



All Fairlington Newsletter

President's Message

April 2026

My son has spent the last few months in Spain for a semester abroad. He has learned far more outside the classroom than in it, as it should be. Perspectives broaden when you are prepared to step outside your comfort zone.

That same lesson can apply within our own corner of the county. Of course, we are more comfortable with the familiar, whether that is our courtyard, our closest neighborhood friends, or our favorite pickleball court. But what about learning, meeting, or doing something new? To that end, FCA needs volunteers to help at our monthly food distribution in Park Shirlington. Upcoming dates are Wednesday afternoons April 8, May 6, June 3. You can [sign-up here](#).

In April, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA), along with the Fairlington Historical Society, will host a dedication ceremony to honor persons formerly enslaved in present-day Fairlington. In addition, based

consider stepping out of your comfort zone into the community. How else would you like to engage? Take our survey in this issue.

Lastly, FCA will be holding its monthly meeting in Park Shirlington's new community room. After years of construction, we look forward to seeing the new building. Moreover, we look forward to hearing from our Park Shirlington neighbors in their community. Park Shirlington falls within Fairlington's civic association boundary, and it is good to broaden our conversations so we can learn to be more inclusive of all communities FCA represents.



—Jenn Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org

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FCA Welcomes APS Board Chair April 8

Arlington School Board Chair Bethany Zecher Sutton will join the FCA and

Arlington School Board since January 2023.

The meeting will be held in the newly renovated Park Shirlington community room at 4505 S. 31st St. Zecher Sutton will speak about broad priorities for the school system, as well as recent standardized test scores that placed Abingdon in [Needs Intensive Support](#), the Virginia Department of Education's lowest performance ranking.

Community members are encouraged to attend.

—*Jenn Davies*



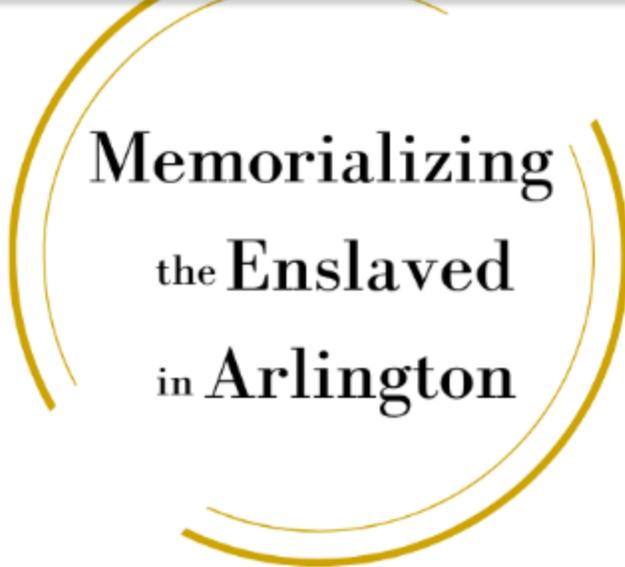
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Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington

Fairlington Historical Society and FCA to Host Stumbling Stones Dedication

On Sunday, April 26, the FCA and the [Fairlington Historical Society](#) (FHS) will hold a dedication ceremony to honor Harry, born circa 1770, and Milley, born circa 1755, who were enslaved on land that is now present-day Fairlington.

The event will take place at 1 p.m. at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Community members are invited to attend.

RSVP through [Eventbrite](#) is encouraged, but not required.

If you wish to purchase a stone to memorialize an enslaved person who lived in present day Fairlington, you can make a donation to [Arlington Historical Society](#) and email them at ahsedlink@gmail.com to let them know your donation was for Stumbling Stones in Fairlington.

—*Jenn Davies*

April Events Calendar

Interested in having your event included? Email afbeditors@yahoo.com

FCA Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m.

Park Shirlington, 4505 S. 31st St., Community Room

Saturday, April 11, noon

[Ramparts](#), 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616

Please email carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com no later than 24 hours in advance if you plan to attend so an appropriately sized table can be reserved or to receive these notices early each month email carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com.

Fairlington Free Clothing Swap

Saturday, April 25, Donation Drop-Off: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. | Shopping: 12 to 3 p.m.

Abingdon Elementary School parking lot, 3035 S. Abingdon St.

Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria

Shop a wide selection of native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun and shade. This annual event, now in its 23rd year, features approximately 10 vendors from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and is one of the largest native plant sales in the Washington, D.C., region. Parking is available at Christ the King Church across the street on Oakcrest. For a list of vendors, visit [Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale](#). The sale is organized and run entirely by volunteers. For questions, contact [Scott Knudsen](#) 571-232-0375.

Fairlington Book Group

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 104

The Fairlington Book Group will meet to discuss a work of fiction selected at the March 24 meeting. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book. To be added to the Book Group email list and receive details about the March selection, as well as the full reading list for 2026, email carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com.

Fairlington Moms

Are you a Fairlington Mom looking for more support, play opportunities for kids, or a group of friends in the same period of life for some fun? The Fairlington Moms' Club is the place for you. We offer:

- Playgroups for different age groups, accommodating all moms & schedules
- Family holiday-themed events

- Our very own classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group

All moms welcome! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.



Fairlington Free Clothing Swap

Saturday, April 25

Donation Drop-Off: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Shopping: 12 to 3 p.m.

Abingdon Elementary School parking lot, 3035 S. Abingdon St.

The Fairlington Free Clothing Swap returns in a larger location. Donations of spring and summer clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children in good condition are welcome. Please note that winter items will not be accepted. Donations are not required to participate. All items are free, but attendees are asked to take only what they will use.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with setup, sorting, hanging clothes, and breakdown between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to shop while they work. Use this [SignUpGenius link](#) if you are interested in helping.

For questions, please email freeclothingswap@gmail.com

—*Alexis Mahoney*



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Photo by Caroline Weinroth.

Mark your calendar for the return of the Fairlington Farmers Market. This year marks the 12th season of the neighborhood market, with many favorite vendors returning, along with live music and special events.

The market will be open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Nov. 22 and is located on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. A list of vendors will be published in the May issue of the newsletter.

Thank you to returning sponsors [Active and Connected Family Therapy](#), the [FCA](#), [Fairlington United Methodist Church](#), [Kay Houghton & Associates](#), and [Fairlington Dental](#). Those interested in sponsoring the market may contact [Jeff Kost](#).

To learn what vendors will offer each week and plan your visit, sign up for the weekly e-newsletter at field2table.org. You can also follow the [Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook](#) and [@fairlingtonmarket on Instagram](#) for updates.

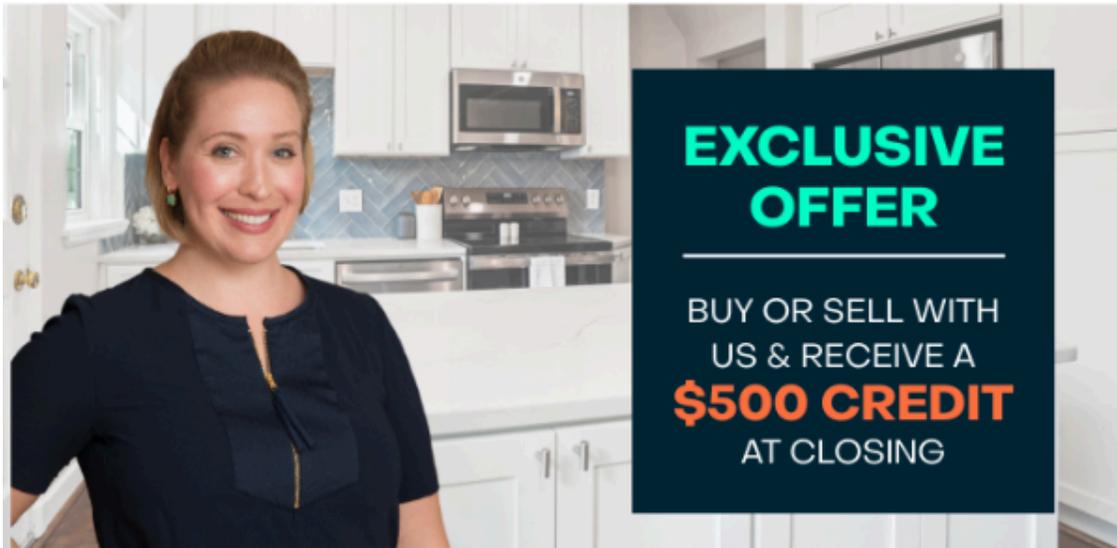
—Charlotte Terry

Tell Us What Activities Serve You and Your Families Best

The FCA is planning new activities this year, including an open mic night and a trivia night, as we look to expand neighborhood engagement opportunities. What days work best for you? What times of day? What types of activities does your family enjoy? We would love your input.

[Please complete our survey.](#)

YOUR FAIRLINGTON REAL ESTATE EXPERTS



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Thinking About Making a Move in Fairlington or the Surrounding Area?

At [Kay Houghton & Associates at eXp Realty](#), we specialize in helping homeowners and buyers navigate the market with confidence. With deep local expertise, a proven strategy, and a hands-on team approach, we're here to make your experience as smooth and successful as possible - whether you're buying your first home, upgrading, downsizing, or preparing to sell.

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If you've been thinking about your next move, we'd love to help you make it happen.

Contact us at hello@khassociates.com, 703-CALL-KAY (225-5529), or [click here](#) to schedule a complimentary, no-obligation consultation today!



Monarch caterpillar on butterfly weed (one of the milkweeds), in the Arbor. Photo by Ed Colonna.

For the Love of Nature

Restoring Nature, One Step at a Time

Fairlington is home to hawks, other birds, foxes, rabbits, insects, and other wildlife. At the same time, we know that human practices have contributed to significant declines in insect, bird, and wildlife populations. Each of us can play a role in restoring habitat and supporting our local ecosystem.

The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia are offering a [“Restoring Nature” series](#) this year, highlighting one action each month. Examples include creating layers in your landscape cultivating healthy soil, adding keystone native plants, and supporting pollinators.

Insects are critical to the food web we all depend on. Native plants and the insects that feed on them form the foundation, converting plant energy into a form that supports birds and other wildlife. One well-known example is the monarch butterfly, whose caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed. This type of specialized relationship exists throughout nature.

Native trees and plants, especially keystone species, support the greatest number of butterfly and moth caterpillars, which in turn feed birds. Most baby birds rely on caterpillars and other insects for survival and cannot thrive on seeds alone. Increasing the number of native plants in your landscape can help support more bird life.

—Leslie Camero



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When Pain or Poor Sleep Starts Affecting Everyday Life

Many patients arrive at [Fairlington Dental](#) after dealing with jaw pain, chronic headaches, poor sleep, or discomfort that hasn't been clearly explained elsewhere. What tends to feel different is how those concerns are handled. Appointments aren't rushed. Rather than jumping straight to treatment, the team takes time to understand how pain, bite, and breathing may be connected, then suggests practical solutions for symptom relief.

Some patients come in worn down from years of tension or disrupted sleep. Others simply want to understand why something doesn't feel quite right and be

County Board Member Karantonis Briefs FCA

Arlington County Board Member Takis Karantonis briefed the FCA and community members at the March meeting. His appearance followed that of County Board Vice-Chair Maureen Coffey at the February meeting. Both board members emphasized the challenges of the FY 2027 budget planning cycle.

Of particular interest to residents was a proposal to close the county's gymnastics recreation and competitive programs, as well as the possible closure or repurposing of the Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center. Karantonis acknowledged that many Arlington residents share these concerns and suggested that adjustments may be possible to help sustain the program.

He also highlighted the potential for service reductions and a property tax rate increase. Public hearings were held during the last week of March. [More information is available online.](#)

Karantonis also noted that Fire Station 7, along with several other vacant county-owned properties, will need to be addressed.

—*Jenn Davies*

Interested in Fire Station 7's Future?

Residents interested in the future of Fire Station 7 are encouraged to get involved. Please email president@fca-fairlington.org to join a group of community members following this issue.

While the county has no current plans under the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to fund a study, listening sessions and a possible town hall may be scheduled in the coming months to gather community feedback.

—*Jenn Davies*

Proposed Virginia Redistricting—Let Your Voice Be Heard

Virginia residents have until April 21 to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment related to congressional redistricting ahead of the November

Voters will be asked to decide on the following question: Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to temporarily adopt new congressional districts to restore fairness in the upcoming elections, while ensuring Virginia's standard redistricting process resumes for future redistricting after the 2030 census?

Full information on how and where to vote in Arlington is [available here](#), Alexandria info below.

City of Alexandria Special Election

A special election has been called for April 21. Contests include a [City Council Special Election](#) and a [Statewide Proposed Constitutional Amendment](#).

A sample ballot can be found [here](#).

—*Jenn Davies*

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