

31 July 2022

Hello Neighbors!

A few updates to share with you as we head into August. First, about **upcoming SRCA activities**:

* The monthly SRCA meeting will be next Thurs, 4 August, via Zoom. Draft agenda and Zoom invite will be sent out on 3 August
* Our planned August Screen on the Green movie must, unfortunately be cancelled. Three of the four speakers at SSSAS are now broken (more than had been the case at the June show) and they will not be repaired until the fall.
* The picnic and annual meeting WILL be held on Sunday afternoon, 18 September on the SSSAS fields. We need volunteers – to help with games for the kids, checking people in at the registration table, general set-up, etc. If you can help, please email us at: news4srca@gmail.com or contact President Jeanne Jacob, jeannegjacob@gmail.com. We will be sending out meeting materials – including instructions on paying annual dues, proposed SRCA Bylaw changes, selecting your choice of picnic meal, etc. – please be on the lookout for these materials by late August!

In other news

* While there will be no planned SRCA activity for National Night Out on Tuesday, 2 August, all residents are encouraged to turn on their outside lights and perhaps even get together on individual streets in the neighborhood early that evening.
* Changes to Duke Street:
	+ Some may have seen recent press coverage about the City’s pilot to change access to the Telegraph Road ramp. Later this summer, access to the ramp from West Taylor Run will be blocked. Traffic wishing to access Telegraph Road will have to turn left, proceed down Duke Street, then bear right to get to the traffic light at Dove Street, and then cross back over Duke Street to access the ramp.
	+ There was a meeting end-June on other proposed changes to Duke Street – from Landmark to Wheeler. While SRCA was told that no decisions would be made at this meeting and that the 2012 plan approved by City Council would be presented, what was presented does not conform with the publicly available 2012 plan. What was presented included bicycle lanes actually on Duke Street in the area between Jordan and Wheeler Streets. In 2012, the City stipulated that further study needed to be done to see if such lanes were feasible and to assess parallel routes in the meantime. The current plan definitely calls for bus rapid transit (BRT), for which the City has received grant money from the state, although the grant did not specify that there had to be dedicated bus lanes in both directions. At the meeting, a “guiding principle” was adopted that there would be dedicated bus lanes. It is still being determined whether bus lanes would be in the center or on the curb lanes. It was noted that the 2012 plans were developed long before the now-planned redevelopment of Landmark, which will house a state-of-the-art hospital, with all the attendant emergency traffic demands. Another “guiding principle” adopted at this meeting was to lower the speed limit on Duke Street, as another way of discouraging cars. There was no evidence on the task force of support for car use.
	+ There will be additional engagement on the proposed changes to Duke Street. Residents are encouraged to voice their opinions on changes that will inevitably affect us all!
* [Registration is open](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fmeeting%2Fregister%2FtJ0lc-CqrTopGdXurvfWQfDfUKlj41EPHL72&data=05%7C01%7CEmma.Beall%40alexandriava.gov%7C55e9c037c3dc48c20b6108da640ceff0%7Cfeaa9b3143754aeeadccc76ad32a890b%7C0%7C0%7C637932304360054795%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=67%2FxwKbJQCBivIi490s0ZPD0I5yGAZqpkh93TZWeCzc%3D&reserved=0)- until 5 August - for the annual Alexandria Youth Leadership Conference (YLC).This free hybrid conference is open to rising 9th through 12th graders residing in the City of Alexandria. This year’s conference theme is*Lead With Courage*. See the following link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lc-CqrTopGdXurvfWQfDfUKlj41EPHL72