

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

AUGUST 2018

Volume 44, Number 8

## Fairlington's 75th anniversary celebration: Save the date

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The Fairlington Citizens Association and the Fairlington Historical Society are planning a fall event to commemorate the community's 75th anniversary year.

On Saturday, October 20, from 5 to 7 pm, a reception will be held at the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Barbara Berti, the event chair, says, "We wanted to host a reception for all residents to honor this milestone in our history."

The event will feature a short program in honor of the anniversary, including a reading of the Virginia General Assembly's special resolution to commend Fairlington in its anniversary year.

Terry Placek, president of the Fairlington Historical Society, notes, "The reception is an opportunity to celebrate our 75th with old friends and new. The Society is excited to co-host this event, which will become part of the fabric of our very rich history."

Residents in both North and South Fairlington are invited to attend.

The book, *Fairlington at 50*, which traces the history of the neighborhood (\$20) and the Fairlington commemorative ornament (\$10) will be available for sale.

## Ornaments are here!



The FCA and Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) are taking orders for this special Fairlington brass-plated ornament to commemorate Fairlington's 75th anniversary this year. The price for each ornament is \$10. To order, email FCA Board Director, Rebecca Sayres, [rsayres@yahoo.com](mailto:rsayres@yahoo.com), to indicate how many you wish to purchase. Come to an FCA monthly meeting to pay and pick up your purchase (next FCA meeting is August 8). For now, we will accept cash or check only (payable to FCA). By early fall, we may be able to accept major credit cards.

## Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

### FCA monthly meeting August 8

**Special presentation:** There will be no special presentation at the August 8 meeting. The FCA Board will hold a general business work session.

#### Regular board business:

- Approval of July minutes
- Unfinished business
- Officer and committee reports
- New business

**Meeting minutes:** Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

### Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.

 Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, [www.avatar-systems.com](http://www.avatar-systems.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm)

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### Fairlington Citizens Association

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#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Editor:** Christine Chirichella

**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

#### — DEADLINE —

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy.

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

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Email commercial and mini ads to:

[admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

#### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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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**

Wednesday, August 8, 6:30 pm  
Union Street Public House  
121 S. Union St., Alexandria

### **FCA monthly meeting**

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

### **Arlington County Fair**

Wednesday, August 15 to  
Sunday, August 19  
Thomas Jefferson Community  
Center, 3501 S. Second St.

### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, August 20, 6:30 pm  
Ramparts Tavern & Grill  
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

### **Book Group**

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

### **Abingdon Back-to-School Picnic and Potluck**

Monday, September 3,  
12 to 2 pm  
Abingdon Elementary School

## *The big dig*



*Work progresses on the I-395 HOT Lanes project. Estimated completion date is summer 2020. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Kent Duffy, Evan Harvey, Jeni Hornback, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan, Robin Weinick, and Lori Whiteman.

*Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"I'm writing today because of an issue I noticed at the swimming pool." "We are writing about the trash receptacles that have been placed throughout Fairlington." "I called earlier about my porch light. They need to fix it."

These are some of the emails and voicemails that FCA has received over the past several months. Unfortunately, they are all matters that are within the jurisdiction of the various condo associations and not FCA. (We do respond to all of them and try to point residents in the right direction.)

FCA diligently tries not to intrude on the turf of the condo associations. Often the inquiries are from people who are just seeking help and don't know where to turn.

Determining what is an FCA matter and what is a condo issue may not always be easy. After all, we're one big community, and sometimes the lines can be fine. As a general guide, things that involve public entities and public policies (e.g., county government) or Fairlington-wide matters are for FCA. Specific things about your condo unit or matters within your courtyard are the province of your condo association.

So discussions about on-street parking policies, state legislation, or nearby real estate development projects fall in the FCA category, while most trash, grounds management, and maintenance issues are for the condo organizations.

And community-wide events usually are sponsored by FCA, sometimes with the support of one or two of the condo associations. Last month's Fourth of July parade, which was a joint activity between FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association, is a good example.

On the other hand, FCA does try to facilitate communication among the condo associations (and the one Fairlington homeowner association), since there are often condo-related issues that all of them are dealing with. In that regard we hosted a gathering of the association presidents earlier this spring to compare notes on common condo issues. Another session is expected this fall. And we're hoping to facilitate a conversation between the various condo grounds committees.

In many ways FCA is the glue that tries to keep together the pieces that yield the big picture of Fairlington and articulate the interests of our community to policy makers. But if you have an issue and don't know whose lap it should fall in, then let us know. We'll be glad to help.

Guy Land, FCA President  
[president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)



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# Developer describes Park Center office conversion plans

At the July 11 FCA meeting, Fairlington residents were briefed on plans to renovate the commercial office and retail space known as Park Center into apartments. The 566,000 square-foot complex is located in Alexandria, near the intersection of King St. and I-395. It includes a large retail building, two 14-story office towers, and various supporting grounds and facilities.

The commercial towers are partially occupied: The U. S. Department of Agriculture has offices at 3101 Park Center Dr., and the other building (4401 Ford Ave.) is two-thirds occupied by various tenants. Plans for renovation and conversion of the space are somewhat dependent on current lease end dates, so the project will likely be done in phases.



*Mark Rivers with Lowe Enterprises describes the Park Center project to Fairlington residents at the July FCA meeting. Photos by Guy Land.*

USAA Real Estate and Lowe Enterprises, a Los Angeles-based commercial developer, acquired the property in January 2018. Lowe Executive Vice President Mark Rivers presented plans for the site and discussed possible implications for the surrounding community. He was joined by Maya Contreras, Principal Planner from the City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning.

Due to dwindling demand for office space along the I-395 corridor and the lack of new residential development in the surrounding area,

Lowe plans to convert the Park Center complex into multi-family housing. The transition may require certain structural and site changes, Rivers said, but “the greenest building is the building already built.”

Lowe plans to “green up the space, eliminate some of the concrete, and create more leisure and recreation spaces.” This will include playgrounds, rooftop decks and patios, and maybe even a dog run. The existing precast structure of the three buildings will remain in place, but the interior spaces and windows will be significantly renovated.

Rivers showed the audience architectural renderings,

potential floorplans, and landscape design mock-ups to better illustrate the developer’s goals for the project. Price points for the finished 400 or so apartment units (one-bedroom, one-bedroom plus den, and two-bedroom) will be “at the top end of workforce housing” rates.

These residences should be affordable to a family of four, provided they earn at least 80 percent of the median local income. That puts the development in the “upper middle tier,” according to Contreras, “when compared to other local multi-family properties.”

Fairlingtonians shared their concerns about potential traffic impact, but Rivers sees only positives. Residential units drive lower traffic patterns than commercial units, he explained, and require less garage space, so some of the existing infrastructure could be repurposed for other amenities. In addition, the existing Metro shuttle service will continue, and a Capital Bikeshare station will be added.

Contreras did say, however, that some street surface or signal light timing changes may be required, depending on resident density. The city will make that determination as the project nears completion. No matter what, King St. traffic flow will always have priority.

One resident asked if there were any plans for retail shops or restaurants in the space. The location is permitted for both uses, according to Contreras, but nothing is planned at the moment. Additional retail development is coming to the Alexandria Gateway, further west at King and Beauregard Sts., where a new Harris Teeter is under construction along with mixed retail, office, and affordable housing space.

“But we would love to have restaurants and retail, too,” said Rivers.

The first phase of construction for the Park Center project is expected to begin in late 2019.

—Evan Harvey



*The City of Alexandria’s Maya Contreras answers resident questions about the project.*

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# Meet a new market vendor and join us for special events

Summer is a great time to visit the market! Come and enjoy fun activities, music, and of course great food and beverages from our terrific vendors. On July 29, the Arlington Art Truck brought a unique cultural, creative, and interactive experience to the market with a special event, *Going Native: Flora and Fauna of Arlington*, by artist Kate Samworth.

On August 19 we'll welcome the Master Gardeners Program of the Virginia Cooperative Extension. On August 26, market sponsor Fairlington Presbyterian Church will have a table for Rally Day for sign-ups for Sunday School and a celebration of a new year of classes, and Ed Girovasi will entertain shoppers with music.

Last month we introduced the first of our two new vendors, Chase Your Tail Bakery. This month, meet Number One Sons, offering kimchi, kraut, pickles, and more. If the lines at their booth are any indication, Fairlington



*New vendor Number One Sons has been a popular addition to the market, consistently attracting lines of customers. Photo by Guy Land.*

residents love fermented foods!

Simple and delicious food has been a constant in the life of Yi Wah and Caitlin, the brother-and-sister team behind Number One Sons. Fam-

ily dinners always included vegetables and a fresh salad, and their mother taught them that good food shouldn't be complicated—it can be made using simple, quality ingredients with traditional processes.

Based in Washington, D.C., they make barrel-fermented foods that draw from food cultures from all over the world. Their products are naturally wild fermented, except for beets and sweet pickles, which are made with Virginia apple cider vinegar.

The barrels change with seasonal and culinary inspiration. When in season, vegetables are grown by farmers in surrounding states. With a wide range of tempting and delicious flavors, there's something for everyone—

visit them to see what's available each week.

Special thanks to ...



- Market sponsors Fairlington Citizens Association; Fairlington Dental; Fairlington Presbyterian Church; and Jennifer Birt-whistle, Realtor with Weichert, Realtors. Please support them as they have supported us.
- Leslie Frank, a dedicated early-morning market volunteer, for bringing cold water for shoppers to enjoy at the market information booth!

See you at the market!

—Lynne Blasi

## Bring your food scraps to the market

Remember that we are a food scraps collection site and you can bring your food scraps and household organics for drop off (bring in a bucket or non-inked brown paper bags—please no plastic or compostable bags). We'll take your leftover fruits, vegetables, nuts, breads/grains/pasta, egg shells, meat and seafood (including bones), coffee grounds, filters/tea bags (without the string), soiled paper products (including paper towels/plates/napkins), cotton balls, house plants, and natural hair (no wigs please).



National Farmers Market Week is August 5–11. The Fairlington Farmers Market is planning fun activities to celebrate this special week. Join us! Courtesy United States Department of Agriculture.





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# *Fairlington's 75th lookback: Neighborhood celebrations and activities*

When Fairlingtonians gathered last month at the firehouse and along S. Abingdon St. for the annual Fourth of July parade, they were continuing a long tradition of neighborhood celebrations and community activities.



*Mrs. Stokes and neighbor with mint juleps on the back stoop – 1955. Courtesy Donald Stokes.*

and events multiplied. Property manager Walter Hodges encouraged arts and crafts shows; Fourth of July parades; Memorial Day celebrations and cookouts; and a community newspaper, *The Fairlingtonian*. A community theater group, The Fairlington Players, was established in 1947, and a host of other activities reflected the interests of residents:

“Fairlington Travelers, the Fairlington Women’s Club, annual boat trips down the Potomac, Halloween parties, a bowling league, the famous Mrs. Fairlington Beauty Contest ... Christmas tree bonfires, Kiwanis, Red Cross, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Fairlington Civic Association, paper drives, church group meetings, and a modern dance troupe. For the children, there were Campfire Girls, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts.”\*

Since the conversion to condominiums in the 1970s, Fairlingtonians have continued to weave a rich fabric of neighborhood life. Informal village, courtyard, and pool parties have long been common. Potluck and grill dinners, winter storm shoveling and cocoa parties, springtime planting events, and Bloody Mary contests all continue to bring neighbors together.

Original owner Bill Miller noted that his village (Arbor) “...holds two pool parties every summer. We also have Friday night wine and cheese get-togethers by the pool ... as well as a couple of movie nights. I’ve taken walks

on cold winter nights ... and have noticed groups of neighbors holding parties around fire pits in their communal front lawns.”

In Fairlington Villages, the condominium board aims to hold one event each month and to appeal to all types of community interests, from children’s activities, to events with broad appeal, to pet-centered gatherings.

Across the community, the Fairlington Diners, Book Group, and Canasta players bring together residents with common interests. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® and Fairlington Babysitting Co-op unite neighborhood families.



*Fairlington Players’ Tent Theater Festival – 1965. Courtesy William A. Dunston.*

In recent years, the Fairlington Citizens Association and the Fairlington Historical Society have jointly hosted walking tours of neighborhood history and notable trees and are currently working together on the community’s 75th anniversary celebration (Saturday, October 20).

Fairlingtonians past and present appreciate the unique neighborhood we all share. We seem never to run out of ideas for celebrating that and enjoying the company of our neighbors.

—Cindy Kunz

\*Quotations from Catherine D Fellows, *Fairlington at Fifty: May 1943–May 1993 – The Catherine D. Fellows Memorial Edition*. The Fairlington Historical Society, 2012.



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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# Free outdoor movie night rescheduled for September 7

The FCA has selected a new date and location for its free outdoor movie night: Friday, September 7, around 8 pm, at Abingdon Elementary School. The original May 18 date was rained out. The movie title will be announced in the September *Bulletin*, selected from among popular titles, "Moana," "Coco," or "The Goonies."

The location was changed due to ongoing Fairlington Park construction at the Fairlington Community Center. A large screen will be set up on the field, so join your neighbors for this end-of-summer community gathering under the stars.

The movie will begin at sundown (around 8 pm), but those attending are encouraged to come early and create a picnic. Bring your blankets, low chairs, and favorite theater snacks. Bug spray is always a good idea. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed. There is plenty of space to set up with friends and family,



*Last September's first-ever outdoor movie night drew families to enjoy "A Princess Bride" on the big screen. Photo by Sheri Weathers.*

and additional trash and recycling bins will be provided for your convenience. Please pick up your trash before you leave.

Residents are also encouraged to bring flashlights, camping lanterns, or phones equipped with a flashlight setting to navigate their way home after the show.

Though we are hoping for a beautiful September evening, there is always a chance the event will have to be rescheduled again because of inclem-

ent weather. In the event of cancellation, an announcement will be made on the FCA website and Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, as will the selection of a make-up date.

FCA is looking forward to sponsoring this family-friendly event, and winding down the summer with our neighbors in Fairlington. We hope to see you there!

—Christine Chirichella

## Three county board members celebrate July 4 with Fairlington

Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol and Board Members John Vihstadt and Libby Garvey (also a Fairlington resident) celebrated with our community during the Fourth of July celebration. This is the third year in a row that Cristol and Vihstadt

have attended. Board members typically get multiple invitations to July Fourth events, so FCA was pleased that they chose to include Fairlington on their lineup of the day's activities. *Photos by Guy Land and Michelle Woolley.*





## *A red, hot, and blue Fourth of July*

Last month's Fourth of July celebration was a truly great community event, drawing a large crowd despite the heat and humidity. An estimated 500–600 people braved the temperatures to enjoy the annual festivities.

Three county board members—Katie Cristol (board chair), John Vihstadt, and Libby Garvey—attended and spoke at the beginning of the parade. For the first time, the FCA rented a sound system to improve the crowd's ability to hear the kick-off speeches.

The event was jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condominium association. Special thanks to the Fairlington Villages Activities Committee (co-chaired by Jennifer Gotcher, Warene Sheridan, and Susan Tatum) for organizing the event and making last-minute arrangements for the ever-popular ice cream.



Thanks go as well to the Fairlington Villages board of directors and management staff for their support and coordination, Kay Houghton of Keller Williams Realty for providing bottles of water, and Robin Weinick for stepping up as the new organizer of the No Kid Hungry Bake Sale.

Despite recent budget cuts, the Arlington County Police Department helped to escort the parade, showing their continued support of the neighborhood. One of the most popular pre-parade activities for kids was climbing on the police motorcycles. Fire Engine 107 brought up the end of the parade, staying to let kids climb on board and explore.

The parade opened with patriotic music from fifers John and Melissa DeWitt, whose lively playing encouraged an impromptu post-parade crowd sing-a-long. Hot dogs from the Swizzler food truck and donuts sold by Mama's Donut Bites satisfied the crowd's hunger after the parade. *Photos by Guy Land.*







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## Coming Next Gorgeous Braddock in the Arbor

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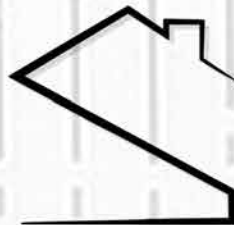


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## No Kid Hungry: message from the new organizer

A huge “thank you” to all the generous Fairlington families and friends who baked and purchased homemade treats at the July 4th No Kid Hungry Bake Sale. In honor of past organizer Cathy Malin’s great leadership, we will proudly send \$460 to Share Our Strength, bringing our 16-year donation total to more than \$21,000.

Cathy donated the use of her tent to help keep the hot sun off this year’s treats and volunteers. Since this was my first year as coordinator, we did not have a raffle as in years past. But thanks to those who expressed an interest in helping next year, we hope to be able to grow our efforts a bit next time around.

I also appreciate the FCA and Fairlington Villages Condo Association/Activities Committee for incorporating the bake sale into the annual July 4th neighborhood celebration once again. If you would like to help with next year’s efforts, please contact me at [rweinick@gmail.com](mailto:rweinick@gmail.com).

—Robin Weinick



*Robin Weinick enjoys her first year as No Kid Hungry Bake Sale coordinator, shown here with her family who helped volunteer. Photo by Guy Land.*

## FINS swim again



The 2018 Fairlington FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming) kicked off its three-week program in July. The FINS program is a regular summer fixture in Fairlington and is a fun way for kids to strengthen swim skills and encourage camaraderie and good sportsmanship. *Photos by Carolyn Ericson, Fairlington FINS.*



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# Giant Hogweed in Parkfairfax causes concern

A Giant Hogweed was discovered in late June between two buildings on Martha Custis Dr. in a planting bed in the common element. Hogweed is known to be strongly phototoxic to humans, which means that its sap can cause extreme skin burns and even blindness if the eyes are exposed.



*The Giant Hogweed, shown with a person for scale, can grow as large as 10 or 12 feet tall with three-foot leaves. Photos by Kirsten Ann Conrad.*

Other plants that have been reported/suspected to be Giant Hogweed include Elderberry, Cow Parsnip, Thistle, Queen Anne's Lace, Autumn Joy Sedum, Poison Hemlock, and Burdock. However, unlike these plants, the Giant Hogweed grows 10 to 12 feet tall with leaves up to three feet long.

According to Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) Extension Agent Kirsten Ann Conrad, the Hogweed found in Parkfairfax had been there for quite some time and was part of a managed landscape. Conrad adds, "To date, we have not found seedlings or evidence of the Giant Hogweed spreading on its own. The plant should not stop people from going outdoors to enjoy the woods or gardening."

If you spot a suspicious plant and are not sure if it is Hogweed, do not touch it. Report it to your condo office, as well as VCE, located at the Fairlington Community Center. Note the plant's location and try to safely get a couple of pictures to show the plant's size/scale. A photo of the stem and underside of the flower

would be helpful if possible. Email everything with your contact information (name, address, phone number) to the VCE Horticulture Help Desk at [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) or text photos to 703-539-9855. The help desk will review the photos and make a site visit if necessary.

The plant found in Parkfairfax was confirmed to be Giant Hogweed and removed for safety.



*Giant Hogweed produces beautiful flowers, often mistaken for Queen Anne's Lace or other plants.*

In addition to the Horticulture Help Desk, the Arlington County VCE runs many programs that benefit Fairlington, including Master Gardeners, 4-H Camp and afterschool programming, Energy Masters, and Master Food Volunteers. You can call the VCE helpdesk Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm, at 703-228-6414. Learn more at <https://arlington.ext.vt.edu>

—Christine Chirichella

## Arlington Master Naturalist classes

The Virginia Master Naturalist program prepares volunteers to provide education, citizen science, and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands.

Master Naturalist volunteers gain certification through state-approved natural history courses with a local focus. Recognized experts provide fun and interactive training in a wide range of disciplines such as ecology, botany, herpetology, ornithology, forest and aquatic ecosystems, and more. Volunteers must commit to at least 40 hours of service annually to become certified.

Arlington Regional Master Naturalists will hold training this fall, beginning September 4 through December 18, on Tuesdays from 7 to 10 pm at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Four Saturday field trips will be scheduled at parks around the area. Applications are due Wednesday, August 1. For more information and to complete an application, visit [www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org).





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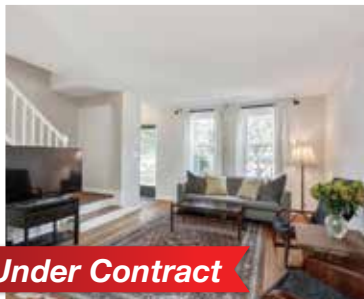
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## Fairlington Capital Bikeshare station to close

Due to low ridership, Arlington County's Capital Bikeshare plans to remove the station at the Fairlington Community Center, at S. Stafford and S. 34th Sts. At



*The Capital Bikeshare station at the Fairlington Community Center is closing due to low ridership. Photo by Guy Land.*

time of press, the station was still in place, but removal will likely occur in late July or August.

This station ranked near the bottom of Arlington's 92 Bikeshare stations, with 546 trips in 2017. After removal, the nearest Capital Bikeshare stations to this location will be at S. Woodrow and S. 31st Sts. and N. Radford and Osage Sts., which are both 0.4 miles away.

The county will be posting a notice on the station at least two weeks before the move to inform customers about the move date and nearest stations, as well as alerting customers on social media. To learn more, visit [www.capitalbikeshare.com](http://www.capitalbikeshare.com).

## Come to the Arlington County Fair

The annual Arlington County Fair is happening August 15 to 19 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. Second St. There is no public parking at the Fair, and parking on nearby streets is restricted to neighborhood residents with temporary permits. A free shuttle and bike valet service is available. Visit <http://arlingtoncountyfair.us> for complete details including hours, vendors, and a map with shuttle information.

## DEQ briefs Fairlington on chemical plume

On Monday, July 9, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided an update briefing on the status of the chemical plume that is under parts of South Fairlington in the Glen and Meadows, across from the Fairlington Shopping Center on Quaker Ln.

The Fairlington Glen and Meadows Condo Associations hosted the meeting, which was moderated by Virginia State Delegate Mark Levine and Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey.

Delegate Levine has been working on this issue for months with concerned residents of the Glen.

The chemical plume is from a decades-old leak at a former (closed) dry cleaning store in the shopping center. Unfortunately, leaks from old dry cleaners are not unusual in Northern Virginia.

The plume has been mapped following testing of the subsoils in various locations. The primary risk is breathing in vapors from the chemical plume that enter homes. Five affected homes have received sub-slab vapor extraction units, which are the same systems used to address radon.

Questions were raised about studying localized health risks, such as rates of cancers. However, such studies are usually difficult to complete due to privacy concerns, a transient population, and unclear causality.

Going forward, DEQ is working with the owner of the Fairlington Shopping Center, the Glen and Meadows Condo Associations, and residents to identify and install permanent monitoring wells, and possibly implement a legally binding covenant to guard against future shifts in the plume that could affect more homes. The plume is expected to dissipate over several decades.

Additional information is available on the Meadows website at [www.fairlington.org/meadowsindex.htm](http://www.fairlington.org/meadowsindex.htm) and from DEQ at [www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov).

—Kent Duffy



The free family outdoor movie night has been rescheduled to Friday, September 7, at 8 pm on the Abingdon School field.



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## ***Applications for 2018–19 Tree Stewards now being accepted***

The Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. New volunteer training at the Fairlington Community Center and other locations will be held on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 pm, starting Tuesday, October 2, 2018, through April 30, 2019, with some Saturday mornings.

Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Sign up now to learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, churches, temples, and in your neighborhood.

Classes are limited to 25 people and there is a fee of \$120, but scholarships are available. For more information and to complete an application, visit [www.treestewards.org](http://www.treestewards.org) or email [info@TreeStewards.org](mailto:info@TreeStewards.org).

## ***Creative Arts Camp@ Fairlington***

Do you have a child between the ages of eight and 11 who loves to paint and draw? If so, consider Arlington County's Creative Arts Camp at the Fairlington Community Center! Each two-week session has its own themes and activities and includes up to two field trips for a well-rounded experience.

Campers spend their days experimenting with various materials and techniques, building foundation skills to bring artwork to a whole new level ... think drawing, painting, sculpture, print making, book making, mask making, and multi-cultural arts.

Participants must bring lunch, a snack, and clothes they can get messy. Two-week sessions run through August 19, from 8 am to 3 pm daily. The cost is \$520, and an extended day from 3 to 6 pm is available for an additional \$92. For camp details, contact Sheri at 703-228-6492 or [sbarth@arlingtonva.us](mailto:sbarth@arlingtonva.us). Visit <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/summer-camps/> for full details.

## ***Pool party in the Mews***



*In June, Fairlington Mews hosted a pool party on a rare sunny day in the middle of all the rain that month. Photos by Guy Land.*



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# County board approves policy framework for 4MRV

In late May, the Arlington County Board unanimously adopted a policy framework for Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV), the area along Four Mile Run in Shirlington. Preserving the Shirlington Dog Park's size and character, improving Jennie Dean Park, and maintaining the area's light industrial business mix are key elements.

The framework highlights the overall vision and conceptual plans for the area and identifies the policy-related actions needed to realize that vision.



*Courtesy Arlington County.*

"Developing the foundation for an Area Plan for the mostly industrial part of Four Mile Run Valley, and a Park Master Plan and design guidelines for both Jennie Dean and Shirlington Parks and the Shirlington Dog Park, while coordinating with the Nauck Town Square design was a heavy lift, but it allowed the community to comprehensively work on a long-range vision for the whole area," said Arlington County Board Chair Katie Cristol.

The policy framework honors the county board's guidance last year that there be no major changes for the Shirlington Dog Park, Arlington's largest dog park. Instead, the park will remain in its existing condition, with improvements over time.

The framework envisions minor physical improvements and other actions that address erosion and water quality issues. These include increasing vegetative buffers, plantings along the stream bank, and trash receptacle availability, while limiting access to the Four Mile Run to defined points. In addition, a pilot program to address rooftop stormwater run-off will be developed.

## Jennie Dean Park

For Jennie Dean Park, also used by a number of Fairlington residents for baseball games, the policy framework is designed to make it easy to access amenities adjacent to the diamond fields, including the restroom, playground, small and large picnic shelters, and athletic courts.

Park improvements include lighted diamond fields along S. Nelson St. The adult softball diamond can also be used as a youth rectangular field. A playground and restrooms will be placed along Four Mile Run Dr.

A lighted basketball court, lighted tennis court, and large picnic shelter will be added to the area just south of the WETA parcel that is adjacent to the park and that the county has said it will acquire.

## Development and land use

The 4MRV contains some of the last industrially zoned land in the county. The framework stresses the importance of preserving these existing industrial uses. At the same time, it encourages the expansion of arts uses within the area, including the evaluation of an Arts and Industry District.

While the framework rejects a call for more structured parking (garages) due to the cost and land requirements, it suggests alternatives for maximizing on-street parking and broader changes in the street design of Four Mile Run Dr.

Other components recommend sidewalk improvements to enhance pedestrian access and steps to facilitate bicycle use of the W&OD and Four Mile Run Trails.

The overall framework will now guide county staff and the community in developing the details for a Park Master Plan and a general Area Plan, including an implementation matrix that will generally outline the timing and phasing of improvements or county actions.

Work on the framework by a series of citizen advisory committees, including civic association representatives, began over two years ago and involved more than 30 meetings.

—Guy Land

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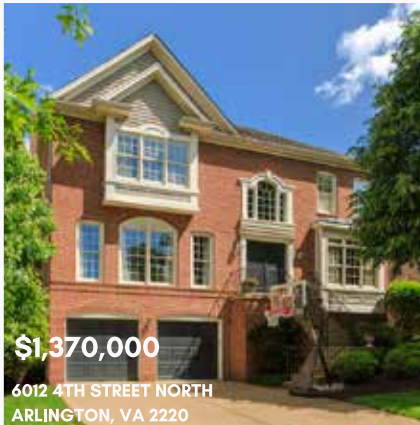
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# Animal Talk

## *Pets of Fairlington: Meet Buttercup*

Hi, I'm Buttercup. I am a five-year-old blonde Chihuahua that weighs only four-and-a-half pounds. I'm a girly-girl who likes pink, flowers, and bows, even the occasional pearls. I moved into the Mews in 2014 after I was rescued from a shelter in South Carolina and adopted through Homeward Trails Animal Rescue.

I love food, treats, walking, and shopping. You may have seen me "walking" in the Mews, Arbor, and through the Village to Shirlington. Actually, I let my owner do the walking—I prefer to ride along in a backpack or carry bag. It's my favorite thing.



I'm more interested in people than dogs. Anyone who gives me a treat becomes a life-long friend. I like to sit in the sun and look out our storm door into the court. If I see one of my human friends go by, I will squeal and spin circles.

I hope to see you around Fairlington!

—Lori Whiteman

*"Pets of Fairlington" spotlights pets living in the neighborhood. Want your pet to be considered? Email [editor@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:editor@fca-fairlington.org) and we will notify you with details if your special pet is chosen for an upcoming column.*

ABINGDON

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## *Mark your calendars!*

The Abingdon School News column is taking a summer break, but save the date for the Abingdon Back-to-School Picnic and Potluck, scheduled for Monday, September 3, from 12 to 2 pm. All Abingdon families, staff, and alumni are invited back for our annual picnic on the Abingdon grounds. This is a great opportunity for students to see old friends and welcome new ones. For more information, contact the Abingdon PTA at [abingdonelementaryPTA@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonelementaryPTA@gmail.com).

—Jeni Hornback

*Students enjoyed face painting at last year's back-to-school picnic. Photo by Carrie Lewis.*



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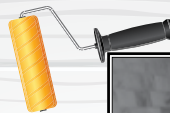


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# neighborhood news

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## **Fairlington Diners**

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In June, we re-visited Laporta's in Alexandria for excellent seafood dishes.

Here's what's planned for August:

Wednesday, August 8, 6:30 pm, Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St., Alexandria, 703-548-1785, [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com). Occupying a renovated Colonial warehouse, the restaurant has been serving revolutionary American cuisine since 1986.

Monday, August 20, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Tavern & Grill, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, [www.rampartstavern.com](http://www.rampartstavern.com). We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer a special price on hamburgers (and turkey burgers, and the occasional fish burger) with the purchase of any beverage.

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. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, email [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in August to discuss *Magpie Murders: A Novel* by Anthony Horowitz.

"Anthony Horowitz's *Magpie Murders* is catnip for classic mystery lovers... With its elegant yet playful plotting, *Magpie Murders* is the thinking mystery fan's ideal summer thriller." —*Time Magazine*

"An ingenious funhouse mirror of a novel sets a vintage 'cozy' mystery inside a modern frame." —*The Wall Street Journal*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, August 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

## **Card Players Welcome**

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

## **Fairlington Babysitting Co-op**

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Email [fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com](mailto:fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com) to join.

## **Fairlington MOMS Club®**

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



Mark your calendar for Fairlington's 75th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 20.



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Creative summer garden ideas*

August may be the most neglected month in the landscape. It's the second-hottest month of the year here (July is hotter by about two degrees according to several weather websites) and therefore, people spend little time on their patios. Even under an umbrella, it can be like an incubator with no breeze.

So, when we're not "gardening," plants have little company and little water. Factor in vacations, college visitations, and the back-to-school craze, and a garden becomes forgotten.

Additionally, August isn't the most dramatic month, color-wise in the landscape. Aside from Roses (all colors), Rose of Sharon (all colors) and Spirea (pink), most other flowering specimens are dormant.

So now is the time to use your imagination.

### **Trellises**

One of my customers installed iron trellises that open like interior room dividers. On them, she hung color-



*Roses on a trellis. Photos courtesy Pixabay.*

ful decorations like butterflies, salamanders, and faces of the sun. This display outdid the nearby potted perennial and annual plants (Coral Bells, Coleus, and Begonia). And, as a backdrop, the trellises were far more attractive than the pinewood fence panels (new and yellowish but stark).

Speaking of trellises, something I've noticed this year are miniature ones, maybe two-feet-tall by one-foot-wide, that hang on the fence post. At the base is a small iron basket that holds potted plants. So, with this element, you have decorative iron (with a filigree look) and greenery (potted plants with trailing stems), all in one.

### **Fountains**

For sound, try a fountain. One easy option: If you have an electrical outlet (usually in the brick wall below the dining room window), plug in a fountain and set it on the ground. Surround it with low-lying ground cover plantings (Pachysandra, Astilbe, Coral Bells, Liriope, Ajuga, Lamium, Japanese Forest Grass, or Hosta) for a natural look. Just listening to the water gushing should cool you off, at least in your mind.

### **Decorative façades**

Since so many air conditioning compressors sit inside the patios and take up valuable space, here's a decorative idea. Instead of totally hiding it with a lattice structure (sometimes garish), install one façade of a picket fence (two-feet-tall by four-feet-wide) in front of the

compressor. Just build it six inches away from the unit to provide air flow.

Then, plant Morning Glory seeds in front of the façade and watch the needle-like vines crawl all over the wood. In time, you'll see royal blue, trumpet-like flowers with yellow throats. Morning Glory doesn't need constant irrigation, which is key if you're away this month.



*Morning Glory.*

Just remember, even if you have drought-tolerant plants (Juniper, Euonymus, Boxwood, Laurel, Barberry, Yew, or other evergreens), it's wise to water. Ask a neighbor to water your plants if you're away. Even established plants need a drink with our high heat indexes.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)

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## Walter Reed project goes out for bid

Last year, Arlington County began implementing a new lane realignment at Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Walter Reed Dr. as part of a larger improvement project in this area along Four Mile Run Dr. The key change realigned westbound Arlington Mill to one left-turn lane and one right-turn lane in order to improve crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians.



*Traffic operations have been stable with the new lane alignment at the intersection of Arlington Mill and S. Walter Reed. Photo by Guy Land.*

The project is designed to improve transportation facilities and encourage more bicycle and pedestrian trips, improve access to Shirlington, and better support motorists and county service vehicles that rely on this connection.

Here's a quick update on the project:

- The underground utilities have been relocated on S. Walter Reed Dr. between S. Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Four Mile Run Dr., clearing the way to begin construction on the project later this year.
- All of the easements and permissions that are required to build the project have been obtained. County staff continue to pursue securing the last easement (Shell station), which is preferred but not required, for the project. This is anticipated to be resolved soon.
- Five construction bids were received for the project. At time of press, staff were preparing to send the construction contract to the May 19 Arlington County Board meeting to seek approval to award the project.
- Traffic operations at the S. Arlington Mill/S. Walter Reed intersections have been stable since the end of 2017. Staff will continue to monitor the project through implementation and will adjust, if necessary, to further improve traffic flow.

For complete project details, visit <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects> and search "South Walter Reed Drive Improvements."

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Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

A color version of this newsletter is available online at [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org).

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**Cost:** 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

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