

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

Delegate Bennett-Parker to brief FCA in April

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The April 13 FCA meeting will feature Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, who was elected to represent the 45th District, which includes most of Fairlington, in the Virginia House of Delegates in November 2021. While the meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Del. Bennett-Parker will join at 8 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts.

The 60-day 2022 general assembly session is wrapping up as this issue of the AFB goes to print, but was packed with thousands of pieces of legislation, debate on a lot of hot button issues, and political dissension between a Democrat-controlled Senate, and a newly-flipped Republican House and Republican governor.

Bennett-Parker sits on two House committees. Due to her previous experience as Vice Mayor of the City of Alexandria, she was placed on the Counties, Cities and Towns Committee. Legislation impacting local governance matters is referred to this committee. She also sits on the House Finance Committee, which can be a graveyard for legislation that has already passed through other committees because of cost concerns.

Bennett-Parker was the chief patron of nine bills this session, and chief co-patron or patron of dozens more bills on a wide range of issues. Four of the bills she sponsored passed out of the House and made it to the Senate, a significant accomplishment for a freshman legislator, and also for one whose party does not hold the majority.

Two of Bennett-Parker's legislative priorities focused on issues she has advocated for some time. HB 444 broadens the ability of public advisory boards and commissions to hold electronic meetings, to make it easier for people to serve on these important volunteer bodies. An amended version was passed by the Senate and is likely to go to the governor's desk.

Her bill to help address food waste by protecting food donors and receivers from penalty or liability for donating or receiving food past the best-by date or other non-safety labels under certain conditions, was incorporated into HB 1249, which passed the House 99-0, passed the Senate, and will go to Governor Youngkin.



Bennett-Parker was elected to represent the 45th District in November 2021. Photo courtesy runforsomething.net.

Continued on page 5

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 are streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

FCA monthly meeting April 13

Special presentation: Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker will discuss the recently concluded session of the General Assembly in Richmond. Although the FCA meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Del. Bennett-Parker's presentation will occur at 8 p.m..


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.

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
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
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/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

6 p.m., **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.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Fairlington diners

Monday April 11, 6:30 p.m.
See page 23 for details

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 8 p.m.
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Book group

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
See page 23 for details

Fairlington Villages yard sale

Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
See page 9 for details

Native plant sale

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
See page 23 for details



Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Jenn Davies, Carol Hamblin, Beth McGinn, Jo Ann Mills, Sara Rasmussen, Thora Stanwood, Bill Sullivan, Anne Wasowski, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do you enjoy the arts? Things like music, painting, sculpture, performance, photography, stained glass? Would you help us increase the opportunities for residents to enjoy the arts in Fairlington?

In resident surveys over the past several years, you have told us you would like to see FCA sponsor more neighborhood arts activities. FCA is willing to try to do this but we need your help.

First, give us a better sense of what you would like to see and participate in, along with ideas about how to accomplish those things. What activities would likely best appeal to which age groups? We welcome your creative ideas.

Second, we need one or two of you to volunteer to coordinate this work. The FCA Board can provide some backup, but we already have a full plate of responsibilities, and we need a couple of residents to take this on as a special community activity. Here's a great opportunity to help enrich our neighborhood.

Last summer the Arlington Art Truck made a couple of very popular visits to our farmers market. A partnership between Arlington Economic Development and Arlington Cultural Affairs, the Art Truck is a curated mobile toolbox for artists-in-residence to engage the public in interactive art projects. Young Fairlingtonians were captivated by the artists displaying and talking about their work.

I've talked to them about possibly doing some additional special events in Fairlington, but they are popular all across the county, and their schedule is usually packed. We'll continue to explore options with them.

In the fall of 2020 dozens of you joined us for a concert by the Alexandria Symphony Brass Quintet. We've talked about hosting a concert by some of the Arlington school music groups. A number of you have children in those organizations. So that's another option that's on the table.

If you walked along Four Mile Run in Shirlington earlier this year, you no doubt saw a series of paintings along the trail by Arlington artists. Reckon we could do something similar featuring Fairlington artists?

Fairlington has lots of artists of all kinds—and ages—so there's a wealth of talent just waiting to be shared with the community. We need you to help us craft a plan to make Fairlington the informal arts center of Arlington! Let me hear from you.

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



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May 2 blood drive is open for registration

In the last few years, Fairlington has held a number of blood drives, contributing much needed blood to Children's National Hospital (CNH). This has been particularly appreciated by medical personnel, as blood supplies dropped by 70 percent during the pandemic.



Fairlington is proud of this effort to support sick children in our communities. To continue this community service, the FCA and Fairlington Cares have scheduled a spring blood drive on Tuesday, May 2. It will be again held at the Fairlington Community Center, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

It normally takes less than an hour to donate a unit of blood and is safe. One unit of blood donated can help 4–5 children. If we donate 20 units of blood, we can help up to 100 children. All blood collected will remain at the hospital to support children with cancer, sickle cell disease, surgeries, and other chronic illnesses.

Donors must eat a very good breakfast or lunch the day of donation and start hydrating with water the day before donation and on the day of donation drink 16 ounces of water—no fasting. Everyone must be willing to wear a mask (regardless of vaccination status) unless actively eating in the room, according to CNH policy.

Step 1: Read eligibility requirements

Learn about CNH basic blood donor eligibility at the link below. There are many situations that could make

you ineligible, such as specific places of travel, so please take a moment to check the eligibility criteria. If, after reading the material at the link below, you are uncertain of your eligibility, call 202-476-5437.

<https://childrensnational.org/departments/pathology-and-laboratory-medicine/blood-donor-center/eligibility>

Step 2: Register for an appointment.

Call at 202-476-5437 or

Register at: <https://www.cnmcblooddonor.com>.

Once on the CNH website, click on “select sponsors name,” and type in Fairlington.

Step 3: Please notify CNH as soon as possible if you need to cancel your appointment.

We try to make the most out of the time and effort CNH takes to come to us, and we try to have each slot full. A day or even a few hours notice will give us the opportunity to try to backfill your slot.

Questions?

If you have questions about eligibility or other items, contact the CNH at 202-476-5437. If you have general questions or would like to sign up as a possible sub for the blood drive, please contact Sara Rasmussen at srazzz@aol.com

—Sara Rasmussen

Delegate from page 1

The delegate's HB 450 will prohibit a person from parking a non-electric vehicle in a space reserved for charging electric vehicles. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature as of this writing. Bennett-Parker's HB 451 that provides protections for victims of stalking passed the House 100-0, passed the Senate with some changes, and will likely go to the governor's desk, as well.

—Michelle Woolley



Jennifir Birtwhistle

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Why You Should Sell This Spring...

When selling anything, you always hope for high demand for the item coupled with a limited supply. That maximizes your leverage when negotiating the sale.

Home sellers are in that exact situation right now. Here's why...

YOUR EQUITY IS GROWING IN RECORD AMOUNTS:

According to CoreLogic, current homeowners are sitting on record amounts of equity thanks to recent home price appreciation. That much equity can open doors for you to make a move.

If you've been holding off on selling because you're worried about how rising prices will impact your next home search, rest assured your equity can help fuel your move. It may be just what you need to cover a large portion - if not all - of the down payment on your next home.

NUMBER OF HOMES ON THE MARKET IS LOW:

A recent report from the National Association of Realtors reveals the year began with supply of available homes at an all-time low.

"Total housing inventory at the end of January amounted to 860,000 units, down from 2.3% in December and down 16.5% from one year ago (1.03 million). Unsold inventory sits at a 1.6 month supply at the current sales pace, down from 1.7 months in Dec. and 1.9 months in Jan. 2021."

Source: Existing Home Sales Report, National Association of Realtors

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Animal Control Chief discusses Fairlington pets and wildlife

Jennifer Toussaint, Chief of Animal Control at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) presented to the FCA board at the March monthly meeting. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not able to be streamed live on Facebook.

A 10-year veteran with Animal Control, Toussaint assumed the reins as chief in 2016. Toussaint explored AWLA's history, starting as an informal group of concerned Arlington residents housing strays and neglected pets in private homes in 1944, to AWLA's current building on Arlington Mill Drive, just outside of Shirlington.

AWLA is now a "multi-million dollar facility capable of cutting edge care, housing, and treatment for all animals, including things like a wildlife holding area and a kitten NICU."

Toussaint explained how AWLA is much more than a shelter and place to adopt animals. It also boasts an array of community services to help support pet owners, including training classes, veterinary assistance grants, and a pet food bank. AWLA offers multiple educational programs for children as well as a wildlife resource center that coordinates the rehabbing of injured wildlife animals including birds, squirrels, and rabbits.

Toussaint mentioned that Fairlington is "dear to my heart" and acknowledged the many pet owners in the community. She reviewed the distinction between excessive barking and neglect; the former can be civilly cited by Code Enforcement and Arlington County Police Department, while the latter requires intervention by Animal Control and needs to meet the minimum requirements of neglect including inadequate housing, no access to food and water, or tethering.

She also noted Arlington County code states that "all dogs shall be kept secured by a leash or lead, and under the control of the owner or other responsible person." Owners/walkers must pick up after their dog's waste. Chief Toussaint further explained that Animal Control



A slide from the AWLA presentation at the FCA meeting shows 2021 successes. Slide courtesy AWLA.

cannot enforce off-leash or other violations if they occur on Fairlington HOA property. While often called out for these violations, Animal Control can only explain to owners what the rules are. Sidewalks and streets are considered county property.

Answering a question regarding wildlife concerns, Toussaint explained that there have been no positive cases of rabies in Fairlington since 2019 when two foxes tested positive. That said, she reminded residents that rabies and canine distemper (another neurological disease that can be transferred by raccoons to dogs) are

present in the county. Seeing raccoons or foxes during the day is not a sign of a diseased animal. Seeing them off balance, making strange noises, or acting aggressive could be. If in doubt, she urged residents to call Animal Control at 703-931-9241. Officers are on duty in vehicle 7 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. and on call for emergencies 10:30 p.m. – 7 a.m. 365 days a year.

On the Utah dog park and the adjacent open space, Toussaint explained that there is no capacity limit for how many dogs can be in the enclosure. However, an owner or dog walker has a limit of three dogs. She noted that Utah was a "high offender" dog park that is often used by professional dog walkers. She recommended contacting Arlington's Park Rangers if there were clear violations: 703-228-0052.

She also reminded owners to "know their dogs" and some might not be suited for dog parks. The grassy field adjacent to the dog park as well as the softball field at Utah are areas where dogs are frequently off leash. This is in violation of county code and residents could call either the park ranger or Animal Control.

Toussaint reiterated her fondness for Fairlington and invited residents to volunteer at AWLA at events or taking care of shelter animals.

—Jenn Davies



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Fairlington farmers market returns May 1



Spring is here and that means it's almost time for the beloved Fairlington Farmers Market to open! Visit the market on Sunday, May 1, to welcome your favorite vendors back and say hello to some new ones. A list of vendors

and their products will be published in the May issue of the Bulletin, along with information on pre-ordering options. The market will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday through November 20, and is located on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

You can find out what our vendors will be bringing each week and plan your visit ahead of time by signing up for our weekly e-newsletter at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org. Stay connected by following Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter.

The market is run by a volunteer committee of six Fairlington residents. If you'd like to have a say in decisions about vendor selection, market operations, and special events, please consider joining the committee this year. Contact fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com and a committee member will get back to you.

—Lynne Blasi

Annual Fairlington Villages yard sale scheduled for April 30



The annual Fairlington Villages yard sale attracts shoppers from all over the local area. Photo by Guy Land.

Come see what your neighbors have to offer at the Fairlington Villages annual spring yard sale. It will take place on Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to noon at the

Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot, weather permitting.

All sellers must live in Fairlington Villages, but shopping is open to all. Vendors will need to pre-register to reserve their space. Additional info will be available in early April on the Fairlington Villages website at www.fairlingtonvillages.com. Contact the Activities Committee if you have questions at activities@fairlingtonvillages.com

—Anne Wasowski

Last chance to register and get a Fairlington 5K t-shirt

The early-bird deadline for the 7th Annual Fairlington 5K & Family Fun Run is fast approaching.

This beloved neighborhood event, set for Saturday May 7, is sponsored by the Fairlington Civic Association and A Cure for Ellie foundation.

Funds raised go to support physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary School, as well as research into a cure for Ellie McGinn, a 13-year-old Fairlington resident who was born with a rare and degenerative brain and spinal cord condition that slowly robs kids of their ability to walk.

The race starts at 8:30 a.m. at Abingdon Elementary School and winds through South Fairlington. There are prizes for the first, second, and third place winners in the male and female runner category. This year there is also a prize for the newly added canine category sponsored by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. Dogs can register at the starting line on May 7 and must be accompanied by a registered human. There is even a 1K "Fun Run" for our littlest runners or those looking for less of a challenge.

If you would like to donate a good or service to the silent auction portion of the race and get your logo on the official 2022 Fairlington 5K t-shirt, email race organizer Beth McGinn at bfrigola@gmail.com. The silent auction will be held online the weekend of April 22.

And don't forget to register before April 2 to secure your t-shirt order. Race registrations can be purchased the day of the race, but t-shirts will not be guaranteed.

—Beth McGinn



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For the love of NATURE



The transformation of Utah hill into a garden

Eroded bare dirt, rocks, weeds, sparse grass—prior to 2016, those dominated the Fairlington Commons’ steep slopes on S. Utah St. across from the Fairlington Community Center. This condition was caused by dense shade plus stormwater flowing off roofs, sidewalks, and patios with impervious surfaces, exacerbated by fast and furious mowers and foot traffic. Worse yet, rivers of water ran down the sidewalk and white-water rapids cascaded down the stairs.

Dirt and debris were left on sidewalks, basements were threatened, and muddy water flowed into Four Mile Run on its way to the Chesapeake Bay. The Commons decided to address the stormwater issue in an environmentally sustainable way.

At the same time, Arlington County, to meet its share of the state of Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay commitment, was starting a StormwaterWise program to provide cost-share matching grants to homeowners and homeowners’ associations to address stormwater using conservation landscaping techniques and native plants.

During the 4-year course of the StormwaterWise Program, the Commons selected several priority sites to propose for the program based on suggestions from the grounds committee. Once the county approved a site, the Commons sought a design from its landscape contractor. After board approval of the design and funds for the project, the design plus a native plant list suggested by the committee were approved by the county.

The landscape contractor did the heavy work of removing the turf and weeds; creating any swales, berms, or rock spillways needed at the end of gutter pipes; spreading topsoil, topsoil amendments, and mulch; and planting any large shrubs or trees. The grounds committee planted the native perennials each year, ranging from



The Utah St. hill in Fairlington Commons was transformed from eroded hillside to native plant gardens. This view of the 2017 StormwaterWise project includes a rock berm to slow stormwater. Photo by Norm Waters.

about 200 plants most years to 400 plants the last year of the program on a larger site.

More than 40 species have been planted, including Golden Ragwort (spring blooming), Purple Cone Flower (summer), Butterfly Weed (an orange milkweed), Wild Sweet William, and White Wood Aster (fall), to name a few. Committee members dug and transplanted over half the perennials from other native gardens in the Commons, for a large savings.

Yearly costs to the Commons totaled between \$4,000 and \$6,000. Unfortunately, the StormwaterWise Program is currently suspended, in part as a result of COVID-related

budget cuts. During its hiatus, the grounds committee has tackled smaller projects with all volunteer labor and lower costs and has shared plants with other villages.

Most visitors and residents love the flowers and the wild aspects of the gardens. Feedback from wildlife has been great. Bumblebees and other pollinators abound. Butterflies seen include skippers, Buckeye and Monarch Butterfly caterpillars. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Goldfinch, Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cooper’s Hawk (feeding on birds), and many more bird species have been spotted.

Salamanders, chipmunks, and squirrels have also visited. As for stormwater, much less water flows down the sidewalk, there are no longer rapids, little dirt is washed onto the sidewalk, and a much-reduced amount of clear stormwater flows into Four Mile Run. A win, win, win.

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

—Jo Ann Mills

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Abingdon Elementary thrives on strong parent and staff volunteers

Abingdon Elementary School has terrific staff who help the Cardinals soar. This school year, Abingdon PTA volunteers have been supporting nearly 150 staff and 700 students through staff appreciation events, outdoor events for students, and community service activities. Abingdon would like to highlight some of their parent volunteers and the success of their efforts.

To that end, first grade parent Ashley McCarthy led volunteer efforts to applaud the hard work of our educators. The staff lounge has been replenished with coffee and occasional treats to refuel our hardworking staff.

Additionally, kindergarten parent Meredith Greene and the Abingdon Cardinal—the school mascot—have supported these efforts and helped recognize Abingdon’s crossing guard, bus drivers, school counselors, social worker, and principals. On Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, if you passed through 31st Street South, you may have noticed the Abingdon Cardinal asking students for assistance in thanking Ms. Andrea Goodwin for her service and countless years of dedication to keeping our students safe. The Abingdon Cardinal is always excited to give a “high wing!”

Meredith and other PTA volunteers have also planned several events for Abingdon students, including several community service initiatives. For example, Abingdon recently hosted an all-school outdoor event,

Winter Wonderland. Abingdon families contributed 249 cans and 65 dry goods (292 lbs of food!) to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

The Abingdon community held a winter coat drive for Abingdon students, which included many hand-knitted beanies and scarves by Fairlington friends Helen Staren and Becky Krystal. The coat drive collected and distributed 62 hats, 14 scarves, 54 pairs of gloves, and 31 coats from friends and neighbors who shared the warmth in support of the school’s coat drive.

Additionally, the Abingdon Community Garden is ready for spring planting. We have had several clean up events, such as the MLK Day of Service, which brought out about 25 energetic volunteers (friends, neighbors, and local gardeners), to get the 11 garden beds ready for planting. The garden beds have been weeded and topped off with soil from the Arlington County Trade Center.

Abingdon’s Eco Action Club, the PTA’s Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension partner together to help support the school’s sustainability coordinator Ms. Renita Upshur.

Fellow Abingdon parent Rachael Resau shared, “The Abingdon garden is a great way for our kids to learn the importance and the diligence that it takes to support plant life. Volunteer opportunities have



The Abingdon Cardinal thanks our school garden volunteers at Winter Wonderland for their hard work. Photo by Dan Burd.

already been proven successful (and fun) by allowing the kids to have a hands-on approach to rebuild and restore our school garden.”

Additionally, gardeners will harvest food to help feed food insecure families at Abingdon. We are thankful for countless neighborhood gardeners who have lent a helping hand.

Weaving in the community’s strength to support our neighborhood school is what makes Abingdon extra special. For example, more than 40 dedicated volunteers, including four Abingdon alumni, assisted with Winter Wonderland.

Fellow first grade parent Andrea Alvarez generously translates flyers and newsletters to ensure we reach our Spanish speaking families at Abingdon. Additionally, Abingdon parent Victoria Laudati painted the most beautiful photo prop of the Abingdon Cardinal driving the school bus for students to enjoy at events.

Continued on page 19

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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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Fairlington presidents gather for quarterly update

The Fairlington Presidents meet every few months for the benefit of the seven condo associations and the one homeowners' association to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Fairlington's street trees were a major point of discussion as Arlington County's urban forestry division has developed a preventive maintenance pilot program to assess risk and maintain the county's tree canopy. Vincent Verweij, urban forest manager, and Melissa Gildea, urban forester, discussed the program with the presidents as Fairlington's aging street trees have been included in the pilot.

Some of the trees have already been pruned or removed due to disease. Once a tree and its root structure have been removed, the ground is allowed to settle, the tree roots below grade to decay, and the soil to rejuvenate before the county plants a new tree. This may take a year or longer.

When a tree is planted, a water bag will be placed around the tree for the warmer seasons and the county will maintain the filling of the bags. Any help from residents with watering is appreciated and will improve the chances of young trees to thrive. The water bags are not needed in colder months and will be removed. Any urgent tree maintenance requests should be reported using the county's Report a Problem tool: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Report-Problem>.



The Fairlington Commons ground committee takes advantage of the spring weather to take care of new trees. Photo courtesy Teresa Cordova.

Some of the associations have or are going to survey all of the trees in their area to determine the species, the health, maintenance, and risk of failure.

Carol Hamblin, a resident of Fairlington Villages, spoke at the meeting as an advocate of reducing the carbon footprint which heavily impacts climate change. She is in the process of forming a working group of Fairlington residents to identify, research, communicate, and promote

actions individuals, households, and the community can take to reduce their carbon footprint to make a positive contribution to the fight against climate change.

The presidents discussed the difficulty in establishing the yearly budget of assets and liabilities. Determining the yearly condo fee is a complex process of weighing the known projects with the unknown situations, such as major tree damage due to heavy ice/snow fall.

Another topic on the table concerned the delays experienced by associations in getting the county to issue permits. It has been particularly difficult to get water mains shut off quickly in emergency situations. The presidents concluded that meeting with county representatives may be in order.

—Thora Stanwood

Interested in fighting climate change?

Carol Hamblin, a resident of Fairlington Villages, is starting a working group to identify, research, communicate, and promote actions individuals, households, and the community can take to reduce their carbon footprint to make a positive contribution to the fight against climate change.

If you share our thinking that we each can make a difference, please contact Carol Hamblin at chamblin24@protonmail.com.

School news continued from page 15

The collective effort from our volunteers help build a strong community both inside and outside the classroom. There are countless volunteer opportunities ranging from translating flyers (Amharic, Mongolian, and Arabic translators are especially needed), maintaining the Abingdon Community Garden, woodworking activities to repair existing equipment, reading to students, or fundraising for Read-A-Thon.

To that end, we are always looking for volunteers. Please contact abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com if you would like to help out.

—Sharon Burd



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DeLong Home Improvement is a general contracting firm serving Northern Virginia with a special focus on Fairlington. Bob and Anne DeLong have been Fairlington homeowners since 1977 and since 2005 our company has completed more than 750 projects in all models and in all seven neighborhoods.

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FAIRLINGTON

pet profiles

Senior Living—It's a dog's life

Misty, a 15-pound dachshund/terrier mix, has lived in Fairlington for 14 years. She moved here when she was two. Now 16, she finds senior living to be pretty enjoyable. Lots of activities, exercise, and a love of food have kept her young. She grew up with Eryka, who is now in college. A very special bond exists between them. There is the continuity of love and companionship as well as knowing someone who has known you almost all your life. Pet Profiles was amazed at Misty's energy and her playfulness. She was happy to share her story and some tips on aging beautifully.

How did you get to Fairlington?

I moved here when I was two years old, when my family came across the country from California - where I was born and because my dad had retired from the Navy. My parents grew up in the area and wanted to move back after my dad's time serving the military!

What advice would you give younger dogs?

Enjoy all the time you have with your humans, and travel if you can! I've been across the country, in the city, the mountains, and the beach and it's been a blast!

What advice would you give humans?

You are your dog's whole life! You may have a life outside of them, but you're their whole world. Love and cherish your dogs because nothing is promised. So, give them the occasional piece of pepperoni...or you could always bring it over to me instead.



Misty poses with her party hat on her sixteenth birthday. Photo by Eryka Staren-Doby.

How has Fairlington changed in the 14 years you've lived here?

In the last couple years, because of the pandemic, there have been so many new dogs. It's been wonderful meeting so many new people and making lots of new friends.

What is your secret to such a long life?

Of course, you need to have a good diet, get your exercise in, and a lot of sleep! But the real secret is to never give up your passion. Ever since I was a puppy, I've been sneaking food. From unwrapping individually wrapped bagels, to stealing apple cores and muffin wrappers, I've never given up my love of food.

I've performed heists and gotten into Pupperoni, tried to pull the tablecloth down during Thanksgiving, and much more. I'm so hopeful for food that sometimes I think my owner's fingers are carrots. I also have to credit my doggie siblings for helping keep me young.

Any tips you can provide to other dogs?

Steal all the food you can! Plan heists, robberies, etc. Your humans may be a little upset, but the payoff is worth it. Food is love, food is life. Also enjoy time with your humans when they're home.



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neighborhood news

Fairlington diners

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In March, we ventured to Alexandria to dine at Taverna Cretekou, for many of us, a return visit! Here's what's planned:

Monday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m., Ramparts, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, <http://www.rampartstavern.com>. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they feature burger specials-almost any combination you can think of. The rest of the menu is also available.

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

Book group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group in April to discuss *Miss Iceland*, a novel by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir.



"Ólafsdóttir's graceful and quiet tale of feminism, alienation, and artistic expression centers around Hekla, a young Icelandic woman who wants to become a writer in a male-dominated literary world... This winning tale of friendship and self-fulfillment will inspire readers." —Publishers Weekly

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book.

We are meeting on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Masks are optional! We hope you'll join us.

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 fairlingtonmomclub@gmail.com for further information.

Friends of the Abingdon community garden

Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.

Northern Alexandria native plant sale

Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of The Church of St. Clement at 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Please wear a mask.

This is the first time in three years that we are able to have a native plant sale in the spring! Come find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Ten vendors from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC will be hosted at this event, the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region.

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

It's a HOT Market - 5 offers received!



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—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner



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DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



Planning your spring garden purchases

A professor of mine in graduate school once told me, “We hit the ground running come April.” He was referring to his landscaping business in Maryland.

The masses will be joining him at local nurseries and big box stores now that March snows and ground freezes are history. So, are you ready to garden? Having a plan saves you time and makes the trip or trips to the nursery more enjoyable.

The most practical point is to assess the available space in your garden. After the weeds are uprooted and the dead leaves are collected and bagged, you’ll know. Then ask yourself,

“How many plants do I need?”
“How big should those plants be?”
“Evergreens or flowering shrubs?”
and “Should I purchase ground cover?” Then there’s the cost of each specimen.

If you have pots or containers, think of how many flats of annuals you’ll need. Annuals (Begonia, Impatiens, Vinca, Marigold, Geranium, Petunia) don’t arrive at the nursery until the second or third week of April. A flat will fill two to three pots.

As always, evergreens are a smart choice since they provide year-round beauty. Take a look at dwarf English boxwood, pieris (white flower in March-April), euonymus, juniper, azalea, rhododendron, lenten rose (ivory and mauve flower in three seasons), and barberry. These all fit (size-wise) into a Fairlington garden. As for pruning,



Bright yellow coreopsis provide low maintenance blooms all spring and summer long. Photo by Andrea Pratt.

email me (it’s listed in my advertisement in the back of the *Bulletin*) and I’ll counsel you on specifics.

Vines also fit in your patio space since they grow vertically and take up little width space. First, purchase a wooden or iron trellis and situate it at the fence. Then plant the root ball of the vine in front of the trellis and let the branches trail upward. You can lead them through the trellis with your fingers or use string to attach the vine tendrils to the trellis parts.

I like these: clematis (purple flower), honeysuckle (orange, yellow and white flowers), carolina jessamine (yellow flower & that needs shade), and mandevilla (which I recently saw on a trip to south Florida). Mandevilla is an annual in our climate but has 4-inch-wide flowers in red, pink, or white that show from April to December. Its leaves are puckered, oval, 3-inches wide and 5-inches long and give the vine a fuller look.

An English Garden touch is to affix a flower basket to the inside of your patio gate, if that is allowed by your condo association. Half-inch screws easily are secured to the back of the gate. When you look out your dining room or kitchen window, this will be the first thing you’ll notice. Add trailing vines to the basket (variegated vinca, creeping jenny, asparagus fern, ivy), which gives it a pendulous accent.

When selecting a plant, be sure to read the tag, which details the plant’s mature size in height (HT) and spread (SPR). It also informs you whether it likes sun or shade, the flower color, and price. Take your phone so you can Google the plant to learn more about it before you make a purchase. The larger the plant size, the more the cost, usually.

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Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (April 10 for May issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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Cost: 50 cents per word.

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