



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

## NELLY CUSTIS PARK OPEN

The official ribbon cutting and reopening of Nelly Custis park on July 27th was a fantastic event. Thank you to everyone that came out to celebrate this update to our neighborhood. Kids had a blast on the new playground equipment and everyone enjoyed the new benches and landscaping. If you haven't been, check it out!



A big thanks to sponsors Extreme Pizza for loads of pizza and Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Two Way Pet Services, and Music by Giff for support, freebies, and great entertainment.



[extremepizza.com](http://extremepizza.com)



[twowaydogwalking.com](http://twowaydogwalking.com)



[friendsofahparks.org](http://friendsofahparks.org)

## LIVABILITY FRAMEWORK PROGRESS

The 22202 Livability initiative has received a great deal of interest from the county and developers since the initial Livability Framework was released in July. Since then, residents representing our three area civic associations have volunteered a great amount of time to organize and participate in two charettes on first set of designs and list of specific community benefits and studies that will be needed.

We will discuss progress and plans at the upcoming AHCA meeting on the 11th. Crystal City will also be discussing this with county board members on the 12th.

This impressive grass-roots planning initiative is one of the first of its kind in Arlington, and we have been extremely fortunate to have assistance from independent expert facilitators to make this a productive and collaborative community-building process free from county influences.

This is still a work in progress, but everyone is encouraged to come add your ideas to the drawing board as this moves forward. Stay tuned at <http://aurorahighlands.org/livability/>

## Next Meeting: Wed, Sep 11

7pm, 735 18th St.

Aurora Hills Community Center

Childcare provided!

### Progress Updates

Updates on the ongoing planning for Met Park (HQ2) & Crystal House.

### Open Discussion on Livability

There is so much happening in our area, from high rise development, traffic, housing in-fill, street work, water & sewer work, school crowding, etc. Come learn about and ask questions on how the three 22202 civic associations are working together to emphasize Livability in discussions with County staff and developers.

## Stay Informed!



[www.aurorahighlands.org](http://www.aurorahighlands.org)



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# Mark Your Calendar

## Oktoberfest

Saturday, Sept 28, 1-4pm  
The Grounds, 1102 S Eads St  
The Crystal City Business Improvement District, in partnership with New District Brewing, brings a selection of custom beers brewed by local breweries, live entertainment, and a variety of food trucks and vendors serving traditional German fare.

## County Planning

Sept 16 Crystal Houses SPRC  
2100 Clarendon Blvd  
Cherry/Dogwood Rooms

Sept 19 Crystal City J/K LPRC  
2100 Clarendon Blvd  
1st Floor Rooms C/D

Sept 23 Met Park 6/7/8 SPRC  
2700 S Taylor St  
Trades Center Operations Building

All meetings 7-9pm. The civic association has reps for these. The public is welcome as well to observe, and are sometimes allowed brief comment at the end.

<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/sprc/>  
<https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/lrpc/>

## 23rd Street Tunnel Closed

The county began work closing the tunnel under route 1 at 23rd street on Tuesday, September 3. The above ground structures will be removed. During demolition, there will be temporary lane closures and sidewalk closures on westbound 23rd Street South and southbound Route 1. This is part of a long-term (but very slow moving) plan to realign and improve the intersection.

## More Glass Recycling Options

MOMs on Mt Vernon is accepting glass recycling. Arlington county is also hoping to provide a collection bin at the Aurora Hills Library in 1-2 months if approved by the County Board this month.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES & RESOURCES

## Dog Parks Uncertain

Civic Association members adopted a resolution at the July meeting supporting at least two public, off-leash dog parks in the area. Residents are continuing to push the county to provide these facilities, but there is still a way to go. The Eads Park proposal has been “passed to the planning group”.

The Virginia Highlands proposal that would address the much greater need in Pentagon City is meeting resistance from the county, who do not view this as a priority for the community. It appears that these public facilities, which could be easily provided by the County, are instead being used as bargaining chips between the County and developers. People who support this project need to speak up. Send your comments to the county at [CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us). <http://aurorahighlands.org/news/dog-parks/>

## Neighborhood Input Needed for New Park

You can influence the development of a small new park being developed at the corner of Fern and 22nd St as part of the Crystal House expansion. The County is soliciting input from all county residents, but we are the ones who will be using this park the most. The next planning meeting for the development is Sept. 16. Please email AHCA with your ideas now so we can present them at the meeting. <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/crystal-houses-public-space/>

## 23rd Street Water Main Work

The county will be replacing the underground water main on 23rd St from Eads up to Fort Scott Drive. The new larger water main will improve fire flow capacity and support demand in the neighborhood. Before the start of the project, details and construction schedule will be distributed to residents who will be directly impacted. Additionally, water service disruption notices will be distributed to the affected residents in advance of any shutdowns. Expect lane closures and traffic delays of "a few minutes".

## Development Updates

**Met Park 6, 7&8 (HQ2).** The initial review committee meeting on July 29 for the first two Amazon HQ2 buildings focused on overall design and use. The designs have been well received, but many questions remain on mitigating impacts with community benefits. The next meeting is Sept 23.

**Crystal City J/K Long Range Plan.** This planning meeting on Sept 19 will review changes to allow two 26 and 27 story residential buildings along Crystal Drive at 18th street.

## Officers Needed

Some civic association officers won't be able to run again for their current positions next year. Please consider running for a position. With Amazon and lots of new developments, you have the opportunity to be part of something big! Nominations are in October and elections are in November.

Other needs include:

**Walkability:** People interested in working on sidewalks in our neighborhood? We need a few volunteers for the Neighborhood Conservation program

**Events:** People interested in planning events for the community

**Development:** People interested in participating in the SPRC meetings, projects (as Amazon, JBG are building them)

See the possible positions at <http://aurorahighlands.org/about/>

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