

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

FCA expresses concerns about more density in Shirlington

Inside this month

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In a March 20 letter to Arlington County's Long Range Planning Committee, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) has outlined concerns about a proposal to increase density in Shirlington, while also pointing out the value of a vibrant commercial area to Fairlington residents.

FCA urges the county to look more broadly at a larger geographic area than just Shirlington and consider the cumulative impact of increased density across a number of areas that are near Fairlington, such as the proposed additional density in Park Shirlington, the new development of West Alex at Beauregard and King, and the revitalization of Green Valley.

"All of these will likely feed off of each other, with significant implications for Fairlington," the letter says. "Failure to consider how these developments are interrelated concerns us and may overlook opportunities for boosting Shirlington."

FCA cites particularly the potential impact of added density on Abingdon Elementary School, Fairlington's neighborhood school. Although it was



Photo by Guy Land.

Continued on page 29

To our readers:

We all know this is an unprecedented time in the life of our community. Closed schools, mandatory work-from-home, essential travel only on Metro. Conditions change daily. Because of the lead time required to produce this newsletter, there's no way we can keep everything current (it would be a challenge to do that even online). So instead we've tried to provide a little bit of stability in your lives by continuing to write about the things we normally cover.

One of the great things about Fairlington is its sense of community. The current situation underscores how important that is. Neighbors checking on neighbors; kids looking out for their friends. That's always been our strength. And that is what will sustain us and yield an even stronger Fairlington when the COVID-19 pandemic becomes only a memory.

Guy Land, FCA President

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 8

There will be no presentation at the April 8 meeting. The Board expects to hold an electronic work session.

Regular board business:

- Approval of March 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. 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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
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Fairlington Citizens Association

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Email editorial announcements to:

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Calendar

Editor's note: These were scheduled as of press time, but please check with the organizers as many may be canceled.

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Knits (tentative)

Monday, April 27
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Group

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Any shelter in a storm



The corner of 30th and Buchanan Sts. in North Fairlington is being marked off in preparation for a new bus shelter that is going in this spring. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Sara Tuke Carr, Jennifer Davies, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Rachel Mallory, Andrew Raab, Susan Renehan, Thora Stanwood, Bill Sullivan, and Lorin Venable.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you filled out the online census form yet? If not, then go online today and take care of it.

Notices were mailed to Arlington residents in mid-March. While April 1 is "Census Day," you can fill out the form before or after that date. The form asks for information about people living in your home on April 1.

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone just once and in the right place. Census officials want to ensure that everyone in your home who should be counted is counted—including newborns, roommates, and those who may be staying with you temporarily. One person should respond for each home.

The quickest way to respond to the 2020 Census is online with your Census ID, which came in the mail and easily links your response with your address. However, you can still respond if you don't have a Census ID. You cannot save your progress online; you must complete the Census in one sitting. You can preview the questions on the Census website prior to filling out the form.

Census experts note that young children are the most under-reported group, so don't forget to include that new baby on your form. There is no citizenship question on the 2020 Census and the form will not ask for your Social Security number.

The Census seeks to obtain a complete and accurate count of the population and housing. It's required by the Constitution.

The Census has three main purposes: serve as the basis for determining representation in the U.S. House of Representatives (and in the Virginia General Assembly); yield a fair allocation of federal resources through formula-based federal funding, which currently is over \$50 million annually in Arlington; and provide a better understanding of our community.

At our March meeting the Arlington County demographer shared some insights gleaned from Census data for Arlington. For example, though it may feel like we've had an explosion of growth lately, since 1980 the population in Arlington has generally grown by an average of 1 percent per year. So the population has increased, but in a fairly steady, incremental way.

The Census will also give us good data about age distribution in the county, as well as about home ownership. Help ensure that all that information is accurate by promptly filling out your Census form.

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



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Pedestrian improvements to start in late spring



The crosswalk on S. Stafford St. in front of the FCC now features a mid-block pedestrian marker. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

As has been previously reported, the intersection of S. 34th Street and S. 36th Street will be re-configured to shorten the length of the cross walk along S. 34th Street and slow down east bound traffic turning onto to S. 36th Street. Last year, the County conducted a study and determined that vehicular traffic would speed up over the 395 bridge and take a wide turn onto 36th Street, making that corner of particular concern. At the time of this writing a final traffic survey is underway.

Over the winter, the County did install a mid-block pedestrian marker in the crosswalk on S. Stafford Street directly in front of the Fairlington Community Center.

—Jennifer Davies

Abingdon receives walkability grant

Abingdon Elementary is a recipient of a Virginia Safe Routes to School Quick Start Mini-Grant. This grant is designed to fund activities that encourage students to safely walk and bike to school, and build momentum to encourage continued walking.

The Abingdon Elementary PTA will be coordinating upcoming events to be announced shortly, including “Walking Wednesdays,” which will encourage students to try out walking and biking on a weekly basis, as well as “Walking School Buses” where several street corners will be designated as places that students can meet up and walk to school safely. There will be fun giveaways as students arrive to school on these designated days. More info to come!

—Sara Tuke Carr

FCA addresses bus service proposal

FCA has written WMATA to express its concerns about the FY21 budget proposal that would affect several bus routes in Fairlington. The letter recommends retaining the 7Y service into DC. The budget proposal called for ending the 7Y at the Pentagon.

The letter also recommends postponing the 22A/C changes until there are collaborative discussions involving Arlington and Alexandria, as well as the affected communities. These discussions could involve Arlington’s ART bus and Alexandria DASH in addition to Metrobus to create a more integrated network of bus services.

“We encourage WMATA to engage more directly with its local government partners and communities to pursue consensus opportunities to optimize bus service,” FCA President Guy Land wrote.

The letter notes that Fairlington’s bus needs include not just Fairlington residents getting to work in D.C. but also a transit option for people from outside the neighborhood to get into the community for work. A copy of the letter is available on the FCA website.

—Guy Land

FCA plans Q&A with school board candidates

What questions would you like to ask the candidates for the Arlington School Board? FCA is discussing with the candidates what format would work best for them prior to the Democratic caucuses on May 7 and May 9.

Most candidate forums were cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, and FCA is trying to provide an alternative opportunity to question candidates on issues that are important to Fairlington residents. Options could range from posted responses to selected questions to an opportunity for a realtime online exchange. When the details are worked out, we will provide them on the FCA website and Facebook page.

So send us your questions and we’ll select a handful to ask the candidates. Questions can be sent to vp@fca-fairlington.org.

Two slots on the school board are up for election this year. Incumbents Tannia Talento and Nancy Van Doren have chosen not to seek re-election. The candidates are Cristina Diaz-Torres, Steven Krieger, Sandy Munnell, David Priddy, and Terron Sims.

School board races are non-partisan, but the Democratic and Republican parties traditionally endorse individual candidates. Voting for the Democratic endorsement will be held through two days of caucus voting on May 7 at Drew Elementary and May 9 at Washington-Liberty High School. At press time the Arlington Republican Party had not announced its plans for endorsing school board candidates.

—Guy Land



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County to seek community input on Station 7 reuse

Arlington County Deputy County Manager Michelle Cowan has reaffirmed the county's commitment to obtaining the views of Fairlington residents on the reuse of Fire Station 7 on S. Abingdon St. The station was temporarily closed in October 2018 and permanently closed in October 2019.



Fire Station 7 has been closed for structural issues since October, 2018. Photo by Guy Land.

According to Cowan, county staff are currently conducting due diligence on the reuse of the building, including historic preservation review, zoning requirements, ADA compliance issues, and other constraints on the use of the site. "We will be looking at what fits in the neighbor-

hood," she said.

Once that staff review has been completed, the county expects to conduct some sort of online survey to gauge the preferences and suggestions of Fairlington residents. After the results of the survey are examined, one option under consideration would be a formal briefing hosted by FCA on the results (depending on the coronavirus situation).

Look for more information on the survey in the May issue of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

—Guy Land

VDOT issues report on Shirlington Circle study

Concluding a study process that began in 2015, VDOT has released the final report on the I-395 Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study, recommending a number of changes to the Shirlington Circle.

The study assessed safety and operational improvements at the I-395 Shirlington interchange (Exit 6), as well as at the following: the ramp from S. Glebe Road (Route 120) to southbound I-395, the intersection of S. Shirlington Rd. and S. Arlington Mill Dr., and the intersection of Gunston Rd. and Martha Custis Dr.

The study collected data on traffic volumes, vehicle movements, and accident histories, and looked at safety and operational issues. It identified alternatives that would reduce congestion and crashes, and boost the interchange's overall performance. It also examined bicycle and pedestrian movements in the area.

The key components of the study's recommendations are:

- Create a T-intersection and add a traffic signal at the intersection of the rotary and N. Quaker Lane. Traffic coming down Quaker often fails to yield to traffic in the rotary.
- Create a signalized intersection with the southbound 395 off-ramp and Campbell Avenue and remove the southbound 395 off-ramp to Quaker Lane to eliminate weave movements.
- Create a signalized intersection with the northbound 395 off-ramp and Gunston Road

- Add a lane to the Arlington Mill Drive exit from the rotary to reduce the number of lanes required for traffic to weave from the rotary to the Arlington Mill exit.

After considering improvement alternatives for the Glebe Road interchange, the study determined that those would be ineffective in relieving traffic congestion or improving safety. It concluded that the level of improvements required to address issues at this location would involve considerable reconfiguration of the Glebe Road interchange, which went beyond the scope and objectives of the study.

The study projects that the recommended improvements would cost \$9.69 million if done as a full package and \$11.1 million if broken into individual components.

FCA board members Kent Duffy and Guy Land joined representatives from Shirlington, Parkfairfax, Green Valley, and Parc East Condominiums in an informal March conversation about the recommendations and possible strategies for securing state funding for aspects of it.

FCA is considering hosting a future briefing by VDOT on the study's conclusions. The full report can be found at www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/I-395_Shirlington_Interchange_Improvements_Study_-_Final_Report.pdf.

—Guy Land

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Final Stages for Shirlington's General Land Use Plan (GLUP) Study

On February 19, members of Arlington County's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) convened its penultimate meeting regarding the Shirlington General Land Use Plan (GLUP) study. Committee members include reps from Fairlington, Shirlington, and Green Valley Civic Associations; Shirlington property owners Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT) and WETA; as well as county staff from the Departments of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, and Community Planning, Housing and Development. Representatives from the Housing Commission and Historic Preservation were also included.



The importance of preserving the character of Campbell Ave. was a consensus view of the LRPC. Photo by Guy Land.

The LRPC has been tasked with developing guiding principles to support the requested amendment to the GLUP that would allow property owners to build additional density in Shirlington. Currently, Shirlington is zoned as "low rise" density but would change to "medium rise" density. LRPC members have discussed a variety of development concerns including: transportation and traffic, accessibility, building height and massing, economic vitality, and the preservation of Shirlington's character.

In April, a draft study will be presented to all LRPC members for review and comment. This will culminate in one last meeting on April 22 to finalize the document before being presented to the Planning Commission, where it is expected to be taken up as an action item in May.

During the February meeting, the main areas of discussion included:

Transportation/circulation/accessibility

A private company conducted a transportation study focused on Shirlington only, looking at how added density could impact the Village. It did not take into consideration any other additional proposals such as Park Shirlington or the Shirlington traffic circle.

DES staff confirmed that the county has no plans to reconfigure the traffic light/pattern off the traffic circle that connects Shirlington Rd./Arlington Mill Rd., I-395 southbound exit, and a parking lot. Staff only plans for "minor tweaks" of the existing foot path that runs alongside the intersection over Four Mile Run.

The study concluded that there would be minimal impact, but concerns remain. There was additional

discussion on how people get to Shirlington. There was recognition that way finding (signage) is not consistent and could be better.

Consideration was made for "Gateway" markings at multiple entrances into the Village. FCA highlighted the need for better pedestrian access and safety for South Fairlington residents, including the sidewalk running along Quaker Ln. and the pedestrian overpass.

Character of Shirlington Village

There was broad consensus among the LRPC that the wide sidewalks and tree-lined streets created a sense of openness that should be preserved as much as possible. However, that did not necessarily mean that the brick sidewalks would remain, as they are problematic to maintain and hard for people with disabilities to navigate.

The building facades could be re-designed and/or existing tree wells replaced. There was additional conversation on the need for more plazas and public spaces. All were in agreement that the market, not the government, should decide on what type of commercial businesses could be added, but it was noted that it would be good to see a balance between "service" types of shops for residents (USPS, Animal Hospital, pharmacy) and places to draw visitors.

Where to build: location and height

The proposal calls for two phases of development. Phase I includes the open parking lot behind Campbell Ave. with a height of up to 12 stories (where UPS and the Animal Hospital is located).

In addition, the proposal calls for construction atop the stores and restaurants along Campbell Ave. that are currently one to two stories with an additional three to four stories. This would include what was referred to as a "step back" meaning that the additional stories would be set back from the original building (i.e. not lined up flush). Lyon Hall in Clarendon was given as an example.

Phase II includes taller buildings more along the periphery of the Village. Suggestions were made to keep heights consistent with the existing Hilton Garden Inn which is 10 stories.

Continued on page 15

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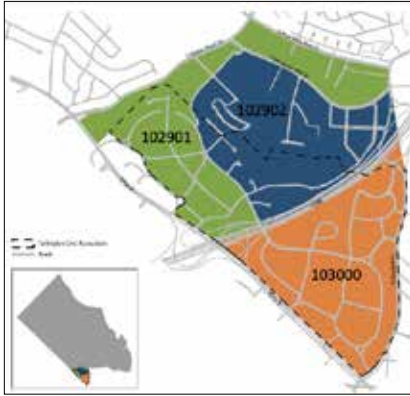


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FCA welcomes Arlington county demographers

At the March monthly meeting, FCA welcomed Elizabeth Hardy, Principal Planner, and Emily Garret from Arlington County's Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development to discuss demographic trends since 2010. In addition, the two demographers discussed the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census.



This map shows the three census tracts that include Fairlington. Image courtesy Arlington county.

April 1, 2020, is the date the census officially kicks off, but residents can go online now to complete the census by going to <https://my2020census.gov>.

Fairlington is divided up into three census tracts; (i) tract 103000 that covers all of S. Fairlington; (ii) tract 102901 that covers parts of

N. Fairlington from S. Abingdon towards King St. and shares the same tract with The Arlington condo association and Heatherlea and; (iii) tract 102902 that covers N. Fairlington from S. Abingdon St. down to S. Arlington Mill Dr., sharing the same tract with Courtbridge I and II, Park Shirlington, Shirlington House, Shirlington Village and Windgate I.

Population Growth

	Arlington County Population	Tract 103000	Tract 102901	Tract 102902
2010 Census	207,627	3,093	2,740	4,461
2018 ACS Survey	231,803	3,375	2,870	4,106

Population breakdown by age in S. Fairlington

	Under 18	18-24	25-64	65 and over
2010 Census	14%	3%	73%	9%
2018 ACS Survey	19%	1%	66%	14%

Editor's Note: The table focuses just on data from tract 103000 (S. Fairlington) as the other tracts did not uniquely focus on Fairlington.

To look at trends from 2010–2018, presenters also pulled data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS), an ongoing survey administered on an annual basis to a sample of the population. Approximately 7% of Arlington's population was surveyed, leaving a margin of error of approximately +/-5%.

While growth has definitely increased, the presenters noted that it only reflects a 1% year on year increase which is consistent with the growth rate since the 1980's. In other words, despite feeling like the county is developing rapidly, it is not experiencing notable growth. However, it was acknowledged that the school population has increased at higher rate and this may be reflected in the 2020 census.

The "baby boom" Fairlington has been experiencing is indeed a reality, with the under 18-year-old share of the population increasing by 5% in the past eight years. Seniors were the other group that had a notable increase as well (6%).

Forecasts based on trends from 2010 Census

	Housing Units	Households	Total Population	Employment
2010 Census	105,404	98,050	207,627	222,300
2045 Projection	149,000	141,800	301,200	269,100

The presenters also looked at population, housing units, and jobs forecasts through 2045, with steady predictable growth expected across all sectors. Future population is estimated by applying occupancy and household statistics to projects under construction or approved (not yet under construction) and areas which could be redeveloped with greater development potential and/or change in land use.

With a rapidly growing school population, the presenters acknowledged the need to closely coordinate with Arlington Public Schools (APS) regarding student forecasts to allow for better strategic planning. They are doing so by focusing on better methodology of assessing housing units and births (as recorded by Virginia Department of Health). The presenters noted that APS' large migrant population (people moving in and out of the county) was particularly difficult to record and hard to predict.

The presentation concluded with stressing the importance of all Arlington residents to participate in the 2020 Census, highlighting three key factors of importance:

Representation—data is used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives;

Continued on page 13

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Fairlington Presidents' meeting quarterly update

A lot of information was shared in the first meeting of the Fairlington Presidents in 2020.

Animal Life: Sam Wolbert, President/CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA), was invited to discuss the role of the AWLA in response to dogs off leash in Fairlington. AWLA will respond to and cite violators of the leash law on County property. AWLA will also respond to complaints of barking dogs, cruelty to animals, and to sightings of injured wildlife.

If there are complaints such as dogs off leash, failure to clean up pet debris, or pet noise on condominium property, a resident should refer to its condo association's bylaws or rules regarding enforcement policies.

Cable: The Verizon and Comcast representatives who attended the October 2019 presidents' meeting were going to ask their crews to verify that exposed cables were buried and open cable boxes were closed throughout Fairlington. As some issues still exist, it was suggested that one might get a better response by calling the Arlington County Cable Administration Office (703-228-3242).

Park Shirlington: Terry Placek updated everyone on the Park Shirlington development plans. Park Shirlington abuts Fairlington Villages where the impact will be felt the most. There will also be an increase in traffic and a potential impact on enrollment at the Abington Elementary School. Phase 1 will be the renovation and construction of affordable housing, including a multi-story building, south of 31st Street. Phase 2 will be construction of townhouses for sale on the north side of 31st Street.

Trash: An issue was raised regarding trash bags placed outside at night for pick up the next morning by the trash company. This provides wildlife more opportunity to tear open the bags for garbage. Most of the associations only allow trash bags to be placed outside on the morning of pick up. It was recommended that any policy allowing trash outside at night be changed.

Video cameras: External video cameras and door bells have become quite popular. It was recommended that each association should establish a policy regarding their use and external placement. Residents must abide by VA code §19.2-62. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title19.2/chapter6/section19.2-62/> when installing video cameras and hi-tech doorbells.

County permits: One association is having permitting issues with the county regarding the repaving of its parking lots. The county is concerned with runoff that will impact the Chesapeake Bay Watershed area. Several associations have had success in getting county permits and will share their paving specifications that have passed county code.

Patio yard waste: Some associations have specific days for yard waste removal. Most have leaf removals in the fall and a cleanup day in the spring. Residents should be notified that these are the only days on which they can sweep yard waste from their patios out their back gate so the contractor can remove the debris from the site. At all other times, residents should bag up patio debris and tree clippings and put them out in the morning with their trash.

—Thora Stanwood

Demographers from page 11

Federal Funding—data determines how more than \$657 billion in federal dollars are spent across state, county, and community programs; and

Understanding Community—data is used to understand community demographics and help plan for community services and needs.



The demographic presentation at the FCA Meeting on March 11 brought together county experts, community leaders, and FCA Directors. From L to R, Elizabeth Hardy, Emily Garrett, Terry Placek, and Rebecca Sayres. Photo by Guy Land.

Census workers will be focused on reaching the under-represented populations including young children, the elderly, non-English speakers, and undocumented immigrants to name a few. Organizers stressed that the Census remains safe, secure, and confidential. It will be fascinating to see how Fairlington has changed this past decade.

—Jennifer Davies

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A friendly hand for our neighbors who are aging-in-place

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If so, then Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV) may be the answer. ANV is a volunteer driven community-based non-profit organization that opened its doors in April 2014 to help Arlington seniors age in place in their own homes, remaining connected to family, friends and community—neighbors helping neighbors.

Today, ANV's more than 220 volunteers provide support to ANV's 225 members who range in age from 57 to 97, fulfilling 2,100 service requests in 2019, of which two-thirds were for transportation. ANV is supported by membership dues, grants and donations

Arlington Neighborhood Village is successful at helping hundreds of seniors realize their hope to age in place in their own homes. If you want to learn more, join, become a volunteer, or donate, please visit www.arlnvil.org or call 703-509-8057.

GLUP, from page 9

Another area to build that garnered some support would be over the existing Shell station with an additional eight to ten stories, allowing for more of a barrier from I-395 and the traffic circle. There was broad consensus that the tiered parking garages could use a facelift by placing screening over open spaces to create a more unified look.



This graphic shows the proposed height increases of the buildings along Campbell Ave. Image courtesy Arlington county.

Should the GLUP study be approved by the Planning Commission and ultimately the county board, the next phase of the development would be the formation of the Site Plan Review Committee to work with FRIT on specific plans.

—Jennifer Davies

Virginia Tech to be a part of North Potomac Yard

The Virginia Tech Foundation and JBG Smith recently held a community meeting to update residents on the redevelopment of Potomac Yard. This will be part of a first phase of a multi-step development project, with the vision of a mixed-use, urban community around the new Potomac Yard Metro Station.

The Virginia Tech campus will offer masters and doctoral level programs that will dovetail with future job opportunities and demands in the region. These programs will include such areas as computer sciences and software engineering.

The Virginia Tech Innovation campus came about as part of an agree-



This map shows the location of the new Virginia Tech Innovation campus. Image courtesy Virginia Tech's website, www.vt.edu.

ment between the state and Amazon, as the retail and entertainment company was finalizing its plans to locate its east coast headquarters in Crystal City. The Alexandria campus promised to support high-level workforce development for the technology industry.

The campus will begin accepting students for the Fall of 2020 and use space Virginia Tech already has in Falls Church. The campus building in Potomac Yard is scheduled for completion in 2024. Dr. Lance Collins, currently the Dean of Engineering at Cornell University, has been chosen to lead this new campus.

—Andrew Raab

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Take that, Coronavirus!

A warm and sunny mid-March day provided a welcome respite from the newly imposed COVID-19 disruptions of canceled classes, work-from-home, and prohibited group meetings. Fairlington teemed with kids, dogs, bikes, scooters, and joggers—all honoring social distancing and elbow bumps.

Violet Pratt took chalk to the Stafford St. sidewalk and asked people “What are you thankful for? Tell us.” In an uplifting set of answers, other people answered, “my parents, health, good kids.” But the best response said simply “Living in Fairlington.” Photos by Guy Land.



Super Tuesday draws crowds and interest in Fairlington

Tuesday, March 3, was presidential primary day in Virginia. The so-called “Super Tuesday” marks the day when a large number of states hold their primary or nominating contest, making it a decisive day on the primary season calendar. In 2020, 14 states held nominating contests on Super Tuesday.

This year marked the first time that Virginia held its primary on Super Tuesday. The earlier status meant increased time and attention from candidates, many of whom held rallies and events in Arlington in the days leading up to March 3.

Overall in Arlington county, voters favored former Vice-President Joe Biden by a wide margin. Nearly half of all Democratic primary voters, 48.2%, cast their votes for Biden. In second place was Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA) with 20% followed by Senator Bernie Sanders (VT) with 18.8%. This was in contrast to the statewide results, in which Bernie Sanders finished in second place, followed by Elizabeth Warren.

The results in the two Fairlington precincts in Arlington were similar to those in the rest of the county. In Fairlington precinct, which votes at the Fairlington Community Center, a majority of voters cast their ballot for Biden who garnered 55% of the votes in the precinct. Warren came in second place, with 21.1% while Sanders came in a distant third with 12.8%.

In the Abingdon precinct, which votes at Abingdon Elementary, the results were very similar: 54.9% for Biden, followed by 21.3% for Warren and 15.7% for Sanders.

In both precincts, and the county at large, former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg placed fourth, drawing single digit percentages.

—Susan Renehan

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Erin Sonn gives Mindfulness for Educators workshop at Abingdon

Erin Sonn, who previously taught at Abingdon for 20 years, now offers a series of “Mindfulness for Educators” workshops for Arlington Public Schools employees, the most recent of which was hosted at Abingdon. Mrs. Sonn has been teaching the series for three years and co-developed it with fellow APS employee Alexandra Midland.

Ms. Sonn shared the following about the workshops:

“The workshops are 100% wellness sessions for APS staff/administrators to build compassionate, present-moment awareness, which helps quiet emotional reactivity, reduce stress, and create more opportunities for gratitude and joy. Ultimately, we want to reconnect educators with their intention and whatever energy inspired them to become teachers in the first place. Their intention often gets lost in the demand of the profession,

which causes high rates of burnout and turnover. Mindfulness is an effective, accessible set of life skills to help people build resilience in the face of challenges.”

The most recent workshop at Abingdon was entitled, “Mindfulness for Educators: Embodying a Compassionate Presence,” which is a newly developed Level 3 training. Mrs. Sonn focused on teaching the educators how to release scripts or previous ideas that they might have of themselves in order to view each interaction with students or other staff members with a fresh start.

She added, “By being present with an aware mind and

an open heart, we see each interaction anew, filled with possibility and potential, rather than guided by biases.”

—Rachel Mallory



Erin Sonn presenting at Abingdon. Photo from Erin Sonn's twitter feed, @MindfulAPS.

Author Kate Messner visits Abingdon

Author Kate Messner visited Abingdon and spoke to 4th and 5th grade students about her book, *Chirp*, which is about a young girl spending time in Vermont with her beloved grandmother and her cricket farm.

Ms. Messner spoke to the students about how she does research for and writes her books. She even challenged Mr. Utley and Ms. Stukes to the “Chirp challenge”: eating a cricket! Both of them said that they taste surprisingly like potato chips.

Ms. Messner also shared with the students that a key to being an author is to “read a ton and carry a writer's notebook everywhere.”



Author Kate Messner speaking to Abingdon students. Photo from Naomi Holly's twitter feed @ms_hollys_class.

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Dear Fairlington Friends and Neighbors:

I am temporarily suspending campaigning for my re-election due to the rapidly changing situation with COVID-19. I've decided, in my role as a private citizen, to re-purpose my campaign and partner with a new national non-profit called Be A Neighbor and launch the Arlington Community Corps. The Corps will serve as a single grassroots clearinghouse for everyone who wants to help in some way. We will be using their platform to match people and organizations and match skills with needs. I think this can help leverage the many safety-net structures we already have. Within the Arlington Community Corps, we are suggesting several ways each of us can get involved:

- If you would like to volunteer to help your immediate neighbors in this time of need, go to the Arlington Community Corps and click "Join".
<https://beaneighbor.vomo.org/org/arlington-community-corps>
- If you know of a non-profit in Arlington that needs volunteers to provide essential support to the community, please email info@libbygarvey.com so we can get them included within the Arlington Community Corps.
- If you would be willing to serve as a neighborhood captain to coordinate volunteers for neighbor-to-neighbor support, please email info@libbygarvey.com so we can get you included within the Arlington Community Corps.

All best, Libby

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Wakefield happenings

Sports

Wakefield athletes continued to excel. Wakefield had individual 6A State Champions this past season: Steven Rochard in wrestling; and Isaiah Mefford in indoor track—the long jump with a leap of 23' 3.25".



Wakefield track team member Isaiah Mefford is a State Champion. Photo courtesy Marti Mefford.

Swimmer and Fairlington resident, Emily Andrews also had a successful senior year. On top of these achievements, the Wakefield Special Olympics basketball team placed 3rd in the state.

Spring is a good time to see some outdoor sports at Wakefield: baseball, softball, track, tennis, lacrosse, and soccer. Our winning crew team with several Fairlington residents is also very active in the spring.

Plant sale

It's time for our annual plant sale! Purchase flowers and plants for your home or garden today! Pre-Order your plants between now and April 3. Pick them up on April 25 at Wakefield High School from 9:30 – 2:00. Most plants cost around \$5 a pot. Proceeds help the PTSA provide grants to Wakefield's wonderful teachers. Order now for pre-orders or stop by the day of the sale. <https://wakefield.apsva.us/ptsa/>

Save the date for May performing arts

Get ready for the Wakefield Performing Arts department to shine in May. The Spring musical is *9 to 5* and will be performed the first two weekends in May. The band, orchestra, and choir will perform in the middle of May.

—Donna Felipe

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 8 to 24, 2020, 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 tread-



ing 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 5 to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2020 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

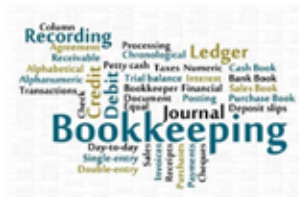
Registration for returning participants and age-related siblings will be May 1 to 15. Registration for new participants will be May 16 to 30. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery in June.

—Lorin Venable, FINS Coordinator



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neighborhood news

Fairlington 5K postponed

The Fairlington 5K race and auction, originally scheduled for later this month, has been postponed due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Organizers hope to reschedule both the silent auction and the 5K road race to a date in September, 2020. More details will be published in the Bulletin as they become available.

Northern Alexandria Plant Sale postponed

The Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale will be canceled for this spring. Please plan to come to the sale this fall on 9/26/20!

Farmers Market update

The Fairlington Farmers Market's planned opening day of May 3 may change due to the COVID-19 situation.

For updates, please visit fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org or follow Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook.

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.

Although we have canceled the events that were scheduled for this month, we hope that the diners will be able to recommence meeting later in April. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list and receive notices, send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in April to discuss *My Antonia*, a novel first published in 1918, by Willa Cather.

"No romantic novel ever written in America, by man or woman, is one half so beautiful as *My Antonia*. It is the finest thing of its sort ever done in America."—H. L. Mencken

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, April 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to confirm that the meeting will take place as scheduled. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Knits

Following Arlington County Parks and Recreation directives, Fairlington Knits!, a knit/crochet meet-up, has canceled our Monday, April 13, meeting. We will await notice from the county to start up again. The Fairlington Appreciation Society's Facebook page will be updated with news of the April 27 meeting.

Fairlington Knits! and Crochets is a group of neighbors who meet to knit in community, to share knowledge, and exchange ideas. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome.

We normally meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of a month from 6:30-8:00 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center. Until further notice, use your craft to help reduce stress, and post photos of what you're working on! Direct questions to Turner: turnerwork@aol.com.

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' nights out. We have a great listserv 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®.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



April is prime time for planting

The gardening craze has arrived. March's frost warnings are history. April isn't a humid or high-temperature month but it is time to plant. Think there is traffic on the roads? Wait until you visit a local garden center.

You know your garden and what it lacks. Think about available space, which plants didn't perform, and what new specimens you want. And keep these thoughts in mind:

Soil Amendments: Plants don't need fertilizer. It can be beneficial but it also detrimental. Its basic make-up is N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). Using too much in the planting hole or applying such without the proper amount of water will harm plant roots. Excess fertilizer around root fibers dehydrate a plant, causing its leaves to turn brown. Referred to as "fertilizer burn," it actually is potassium's high salt content which absorbs vital ground water from the plant's roots.

It's safe to apply either soil conditioner (soft and dry) or topsoil (moist and clumpy) to a new planting hole. Both provide a malleable texture for new plant roots to extend and grow while liberally taking up ground water, oxygen and soil nutrients.

Annuals: Usually don't arrive until the third week of April. For sun, choose petunia, geranium, marigold or begonia. For shade, purchase impatiens and vinca. Annuals live for just over six months.

Perennials: These are found on the wooden tables. They are herbaceous (non-woody root systems), sometimes fragile, and will live from three to five years. Some need sun. Others, shade. Take a look at which flower colors you prefer.

Shade perennials I like are coral bells, mazus, helleborus, bleeding heart, fern and hosta. Sun perennials I enjoy are sedum, columbine, yarrow, balloon flower, red hot poker, catmint, dianthus, and salvia.

Trees: For the Fairlington patio, there aren't many that fit. Think about a dogwood or dwarf crape myrtle, since each is relatively small. Another is the dwarf southern magnolia such as "little gem."

Ground Cover: These plants have a horizontal habit with little height. Sun types are ajuga, caryx, ophiopogon, mondo grass, winter creeper, euonymus, and ivy. Shade types are lamium, periwinkle, sweet box, and pachysandra. Ground cover is sold in either flats (12-inch by 20-inch crates) or small, plastic pots. Ground covers are perennials.

Shrubs: This will be the largest section at the garden center. Some grow just 12 inches tall with a similar spread (liriope, skimmia, heather, and bearberry), or a bit larger (boxwood, barberry, falsecypress, and winter daphne). Others reach five- to six-feet tall (nandina, pieris, azalea, hydrangea, rhododendron, spirea, cherry laurel, euonymus, and scotch broom).

Vines: Selection is minimal but I like star jasmine (white, fragrant flower), clematis (white, lavender, or purple flower), carolina jessamine (yellow, bugle-shaped flower), trumpet vine (orange flower) and wisteria (lavender flower). Vines run so they will need pruning. They are ideal for a trellis.



Petunias are one of the many annuals that do well in a sunny spot. Photo courtesy Pixabay.

Mulch: Virginia pine fines is my favorite. My second choice is either rappahannock or shredded hardwood. Take a look and see what textures you prefer.

Happy shopping. As I inform students in my landscape design class (Arlington County Community Learning), email me if ever you have a plant question: billsullivan41@gmail.com.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscape.net

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renovated and expanded only three years ago, it is already the most overcrowded elementary school in Arlington County. According to the letter, the addition of density in Shirlington, along with the proposed increase in units at Park Shirlington, may exacerbate this problem, since both areas are currently zoned for Abingdon.

FCA also calls for a hard look at traffic impacts, both in Shirlington and in the surrounding neighborhoods such as Fairlington. "As Shirlington becomes a more popular destination," FCA President Guy Land wrote in the letter, "the streets of the surrounding neighborhoods will likely become more congested."

At the same time, FCA acknowledges that preserving and enhancing the small-town character of Campbell Ave. will require both additional private investment and a robust customer base for the stores along the avenue.

FCA also outlines the need to improve accessibility to Shirlington by residents living in South Fairlington by focusing on bicycle and pedestrian options, including improving the pedestrian bridge connecting Shirlington with Parkfairfax.

The Long Range Planning Committee, a component of

the Arlington Planning Commission, is considering a request by Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT), the primary landowner in Shirlington, for additional density that would accommodate a new apartment building on the site of the current surface parking lot along Arlington Mill Drive and additional floors at the Hilton Garden Inn.

FRIT argues that the additional density is necessary to yield the customer base that the commercial businesses in Shirlington need to thrive and to finance the necessary investment to update the commercial strip along Campbell Ave.

The FRIT request is being considered as part of a special study of the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) for Shirlington. The Long Range Planning Committee is scheduled to consider final staff recommendations on April 22. The meeting will be held at 7 pm in the Trades Center, 2700 S. Taylor St., Second Floor. Check the county's website for any changes caused by COVID-19.

Earlier this year FCA supported the request of WETA for bonus density to allow the relocation of the public television station's studios from Four Mile Run to its main office at Quincy and Campbell. The total number of WETA employees would remain the same.

—Guy Land



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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.
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Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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