

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2017

Volume 43, Number 5

## *FCA to hear update on I-395 express lanes May 10*

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With construction on the I-395 express lanes slated to begin in July, representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Transurban, the private sector partner in the project, will provide the Fairlington community with an update on the project at FCA's monthly meeting, May 10, at 7 pm in the Fairlington Community Center.



*A stretch of I-395 shown from the S. Abingdon St. bridge. Photo by Bob Bradley.*

The first evidence of the project came in mid-March, with the nighttime closure of the HOV lanes several evenings. VDOT and Transurban said these lane closures were part of the "early work" to prepare for the construction activity that will begin this summer.

The I-395 express lanes project will extend the existing I-95 express lanes for eight miles north on I-395 to the D.C. line.

Components of the project include the following:

- Converting and upgrading the existing HOV lanes to toll express lanes
- Adding a third reversible lane from Edsall Rd. to just south of S. Eads St. near the Pentagon
- Improving the S. Eads St. interchange and transit and carpool access at the Pentagon
- Erecting sound walls to protect neighboring communities

Vehicles with three or more passengers would continue to use the express lanes for free, while vehicles with fewer people would pay a variable toll to use the express lanes. Toll pricing would depend on congestion on the road.

The additional lane will be added within the existing VDOT right-of-way and will not require the acquisition of major property adjacent to the corridor. In some instances, the installation of sound barriers may require a small addition to VDOT's right of way.

*Continued on page 19*

## Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

### FCA monthly meeting May 10

**Special presentation:** Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation and Transurban will review the plans for the I-395 express lanes.

#### Regular board business:


- Approval of April minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

**Meeting minutes:** Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

### Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.

Find us on Facebook at Fairlington

 Appreciation Society.

Find the latest AFB online at the FCA website the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

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### USEFUL CONTACTS

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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Assistant Editor:** Christine Chirichella

**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

### — DEADLINE —

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy.

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

[editor@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:editor@fca-fairlington.org)

Email commercial and mini ads to:

[admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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## Calendar

### Balcony gardening seminar

Tuesday, May 2, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### North Fairlington Yard Sale

Saturday, May 6, 8 am – noon  
3005 S. Abingdon St.

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington Diners

Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm  
Del Ray Café, 205 E. Howell Ave.  
Alexandria

### Home and Garden Tour

Saturday, May 13, 11 am – 3 pm  
3005 S. Abingdon St.

### Fairlington Diners

Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm  
Ramparts, 1700 Fern St.  
Alexandria

### Book Group

Tuesday, May 23, 7:30 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 29  
FCC Closed

## Want an egg?



*The Easter Bunny had a young helper when he made his annual visit to Fairlington Villages in mid-April. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Elina Erlendsson, Evan Harvey, Jeni Hornbeck, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Rebecca Sayres, and Bill Sullivan.

*Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Fairlington Farmers Market opens for its third year on Sunday, May 7. The market is one of our community's great success stories. The return of all of last year's vendors, augmented by some new ones, testifies to the financial viability of the market. And the steady foot traffic each week demonstrates the neighborhood's embrace of this aspect of community life.

Benefits include easy access to fresh, locally grown produce and meats, support for local farmers, and healthier eating options. And since many of you walk to the market, it helps you meet your daily Fitbit quota.

But it's more than just quality products and enthusiastic vendors. The market is one of the major ways Fairlington residents visit with their neighbors. It's really become a community gathering place. One of my pleasures when I visit the market is just watching people stop and talk with each other. It definitely strengthens the sense of community.

Part of the market's magic lies in the fact that it's run by volunteers who live in Fairlington. That helps ensure that it's "our" market. The volunteers wear orange vests, so the next time you visit the market, take a minute to say thanks to them.

And also think about joining them. The market could use a few more people to help share the workload. You don't have to give a whole morning. Just a couple of hours each month would be helpful.

As we hoped when we launched the market planning effort five years ago, this is a neighborhood market, designed by and for people who live in Fairlington. It's kept the scale and feel of a neighborhood market, and hasn't created major problems of traffic or noise.

The market is operated by Field to Table, a non-profit that operates a couple of other markets in Arlington. Former Fairlington resident Rob Swennes is the sparkplug behind Field to Table and helped us realize our initial vision for a community market.

But the market does require money to cover a variety of expenses. And that's where the market's sponsors are key. FCA is a sponsor again this year, and most of last year's sponsors have renewed their commitment as well. Please support them, so that they can continue to support the market.

If you haven't yet checked out the market, I encourage you to do so. It's another of those special community attributes that makes Fairlington a great place to live.

Guy Land, FCA President  
[president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)



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# *It's a must-see: Take the Home and Garden Tour*



The eighth biennial Home and Garden Tour, sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), will be held Saturday, May 13, from 11 am to 3 pm.

This year's tour features 10 homes and two gardens in North and South Fairlington that showcase a variety of renovated town- and apartment homes, including the rare Mt. Vernon model.

## *A peek into the present*

The tour gives everyone a chance to do what we secretly all want to do—look inside our neighbors' properties to see what kinds of fabulous updates they have made. Many of the tour homes in the past have showcased unique kitchens where owners have removed walls, repositioned appliances, or built islands. Small bathrooms have been transformed into spa-like oases and tiny patios have been completely re-landscaped into beautiful outdoor sanctuaries.

The tour is a great chance for residents to get a first-hand look at finished renovation projects to gain fresh ideas and often meet the contractors who designed and executed the work.

You can view examples of past tours on the FHS website, [www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

## *A look at the past*

The tour is a fundraiser for the FHS, a hidden treasure within our community that carries out the important work of preserving, protecting, providing awareness for, and promoting Fairlington's history. Organized in 2000, the FHS succeeded the Fairlington Historical Designation Committee, which had pursued and achieved Historic District status for Fairlington and placement on the Virginia Landmarks Register in December of 1998, and on the National Register of Historic Places in March of 1999.

"Receiving landmark status and historic district designation was an important achievement for Fairlington," notes FHS President, Terry Placek, "one largely accomplished by volunteers who painstakingly documented each structure and architectural detail in what was the largest housing complex in the country when it was built between 1942–44."

In 2003, Fairlington's 60th anniversary, the FHS re-published the definitive history of the community, a classic treasure of narratives and photographs, *Fairlington at 50: May 1943–May 1993*, written by the late Catherine D. Fellows and originally published by the FCA. The book was re-issued in 2012, following Fellows' death. Order forms are available on the FHS website.

FHS and FCA collaborate frequently on projects of historical and community-wide interest. Most recently, the two organizations have offered popular historic walking tours of the community—see the FHS website for the tour brochure.



*Tour participants leave one of the homes that was on display in 2015's tour. Photo by Guy Land.*

## *Tickets for this year's tour*

You can purchase or pick up your ordered tickets (see the form in the April *Bulletin*) in South Fairlington at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.), Friday, May 5, between 6 and 8 pm, or in North Fairlington at the Spring Yard Sale, Fairlington Villages Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon St.), Saturday, May 6, between 8 and 11 am.

You can also purchase or pick up tickets on the day of the tour at the Fairlington Villages Community Center between 10 am and 2 pm. *Please note: Tour hours end at 3 pm.*

We are still in need of volunteers to serve as "house sitters" with the homeowners on tour day. If you are interested in helping, please email us at: [fairlingtontour@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtontour@gmail.com).

— Cindy Kunz and Christine Chirichella

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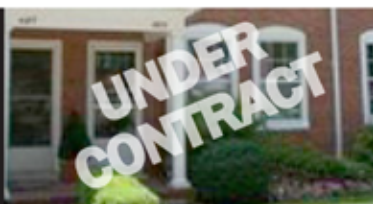
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# Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol visits FCA meeting

A small but engaged group of Fairlington residents turned out for the monthly FCA meeting on April 12. They were treated to candid remarks from a local celebrity: Arlington County Board Member Katie Cristol.



*Fairlington Villages President Terry Placek and Cristol talked about local issues prior to the Board meeting. Photos by Guy Land.*

Cristol was elected to the five-member board in 2015 and currently serves as its Vice Chair. She is prominent in local Democratic party politics and helps to lead a wide array of initiatives, including the Arlington County Board and Arlington Public School's Joint Subcommittee on Facilities, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and Project PEACE.



*FCA board member Hugh Baumgardner asks a question after the presentation.*

FCA President Guy Land, who has worked with Cristol on previous county projects, introduced her as "an exceptionally engaged, informed, and committed advocate." Land related the story of Cristol and her husband happily participating in the 2016 Fourth of July parade—albeit without much pomp or circumstance. "I am a fan of Fairlington," Cristol said, smiling.

Over the course of an informal 20-minute talk, Cristol offered both policy updates and personal anecdotes, often emphasizing the importance of political and social engagement to life in Arlington. She started with the state of the current county budget, which she described as "status quo" with two notable exceptions: Metro and public education. Both of these areas are experiencing major growing pains and will likely require increased funding.

Cristol noted that the county manager's proposed budget contains a two-cent increase in the property tax rate. The county board was to adopt the final budget in late April.

FCA Board Treasurer Ed Hilz capitalized on the Metro discussion to ask if the county board could influence improved bus service in Fairlington. A number of routes have been scaled back, or even cancelled, due to budget concerns or low ridership.

"We try to work across jurisdictions on issues like this," Cristol said, relating her experience with the Columbia Pike redevelopment project. But even board interest cannot guarantee any changes in a multilateral service resource like Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

Cristol next addressed the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC) project, specifically the redistribution (and reclamation) of public and private lands, and land use rules in general. Now these rules are getting a fresh look from Cristol and other board members, and in some interesting ways.

"This is something that we have been working on at many levels," Cristol stated. Citing a lack of quality childcare options, she suggested alleviating or adjusting land use rules in the county. This would, presumably, allow for future development or expansion of childcare



*Katie Cristol.*

*Continued on page 19*

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# Abingdon school renovation project remains on track

The renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School continues to be on schedule and on budget, Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff said at a briefing for the Fairlington community on April 4. "We're in a good position right now," Aji Robinson, the APS director for Abingdon, told the audience.

According to Robinson, all the foundations are complete, the new kitchen and cafeteria have been completed and are in use, the renovation of the existing classrooms on the north side of the building has concluded, and the new gym will be complete in May.

Because all the foundation work has been done, APS will now do follow-up monitoring of the condo units adjacent to the property. An initial baseline assessment of those units was conducted last year before major construction began. Monitoring is slated for April 24 through May 24. Robinson pointed out that the contractor used auger piles rather than driving piles, reducing the disruption to the neighbors.

Much of the work now is focused on the new three-story classroom addition on the north side of the building.

In response to audience questions about the removal of the "relocatables" (classroom trailers), Jeff Chambers, APS Director of Design and Construction, said that "the overall plan is to have no relocatables" at Abingdon. When those trailers will be removed depends on whether the construction work is completed on time for the opening of school in September.

Robinson cautioned, "We can't promise that the relocatables won't come back, but it is not likely in the near term." He noted that when the construction is completed, Abingdon will have excess student capacity and will continue to do so for several years, based on the most recent countywide enrollments projections.

The new capacity will be 725 students, but the projected maximum enrollment over the next five years is 680.

Chambers pointed out that projections call for an addi-



*Fairlington Villages Board members joined APS staff for the April 4 briefing. From left, Vice President Cindy Kunz, APS Director of Design and Construction Jeff Chambers, President Terry Placek, APS Project Manager Aji Robinson, Board members Anne Wasowski and Melanie Alvord. Photo by Guy Land.*

tional 6,000 students enrolled in Arlington schools in 10 years. Addressing that growth could require school boundary changes, and those might result in additional students at Abingdon.

Asked about the timetable for the restoration of the playing field, Robinson said that depends on the completion of the three-story addition. If the addition is completed on time, then restoration of the field would occur this fall, once the portable classrooms have been removed.

He explained that the key question is the paving of the track. Application of the asphalt is temperature-dependent and probably cannot be done after Thanksgiving.

Residents expressed concerns about construction workers parking on Fairlington streets. Robinson said the contractor is required to use parking spaces at Fairlington Presbyterian Church. He encouraged residents to write down the license plate numbers of workers who park on the street and report them.



*The new entrance to the school starts to take shape. Photo by Guy Land.*

The community briefing was jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association. Another briefing is expected to occur during the summer as the construction nears completion.

—Guy Land



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# Fresh, local, and healthy: Farmers Market opens May 7

Join your friends and neighbors on Sunday, May 7, at opening day of the Fairlington Farmers Market! The market will be open every Sunday through November 19, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

The market offers a mix of fresh produce, meats, eggs, flowers, baked goods, honey, jams, prepared foods, goat cheese, and coffee. All vendors are producers who grow and/or make their products within 125 miles of Arlington. Not only do you have access to fresh, high-quality food through our market, but you can also get to know the people who grow and make your food.



*Enthusiastic shoppers welcomed the return of the market on last year's opening day. Photos by Guy Land.*

Buying locally produced foods means your money goes to growing the food versus transportation and packaging, helps keep pesticides out of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and supports the local small business economy.

All of the vendors from last season are back this year, and we are wooing some new vendors to join us as well—stayed tuned for more details. Here's a look at what you'll find at the market:

**Acme Pie Co.:** A wholesale bakery with the goal of producing the best pies using the finest local ingredients. Every pie is handmade from the crust to fillings, like your grandma made, just a little more professional.

**Atwater's Bakery:** A baker and purveyor of naturally leavened breads and other traditional foods, all crafted by hand with fresh, often organic and seasonal local ingredients.

**Bonaparte Breads:** Fresh bread with no preservatives and made with organic flour. Best when prepared and eaten within 24 hours to experience the product at its peak.



**Café Los Sueños:** A specialty coffee roastery dedicated to providing customers with a unique connection to the land and to sharing success with the hard-working communities who bring us our daily cup.

**Compost Crew:** Provides for simple, clean, convenient collection of compostables—food scraps, eggshells, napkins, and more. You separate, they collect, compost, and return finished compost back for your garden. Subscriptions are \$32/month.

**Fresh Crunch Pickles:** A unique and delicious assortment of flavors and products, both spicy and sweet. Cucumber, ginger, beets, carrots, asparagus, and cabbage; all handcrafted in small batches.

**Kiwi Kuisine:** Traditional, hand-held, New Zealand-style savory pies, hand-made with all-natural ingredients. Free from artificial flavors and preservatives, trans fats, antibiotics, and steroids.

**Kuhn Orchards:** A family owned and operated 100-acre farm that grows apples, peaches, nectarines, pears, grapes, strawberries, asparagus, red raspberries, tomatoes, blueberries, blackberries, rhubarb, apricots, plums, cherries, and various vegetables.

**Mama's Donut Bites:** A favorite of kids and adults! Mini donuts, made hot and fresh to order in a variety of flavors and combinations.

**Pleitez Produce:** A family farm that offers a wide variety of vegetables and herbs. Having seven greenhouses and rotating crops means lots of great produce early and late in the season.

**Sandy Bottom Acres:** A family farm that raises hor-



*Kuhn Orchards' fruit won rave reviews last year. They'll be back again this year.*





*Dr. Michael Rogers of Fairlington Dental, left, enjoys a day at the market.*

mone-, steroid-, antibiotic- and growth implant-free cattle in a pasture environment with grass, hay, grain, and clean water. They offer chicken, beef, sausage, bacon, fresh eggs, flowers, and more.

**Spriggs Delight Farm:** A dairy goat farm and home of award-winning goat cheeses, including plain and flavored chevre, feta, camembert, and valencay.

**Spring Valley Farm and Orchard:** With 54 acres of diversified orchards and 70 acres of vegetables, offerings include an amazing array of salad greens, strawberries, cherries, peaches, haricots verts, potatoes, summer



*Volunteers and sponsors are key to the market's operation. Jennifir Birtwhistle with Weichert, Realtors (third from right) is a market sponsor again this year.*

## Market Sponsors

Special thanks to our 2017 market sponsors:

**Copperwood Tavern**

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**Jennifir Birtwhistle – Weichert, Realtors**

They have given significant financial donations to underwrite 2017 market costs. Please support them as they have supported us.

squash, field tomatoes, jams, and more.

For more information, visit [fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org) or check out Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter.

—Lynne Blasi



*Mama's Donut Bites is always a market favorite.*

## Market Reminders

- Please be a good neighbor and avoid parking directly in front of residences across from the community center. Parking is available along S. Utah St. and S. 32nd St., in the community center parking lot, and one block away on Quaker Lane. Better yet, walk, bus, or bike to the market.
- Please leave your canine companions snuggled up at home, or be prepared to secure your pet at least 20 feet from the market boundaries.
- Visit [fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org) to sign up for weekly email updates or to volunteer.

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# It Only Happens Every Other Year !

## The Fairlington Home & Garden Tour

**Saturday May 13, 2017 from 11:00 - 3:00**

DeLong Home Improvement has focused on Fairlington for the past 12 years and has completed more than 500 remodeling projects! We've had projects of all sizes on every tour since 2009. This year we are proud to present our latest **whole-house remodel** ! It's a Clarendon 1 townhouse that we totally gutted down to the stud walls and rebuilt from top to bottom with structural innovations and gorgeous finishes on every level. This 70+ year old house is now a brand new home!

### *Take a peek!*

- Island Kitchen in grey & white
- Amazing upper bath
- Open & airy with lots of glass
- New doors & windows
- Clever storage solutions!
- Exquisite Marble
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- Wood-Tile basement
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# Virginia elections coming up in May and June

May caucuses for Arlington County board and school board members kick off a busy election year in Virginia. In addition to these local contests, 2017 brings elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and the Virginia House of Delegates (45th, 47th, 48th, and 49th Districts).

The Arlington County Democratic Committee (ACDC) will hold a caucus to select their nominee for county board and to endorse a candidate for school board. County board member Jay Fisette is not seeking re-election, and four candidates have qualified with the Democratic party for the nomination to replace him: Peter Fallon, Erik Gutshall, Kim Klingler, and Vivek Patil.

Under Virginia law, all school board candidates run as independents. Four candidates are seeking election to the school board position currently held by James Lander. In addition to Lander, the other candidates are Maura McMahon, Monique O'Grady, and Mike Webb.

At press time no Republicans had qualified for the county board. Audrey Clement is seeking election to the county board as an independent in the November election.

The Democratic party will hold an unassembled caucus, meaning voters show up and cast ballots but do not need to remain after they vote, on the following dates and locations:

- Tuesday, May 9, Key Elementary School, 2300 Key Blvd.—7 to 9 pm
- Thursday, May 11, Drew Model School, 3500 S. 23rd St.—7 to 9 pm
- Saturday, May 13, Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St.—11 am to 7 pm

Please contact ACDC at <http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org/> for more information.

In Alexandria, the local races on the ballot are for sheriff and commonwealth's attorney. There are no contested primaries for these offices.

## Statewide primaries

Virginia is one of only two states (along with New Jersey) with gubernatorial races this year. Incumbent Governor Terry McAuliffe (D) is not eligible to run for re-election due to term limits established by the Virginia Constitution.

Democratic and Republican primaries will take place on Tuesday, June 13, from 6 am to 7 pm, at each of the Fair-

lington community centers (North Fairlington residents will once again vote at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St., due to ongoing construction at Abingdon Elementary).

Alexandria residents who live in Fairlington will vote in the statewide primaries at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.

The deadline to register to vote is May 22.

Because you do not register to vote by political party in Virginia, any voter may choose to vote in either primary. Voters make that choice when they check in at the polls, and they can only vote in one primary.

Democratic candidates for Governor are Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and former Congressman Tom Perriello. Republican candidates are GOP consultant Ed Gillespie, Prince William County Supervisor Corey Stewart, and Virginia State Senator Frank Wagner.

Virginia Delegate Mark Levine, who represents most of Fairlington, has no Democratic or Republican opposition. Neither does Charniele Herring, who represents the Alexandria part of Fairlington.

General elections will take place Tuesday, November 7. For more information, including a list of individuals who have filed documents to date indicating they intend to run for office, please visit [vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/](http://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/).

## Civic leadership banquet



*FCA officers visited with county elected leaders at the annual Arlington County Civic Federation banquet in April. From left, FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley and his wife Heather, Treasurer Ed Hilz, President Guy Land, and county board member Libby Garvey. Photo by Capt. Rudy Eversburg.*



## ***Fairlington streets on repaving list***

Several streets in North and South Fairlington are on Arlington County's list for repaving this year. In North Fairlington the streets are S. Abingdon St. from S. 29th St. to the dead end and S. 28th Rd. down to S. Wakefield St. The South Fairlington streets are S. Wakefield from S. 36th St. to S. 34th St. and S. Utah St. from S. Taylor St. to S. 34th St.

The repaving season began in mid-March and ends in mid-October. A notice will be distributed to each residential address along the affected streets to notify them that their street has been selected for repaving. A door hanger, along with "No Parking" signs, will be distributed 24 to 48 hours prior to the start of the repaving operation.

Once the repaving has been completed, the county then repaints the areas that are available for on-street parking. In the past this has resulted in less space for on-street parking.

## ***Spring cleaning***



*A worker removes branches from a large tree at the corner of S. Columbus and S. Dinwiddie Sts. Photo by Guy Land.*

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Photo of Michael Brown by Christopher Mueller



## Shop for bargains at the yard sale, May 6

It's time to get excited about the annual Fairlington Villages Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 6, from 8 am to noon. Join the fun at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Enjoy the warming weather, continue that spring cleaning, and see what your Fairlington neighbors have for sale.

Sale areas are \$10 per space and are available on a first come-first served basis (no reservations



*Kerry McKenney reviews her inventory at last year's spring yard sale. Photo by Guy Land.*

necessary). Residents should set up between 7 and 8 am, and everything must be cleared out by 1 pm. A member of the Activities Committee will collect the fee once you are set up.

Spring plants will be available for sale by the Grounds Committee. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. If you can help, please email the Activities Committee at [activities@fairlingtonvillages.com](mailto:activities@fairlingtonvillages.com).

## Bradlee Center welcomes new tenants

Two new tenants have moved into Bradlee Shopping Center, owned by Washington Real Estate Investment Trust: Duck Donuts and Pet Valu. Duck Donuts, a franchise, opened its doors March 30th. Duck Donuts is known for its made-to-order donuts featuring a large variety of glazes and toppings. Property Manager Edward Rodrigues noted that the store has received an overwhelming response from the community since its opening.

Part of a national franchise, Pet Valu opened December 3rd. It offers a selection of pet foods, treats, toys, and accessories. The location also features three self-service



*The new Pet Valu store had its grand opening in March. Photo by Rebecca Sayres.*



*Satisfied customers celebrate the arrival of Duck Donuts. Photo by Guy Land.*

dog washes, and holds in-store adoption events.

In addition to these new tenants, two more companies have signed leases recently, joining the wave of new openings. Located in the former National Art and Framing space, Art and Framing Expo, which specializes in custom framing, will hold its grand opening on April 17th (as of print). This is the company's second location.

Slated for late spring, For Eyes will open at the corner along King St., where GNC and The Joint Chiropractic are located. For Eyes, an optical retailer, will offer contact lenses and frames, as well as accessories. With the addition of For Eyes, Rodrigues states that the Bradlee Center is, "100 percent leased and does not have any active vacancies."

—Rebecca Sayres

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— Edward Getterman,  
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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facilities. A review certainly seems to be overdue: Arlington's childcare ordinance was last updated in 1981, according to ARLNow.com.

Cristol also pointed out that the JFAC approach is part of a larger effort to strengthen the collaboration between the county board and the school board, as well as better engage the public, in making decisions about the siting and use of public facilities, such as schools, bus parking lots, and other demands for public services.

A few residents raised concerns about immigration: specifically, the respect, protection, and safety afforded to immigrants in Arlington. "We have spent a lot of time trying to figure out what protections we can offer to immigrants here in the county," Cristol explained.

In March, she demonstrated her concern on this topic by joining 8th district U.S. Representative Don Beyer and others in public protest of new immigration restrictions. "We want to be a community that is safe and welcoming to everyone," she concluded.

One attendee asked about the ever-present helicopters in the skies over South Arlington. "It's such a quality-of-life issue," Cristol noted. She touted the efforts of Congressman Beyer in this regard, but confessed a certain amount of impotence in changing U.S. Department of Defense policies. The discussion ended with Cristol's promise to raise the issue with the county's federal liaison.



*FCA President Guy Land presented Cristol with a Fairlington t-shirt. Photo by Evan Harvey.*



*South Fairlington resident Preston Pendley discussed immigration issues.*

Other residents engaged the board member in a wide range of topics, including the smarter use of shared facilities, school expansion and siting, law enforcement approaches, gang activity, and community approaches to dog park planning.

President Land concluded the public portion of the meeting by thanking Cristol and presenting her with a Fairlington t-shirt. "You're now an honorary Fairlingtonian," he said. Cristol posed for photographs and spent a few more minutes discussing concerns with residents before departing.

—Evan Harvey

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*I-395 Express Lanes, continued from page 1*

The new lanes are expected to open the fall of 2019.

In February, Virginia accepted the formal proposal by Transurban to finance, design, build, maintain, and operate the express lanes. The agreement also calls for a dedicated minimum annual payment by Transurban of \$15 million for transit services and multimodal strategies.

An engineering assessment last year examined the potential noise impacts of the express lanes and concluded that sound walls were "feasible and reasonable." The study identified the units along the corridor that would be affected by possible increase in noise. Those residents will vote on whether they want sound walls. FCA expects to hold a meeting later this year to examine the sound wall options.

—Guy Land

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*Peter*

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## Cub Scout Information Night, May 24

Is your son interested in scouting? Cub Scout Pack 350 will host a fun-filled Scouting Information Night on Wednesday, May 24, from 7 to 8 pm at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria.

Boys in grades one through five may join Cub Scouts. Interested families with kindergarteners and older are welcome to come to the information night or join in Pack 350's summer activities. More information about Pack 350 is available online at [pack350.mypack.us](http://pack350.mypack.us) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/CubScouts350](https://facebook.com/CubScouts350). You may also contact [committeechairpack350@gmail.com](mailto:committeechairpack350@gmail.com).

—Elina Erlendsson



*Members (and a friend) of Cub Scout Pack 350 marketed a wide assortment of popcorn flavors outside the Fairlington Community Center last August. Photo by Guy Land.*

### ***"Thunder" to roll along I-395 Memorial Day weekend***

Hundreds of motorcycles are expected to roll along the I-395 HOV lanes May 28 on their way to the Pentagon for the Rolling Thunder 30th Anniversary Ride for Freedom.

Fairlington residents usually crowd along the S. Abingdon St. bridge to cheer the riders and wave American flags. In the past as many as an estimated 2,000 motorcycles have traveled along I-395 during the holiday weekend. The motorcycles usually pass by Fairlington sometime between 8:30 and 10 am. So listen for the sound of motorcycles or check Facebook

for updates. The procession of motorcycles normally lasts about 15 minutes.

Riders traditionally meet at Harley Davidson dealerships south of the beltway and then travel along I-95 and I-395 to the Pentagon. The formal Run goes from the Pentagon across Memorial Bridge to the area of the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorials.

The I-95 Express Lanes and I-395 reversible lanes will be closed from 7 to 11 am as the bikers pass. When the lanes re-open, they will remain northbound for the remainder of the day.



*Fairlington residents gathered along the S. Abingdon St. bridge last year to wave at hundreds of motorcycles on their way to the Pentagon. Many of the riders returned the greeting. Photos by Guy Land.*



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# neighborhood news

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## **Fairlington Diners**

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In April, we enjoyed our annual visit to Tempo, a hidden gem in Alexandria.

Here's what's planned for May:

Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm, Del Ray Café, 205 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301, 703-717-9151, [www.delray-cafe.com](http://www.delray-cafe.com). From the owners of La Bergerie, this French café serves farm-to-table French-American cuisine from local, natural, and organic ingredients. It is ranked as one of the best French restaurants in Alexandria.

Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, [www.rampartstavern.com](http://www.rampartstavern.com). We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer 1/2 price burgers with the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in May to discuss *The Last Storyteller: A Novel of Ireland* by Frank Delaney.

"Riveting...Readers will quickly warm to Delaney's vividly described Ireland of the 1950s, its fully realized inhabitants, and the dynamic political and personal relationships that make for a remarkable story." —*Publishers Weekly*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, May 23, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

## **Card Players Welcome**

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

## **Fairlington Babysitting Co-op**

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators Erika Enright and Jen Bhartiya at [fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com](mailto:fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com) to request more information and an application.

## **Container and Balcony Gardening Seminar, May 2**

If you have a balcony or a sunny porch, you can have a garden! Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will present easy steps to add color with flowers and foliage, create a little privacy, and grow edibles. Learn how to transform your balcony, porch, or patio into a garden oasis.

The seminar will be offered Tuesday, May 2, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The seminar is free but advanced registration is requested, at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). For more information, call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

You can also learn about plant health and disease identification and troubleshooting at the Master Gardeners course on Maintaining the Sustainable Yard, Saturday, May 6, 9 am – noon at the Fairlington Community Center. It's also free but advance registration is required as space is limited, at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Questions, call 703-228-6414 or [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Strategic garden design*

Before you visit a nursery to purchase your plants, think about where the plants will go in your patio. Look at your layout and think spatially when envisioning a design.

**Window wells:** While these are not very attractive, the black iron grate on top makes them passable. Around that industrial concrete wall, plant small evergreens to soften the look: Skimmia, Heather, Salvia, Lenten Rose, and Astilbe. Each of these will flower, and their habits stay 12 inches or smaller in height.

**Stair banisters:** More common in North Fairlington, these are ideal for a place to trail a vine. I was landscaping on Capitol Hill last week and one townhome had Carolina jessamine (evergreen with yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers) growing on a short fence and the wrought-iron stair railing. It was just gorgeous. The vine is delicate so it won't encumber the stair area. Again, this idea softens the look on a functional element.

**Stepping stones:** Some small yards in Fairlington have flagstone paths from the edge of their balcony steps to the fence gate. To accent this path, you can plant the aforementioned small plants (see window wells) on the sides of the stone path. In addition, plant Moss, Sweet Alyssum, or ground Phlox between each stone. This outlines the stone and gives the path the feel of an English Garden.

**Trees:** Oftentimes trees give the appearance of "bare ankles," where



*Fairlington Mahonia. Photo by Bill Sullivan.*

all the action is up high in branches, leaves, and flowers. What's left at the bottom is a barren trunk. In the ground, about two feet out from the trunk, plant an arc of four or five small evergreens that will highlight an otherwise empty space in your garden.

**Excess shade from a tree canopy:** Sometimes, a tree in your neighbor's patio or one outside your fence totally darkens your garden. This is beneficial for three reasons: There are plenty of shade-loving plants, the moisture from your soil won't evaporate as readily, and you can sit outside and not sweat in summer's humidity. Aucuba, Mahonia, Climbing Hydrangea, Camellia, Pieris, and Mountain Laurel prefer shade. All are evergreen except the Hydrangea. And each one flowers except the Aucuba.

**Stone or brick patio:** Hardscapes

are ideal for container plants. Terra cotta is modestly priced and looks much prettier than plastic models. Fill each pot with annuals and add in some variegated Ivy or Vinca vine inside the edges for a trailing effect. Impatiens prefer shade whereas Petunia, Marigold, and Begonia favor more sun. Visit the annuals section since there are many choices. Each plastic plant tag will tell you whether the plant needs sun or shade.

**Low-maintenance/low-cost:** Ground cover fits this description perfectly since it demands little attention and expense. If you just want to cover the soil area and flowers aren't a priority, plant the following specimens and let them crawl: Ivy, Periwinkle, Pachysandra, Ajuga, and Euonymus 'Winter Creeper'.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscape.net](http://www.sullivanlandscape.net)

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## *First annual International Night Potluck*

Over 100 Abingdon families and teachers came together in March to share a meal and celebrate diversity at the Abingdon PTA's first-ever International Night Potluck. Abingdon's student population represents more than 45 countries from

around the world, including far-away places such as Nepal and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Potluck attendees feasted on international delicacies including Japanese mochi, Guatemalan pupusas, Moroccan couscous, and Swedish

meatballs. They also enjoyed a photo booth with clothing and accessories from a variety of countries, a tortilla-making demonstration, and dance lessons.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity for students, families, and faculty to explore and celebrate the many cultures that comprise the Abingdon family. The PTA plans to host another International Night next year and hopes to include musical and dance performances.

—Jeni Hornback



*Abingdon second-grader celebrates International Night in a traditional Japanese dress. Photos by Jeni Hornback.*



*Abingdon fourth-grader wore her family's 60-year-old traditional Croatian dress.*



*Abingdon staff member Beth Romero wore beautiful native clothes from Mexico.*



*Attendees were treated to a variety of international cuisines.*

### *Upcoming Events*

- May 1–5: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5: Spring photo day
- May 16: PTA meeting
- May 24: Spirit night
- May 29: Memorial Day holiday (no school)
- June 2: Spring dance



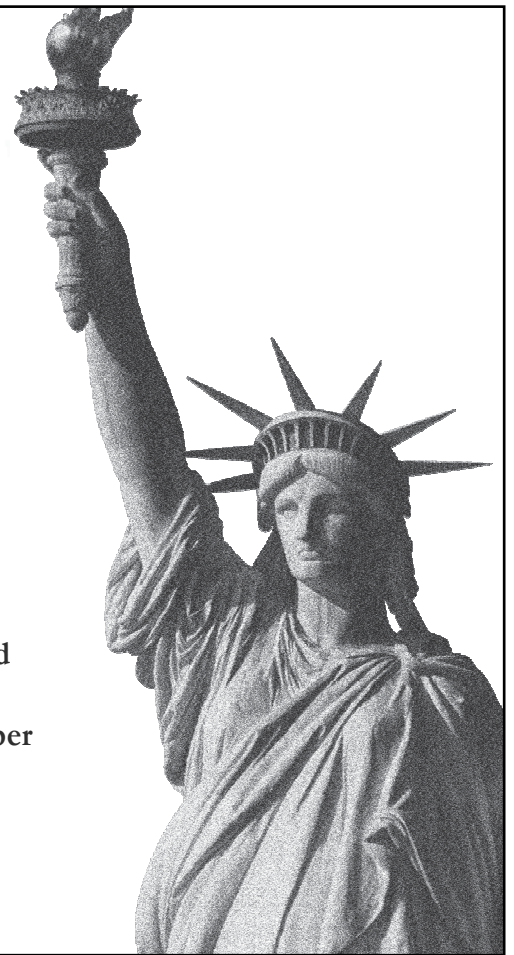
# ADVOCACY AND VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

May 6 from 7-9 p.m. – Free and Open to Public

The Lawn of Fairlington Presbyterian Church  
3846 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 \_\_\_\_\_

Join in solidarity with immigrants, learn the latest in local laws and policies, and discover to help refugee settlement. Speakers will include Alfonso Lopez (State Delegate District 49), a Board Member from DREAM Project, and more!

Please share this event with your groups and friends. Go to the Facebook event page to get the latest information (<http://bit.ly/2mPoIHx>)!



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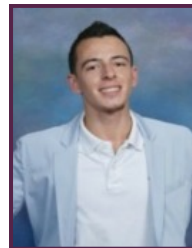
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# Animal Talk

## A Dog's Day in Shirlington

With spring officially here and summer fast approaching, it's a great time to get outside with your pet. Living in Fairlington, dog owners are lucky enough to be within short walking distance from pet-friendly Shirlington and Bradlee Shopping Center (see page 17 for an update there).



*Shirlington T.H.A.I. offers a ready supply of water bowls.  
Photos by Guy Land.*

Looking for great, nearby outdoor activities with your dog on a nice day? Head down the S. 31st St. hill to Shirlington, where many merchants leave water out for puppy passersby. Looking to enjoy an outdoor meal? Most likely you can include your pup as you dine al fresco. Many restaurateurs allow well-behaved dogs to remain leashed outside the fenced-in table areas, where they can also enjoy the sights, smells, and sounds while enjoying attention from the bustling crowd.

Shirlington is home to Dogma Bakery & Boutique, on the lower level across from the Shirlington Dog Park. Dogma sells delicious homemade dog treats (and dog birthday cakes!), quality dog food (they can place orders for you), leashes and gear, and cute novelty items. They also have a grooming department.

The Shirlington Dog Park has been the topic of recent *Bulletin* articles as part of the 4MRV planning process,



*Sunday afternoon is a perfect time for a stroll through Shirlington.*

which is still underway (get updates at [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search '4MRV'). The park has always been a popular place to allow dogs to get off-leash exercise and burn off some energy.

Once your dog has finished playing, you can clean them up at The Muddy Mutt, adjacent to the park.

There are also walking trails along Four Mile Run Dr., and the W&OD Walking/Biking trail connects nearby as well. This spring, get out and explore your neighborhood with your pet, and you just might make some great new discoveries.

—Christine Chirichella

*(Greetings! While I've left Fairlington, I've stayed involved with the Bulletin a bit, so I'll be doing a guest Animal Talk column now and then.)*



*Finnlee enjoys the Sunday brunch ambience at Copperwood Tavern in Shirlington.*





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*-Scott Arvai*

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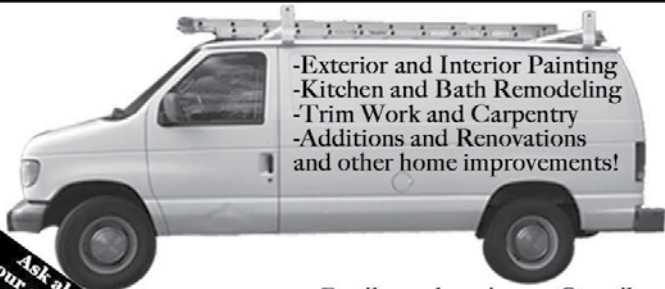
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— Erik Gutshall



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May 11 : 7pm - 9pm - Drew Model School  
May 13 : 11am - 7pm - Wash. Lee High School

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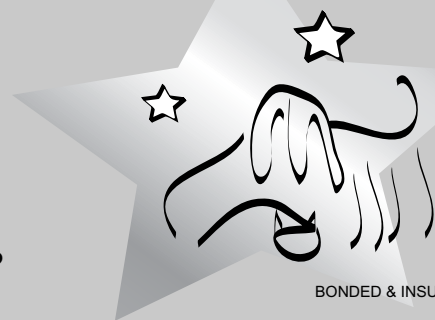
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- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

**Email:** admanager@fca-fairlington.org

**Mailing Address:** FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

**Drop Box Location:** Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

**Cost:** 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

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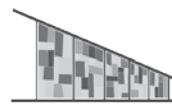
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*More details to come so please check back with us.*



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