one of the most effective ways to reduce local populations.

Look for Trees of Heaven

One of the spotted lanternfly's preferred host plants is the invasive **Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)**. These fast-growing trees provide an ideal habitat for feeding and reproduction, allowing lanternfly populations to expand rapidly.

If you have a Tree of Heaven on your property, consider removing it and replacing it with a native tree or shrub. Reducing the availability of this host plant is one of the most effective long-term strategies for controlling spotted lanternflies throughout the neighborhood.

While no single property can eliminate the problem on its own, collective action by residents can make a meaningful difference in protecting our neighborhood's trees, gardens, and landscapes.

Arlington Seeks Feedback on Long-Term Vision for Growth, Housing, Transportation, and Public Spaces

Arlington County is asking residents to weigh in on the ongoing “Arlington2050: Guiding Our Path” Comprehensive Plan Update — a process that will help shape how Arlington grows and changes over the coming decades. Arlington’s Comprehensive Plan guides many of the County’s biggest long-term decisions, including land use, housing, transportation, parks, environmental sustainability, economic development, and infrastructure investments. Existing planning policies have influenced everything from transit-oriented development along the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor to preservation of neighborhood character, expansion of bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and the County’s approach to affordable housing and public space planning.

The current update focuses on creating a new Introduction and Guiding Principles for the Comprehensive Plan that will help guide future policy decisions Countywide. Draft principles include themes such as affordability, sustainability, infrastructure readiness, public health, economic resilience, accessibility, and inclusivity. County staff are seeking community feedback to ensure residents’ lived experiences, priorities, and concerns are reflected in the updated framework. Residents can review the draft principles, attend office hours or pop-up events, and provide feedback through the County’s engagement process. Learn more at Arlington County’s Comprehensive Plan Update page.

FAST Potomac Yard Benefits (Don’t Miss This — Many Residents Aren’t Using It)

If you live or work in Potomac Yard, you may already be eligible for transportation benefits — but most residents don’t realize this program even exists. FAST Potomac Yard offers real, ongoing subsidies and incentives to reduce commuting costs, and enrollment is free.

Here’s what’s available:

- **\$50/month Transit Subsidy:** If you commute using Metrobus or Metrorail, FAST provides a \$50 monthly subsidy automatically loaded to your SmarTrip card. New users can even receive a free SmarTrip card when they sign up.
- **Carpool & Vanpool Incentives:** If you share your commute, you can earn quarterly gas cards (\$100 for carpools, \$200 for vanpools), along with reduced parking costs and additional rewards.
- **Bike Commuter Benefits:** If you primarily bike to work, you can receive a \$20 monthly commuter subsidy, plus access to Capital Bikeshare benefits, including free day passes each quarter.

Why this matters: These programs were created specifically for Potomac Yard residents and employees to reduce commuting costs and improve transportation access — but they only work if people actually sign up.

How to get started:

Sign up is quick and free. Create a profile at www.fastpotomacyard.com, then enroll in the programs you qualify for through the member portal.

Northern Virginia Conservation Survey Seeks Resident Input

Northern Virginia residents are invited to participate in a regional survey focused on green spaces, outdoor recreation, conservation, and access to nature. The survey is being conducted to better understand how residents view parks, open space preservation, outdoor access, and environmental priorities within the broader context of community needs across the region.

Feedback gathered through the survey will help inform future conservation and community engagement efforts throughout Northern Virginia. The survey is brief, and participants may choose to enter for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

Residents interested in participating can access the survey here:

https://qualtricsxmqqf4j2t87.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Bd5QtwUtGZLrU. Questions or accommodation requests may be directed to awilt@nvct.org. Survey will be open until mid-June or so.

Arlington County Seeks Community Input on New Climate Action Plan

Arlington County is inviting residents to help shape the County's upcoming Climate Action Plan (CAP), a long-term strategy focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening climate resilience, and preparing Arlington for the impacts of extreme weather, flooding, and rising temperatures.

The new Climate Action Plan will expand upon Arlington's existing Community Energy Plan, which established goals such as carbon neutrality by 2050 and increased use of renewable energy. The updated plan will broaden the County's approach to include climate mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, infrastructure, and community preparedness efforts.

Residents are encouraged to share feedback on climate priorities, sustainability goals, and community needs through the County's online Climate Action Plan Visioning and Framework Feedback Form, which will remain open through June 26. Arlington is also hosting an "Arlington Climate Together" Open House on June 1 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Central Library, where community members can learn more about the planning process, explore key climate topics, and provide input on Arlington's climate future.

Learn more and participate at [Arlington County's Climate Action Plan page](#).

Temporary Closure of Path Behind Long Bridge Aquatics Center

Residents who walk, run, or bike near the Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center should be aware of a temporary closure affecting the shared-use path behind the facility.

The closure is part of construction for the Long Bridge Project. During construction, pedestrians and cyclists will be directed to use the sidewalk along the front of the Aquatics Center. The outdoor fitness equipment behind the building will remain accessible throughout the closure.

Residents traveling through the area should follow posted detour signage and allow additional time when walking or biking through the corridor.

Crystal City Transitway Project Reaches Next Construction Phase

Arlington County has begun the next phase of the Crystal City Transitway Extension project, bringing several changes to Crystal Drive and 12th Street South.

To prepare for future transit service, the northbound curb lane on portions of Crystal Drive and 12th Street South is being converted into a dedicated bus lane. As a result, northbound curbside parking along this section has been permanently removed.

As construction progresses, portions of 12th Street South will reopen with new transit infrastructure, including dedicated bus lanes, new transit stations, passenger shelters, benches, and real-time bus arrival displays. Once complete, the project is expected to improve bus reliability and strengthen transit connections between Crystal City and Pentagon City.

Residents traveling through the area should continue to expect periodic traffic pattern changes as work progresses.

As the Transitway project nears completion, 12th Street South will reopen between South Fern Street and South Eads Street. In its new configuration, the center lanes will be designated for bus travel, with two new transit stations to serve passengers with shelters, benches, and real-time arrival information.

After the project is completed, WMATA will redirect the northbound [Metrobus A1X](#) via Crystal Drive and 12th Street South to Pentagon City. The southbound service to Braddock Road Metro will continue on South Hayes Street, Army Navy Drive, and South Eads Street until the neighboring [15th Street/Clark-Bell Street Realignment project](#) is complete.

Metro Market Square Project: Share Your Vision for Crystal City's New Park

Arlington County is seeking community feedback on the proposed **Metro Market Square**, a new public park planned above the Crystal City Metro station and across from Water Park. The project is part of the County's Crystal City Parks and Public Space initiative and is currently in the planning and design phase.

The future park is envisioned as a flexible public space that could accommodate community gatherings, markets, outdoor performances, temporary retail kiosks, and everyday recreation.

Planning goals also include creating a stronger pedestrian connection between Crystal City and Center Park while incorporating features such as seating areas, café tables, landscaping, interactive public art, chess tables, permeable paving, and other amenities. Community members will also have an opportunity to suggest a name for the new park.

As part of the current engagement phase, the County is asking residents to review two preliminary design concepts and share what they like about each. Rather than selecting a final design, the survey is intended to help the project team understand which ideas, features, and experiences the community values most before developing the final park plan.

The online survey will remain open through July 3.

Learn more about the project:

[Metro Market Square Project](#)

Take the community survey:

[Metro Market Square Community Survey](#)

Neighborhood News Briefs

Amazon Exploring Temporary Uses for PenPlace

With construction of Amazon's PenPlace campus, including the signature Helix building, remaining on hold, Amazon is exploring temporary uses for the vacant 11-acre site in Crystal City. Potential ideas include open green space, public art, informal recreation, and other community amenities while the site awaits future development. Residents have also suggested features such as a dog park and flexible gathering space. Amazon has emphasized that any interim use would be temporary, as the property is still planned for the next phase of HQ2 when additional office space is needed.

Spatial Front Relocating Headquarters to Crystal City

Technology company Spatial Front will relocate its headquarters from North Bethesda to Crystal City, bringing approximately 450 jobs and a \$6 million investment to Arlington. The company provides geospatial technology, artificial intelligence, and IT modernization services to federal

agencies and private sector clients. It will occupy office space at **2231 Crystal Drive**, adding another major employer to Crystal City's growing technology and innovation corridor.

Arlington Events

Date	Event	Location	More info
July 4, 2026	Celebrate July 4 at the Civitan Open Air Flea Market — a holiday community market supporting a disability-related cause, with vendors and local activity.	4001 15th Street North	ARLnow
July 4, 2026	Reading the Declaration of Independence — a public Independence Day observance centered on a reading of the historic document.	5620 3rd Street South	ARLnow
July 4, 2026	July 4th Parade — a neighborhood Independence Day parade in Fairlington featuring local police and fire departments.	Fairlington Fire Station on S Abingdon St	Patch
July 4, 2026	Bellevue Forest Citizens' Association Fourth Of July Parade — a neighborhood parade organized by a civic association for local residents and families.	Arlington	Patch
July 11, 2026	Stories of Invisible Disabilities — a performance by True Story Theater connected to Disability Pride month and personal storytelling.	Arlington	ArtsArlington
July 11, 2026	Pops at the Park — a free neighborhood summer event hosted by the Waverly Hills Civic Association with popsicles and community gathering.	Woodstock Park	Waverly Hills

July 18, 2026			
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