

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Volume 44, Number 4

Fairlington 5K kicks off with Silent Auction April 20 and race on April 28

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While the fifth annual Fairlington 5K takes place Saturday morning, April 28, the festivities surrounding the charitable community event actually begin the week prior, with a Silent Auction. Each year, the auction grows in size and attendance. Organizers estimate that somewhere between 100 to 150 people packed the room last year to bid on everything from vacation rentals to jewelry.



More than 600 runners and walkers participated in last year's race, and this year is gearing up for another big crowd. Photos by Guy Land.

This year's Silent Auction is set for Friday evening, April 20, at the Fairlington Villages Community Center at 3005 S. Abingdon St. The auction will feature more than 80 donated items such as a beach house vacation in Bald Head Island (North Carolina), a ski condo vacation, autographed pictures of Wizards players Bradley Beal and Kelly Oubre, Jr., and hockey puck and stick signed by Washington Capitals' Nicklas Backstrom. There are also a number of smaller ticket items such as makeup, cakes, plants, and much more. Admission is free and doors open at 6 pm. Adult beverages and light food are provided.



Last year's Silent Auction drew about 150 people to bid on exciting items.

The race itself will take place Saturday, April 28, beginning at 8 am at Abingdon Elementary School. There is also a special "1K Walk & Fun Run" for those with small children or participants seeking a less challenging course.

Both the 5K and the Silent Auction are sponsored by "A Cure for Ellie" in partnership with the FCA and Abingdon Elementary. Money raised goes to support research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute

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Some streets will close for the Fairlington 5K on April 28. See page 25.

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 April 11

Special presentation: Adam Lipera, Urban Forester with Arlington County's Department of Parks and Natural Resources, will discuss the county's recent Tree Canopy Report and what Fairlington can do to maintain or increase the number of trees.

Regular board business:

- Approval of March minutes
- Unfinished business
- Officer and committee reports
- 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. 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.

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
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All Fairlington Bulletin

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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:

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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.

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1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 pm
Del Ray Café
205 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria

5K Silent Auction

Friday, April 20, 6 pm
Fairlington Villages CC
3005 S. Abingdon St.

Book Group

Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, April 26, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

Fairlington 5K

Saturday, April 28, 8 am
Abingdon Elementary parking lot

Storm cleanup



Workers crush limbs from a tree in the Mews that was a casualty of the high winds in early March. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lucy Beadnell, Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Carolyn Ericson, Evan Harvey, Jeni Hornback, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Cathy Malin, Joe Reed, Rebecca Sayres, Amber Scivolette, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I joined several dozen civic and condo association presidents in a wide-ranging discussion of Arlington County's processes for engaging residents and key community organizations.

The session was hosted by County Manager Mark Schwartz and Arlington County Civic Federation President Duke Banks. County Board Chair Katie Cristol joined the conversation, reflecting the county board's commitment to strengthening community engagement.

Participants generally applauded the county's increasing use of technology, such as the My Arlington app, email updates, e-newsletters, and the newly released project page—which shows all ongoing county activities in a specific area—as well as the responsiveness of county staff.

But some comments focused on the need for better communication involving street paving and curb and gutter work, with a number of the organization presidents noting that the county fails to provide adequate notice and consultation when certain streets are closed for work. This is occasionally a problem in Fairlington.

Several speakers stressed the need for civic and condo associations to improve their outreach to younger residents and to have leadership that better reflects Arlington's ethnic diversity and the county's large millennial population. Civic associations often fail to reach the demographic that is driving much of Arlington's vitality.

Others stressed that civic associations need to do a better job of communicating with the condo associations in their area about county policies and actions. Several condo association presidents at the meeting didn't know what civic association they were in.

While the situation in Fairlington isn't this extreme, this is an area where FCA can do better. I periodically visit with or email most of the condo presidents, but it's often a hit-or-miss approach. One option would be a periodic "council of presidents" meeting, which would bring together the presidents of Fairlington's eight condo and homeowner associations.

Several participants noted that connecting with residents of apartment complexes is a challenge for civic associations, since communications usually go through the apartment manager and may never reach the individual renters. FCA, which represents Park Shirlington and Shirlington House, experiences this problem.

The session showed that FCA has attributes that foster community engagement—a strong newsletter, monthly meetings that often spotlight county topics, and support for vibrant neighborhood organizations. But we are always looking at ways to better connect our residents with county activities and policies. I welcome your ideas.

Guy Land, FCA President
president@fca-fairlington.org



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Learn about Fairlington's tree canopy at April 11 FCA meeting



Adam Lipera. Courtesy
Arlington County.

In a neighborhood celebrating its 75th anniversary, the trees are as historic and beloved as the buildings. Learn about Fairlington's tree canopy when Adam Lipera, Arlington County's Urban Forester, addresses the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Lipera will discuss highlights from the recent 2017 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment report issued by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, which is responsible for the Urban Forest unit under its Parks and Natural Resources Division. The report breaks down the tree canopy data by civic association, census blocks, zoning and land use, parks, and by watershed (we are in the Fairlington/Bradlee watershed).

The Urban Forest unit maintains the county's tree canopy, or the area of the county shaded by trees. It is overseen by the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC), which provides the county board with advice and recommendations to improve the health and sustainability of Arlington's urban forest. The UFC facilitates recommendations contained in the county's Urban Forest Master Plan.

The Urban Forest unit also plays a big role in storm response and cleanup, working closely with the Department of Environmental Services. It plants 800 to 1,000 trees annually on county land and makes tree donations through a Tree Canopy Fund and an annual Tree Distribution program. The unit also designates champion, notable, and specimen (protected) trees.

According to the Tree Canopy study, since 2011, tree canopy cover has increased in Arlington County by 165 acres. This marks an improvement in tree canopy percentage of 2.7 percent.

However, Fairlington has experienced about a one percent decrease from 2011, and a six percent decrease since the original tree canopy study in 2008. This is due in large part to the loss of trees during several bad storms. Fairlington has a 39 percent tree canopy over roughly 130 acres across the neighborhood.

Regarding the decrease, Lipera notes, "In some of the

areas marked as decrease or no increase, the biggest thing this helps show is where we need to plant or target educationally."

Tree canopy studies are performed using satellite imagery, either collected specifically for an area, or extracted from existing data sets. The first detailed tree canopy study for Arlington County was performed in 2008 by Virginia Tech, and did not include Department of Defense land (such as the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery) or National Airport. Prior to 2008, Arlington has coarse data about historic tree canopy, found in the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Lipera hopes that there won't be as long a lag between studies again. Ideally, he would like to see an updated Tree Canopy report in the next three to five years to "compare and have a better baseline."

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Fairlington's notable trees



Fairlington's most recent Notable Tree Plaque Winner was in 2015 for a White Oak in Fairlington Villages at 3059 S. Abingdon St. Pictured: Emily Ferguson, tree steward; Carol Rosen; and Barbara Berti, who spearheaded the effort to get it designated. Photo by Guy Land.

Since 1987, Arlington has identified and registered its most notable trees, as well as the residents who care for them. Trees are designated as notable by maturity (size/age), historical or community interest, uniqueness of species, special significance to the neighborhood. Notable trees receive a certificate or plaque, placement on the county's register of Notable Trees, and potential inclusion in neighborhood walking tours. Fairlington has received a total of four plaques and five certificates.

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Farmers Market kicks off May 6



Make plans to join your neighbors and friends on Sunday, May 6, for opening day of the Fairlington Farmers Market! Thank you to everyone who completed the market survey—we appreciate your feedback. Findings will be shared next month.

This year marks the fourth season of our friendly and popular market, and many of our vendors will be back, including Bonaparte Breads, Café Los Sueños, Hog Haven, Kiwi Kuisine, Kuhn Orchards, Mama's Donut Bites, Pleitez Produce, Sandy Bottom Acres, Sexy Veggie, Spriggs Delight Farm, and Spring Valley Farm and Orchard. Some new vendors may join us too. Watch for more information. The market will be open every Sunday through November 18, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.



Fresh, local fruits and vegetables are always plentiful and popular at the market. Photos by Guy Land.

Volunteers needed—please get involved

Our neighborhood farmers market is different than many area markets in that it is volunteer run each week. Most of our market roles (publicity, signage, identifying/seeking vendors and sponsors) are handled by your neighbors and people who give their time to this important community activity.

We need help with a variety of tasks, such as planning special events for kids, assisting with marketing and social media, putting up signs the day of the market, and setting up the information tent. Vendors handle their own set up and sales. If you can help for an hour or more this spring, summer, or fall, please contact volunteer@fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org.



Last year, Fairlington residents enjoyed freshly baked bread each week at the Farmers Market.

Be sure to follow Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and check out @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter. Sign up for our weekly market newsletter at fairlingtonfarmers-market.org or on Facebook.

—Lynne Blasi



Kuhn Orchards is one of the vendors back again this season.


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Police report decrease in Fairlington crime

Captain Adrienne Quigley, Third District Commander, and Sergeant Damon Washington of the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) addressed Fairlington residents at the March FCA meeting. They discussed policing trends in the neighborhood and took many questions from residents throughout the evening.

After a brief overview of the APCD districting system, Capt. Quigley presented an annual update of crime statistics. Attendees were pleased to hear that overall crime in Fairlington was down by 32 percent last year, and reduced by 40 percent from 2015. The most common offense remains theft from vehicle—with 21 reported incidents, including six on one particularly bad night. Organized bands of thieves tend to look for specific items, including catalytic converters, airbags, and expensive tire rims. Hondas and Acuras remain the most frequently targeted vehicles.



Sergeant Damon Washington and Capt. Adrienne Quigley stop for a photo before addressing the April 11 FCA meeting. Photos by Evan Harvey.

Only one crime actually increased in frequency last year: domestic assault. With 13 reported incidents, this Fairlington statistic effectively doubled. "But," said Capt. Quigley, "that is still a pretty low number for the county." The captain also noted that Fairlington's seven drug arrests last year made that, too, a comparatively infrequent crime.

The sexual assault case from last year (S. 31st St., on the hill down to Shirlington) is still open, Capt. Quigley reported. The police are actively investigating it and running down

leads. ACPD was able to close a similar case in Rosslyn, however, and the streetlights in the area of the assault have been repaired.



Capt. Quigley and Sgt. Washington update Fairlington residents about recent crime statistics and offer safety tips.

Streetlights elsewhere in Fairlington have frequently gone dark. Resident complaints to the police are referred to Dominion Energy, and complaints directly to Dominion often go unresolved for months at a time. The officers suggested including county officials on any report of a broken or dark streetlight to the utility. And if the darkness causes an increase in undesirable behavior—some have reported seeing people sleeping in their cars—residents should call the ACPD non-emergency line.

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For emergencies, call 911.

Arlington crime reporting

- To report suspicious activity, please call 703-558-2222.
- To report an abandoned vehicle on a county street, call 703-228-4144.
- To report graffiti on public or private property, call 703-558-2222.
- Police reports can be made online at <https://police.arlingtonva.us/online-police-reporting-system/>.
- The online crime mapping tool link is <http://communitycrimemap.com/?address=Arlington,VA>.
- Email: police@arlingtonva.us

Alexandria crime reporting

Online reporting can be found at: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/police/info/default.aspx?id=81594>

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FCA endorses funding for neighborhood improvements

FCA's Executive Board has reaffirmed its support for the county's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program and has encouraged the county board to consider boosting the amount of funding available for this program, which is included as part of the county's bond issue every two years. Several Fairlington improvement projects are on the list for county funding.

The county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) reviews and ranks neighborhood capital improvement projects and recommends them to the county board for funding. The current NC funding level of \$12 million has remained the same for the past two bond cycles, while the construction costs for these

projects have increased significantly, according to Advisory Committee Chair Sarah McKinley.

Historically, the NCAC has had two rounds of funding each year, but McKinley notes that the group has had to forgo a round each of the past two years because of inadequate funding due to increased costs of previously approved projects. That has resulted in the deferral of important neighborhood improvement projects, including one for Fairlington, according to FCA President Guy Land.

Last year the NCAC gave final approval to a project to improve street lights and sidewalks along S. 31st St. from

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MOMS Club Sale is the biggest ever



FCA Board Director Lindsay Willmann makes several purchases at the consignment sale. Photo by Guy Land.

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® Spring Consignment Sale, which was held on St. Patrick's Day, continued the group's tradition of a large number of enthusiastic shoppers, a diverse inventory of quality goods, and donations to local charities.

According to Lucy Beadnell, who helped coordinate the event, there were roughly 7,600 items offered for sale. Nearly \$26,000 in merchandise was tagged, with sales totaling just over \$13,000. The club donates 20 percent of net proceeds to local charities. This year, the money went to the Backpack Buddies program run by the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

A trailer full of unsold items was donated to My Grandmother's House, a charity that supports families in need in rural Virginia.

The consignment sales, which are offered in the spring

and the fall, have become a regular and popular part of life in Fairlington for families with young children. Volunteers promote the sale, set up clothing racks and tables, check out customers, and clean up.

Beadnell commented, "We couldn't be happier with the event. We had tremendous sellers who tagged thousands of items, shoppers who waited in line a long time to get in and find great bargains, and so many wonderful items to donate at the end." In short, another Fairlington success.

—Lucy Beadnell

First outdoor movie night of summer, May 18

On Friday, May 18, at approximately 8 pm, FCA will host another Fairlington family outdoor movie night. Join your neighbors on the field behind the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., for a free, family-oriented film beginning close to sunset. FCA will announce the title in next month's *Bulletin*.

The FCA launched its first-ever movie night last September, after an online poll indicated that activity was of interest to many Fairlington residents. The movie shown was "The Princess Bride," which was also decided by poll. This season, FCA will produce another poll to help decide the movie for the May 18 date. Titles could include "Finding Nemo," "Sandlot," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," and "The Goonies," which were in the running for the fall feature. Visit the FCA website for a link to vote.

Those interested in attending should plan to bring a blanket or low chairs and snacks if desired. Make sure to bring

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Abingdon school tour delights residents

It was a full house at the February 21 meeting of the FCA, which was a school tour of Abingdon Elementary. The tour allowed the community to get a first-hand look at the school's recent expansion and renovation.

The tour kicked off with a presentation that included a musical performance featuring Abingdon students and led by strings instructor Kristen Gomez. Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda then greeted attendees with an introduction of the evening's guest speakers: County Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey; School Board President Barbara Kanninen; School Board Liaison to Abingdon Monique O'Grady; Building Level Planning Committee Chair Jennifer Davies; and Arlington Public Schools Project Manager Aji Robinson.



Arlington Public Schools Project Manager Aji Robinson, who oversaw the project, describes the new cafeteria. Photos by Guy Land except as noted.

County Board Vice Chair Dorsey stated of the nearly complete project, "This is a tremendous, tremendous achievement, not just because it's delivering to Joanne and the Abingdon school community the kind of facility that they

really deserve in order to be able to deliver outstanding education for our students, but because it really reflects the best of everything we do in Arlington."

At the conclusion of the speakers' presentations, attendees were given an escorted tour through the school. Chatter was overwhelmingly positive as the tour-takers wandered down the halls, from room to room. Many commented enthusiastically on the state-of-the-art equipment, improvements, and updated cafeteria. Everyone was in awe of the three-story classroom addition, in which one classroom peeks out to unobstructed views of the Washington Monument.



Former FCA board members Carol Dabbs and Bryan Pettigrew enjoy reconnecting. Dabbs was on the Abingdon Building Level Planning Committee.



Fairlington Villages At-Large Board Director, Anne Wasowski, (a member of the Abingdon Building Level Planning Committee), husband Rob, and Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda discuss the Abingdon renovation.



FCA President Guy Land and School Board President Barbara Kanninen enjoy the tour of Abingdon. Photo by Kent Duffy.

In 2015, the Arlington County Board unanimously approved the project to modernize the school and address overcrowding issues by expanding enrollment capacity. The Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC), which represented the interests of the community, parents, and school teachers, worked with the Arlington County School Board along with the engineering and architect-



Abingdon PTA President Jeni Hornback helped coordinate arrangements for the tour.

tural team in crafting the design concept for the project. In addition to the BLPC, the project was reviewed by the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC), which reports to the Arlington County Board. Nine community forums were held as project update listening sessions and served as a venue where members of the community could voice recommendations and concerns or ask questions.

Construction commenced in the spring of 2016, and the school was ready for occupancy by the start of the 2017 school year. Structural additions include a new entry vestibule, gymnasium, kitchen, and classrooms to accommodate an additional 140 seats.

Renovations included redesigned classrooms, cafeteria improvements and updates, mechanical and electrical upgrades, reconfiguration of walls and ceilings, and refinishes that Abingdon students had a hand in. The project also entailed site improvements to address drop-off and pick-up traffic, ease pedestrian access, and provide additional parking.

On the school grounds, much thought was given to preserving the playing field and the replacement of trees lost during construction. The final plan for the school maintained at least the same number of trees on the site. Since many trees had been 10-year anniver-



Arlington County Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey addressed the crowd during a brief presentation prior to the tour.

Highlights of Abingdon project

- Expanded enrollment capacity by additional 140 seats
- Added 12 new classrooms, including new three-story wing
- Constructed a new gymnasium
- Built a new kitchen
- Reconfigured interior walls and ceilings
- Created new entry vestibule
- Improved multi-modal transportation and pedestrian access
- Retained the playing field
- Project budget of \$31,976,530

sary gifts bestowed by the FCA and Fairlington Historical Society, 16 new trees were planted as commemorative replacements. They will contain special markings indicating that they are Fairlington community trees.

Fairlington Mews resident Victoria Laudati toured the school with her husband and four-year-old son for a sneak peek at his future learning environment. Laudati commented, "After having taken the tour of the school, I am so excited for my son to get the advantage of that amazing learning environment! We still have two years before he even starts kindergarten." She continued to say, "I wish I could have had such tech-filled classrooms when I was in school, especially the art room and architecture workshop. The library was also beautiful."

Final work to be completed on the project includes finishing a new handicap ramp, curb and sidewalk repairs, installation of a new street light as well as energizing newly installed lights, invasive species removal, installation of roof screens, continuation on HVAC work and upgrades, and foundation monitoring, as well as other miscellaneous work.

The official ribbon-cutting is planned for April 13 at the school.

—Rebecca Sayres



School Board Liaison to Abingdon Monique O'Grady offers a few words during the pre-tour presentation.

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Fairlington's 75th lookback: A tale of two schools

Elementary schools are a vital part of any community. Fairlington has been home to two elementary schools and has a long history of engagement with both.



Fairlington Elementary School, c. 1972 (now the FCC). Courtesy Fairlington Properties, Realtors.

The first, Fairlington Elementary School (now the Fairlington Community Center, or FCC), at 3308 S. Stafford St., was planned and built along with the construction of Fairlington. It opened in February 1944 for children in grades 1–6. The school, then as now, was a focal point of community life.

By 1972, when Fairlington's conversion to condominiums began, school enrollment had dropped, and there were many

speculations about what might happen to the property. By the time the school closed in 1979, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) had successfully lobbied the county to keep the building and grounds intact for use as a community education and recreation center.

Today's FCC houses a full range of civic, educational, and recreational purposes. The most recent addition is the Fairlington Farmers Market, introduced in 2015.

The community center also houses two significant historic artifacts. Look up as you enter and you'll see installed in the ceiling a stained-glass window that was part of a set of Tiffany windows removed from the Abbey Mausoleum, built in 1924, incorporated into the U.S. Marine Corps' Henderson Hall Headquarters in 1942, and torn down in 2000. FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) collaborated on funding the repair, conservation, and installation of this piece of Arlington history when the renovated center was opened in 2010.

Turn right at the center's main hallway and then left and you'll see two large-scale models of the neighborhood. Originally built for the condominium sales office, FHS worked with Arlington County's Office of Historic Preservation to conserve and install these models, which lets residents point out *exactly* where they live.

Fairlington's second school opened in 1959 as the post-World War II Baby Boomers reached school age and the population of Arlington grew.

Built on land donated to the county by CBI Fairmac, which had purchased the entire Fairlington property in 1947, the school was named after the Abingdon House and plantation, now part of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport property.

Like its sibling school to the south, Abingdon Elementary's history has been strongly influenced by Fairlington's active parent and civic associations.



Abingdon Elementary School, c. 1992. Photo by Jim Tingstrum.

Initially a schoolhouse for 384 children in 1959, Abingdon added kindergarten facilities in 1965 and later expanded to 19 classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, offices, and kitchen, with a parking lot added in 1970. Today's Abingdon is a vibrant, multicultural school that serves more than 600 students.

The school has just undergone a major renovation and expansion (2016–18), with the FCA, FHS, and Fairlington Villages all working together to solve the challenges of undertaking this project on limited land. In order to preserve Abingdon's open field, used by students as well as the community, Fairlington Villages agreed to share certain parking spaces at its community center with the school. Commemorating each decade of the school and community partnership, FCA and FHS had planted a series of trees on school property that were lost to the renovation and expansion. New trees have been planted and will be re-dedicated to that partnership.

—Cindy Kunz

**Historic information from Fairlington at 50: 1943–1993, Fairlington Historical Society, Catherine B. Fellow Memorial Edition, 2012.*

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APS to issue draft Walk Zone Review recommendations in April

As part of its elementary boundary revision plan, Arlington Public Schools (APS) will publish draft recommendations from its Walk Zone Reviews on Thursday, April 12, and hold office hour sessions for discussion. The session closest to Fairlington will be Monday, April 16, from 7 to 8:30 pm, at Wakefield High School.

APS will present the report and answer questions on Tuesday, May 1, at 7 pm at Yorktown High School. The meeting will also be livestreamed at www.apsva.us for those unable to attend.

In February and March, APS staff worked with communities to review school walk zones and identify potential expansions of those zones and determine the appropriate capacity for each school.



The Abingdon Task Group met several times with APS staff to discuss potential Walk Zones changes. Pictured: Andrew Vitols, Jeni Hornback, Kathy Mimberg (APS Coordinator of Community Engagement), Tim Mancari, Michelle Woolley, and Gladis Bourdouane (APS Integrated Planner). Photo by Kerry Ploetz.

Fairlington was well represented in the Abingdon Task Group. Jeni Hornback, a Fairlington Arbor resident, attended as president of the Abingdon PTA. Abingdon parents and North Fairlington residents Andrew Vitols and Tim Mancari also participated, as well as Michelle Woolley, a South Fairlington resident designated to represent the FCA.

The Task Group attended two meetings with APS staff to discuss why APS was reviewing walk zones and discuss community feedback. As a result of the meetings, members of the Task Group

reached out to the Fairlington community through the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA®, and the Abingdon PTA to encourage residents to complete a questionnaire and participate in a walking tour of proposed Walk Zone expansion areas.

At this *Bulletin's* press time, the Task Group had not yet finished collecting community feedback to be discussed with APS staff at the group's final meeting on March 20.

North Fairlington is already designated a walking zone, but South Fairlington is not. APS considers any area within one mile of a school potentially walkable, and South Fairlington is within one mile of Abingdon.

About 55 percent of Arlington students walk to school. At Abingdon, less than 40 percent of students walk, over 20 percent are driven by car, and the rest take the bus.

APS is reevaluating walk zones as part of overall planning related to a growing student population, changing demographics, and the opening or expansion of three elementary schools. With this review, APS is looking to increase bus service efficiency and address operational issues of a bus driver shortage and limited parking space at schools.

The new walk zones will take effect in September 2019. For more information, visit www.apsva.us/elementary-school-boundary-change.

—Jeni Hornback and Michelle Woolley

Civic engagement



The FCA joined several dozen civic and condo association presidents in early March in a wide-ranging discussion of Arlington County's processes for engaging residents and key organizations. Pictured: Guy Land, FCA President; Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Chair; Duke Banks, President of the Arlington County Civic Federation; and Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager. Photo by Bryna Helfer, Arlington County Assistant County Manager and Director of Communications.



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BRING YOU MARKETWATCH

2017 ended with a bit of a whimper, as contract activity in our region's real estate market cooled off along with the weather. But it was an overall solid year, with Washington, DC continuing to outpace its suburban neighbors. What's ahead for 2018?

We'll put our forecast into three categories: **Steady State**, the **Wildcard**, and the **Tantalizing Possibility**.

Steady State – With inventory in short supply, especially inside the Beltway, we expect 2018 to look a lot like 2017. There will continue to be considerable upward price pressure close-in, but we do not expect the DC market to maintain the 8%-9% annual appreciation rates of the past three years. We think it will be more like 5%, and probably less in the upper brackets. The suburbs will still be strong, particularly as more frustrated buyers look outside the inner city because of prices and inventory. Even with those factors, we'd be very surprised if the appreciation rate exceeds 3% in those areas. And regarding mortgage interest rates, it is almost inevitable that they will (finally) rise as the overall economy improves, ending 2018 around 4.75%. That rate shouldn't discourage homebuyers.

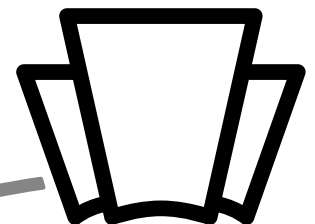
The Wildcard – With the ink drying on the sweeping tax reform legislation, residential real estate will be impacted in at least three ways. First, with the cap on deductibility

of state and local taxes and the diminished value of the mortgage interest deduction for expensive homes, it is likely that upper end home prices won't increase as much as they would have had reform not passed. Second, the overall tax decreases for most wage earners will put money in their pockets, particularly for millennials who may be thinking about buying their first home. This should help with student loan debt, saving for a down payment, and/or increased spending – and that's good for real estate. And third, if the economy grows as it did after the Kennedy- and Reagan-era tax cuts, that means more jobs, more income and a much healthier economic climate. Overall, we think the tax reform legislation in 2018 will be a modest, net positive for the region's real estate market.

The Tantalizing Possibility – Three communities in our region made the short list of 20 semi-finalists for Amazon's HQ2, with a promise that their final decision will come in 2018. Should one of those three areas be anointed to host 50,000 new employees, acres of office space, and the traffic that will come along with it over the next several years, the whole region wins. Amazon won't be turning dirt for their second headquarters anytime soon, but the real estate boom for some city on that list of 20 could begin later this year.

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Annual street paving to begin in Arlington

As part of a preventative maintenance program, Arlington County will begin this year's paving season around mid-March and end in mid-October 2018, weather permitting.



Courtesy Arlington County.

This program repairs potholes, replaces damaged roadway sections, and performs spot repairs in advance of concrete overlay projects to help preserve the asphalt base and maintain surfaces to extend their useful life.

Fairlington streets scheduled for paving in South Fairlington are S. 35th St. and Wakefield Circle. In North Fairlington, scheduled streets include S. 27th Rd., S. 30th Rd., S. 31st Rd., S. Woodrow St., and parts of S. 29th St. and S. Buchanan St.

A notice will be distributed to each residential address that will be affected by the project to notify them their street has been selected for paving. In addition, "No Parking Signs" will be posted 24 to 48 hours prior to the start of operation. The county will try to reduce the number of disruptions such as traffic detours, no parking on the streets, noise, and dust.

Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale, April 28

This popular plant sale will take place on Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of The Church of St. Clement at 1701 N. Quaker Lane in Alexandria.

You'll find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. A dozen or more vendors from three states (VA, MD, and PA) will participate at this event, the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region.

Vendors are listed on the website at www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org. The sale is entirely organized and run by volunteers. Questions? Contact Scott Knudsen at 571-232-0375 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.

Movie night, continued from page 11

a flashlight or use the flashlight on your smartphone. Subtitles will be displayed throughout the film.

In the event of cancellation due to inclement weather, an announcement will be made on the FCA website and Facebook page. If a cancellation occurs, a make-up date will be scheduled and announced.

—Chris Weathers

Letter to the Editor

I've worked in the recycling industry for over 10 years and hope that fellow Fairlington residents will read this and help our community recycle better.

Most municipal recycling facilities (MRFs) throw out bagged recyclables. Please put only loose recyclables in our curbside bins.

One of the biggest hurdles for successful recycling is what the industry calls "aspirational recycling," or when a recycler doesn't know if a commodity is recyclable and puts it in the bin anyway.

We see things like garden hoses, children's toys, hangers, and plastic bags. None of these things are recy-

clable in curbside systems and many of them damage equipment or contaminate perfectly good materials. Please limit recycling to accepted items.

For more information, visit <https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/residential/trash-recycling>.

Thank you!
Meg Daum, Fairlington Villages

Editor's note: Recycling in Fairlington is handled by the different condo associations and varies by association. Please review your residents' handbook or check with your association for complete trash and recycling policies.

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

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FINS registration begins May 1

Build your child's confidence and comfort in the water while reviewing some basic water safety and stroke skills with FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming). The FINS program is a regular summer fixture in Fairlington and is a fun way for kids to strengthen swim skills. It also encourages camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

FINS runs for three weeks from July 9 to 27, and consists of four 30-minute lessons Monday through Thursday, and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The program rotates weekly between three different condominium association pools in South Fairlington.

Lessons are meant to supplement, not replace, swimming instruction programs. Instructors encourage young kids to enjoy swimming, take turns in lap lanes, and play water games safely. Important pool safety and capability concepts, like treading water, front and back floating, lap lane protocols, straight-leg kicking, and swimming with faces submerged are taught. Proper stroke techniques are introduced to stronger and older swimmers.

The cost for the three-week summer session and t-shirt is \$70 per child. The program is open only to Fairlington resident children five to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth-grade). To request a registration form for the July 2018 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

Registration for returning participants and age-related siblings will be May 1 to 15. Registration for new participants will be May 16 to 30. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery in June.

—Carolyn Ericson and Amber Scivolette, FINS Co-Coordinators

Tree canopy, continued from page 5

Prior to working for Arlington County, Lipera worked for PEPCO and Dominion Energy in the Distribution Reliability and Forestry departments, managing contract tree crews and a multi-million-dollar forestry budget. Lipera is an ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ), and holds a Commercial Pesticide/Herbicide Applicator license.

To download your copy of the Tree Canopy report, visit www.arlingtonva.us and search "tree canopy."

—Christine Chirichella

Bake Sale coordinator needed for Fairlington 4th of July



Keep the tradition of the July 4th "No Kid Hungry" Bake Sale going by taking over as coordinator. In this photo, volunteers from the 2017 sale display their wares. Photo by Guy Land.

Over the past 15 summers, I have coordinated the "No Kid Hungry" Bake Sale during the July 4th festivities. During this time, Fairlington has donated over \$20,000 to the non-profit Share Our Strength. Summer is just around the corner, so the registration and planning should begin now to continue this holiday tradition.

However, I am hanging up my apron and looking for someone to take over. To volunteer to plan, coordinate, and run this fun and worthwhile event, contact Cathy at cmalin10.cm@gmail.com for help getting started.

—Cathy Malin

Neighborhood, continued from page 11

S. Woodrow St. to S. Randolph St. That work is expected to begin this fall. Currently pending before the NCAC is a proposal to construct a sidewalk along S. Abingdon St. between S. 31st Rd. and S. 31st St. At present, there is no sidewalk on that side of the street.

"Many of the funded Neighborhood Conservation projects provide real and lasting value to Fairlington residents as well as residents elsewhere in the county," Land wrote in a February letter to county board members.

The letter continues, "As you review the county's capital funding needs, we hope you will continue your commitment to this valuable program in the next bond cycle and will consider an increased funding level than can help reduce the backlog of quality NC improvements."

FCA Board Treasurer Ed Hilz and Director Rebecca Sayres represent FCA on the advisory committee.

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into a rare, genetic brain disorder called LBSL. Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn, a fourth-grader at Abingdon, was born with the disorder. Her parents are very grateful for all the support the community has shown over the last five years. A portion of the proceeds also supports physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary.

“Without this race and auction there would be no research, so we are extremely grateful to our Fairlington family,” said Ellie’s dad Michael McGinn. “Right now the effort is in preclinical trial phase and we have a lot of hope that a cure will be found in the next five to six years.”

As of March 10, over 300 people had signed up for the race, with another 300 expected to sign up in the final weeks. Organizers urge those wanting to participate to register online at www.fairlington5K.com as soon as possible in order to guarantee they receive a t-shirt.

If you have questions about the race or wish to donate an item to the auction, please email fairlington5k@gmail.com.

—Joe Reed

Race route and road closures

Turn-by-turn directions:



www.fairlington5k.com/race-info

As in previous years, runners will head down S. Abingdon St. and cross the I-395 overpass into South Fairlington and then proceed down S. 36th St. They will then take S. Stafford St. and loop around the Fairlington Community Center, eventually coming up the hill on S. Utah St. before heading back on S. 34th street to end at the school.

Roads will close on a rolling basis starting at approximately 8 am and reopen shortly after the last runners pass through the area. Make plans now if you live along the race course and need to get out between 8 and about 9:30 am the day of the race.

The recent Fairlington raccoon problem provoked a question from the crowd about cruelty to animals. How is it defined, a resident asked, and how does it apply to poisoning and rodent control? “Anything other than general care and feeding,” said Sgt. Washington, “could be a Class 6 felony in Virginia.” Both speakers recommended leaving animal control to the experts.

Parking issues are still frequent in the neighborhood. The ACPD uses motor patrols to enforce parking regulations, but that alone cannot address every problem. Police cars are often parked around the neighborhood as a deterrent, but residents noted that they are often parked illegally—sometimes for days on end.

“That shouldn’t happen,” Capt. Quigley said, but she does not directly supervise motor patrols. Both officers advised residents to call the non-emergency police line to report illegally parked cars. Posting their names and/or license plates on social media, for example, may create unnecessary confrontation or antagonize the wrong person. When residents raised issues about the zoning system in specific places, they were advised to contact the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services (703-228-6570) for remediation.

Residents noted the uptick in bicycle traffic in Fairlington and the surrounding county. Many of these cyclists, one argued, ignore traffic laws such as stoplights and lane dividers. “Cyclists should follow same rules as car drivers,” Capt. Quigley said, but ACPD officers may not always issue cyclists a ticket. Sometimes verbal warnings are more effective, added Sgt. Washington.

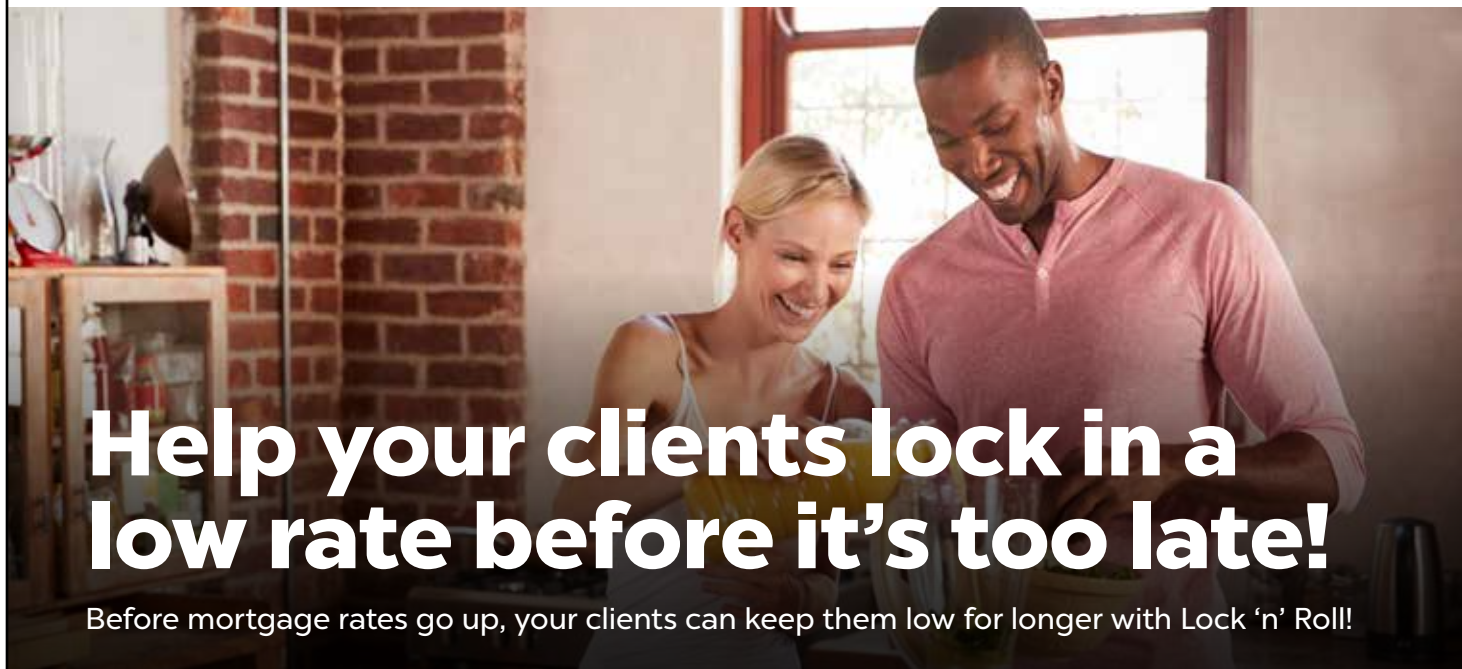
Although Fairlington remains a very safe area, larger trends are impacting the county. The nationwide opioid epidemic has hit Arlington, which suffered a handful of heroin overdoses over the Christmas holidays. And an increase in gang-related crimes has begun to press up against county borders, causing ACPD some concern.

Lastly, the question of school safety was raised. How exactly does ACPD keep our children safe at school? “Every high school and middle school has an assigned resource officer,” Quigley said, meaning an armed officer on campus during the school day. And other resource officers rotate among the county’s elementary schools, too. In addition to active shooter training and mass casualty planning, the ACPD has taken steps to facilitate effective inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional procedures in order to prevent—or react to—the unthinkable.

—Evan Harvey



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neighborhood news

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 March, we tried out Kapnos Taverna, a highly-rated Greek restaurant.

Here's what's planned for April:

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 pm, Del Ray Café, 205 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301, 703-717-9151, 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 foods. It is ranked as one of the best French restaurants in Alexandria. Please contact Carol no later than 6 pm Wednesday, April 11, if you plan to attend, because she will need to make a reservation.

Thursday, April 26, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Thursday, when they offer a special price on ribs 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, email carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in April to discuss *The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World*, by Steven Johnson.

Johnson's history of the cholera epidemic of 1854 is "a medical thriller, detective story, and paean to city life."
—*The Washington Post*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. 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 coordinator, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great list-serve for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.

Free Earth Care Forum

Fairlington Presbyterian Church invites you to a free Earth Care Forum on Thursday, April 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at 3846 King St. in Alexandria. Come out and learn how you can better care for the Earth. The event includes networking and display tables, and presentations from Audubon at Home Ambassadors, Earth Sangha, and representatives from local congregations that have taken on Earth-friendly projects. Everyone is welcome. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and search "earth care forum."

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Abingdon brings mindfulness to the classroom

One of the Arlington Public Schools Strategic Goals is to support the “Whole Child”—nurturing the intellectual, personal, social, and emotional development of all students. Abingdon Elementary is taking a unique approach to addressing the needs of the whole child by implementing a mindfulness program.



Abingdon students practice using their breath with intention. Photos by Erin Sonn.

Erin Sonn, M.Ed., Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT), and Abingdon’s testing coordinator, has combined her experience as a yoga instructor and her training through Mindful Schools to teach a series of mindfulness lessons to Abingdon students. In these lessons, Ms. Sonn empowers students and their teachers to find stillness in their bodies and minds, breathe with intention, and create space in which to observe and think more clearly. Through these exercises, students practice

the critical skills of identifying and regulating emotions, increasing concentration, and building compassion, empathy, and gratitude.

In the first lesson, students are taught to sit in their “mindful bodies,” rooted into their seat, with a tall spine, soft shoulders, and relaxed face. With this posture, they can more easily breathe deeply on the inhale and exhale. Students are taught different breathing techniques, eventually working up to two minutes of sustained attention on the breath. Students have also been taught to use the breath to cycle in emotions they need at a given moment (“breathe in peace, patience, happiness”) or to get rid of feelings they are uncomfortable with (“breathe out anxiety, fear, sadness”).

Subsequent lessons involve role-playing or games that ask students to identify emotions evoked through acts of generosity and gratitude. Students learn to share loving, kind feelings, and explore other ways to build happiness and joy in their hearts. Students also learn to ignite sensory awareness through mindful listening, seeing, and tasting games.

In nice weather, Ms. Sonn guides students on a mindful walk outside, on which students are encouraged to notice and appreciate the beautiful signs, sounds, and smells of nature all around them.

In addition to offering mindfulness lessons for students, Ms. Sonn teaches professional development

workshops for staff. Mindfulness is a critical practice for educators because the profession demands acute awareness of everyone and everything at all time.



Forming in a circle, students sit in their mindful bodies.

Mindful educators also present a more calm, stable presence for the students, so they feel safe, relaxed, and ready to learn. According to research, educators who cultivate a personal mindfulness practice also report reduced levels of stress and anxiety, lower rates of burnout, and a greater sense efficacy in their roles.

Ms. Sonn and APS colleague Alexandra Midland recently recorded a podcast for “What’s Up APS,” in which they go into more detail about their mindfulness work with the students. You can listen to it at <https://soundcloud.com/user-203154489/mindfulness-in-aps>. If you would like to learn more about mindfulness, or how you can build a practice at home, feel free to email Erin.Sonn@apsva.us.

—Carrie Lewis



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Baby-Ready Pets class

Baby-Ready Pets offers preparation and assistance to help expectant families prepare their home and pets for the arrival of the new baby and to make sure that it is a safe and (relatively) stress-free experience for all. This seminar is on Monday, April 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Dr. There is no fee for the class, but donations are welcome. Reservations are required and space is limited. To register, visit www.awla.org and go to Events.

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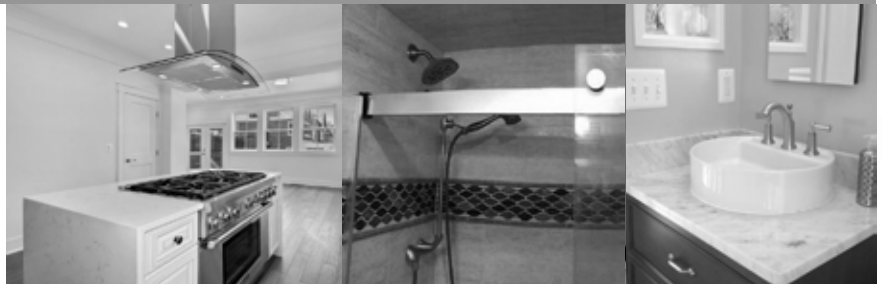


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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



It's time to plan your patio

Frost warnings are over and local plant nurseries are at full inventory. It's time to dress up the patio, but where do you start in terms of design? Before you visit a nursery, take this list to help determine exactly what you want and need for your garden.

Fragrance: To fill your patio space with sweet scents, consider these plants. **Scotch Broom** grows on two-to-three-foot-long branches in a "spray" habit. Flower colors come in yellow, white, red, orange, and pink. The petals resemble mouse ears and cling right to the branch (like a Snapdragon flower). Of all the flower fragrances I've inhaled, the Scotch Broom's are *the* most fragrant. **Gardenia** is another scent-laden specimen featuring white flowers and yellow eyes. The evergreen leaf is shiny but needs to be wrapped in burlap over winter. **Pieris** has white, bell-shaped flowers that dangle like Lily of the Valley in March. The leaves are evergreen. When flowers diminish, maroon stems are left to admire. **Citronella** flowers in lavender and white and will repel mosquitos. This perennial is best suited for a pot on a patio floor. In terms of bulbous flowers, **Hyacinth** has the sweetest scent. Flowers are cone-like and come in purple, yellow, pink, white, and lavender. Of course, the **Rose** is fragrant but muted compared to the plants aforementioned. Try a 'Knockout' Rose, which flowers from May into December and features evergreen foliage from head-to-toe.

Variegation: Color is exposed

on plant leaves as well, and it will brighten a garden. **Aucuba** is a shade evergreen with either yellow dots or swirls on its leaves. **Euonymus** thrives in our area and isn't affected by our steamy summers. Euonymus pigmentation comes in vivid white or yellow while the 'Winter Creeper' ground cover species variegates in pink when the weather gets cold. **Hosta** features



Azalea

shades of green and white on its thick leaves, which appear in early May. And **Liriope** has thin streaks of white on its narrow leaf blades. **Azalea**, in some cultivars, has a white rim around its oval leaf. This becomes more noticeable when the plant's flowers diminish in May.

Colorful leaves: The dwarf **Blue Spruce** grows in the shape of a miniature bean-bag chair. It displays a bluish oval in your garden that is squat and no taller than one-foot with a two-foot spread. The leaves

are needle-like and stiff. **Lorapetulum** has pale maroon leaves in oval shapes. It's a tender perennial with very soft stems—so much so that the plant will move in the wind. **Barberry 'Rosy Glow'** grows like a large egg (two-feet-tall with a similar spread). The leaf is maroon and the margin is pink. **Dianthus** or 'Sweet William' is a pink-flowering perennial that has serrations along the petal edges. The foliage is basal and a Wedgewood blue.

Vines: These specimens espalier against a trellis or fence. They grow and don't compromise the scant space in your patio. **Carolina jessamine** has yellow bugles for flowers that show from March to April. The leaf is a dark green and the stems are soft. This plant likes shade. Another shade-lover is **Star Jasmine**, which offers a white fragrant flower on an evergreen blanket. **Campsis** or 'Trumpet Vine' loves sun and will showcase orange musical instruments in the summer. **Clematis** has three-inch-wide flowers that prefer sun but will grow in shade. Colors come in purple, lavender, and white and emerge in summer. **Wisteria** has lavender, eight-inch-long flower panicles that hang from thick (finger-like) branches in late April to early June. **Climbing Hydrangea** has exfoliating branches that grow in a wayward manner. Its white, summer flower will turn a light pink when autumn arrives.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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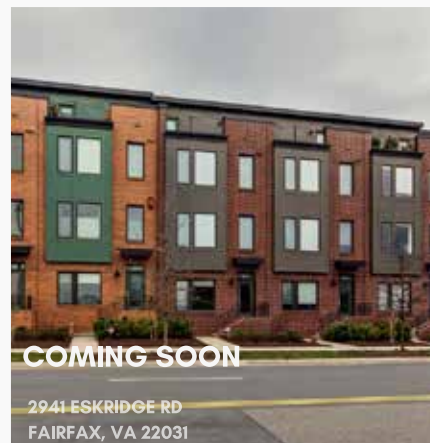
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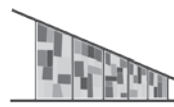
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