

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

APRIL 2021

Volume 47, Number 4

Police captain to brief residents on crime in Fairlington

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Capt. Scott Linder, the community outreach commander for the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD), will give a presentation on community crime and safety to the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) monthly meeting on April 14.

Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about best practices for keeping Fairlington safe.

Community discussion of crime in Fairlington resurfaced this past month after a vehicle was spotted following women and children out on walks both on the north and south sides of the neighborhood. A man in a Jeep Cherokee with expired tags reportedly shouted at several women and tailed them closely in his car.

The incident was posted on the Fairlington neighborhood Facebook page and generated 98 comments from residents sharing concern, offering help, and reporting similar experiences with the same man and car. Several of the women filed police reports and the suspect was found and arrested. Charges were not filed, as no criminal behavior occurred.

According to Linder, residents can avoid becoming victims of crime by staying aware of their surroundings and being vigilant in locking their doors, removing valuables from vehicles, and not leaving cars empty and running or with keys in them.

"The most recent crimes of concern in the county are a rise in carjackings in the Crystal City area and overall larcenies from autos and stolen cars in Arlington," said Linder.

Linder also suggests following the "9 P.M. Routine" promoted by the ACPD. The routine advises making a daily habit of securing valuables, locking vehicles and doors, and enabling alarm systems.

Residents interested in learning more about crime prevention in Fairlington should join the live monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14 on the FCA Facebook page.

—Regina Bethencourt



Capt. Scott Linder has served with the ACPD for more than 25 years. Photo courtesy <http://police.arlingtonva.us>.

Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that 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 have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

FCA monthly meeting April 14

Special presentation: Capt. Scott Linder, of the Arlington County Police Department, will discuss crime and safety in Fairlington.


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 Citizens Association.

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

Web design by Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, www.avatartech-llc.com.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: afbeditors@yahoo.com.

Ad payment can be sent to: FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182, locally dropped-off at the drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington VA 22206 or pay via PayPal to fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com. Ad file(s) should be included with payment and emailed to the Ad Manager at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Calendar

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, April 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
See page 25 for details

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m.
Virtually on the FCA Facebook page

Fairlington diners

Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m.
See page 25 for details

Book group

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
See page 25 for details

World cup trainees enjoy spring weather



Kids and parents kick soccer balls on the Fairlington Community Center field during a few days of record-breaking warm weather in early March. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Tina Byrd, Leslie Cameron, Jennifer Davies, Michelle Diller, Guy Land, Violet Pratt, Bill Sullivan

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you know that Fairlington Citizens Association's (FCA) monthly meetings are livestreamed over Facebook? When the county closed the

Fairlington Community Center in response to COVID-19, we moved our meetings online, but to make them transparent and accessible we started streaming them over our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FCAcivic.

Because this is a public page, you do not have to have to login to a Facebook account to watch. During the meeting we encourage residents to type their comments or questions in the chat box, and we try to work through them as they come in. We also plan to start posting the recordings of the meetings on our YouTube channel in addition to Facebook.

Several of you have told me that you've watched some of our meetings. I encourage more of you to do so. That will help us better engage with you.

April's meeting, which will feature the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD), would be a good time to give this a try.

Fairlington has always enjoyed a good relationship with the ACPD. Even though our neighborhood has been a low-crime area compared to some other parts of Arlington, the police have always been very responsive to us. In addition, several ACPD officers live in Fairlington and generously offer us informal suggestions on how to handle neighborhood issues.

Whether it be an occasional string of car break-ins (or, more accurately, things stolen from cars whose owners left them unlocked) or, as was the case last summer, incidents of white nationalist stickers being placed on county stop signs in Fairlington, ACPD has been quick to address concerns of our residents.

Part of FCA's responsibility is to facilitate the community's relationship with the ACPD. We have historically invited police representatives to visit with us, though COVID-19 disrupted that last year. I was pleased when Capt. Scott Linder, head of the ACPD's Community Resources Section, offered to visit our civic association.

We expect to discuss both general county crime issues and trends and more Fairlington-specific things, such as the reported incident a few weeks ago of a vehicle with expired tags allegedly following residents. Capt. Linder's group also includes school resource officers with Arlington Public Schools.

You can help determine the topics that the police will discuss through your online Facebook questions at the meeting. So join us on April 14 for a conversation with the Arlington Police.

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



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– Janene, Arlington, VA



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– Patty, Fairfax, VA



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Spring vaccine brings signs of return to pre-pandemic normal

This past month brought a new wave of normal activity throughout the neighborhood—a marked contrast from the social panic and abrupt cancellations of March 2020.

Many Arlington Public School (APS) students returned to a hybrid-model of in-person and virtual learning, Arlington Little League welcomed young players back to the fields, and sidewalk cafes and parks were bustling.

Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and antibacterial wipes can now easily be purchased. And by the end of April, it may be possible to see small groups of people gathering safely without masks if everyone in the group is fully vaccinated.

While full normalcy is likely several months away, residents are optimistic that warmer months may bring social events and the regular opening of swimming pools.



People wait in line outside the Walter Reed Community Center for their vaccinations. Photo by Jenn Davies.

Karantonis stressed that every Arlington resident, regardless of age or employment, should now pre-register for the vaccine, including the general public.

Those pre-registered will receive an email and/or text to sign up for a vaccine slot based on prioritized populations. Karantonis stressed that the more residents register for the vaccine, the better the ACPHD can prepare and respond to demand.

Registration does not require any documentation regarding legal status, but proof of Arlington residency will be asked prior to receiving the shot. Karantonis also spoke about ramping up county efforts to engage hard-to-reach communities, including setting aside 10 percent of

the vaccine supply to Arlington Free Clinic.

Responding to Fairlington resident questions on establishing mass vaccination sites, Karantonis said the current sites can administer up to 14,000 vaccines per week, so there is ample capacity.



Fairlington resident Stacey McGinnis takes a selfie after her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Photo by Stacey McGinnis.

For Fairlington residents, the Walter Reed Community Center is the closest county vaccination site and several in the neighborhood have recently gone there to get their shot. Shots may also be obtained at several CVS locations in the area. Fairlington resident Stacey McGinnis received her first dose of the Moderna vaccine in March.

“Getting the vaccine just filled me with so much hope; hope that our children will soon be back to their school and activities

full-time and that we will be with out-of-town families again,” she said. “Hope that we can travel, eat out in restaurants, get back to church and do all the little things we have lost out on over the last year. It’s a good feeling to be hopeful again.”

While many Fairlingtonians are looking forward to expanded opportunities to travel, work, and dine, there are still many communities in Arlington that have been more adversely impacted by the pandemic, particularly those in the service sector working in small businesses such as salons and cafes, as well as those in the hospitality industry.

The Abingdon parent-teacher association (PTA) has partnered once again with the local non-profit Real Food for Kids to provide weekly meals to several families in the area, including Park Shirlington.

“They are able to provide around 100 fresh healthy meals to families in the community that continue to struggle during the ongoing pandemic,” commented Abingdon PTA President Jackie Winklevoss.

—Jenn Davies

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Board member discusses county revenue shortfall from pandemic restrictions



County member Takis Karantonis, third from left, joined FCA Board members Bobby Calise, Julie Butler, and Lydia Redway at the virtual March FCA meeting. Photos by Guy Land.

County Board member Takis Karantonis joined Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Board members on Zoom during the monthly meeting on March 10. Well into his first year on the county board, Karantonis spoke candidly about issues impacting Arlington and Fairlington. Referring to Arlington civic associations as one of his natural environments, he expressed admiration for FCA's work in the community and spoke fondly of pedaling through Fairlington.

With the budget season underway, Karantonis acknowledged that it was a "tough and restricted year." Arlington, however, has not suffered as much as other communities. Even with a significant decline in commercial tax revenue, a robust housing market has helped offset the losses.

"We are resilient," Karantonis stated.

Current difficulties include the shrinking of the county government employee base, as retiring officials are not being replaced. Unfilled positions can result in poor service efficiency. Karantonis used the lack of movement on Fairlington's Fire Station 7 as an example.

Karantonis observed that several sectors of the economy have been particularly hard hit as a result of pandemic restrictions, especially transportation, hospitality, and small businesses.

"Seventy to eighty percent of the population will be well, but for those people who lost jobs, it will be a longer time to recover," he said.

As a result, Arlington's Department of Human Services (DHS) will receive strong budget funding to help support impacted residents.

Looking ahead, Karantonis recognized that Fairlington was located adjacent to "the most economically vigorous corridor" in the region because of the arrival of

Amazon. He acknowledged that with all the opportunities that lie ahead, there will also be challenges, particularly with respect to transportation and school capacity. He remarked that the county will need to address these challenges thoughtfully.

Karantonis spent significant time discussing the status of Park Shirlington and plans for redevelopment. He confirmed that the previous proposal presented in 2019 was no longer being considered and that the county exercised the option to buy the southern parcel (the side closest to I-395). He stressed that the county has not bought it outright, but has reserved the option to do so in the future as a back-up.

"Government is not meant to be a landlord. We need to find the right developer." Currently, there are no immediate plans for any changes to the north parcel (closest to Abingdon Elementary School).

Karantonis did re-emphasize the county board's priority of maintaining or increasing affordable housing as well as avoiding any displacement.

FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz asked Karantonis how the county was assessing the impact of increased density on traffic in the area, particularly down 31st St. S towards Shirlington. Karantonis recognized that the county needed to do more.

"Park Shirlington and Fairlington need to revisit transportation plans," he said.

FCA President Guy Land followed up by asking if Karantonis could offer any relevant lessons regarding public transportation based on Karantonis' experience with Columbia Pike redevelopment. Karantonis proposed a shifting of priorities, from providing options to every-

Continued on page 9

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Until this crisis is over, we will continue to monitor the developments set by the CDC and our local governments and will make any necessary adjustments to our practices to keep you safe.

We support our community and feel that it is everybody's job to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and in that light, we encourage you to take advantage of telephone, Facetime, and video consultations for all your home improvement needs.

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Activities resume at Wakefield High School

In-person learning (two days per week) resumed at Wakefield High School mid-March. School administration and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) have been working hard to keep students and parents connected to the school and to welcome incoming freshmen.

Many of these freshmen are Fairlingtonians and several have been attending Arlington Public Schools (APS) together since kindergarten at Abingdon Elementary School.

Athletes completed a successful winter sports season—'fall' season runs through mid-April, followed immediately by spring sports. Principal Dr. Chris Willmore provides monthly updates during

Saturday morning PTSA Zoom meetings. The PTSA has sponsored two 'Cozy Up for Winter' library events, enabling students and neighborhood families to pick up free books and treats. Wakefield continues to serve as a meal distribution point.

The PTSA is also currently running the annual Wakefield Plant Sale, with proceeds funding teacher grants to enrich students' learning experiences. These important grants cover supplies, theater tickets, metro fares, professional development, admission fees for conferences, and more.

Previous grants awarded include:

Public Service Support: supplies for students to make sandwiches for A-SPAN, a homeless services center.

Cultural Enrichment: an on-site workshop by a professional ceramist, Metro fare for High Intensity Language Training students to attend National Mall activities, and field trip theater tickets ('Harriet,' 'Ay Mariposa').

Enriched Learning: a field trip to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, support for students attending the Model General Assembly, t-shirts for 'Latinas Leading Tomorrow' conference.

Professional Development: 'Sources of Strength' peer



In-person learning has returned to Wakefield High School, as well as annual events, like the plant sale to benefit teachers. Photo courtesy <http://wakefieldptsa.org>.

leader training, 'Assembly of Literature' conference for the Wakefield librarian.

The sale has historically grossed \$7,000–\$9,500 each year. In 2020, \$7,500 was raised even with the pandemic eliminating on-site sales. Roughly \$4,000 in grants was distributed prior to school transitioning to a remote-only model. On-site sales are currently planned for this year, including the 'famous Warrior tomato' seedlings raised by Wakefield parents for the event.

Online pre-ordering is still open through April 4 (www.wakefieldptsa.org/plantsale), with all orders to be picked up at Wakefield on the day of the

sale, Saturday, April 24.

—Michelle Diller

Board member, continued from page 7

one everywhere, to a more strategic master transportation approach focused on increased ridership. He referenced the City of Alexandria's approach—they are making a new transportation plan that is based primarily on the criteria of frequency, speed, and availability.

Karantonis concluded his discussion by listing his top priorities: housing, economic development, and the climate crisis.

FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies asked him to elaborate on the county's commitment to residents facing housing and food insecurity, including pending evictions. Karantonis said that "every penny we invested in eviction protection will remain," noting that federal government initiatives have helped.

Currently Arlington's eviction protection program has a budget of \$8.3 million. While robust, Karantonis noted that it was "sobering to be aware of how insecure many residents are."

—Jenn Davies

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Unlike plants that humans have brought to North America from elsewhere, native plants also provide host-ing services for butterflies and other insects that lay eggs only on native plants, sometimes on just one species. The more native plants, the more adult butterflies we see and the more future generations will increase.

The caterpillars and other insects that develop from these eggs also feed birds; in fact, most young birds can only eat caterpillars and insects.

Our native plants are also some of the most beautiful. For those interested in cultivating more native plants at home, the most important thing to consider is the amount of sun available.

Some of our Fairlington patios have more sun, some have less. Gardeners who have paved patios can grow in containers, while others can grow in the soil.

Here are five great perennial native plants for shady patios and five great perennial native plants for patios with sun or partial sun. All of these plants tolerate clay soil and dry soil. As always, the “right plant, right place” mantra means that gardeners will have more success if they make sure the plants they choose are right for the conditions they have. Remember perennials will come back yearly, and many self-seed. Native plants need a little time to establish – they “sleep” the first year, “creep” the second, and “leap” the third.

Five native plants for shade (less than 4 hours of direct sun) or part shade (4 to 6 hours of sun, mostly before midday)

- American Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)
- Red Eastern Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- Marginal Shield Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)
- Moss Phlox (*Phlox subulata*)
- Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)



The sun garden in Fairlington Arbor with Black-eyed Susan and Blazing Star. Photo by Tina Byrd.

Five native plants for full sun (6+ hours direct sun) or partial sun (4 to 6 hours of sun, including some afternoon sun):

- Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
- Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Eastern or Orange Coneflower—looks like Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
- Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Threadleaf Coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)

For more information and images of these plants, see the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia Tried and True Native Plant Selections at <https://mgnv.org/plants/> and Plant NOVA Natives at <https://www.plantnovanatives.org>.

—Tina Byrd & Leslie Cameron

Feel free to send comments or questions to fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.



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FAIRLINGTON

pet profiles

Fairlington cat is lost and found

On January 30, Figaro, a Norwegian Forest Cat who lives with Carol Bazan-Spencer in the Mews in South Fairlington, was reported missing on Facebook. Figaro, who likes to walk around in especially cold weather, experienced snow confusion once the flakes started to fall. He was gone for two troubling nights.

More than 400 comments on Facebook were logged before the good news that he had been found was shared to anxious and concerned residents. Fairlington Pet Profiles is thrilled to have an exclusive interview with this extraordinary feline whose outdoor adventure captured the hearts of the community.

Why did you want to go out in the snow on January 30? Where did you go?

I actually went out before the snow started. Once the ground was covered, I couldn't find my way home. I was a bad boy and crossed Stafford St. to go play by the pool area.

How did you end up at the pool? And how did you get in without a pool pass?

I like it over there as no one is around this time of year and especially not so early in the morning. I do not believe in a pool pass since I can easily squeeze through the fence.

Did you get anything to eat while you were there? Did you see any other cats or dogs? Were you ever scared?

I caught a bird one day. I love other cats and dogs.



A cozy Figaro studies the camera intently as he is unsure what to think of his photo shoot. Photo by Carol Bazan-Spencer.

I cross over to the pool area because on my side of the street there is a mean cat that likes to scratch my nose. My human mom gets worried when I come home with scratches.

How were you found? And what was the first thing you did when you got back to your warm home?

A nice lady named Becky was walking her dog and saw me. She sent a message to my human mom who came running to get me. It was 10:30 at night. I am so happy that mom came to get me from the pool. I cuddled with her all the way home.

What advice do you have for lost cats or dogs looking for their pet owners?

Just keep meowing or barking! Someone will notice you and get

the message to your human.

Next time you go out in winter weather, would you wear a jacket like dogs wear these days?

Oh no, I am a Norwegian Forest Cat and have a lot of fire in me. I am made for the cold weather.

What do dogs need to know about cats?

Cats rule, dogs drool. (Hah!) Actually, I love most dogs. Especially the big ones. I have a doggie friend that lives in my court that I like to play with. We can all get along. Humans can too.

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Fairlington pools strategize 2021 opening

The status of the 2021 summer pool season is a looming question for Fairlington residents as the weather warms and the number of COVID-19 cases dwindles across the state.



Residents cool off in the socially distanced Fairlington Glen pool during summer 2020. Photo by Guy Land.

Last season, some neighborhood pools opened late and with restrictions and some declined to open at all. The primary pool challenges cited by the various condo associations were the lack of availability of lifeguards (most Fairlington pools use international students as lifeguards) and the legal ramifications if a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur due to a pool-related exposure.

After diligent research and planning, most Fairlington condo associations managed to open pools after mid-June last year when Virginia entered phase two of Governor Ralph Northam's "Forward Virginia" plan for the safe removal of public health restrictions.

"We initially consulted with our attorney and insurance company and then had our attorney revise our pool contract," said Renee Powlette, the board president of Fairlington Mews. "We then opened a few weeks late, recruited lifeguards from in the neighborhood and on Facebook, and hired a cleaning company to clean the bathrooms and surfaces every day."

Most pools restricted guest passes to residents-only, cancelled all social events, and required a sign-up system to reduce the number of people at the pool at one time.

Given the success of the 2020 season (zero known COVID-19 exposures attributed to Fairlington pools), pool lovers can keep their hopes high for a fun summer.

We caught up with Fairlington condo association pool committees to ask them a few questions about their

plans for the 2021 season. The following chart shows plans by neighborhood:

Did you open in 2020?

Fairlington Arbor: Yes

Fairlington Mews: Yes

Fairlington Meadows: Yes

Fairlington Green: Yes

Fairlington Commons: Yes

Fairlington Glen: Yes

Fairlington Villages: No

What were your biggest challenges?

Fairlington Arbor: The toughest part was trying to abide by all of the county and state health regulations and the shortage of lifeguards. We thought it could be done if we could bring the community together and be part of the solution. We put together a volunteer task force of 34 residents willing to help us with the process of opening the pool. That's what made it possible. We had to follow the six-feet rule, we removed furniture to minimize the transmission risk, and only allowed one person at a time in bathrooms.

Fairlington Mews: After we got organized, we had no issues. We even got lots of compliments for the lifeguards we recruited locally.

Fairlington Green: Maintaining the COVID protocols of masking when on the pool deck.

Fairlington Commons: It was a lot of work to put procedures in place to comply with Virginia guidelines and the CDC. We had to achieve that balance of wanting to open the pool with making sure that we're complying with all of the guidelines.

Fairlington Glen: The biggest challenge was attracting enough local lifeguards.

The other challenge was around monitoring the number of residents who signed up each week. With limitations on attendance, the committee wanted to ensure fairness without having to be "the pool police."

Fairlington Villages: N/A

Continued on page 16

What are your hopes for the 2021 pool season?

Fairlington Arbor: We are hoping that with the increased vaccination process, the government and involved agencies relax the guidelines for aquatic facilities so that we can get closer to a normal summer.

Fairlington Mews: More flexibility. We may allow visitors and may host FINS.

Fairlington Meadows: The Meadows pool opened successfully last July, following the Virginia Department of Health guidelines and limitations. The pool will be opened again this summer, in accordance with the requirements that the Virginia Department of Health issues for swimming pools and outdoor gatherings. We are unable to speculate what those will be at this time.

Fairlington Green: We hope to open on time.

Fairlington Commons: We intend to open on Memorial Day weekend as normal.

Fairlington Glen: We hope to be able to increase capacity. We will continue to work closely with our pool contractor and follow the guidelines of the CDC and the State of Virginia.

Fairlington Villages: Fairlington Villages fully intends to open our pools this year and have an enjoyable and safe 2021 pool season.

Any big changes at the pool this year?

Fairlington Arbor: We will be implementing the same restrictions but we hope we won't have to use volun-



A pre-pandemic party at the Glen pool shows a typical Fairlington summer. Photo by Guy Land.



Fairlington Meadows starts pool preparations in late March; getting ready for a 2021 opening. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.

teers this year. Hopefully we can increase capacity, but it depends on the guidelines of the government. Things are looking positive.

Fairlington Mews: No, we will be implementing the same policies as last year.

Fairlington Green: No big changes. The Board is still discussing what COVID protocols will be required.

Fairlington Commons: We have been working with the pool committee and pool contractor to put in the same procedures as last year: waivers, screening, etc.

Fairlington Glen: We want to accommodate more residents for longer periods of time. We plan to continue to use Signup.com to manage online reservations. We are working to determine the appropriate number of people. Currently, the guidelines are 75 percent capacity while still maintaining social distancing. Our best guess is 30-45 per 2-hour time slot (less 15 minutes for sanitizing). We plan to enable residents to reserve one slot seven days a week. Also, we are working on plans to open the baby pool for one family at a time.

Fairlington Villages: The Board of Directors and Management began planning for the pool season right after the holidays. In late January a working group of community volunteers was formed to assist in the development of recommendations for the upcoming season. This year we will be implementing a pool reservation system, social distancing and capacity requirements, disinfecting protocols and Assumption of Risk Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 forms.

Did you/will you plan to have a mask policy in place at the pool?

Fairlington Arbor: We require masks while walking in the pool facilities, but once in the pool we didn't require masks. We focus more on social distancing.

Fairlington Mews: Last year no masks were required and that will be the same this year.

Fairlington Green: We have not yet finalized what COVID related rules might be in place and will seek input from the County.

Fairlington Commons: We required masks when entering the pool enclosure and while checking in, but no masks as long as people were social distancing on the pool deck and no masks in the pool.

Fairlington Glen: Yes, based on current CDC guidelines, people entering the pool complex will be required to wear a mask. There is no mask requirement while in the pool or when sitting on the pool deck socially distanced. This is the same policy that was in effect for the 2020 pool season.

Fairlington Villages: Yes, masks will be required.

Do you plan to have pool furniture available for use?

Fairlington Arbor: We provided umbrellas but no pool furniture. Residents brought their own. We will be implementing the same restrictions.

Fairlington Mews: We used our pool furniture once the evidence came out that surface spread was not an issue. The policy will be the same this year.

Fairlington Green: We have not yet finalized what COVID related rules might be in place and will seek input from the County.

Fairlington Commons: Pool furniture was not allowed last year, but we are thinking of allowing pool chairs in marked-off, socially distanced groups. We would have Clorox wipes available for guests to wipe down the chairs if they want to.

Fairlington Glen: We are still finalizing these plans. The initial thought is to use some existing pool lounges and chairs. It will be the responsibility of residents to sanitize the furniture between uses.

Fairlington Villages: Right now no pool furniture. Folks can bring their own. As local, state, and federal guidance change so will ours.



A sidewalk artist lifts spirits with a drawing outside the Fairlington Mews pool during summer 2020. Photo by Guy Land.

Anything you want to add for residents eager to hear news about their upcoming pool season?

Fairlington Arbor: If you are looking for a summer job and a way to help the community, High Sierra Pools is hiring lifeguards.

Fairlington Mews: We're hoping for another great year.

Fairlington Green: We hope for the residents to have an enjoyable summer.

Fairlington Commons: We are working hard to ensure a successful 2021 season at Commons pool.

Fairlington Glen: Recreation passes for 2021 will be distributed to each household by mid-May in advance of the Glen pool opening on Saturday, May 29.

If you know anyone interested in working as a lifeguard, please contact Atlantic Pools, Inc. at 703.941.1000 or atlanticpoolinc@aol.com.

Fairlington Villages: Fairlington Villages uses its newsletter and social media to keep our residents updated on pool season plans. We recently conducted a survey to get community input and its results will be summarized in our April newsletter and will be considered as we complete our pool season plans.

We reached out to all the condos with general questions and we constructed this Q&A out of their responses. Not all associations provided specific info on each item and we have made a good faith effort to preserve the meaning and intention in each answer.

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County plans Shirlington Rd. bridge improvements

In late January Arlington County unveiled an advanced concept design for maintenance and improvements to the Shirlington Rd. bridge between Arlington Mill Dr. and Four Mile Run Dr. The project will add a parallel pedestrian and bicycle crossing to the west of the existing bridge structure.

Plans envision a 15-foot multi-use trail with enhanced pedestrian treatments at the intersection of Shirlington Rd. and Arlington Mill Dr. and at Shirlington Rd. and S. 27th St.

Currently pedestrians and bicyclists using Four Mile Run Trail in either direction must compete with traffic and use narrow sidewalks in navigating the bridge to continue on their way or to access the W&OD Trail.

The addition of the new pedestrian/bike crossing will eliminate the need for Four Mile Run Trail users to cross the Shirlington Rd. bridge itself. The crossing will also be aesthetically coordinated with Jennie Dean Park.

In addition to creating the new bicycle and pedestrian facility, the project will conduct routine bridge maintenance, including deck surface repairs; upgrade existing

guardrails; and widen the sidewalk on the bridge from five feet to roughly seven feet.

There will also be improvements at the Arlington Mill Dr. and Shirlington Rd. crosswalk, widening the trail width to Four Mile Run Trail as it connects to the new bike/pedestrian bridge to facilitate merging. Other work will include: a redesigned curb and crossing to allow drivers,

pedestrians, and cyclists to see each other better and support slower, more controlled vehicular turns.

To facilitate pedestrian safety, the project will install an additional Rapid Flash Beacon in the median to improve visibility of the pedestrian crossing, widen the pedestrian ramps, and install a wider refuge median to provide more space for people waiting to cross.

—Guy Land



A biker uses the crosswalk on the Shirlington Rd. bridge. The project will bring safety improvements to the crosswalk. Photo by Guy Land.

What I love about living in Fairlington

When I first moved to Fairlington in 2019, I was eight years old. It was my 5th time moving into a new house. My dad is in the Air Force so we move a lot. After living in a big house with a big backyard in the country, living here in the city felt very busy, crowded and claustrophobic. But mostly, I missed my best friend Lily.



Violet Pratt, a 4th grade homeschooled student, has lived in Fairlington Meadows since 2018. Photo by Andrea Pratt.

Then I found places like the patch of woods by the freeway, the magnolia tree next to the Fairlington Meadows basketball court and the new big park at the community center. The dog park, pool and the farmers market were all great places to make friends. But most times, I made friends by just taking a walk and saying "hello."

When we took our dog to the dog park, there were many dogs that we saw over and over again, and then saw them again walking past our home.

Some of our favorite dogs are Rocket, Rosie, Callie, Charlie, Bella and Luna.

Sunday is a special day for our family. We come home from church and go to the farmers market to pick out fresh local foods. I like to pick ripe peaches in the summer, and eat them on a blanket in the sun. Now that I am older, I can go across the street and get eggs from Sandy Bottoms farms by myself.

Taking a walk and reading are some of my family's favorite things to do, so of course, we love the lending libraries. Lending libraries are boxes on posts where you can exchange books. My favorite find so far is a field guide for North American birds. I have spotted many birds on feeders and fences, including: house sparrows, carolina wrens, northern cardinals, mourning doves, tufted titmice and cooper's hawks.

These are just some of the things that make Fairlington special. We just found out that we will be moving soon, and all of the things that first seemed so busy and strange now seem like home, and I do not want to leave them.

—Violet Pratt, 4th grade

Just Listed - Barcroft for Sale in the Arbor



Don't miss this nicely updated and well cared for Barcroft Model in Fairlington Arbor! Spacious and sun-filled unit with 1490 Sqft on 2 levels with 2 full baths. Freshly painted, pretty hardwoods, white kitchen, new energy-efficient HVAC, replacement windows, custom plantation shutters. Bright lower level! Enjoy entertaining in the huge landscaped bricked patio. Ideal location backing to green space. Assigned parking. Call for details.

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Save the date—Farmers Market opens May 2

After what seems like an exceptionally long winter, spring is here and that means the vibrant and beloved Fairlington Farmers Market will soon return for its 7th season. The market starts Sunday, May 2 and will run through November 21.

Join us each week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We are pleased to announce that the majority of our regular market vendors will be back, and we will have a few new product categories and vendors as well—more details will be announced soon.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and vaccinating local communities will take a few months, we will start the season by following the same protocols estab-



Patrons purchase products from Farmers Market vendors while maintaining COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Photo by Guy Land.

lished last year to ensure the health and safety of Fairlington residents, market vendors, and staff and volunteers.

Face masks must be worn in the market and physical distancing of six feet from others must be observed. We will provide more information in the next issue about pre-ordering options from vendors, along with grab-and-go options at the market so that you can plan your visit ahead of time.

To find out what our vendors will be bringing each week, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org. Stay connected by following Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter.

—Lynne Blasi

County implements changes to residential permit parking program

Following a three-year review and extensive public engagement, the Arlington County Board has adopted major revisions to the county's residential permit parking (RPP) program. The program imposes parking restrictions on public streets in certain residential areas.



Neighborhood sign restricts parking to permit-holding residents. Photo by Guy Land

Under the RPP program, on-street parking demand in residential neighborhoods is managed by allowing people with a permit to park on the street, while those without permits are prevented from parking on the restricted streets during specified hours.

The primary parking restrictions in Fairlington are currently along S. 28th St. and S. Stafford St. Existing restriction locations and hours would be grandfathered into the revised program.

Three key changes would

affect petitions to have areas in Fairlington designated for residential permit parking. One would eliminate the requirement to demonstrate that at least 25 percent of the parking on the street is used by vehicles not belonging to someone living in or visiting a home nearby.

Another change would increase the parking congestion threshold for determining that the block is eligible for RPP. To be eligible for the restrictions, at least 85 percent of the parking spaces must be occupied. That is up from 75 percent.

A third change increases the percent of residents in a block who must support RPP restrictions from 60 percent to 80 percent. Fairlington blocks have generally had trouble getting 60 percent of the residents to support a request.

Requests are made by interested residents living in a particular block or group of blocks. FCA does not request the RPP designation.

As part of the revisions the county board also approved a new fee structure for the permits, to cover more of the costs of administering the program.

—Guy Land



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Alexandria approves permit for Lindsay Automotive redevelopment

The Alexandria City Council has approved plans for new development on the property owned by Lindsay Automotive along Quaker Ln., Osage St., Fern St., and Kenwood Ave. The permit envisions expanded and updated automobile sales and service facilities, as well as streetscape improvements to enhance pedestrian safety and the general aesthetics of the area.



One of the buildings which will be demolished as a part of the Lindsay Automotive redevelopment plan. Photo by Guy Land.

Lindsay made a presentation to Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) on the proposal last fall, and FCA notified the city of its general support for the project.

The proposal includes the demolition of the existing office building on Osage St. and the development of a new Volvo sales and service building on that property, which runs along Quaker Ln.

Another major component would see the demolition of the existing Cadillac dealership and parking structure, and development of a new Lexus sales facility along Kenwood Ave., with a Lexus service building across the street along Fern St.

The Cadillac business will be relocated to the site of the existing Lexus dealership at King St. and Quaker Ln. That relocation was not part of the formal permit application, as it can be accomplished within existing zoning.

Lindsay will make several streetscape improvements, including new sidewalks, the planting of 54 new street trees, and the installation of pedestrian-scaled street lights along Quaker Ln., Osage St. and Kenwood Ave., as well as the private extension of Fern St.

Lindsay will also construct a new raised mid-block crosswalk across Kenwood Ave. to provide a safe pedestrian connection between the Volvo sales and service building and the Lexus service building, and prioritize multi-modal forms of transportation along Kenwood.

The perimeter to the east and south of the Lexus buildings will be improved with landscaping and a solid fence to screen the improvements from the adjacent residential neighborhood and Blessed Sacrament Church.

According to a memo from city staff, the automobile sales and service facilities are consistent with the existing development and zoning and are compatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

City staff note that the proposed development will improve the site through the incorporation of sustainable design elements, undergrounding of utilities, a new streetscape, and additional tax revenue. The proposed architecture will create a more aesthetically pleasing condition than exists today and will provide an opportunity for Lindsay to update its dealerships to address new technology in the automobile sales and service industry.



A new Volvo dealership would be located along Osage, Radford, and Quaker. Graphic courtesy Lindsay Automotive Group.

According to Lindsay, the redevelopment will be a phased project to be carried out over three years.

The current Cadillac facility was built in 1949 and was purchased in the 1960s by the grandfather of the current company president, Michael Lindsay. The Lindsay business has been part of the neighborhood since that time, and for many years has been a sponsor of the youth soccer league, for which many Fairlington children have played.

—Guy Land

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners has adapted to being socially distant by continuing to gather, but on Zoom. We focus on having an opportunity to chat with neighbors and maintain connections. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the Zoom theme.

For April, the following event is planned:

Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m., let's get together for supper over Zoom. This is closer to our usual schedule! We can discuss whether we want to move to an outdoor setting for the next few months.

Please RSVP by email to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com, and the Zoom coordinates will be sent to you a few days in advance.

If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list.

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, to discuss the first two parts of *Grant, a Biography* by Ron Chernow. We will cover Part One, A Life of Struggle, and Part Two, A Life of War. We will tackle the remainder of this book at our May meeting.

"Reading Ron Chernow's new biography, a truly mammoth examination of the life of Ulysses S. Grant, one is struck by the humanity—both the pitiful frailty and the

incredible strength—of its subject."—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

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. Our meeting will be held on Zoom this month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Join us for two virtual Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meet-ups in April

Please join Fairlington Knits! and Crochets online on Monday, April 5 (Easter Monday) and on Monday, April 19 from 6:30–7:30 p.m. We are meeting virtually, at the same time on the first and third Monday of each month, until we can meet in person once again.

We hope you will join fellow crafters for these meet-ups of knitting, crochet, and fellowship. We believe that knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people helps us feel part of a community. Log on to see what everyone is working on, to ask for help/advice, or for inspiration for a project. All levels of crafters are welcome—beginner to expert.

Email Turner for the log-on information to join the calls: Turnerwork@aol.com.

Fairlington Bocce

Interested in a fun outdoor activity with neighbors and friends? Then you are interested in playing bocce! To express interest or get more information, shoot an email to marcyakel@gmail.com.

Fairlington Moms' Club

The Fairlington Moms' Club is a group where moms can meet friends, form a support network, and create opportunities for children. The Club organizes several community service projects, routine playdates, craft days, family parties, and moms' nights out. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting with other Fairlington families, as well as our own classifieds listserv. We welcome all Fairlington moms! Please email fairlington-momsclub@gmail.com for further information.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



How to solve common back patio landscaping issues

We do not need calendars to remind us that spring is here. As I type this on a March morning, there is a tweet-fest (the natural kind) outside my office window. Robins, cardinals, and wrens have had their coffee and are searching for nesting places. Days are longer (sunshine-wise), frosts are long gone, and we can walk outside in light jackets. Now the doves are gurgling on my window sill.

It may be hard to “distance” at local plant nurseries now, since the masses will be visiting to purchase new flowers, plants, and decorative pots for their patio gardens. While most specimens have arrived, annuals (flowers) are not in full inventory until the third week of this month. April also is a wise time for problem-solving before we get to the decoration-stage of gardening. Here are a few potential problems, with proposed solutions:

Fabric gone wild: In one garden, fabric was spread over the entire soil area. It was kept in place by six inches of gravel and stone. Weeds never returned but, alas, it was impossible to plant. In one area, the fabric was secured up to the trunk of a 20-foot-tall crape myrtle tree, prohibiting its roots from getting water or oxygen from the soil. Forget about earthworms tilling the soil there, since it was too tightly compacted. When I pulled away (with mighty tugs) the fabric and aggregate, the tree roots were loosened and exposed in softer soil. The tree should be healthier now. It won't

grow taller but may display more flowers and foliage.

Half a flagstone patio: In another patio, there was a “half-patio floor.” Twenty-five years (and two homeowners) prior, I built a diagonal deck with steps. The next homeowner had flagstone (in concrete) laid on the exposed portion of the original patio. When the deck was removed by the current homeowner, only the diagonal flagstone patio remained and looked odd. Sledge-hammering the flagstone didn't work. Jack-hammering would have worked, but would also have damaged the original patio. The only solution would have been to continue laying flagstone to fill out the entire area.

Mudville in the beds: After the fences were constructed, mounds of mud were left in the beds. The workers' job was to demolish the old fences and build new ones. They did an excellent job, but what about the dirt? Two solutions here: either rake it up, bag it, and have it hauled away, or rake the piled dirt smooth with a modest incline to the fences. The soil was mostly clay, which is not ideal for planting specimens. I used to build fences (for Fairlington Commons) before I started my business, so I sympathize with the fence crews. When holes are dug for fence posts, dirt is unearthed with nowhere to go.

Overgrown specimens: Always think “mature” size—not current size—when planting specimens in your garden. A dwarf crape myrtle (maximum height 8-10-feet tall) is

practical but a 30-foot-tall variety really isn't. The taller the tree, the larger the root system. Thick roots (arms or legs) dominate soil space making it hard to plant anything else in the area. And sometimes, large tree roots can buckle a hardscape patio.



A beautifully landscaped Fairlington patio offers a quiet retreat in summer. Photo courtesy Anonymous.

Plants near the A/C unit: Be careful planting here. I've seen ivy growing in and through the A/C vents. If these vines crawl near the fan blade, that could obstruct the blade's ability to rotate. Plus, anything growing near the square-shaped A/C unit looks unsightly. Instead, take three medium-sized pots and set them on the patio hardscape—near but not at the A/C unit. Then fill the pots with colorful annuals or perennials. This won't “hide” the A/C unit but it will take your eye “off” it, and thus becomes a subtle screen. Oftentimes, “blocking” only teases your eye to look or find what's hiding behind the block.

—Bill Sullivan
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