

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

Inside this month

Features

Shirlington density increase	1
Racism, inclusion in Fairlington.	5
Park Shirlington redevelopment.	5
WETA expansion.	7
West Alex senior living.	7
Fairlington Cares update.	9
Shirlington 1960 sit-ins	11
Pet heat safety.	13
Fourth of July celebration.	14-15



Fairlington during COVID	17
King St. improvements.	17
Movie night.	19
Special election results	19
Bridge renaming	19
Fairlington Farmers Market	23
Native plants.	25
Mews pool chalk art	25

Departments

Neighborhood news	21
Patio gardening.	29
Mini ads	30

County board approves plan for greater density in Shirlington

In the first major examination of development in Shirlington in almost 20 years, the Arlington County Board has approved a policy document for the Village at Shirlington that envisions a substantial increase in density, providing a foundation for Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT), the owner of the Village at Shirlington, to seek approval for new construction in the area.



Restaurants in the heart of the Village at Shirlington on Campbell Ave. Photo by Guy Land.

FRIT has requested additional density that it says is necessary to give it an adequate return for new investment to keep the commercial aspects (primarily Campbell Ave.) of Shirlington modern and competitive. Under current zoning, no additional density is available.

FRIT has proposed building on the site of the surface parking lot along Arlington Mill Dr., as well as adding floors to parking garages and other buildings in Shirlington, such as the AMC theater. By increasing the number of apartments and offices in Shirlington, FRIT hopes to strengthen the customer base for the commercial businesses.

At its July meeting, the county board adopted the *Special General Land Use Plan Study Plus and Concept Plan*, which will guide future development in Shirlington. The study provides parameters related to land use, building height and form, public spaces, circulation, historic preservation, tree conservation, sustainability, and connectivity. It identifies and outlines guiding principles and other desirable elements that should be incorporated into future site plan applications for redevelopment within Shirlington.

The study recommends changing the Shirlington General Land Use Plan from "low" office-apartment-hotel to "medium" office-apartment-hotel, with an associated change in zoning. This designation would increase the permitted number of apartments from 72 units per acre to 115 units per acre.

The study proposed to limit building heights along Arlington Mill to provide a transition to the two taller buildings at the opposite ends of Shirlington

Continued on page 9

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 12

There will be no presentation at the August 12 meeting. The Board will hold a virtual meeting, which can be viewed live on FCA's Facebook page and later on FCA's YouTube channel.

Regular board business:

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

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

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Citizens Association.

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Designed and printed by More Vang.

Calendar

Fairlington Knits

August 3, 6:30 pm
See page 21 for details.

FCA monthly meeting

August 12, 7 pm
(remote work session only)

Fairlington Diners

August 19, 5:30 pm
See page 21 for details.

Book Group

August 25, 6:30 pm
See page 21 for details.

Bump, set, spike!



While county parks removed volleyball nets during COVID restrictions, people still found ways to exercise by setting up their own net in Utah Park for safe volleyball fun. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Julie Butler, Tina Byrd, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Liz Opsitnik, Renee Powlette, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, and Sam Wolbert.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Other than the proposed redevelopment of Park Shirlington, over the next 10 years few things are likely to be as important to Fairlington as the growth and revitalization of Shirlington.

The county board approved the general land use guidelines for that growth in July. There would be substantial new density available to the owner of the Village at Shirlington, Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT). FRIT is looking at building on the surface parking lot along Arlington Mill Dr., as well as, over time, building more levels on top of the AMC theater and the parking garage at Quincy and Arlington Mill.

At the same time, FRIT plans to invest millions of dollars to rehabilitate the buildings along Campbell Ave., Shirlington's "main street," and create new amenities to attract customers. The goal is for Shirlington to remain a competitive shopping and dining destination.

Businesses and customers alike note that Shirlington has become a bit run-down and "drab." That makes it harder to compete with more modern shopping areas nearby.

The good news is that while the new land use plan provides greater density—a concern for Fairlington because of increased neighborhood traffic and additional enrollment pressures at Abingdon Elementary—it reaffirms the importance of the special character of Campbell Ave., the sidewalk cafes, street trees, historic architecture, and small businesses.

Much of the county board's consideration of the plan focused on balancing flexibility (the ability of the developer to seize business opportunities) and predictability (assurances to the community of the limits of growth and the preservation of neighborhood character).

Two other topics sparked board discussion: the need for better parking and the desire for improved transit and non-car options.

Part of the parking problem is that the garages are owned by different companies and there is minimal collaboration or coordinated signage. The county board missed an opportunity to put the burden on FRIT to bring order out of this chaos. We can expect continued parking issues.

Another problem is the need for improved transit and non-automobile options. The area cries out for an effective transit plan that links Metrobus, ART, and DASH, and that improves the ability to get into Shirlington and Fairlington from D.C. during the morning rush.

The county board's action lays the foundation for a vibrant and competitive Shirlington. FCA will continue to monitor the effect on Fairlington and the needs of our residents.

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

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Fairlington joins conversation on racism and inclusion

Recent incidents of police brutality across the nation have reignited an intensity of movements that protest racial inequality and discrimination and promote understanding, inclusion, and raising our consciousness of privilege and bias. The death of George Floyd, captured on a sobering and shocking 8 minutes and 46 seconds of video, has opened the eyes of many to the inherent problems of underlying bias and racism in our society rooted as deep as the history of our country.

Activism, marches, and protests in D.C. and Arlington have carried the Black Lives Matter movement to the neighborhood streets and community groups in Fairlington. Chalk art and displays in the forms of plastic cups and ribbons arranged to spell "BLM" have been raised on the chain link barrier along the Abingdon St. bridge.

In addition, political graffiti and other banners have been placed alongside or over these displays, seemingly as a counter or retaliation to the messages. Stickers promoting white power and neo-Nazi groups have also been found on the backs of public street signs recently. Our community has also witnessed heated exchanges on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, which were quickly removed due to vitriolic attacks between individuals.

Members of the Fairlington community have become involved in many different ways to reduce inequality and promote anti-bias. For example, the Abingdon Elementary PTA continues to serve families by raising money for

rental assistance. Also, the South Arlington Moms Take Action group on Facebook, which includes many Fairlingtonians, recently raised money for justice initiatives.

The FCA board has recognized the importance of promoting inclusion and preventing harassment within our community. Fairlington residents have also requested that the FCA show leadership and initiative in regard to the effects of racism and bias in our own neighborhood. In the July *Bulletin* and on the FCA Facebook page, the FCA made an outward statement of inclusion, support for Black Americans and persons of color, and a call to strengthen the community through volunteering and getting to know one another.

Board members have also informally discussed ways the FCA can be more proactively inclusive. These include bringing in speakers, providing platforms to hear community perspectives, examining FCA meeting structure to find ways to be more welcoming, and exploring education or training for board members. The FCA is actively recruiting residents to share ideas and take initiative through the civic association, of which all Fairlington and Park Shirlington citizens are a member.

Inclusivity should not be considered a tangential mission, but integrated with how our organization operates and relates to its members.

—Chris Weathers

Owners apply to redevelop Park Shirlington

The owners of the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St. have submitted a preliminary application to Arlington County to redevelop the property and provide additional density. The application builds on a general proposal they outlined at an FCA briefing for the community in November.

FCA is discussing with the owners a briefing for Fairlington residents, tentatively in early September. See next month's *Bulletin* for details.

The plan calls for the preservation of affordable housing on the site, but it would almost double the total num-



Park Shirlington currently offers income-restricted, pet-friendly apartments. Photo by Guy Land.

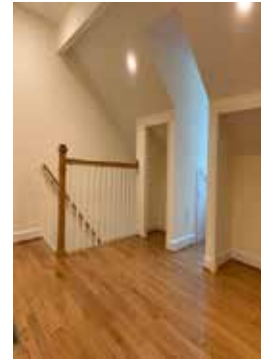
ber of units on the property. The added units are expected to be market rate.

Under the plan unveiled last fall, 294 affordable units (the current number of units on the property) would all be placed on the part of the property that is between 31st St. and I-395. That would require significant new construction on that parcel.

The apartment buildings on the west side of 31st St. would be demolished and replaced with a

combination of townhouses and condos.

—Guy Land



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County board approves WETA expansion

The Arlington County Board has approved additional density for the WETA site in Shirlington. The action will allow the public broadcasting station to move its production studio from the current site on S. 27th St. near Jennie Dean Park to its location on Campbell Ave. That will enable the station to consolidate all of its activities at one location.

WETA will sell the property that now houses its production facilities to Arlington County.

The county plans to demolish the building and use that property to expand Jennie Dean Park. A park master plan was developed as part of the Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) initiative, which was adopted by the county board in September 2018.

With the 17,150 square feet of office space approved by the county board, WETA will build a four-story addition on the north side of the current six-story office building, on the land between the building and the parking garage. The proposed addition will be placed in a private courtyard between the existing building and WETA's above-grade parking garage, providing a direct connec-



WETA radio studio and offices. Photo by Guy Land.

tion from the garage to the office building.

The project includes a new television studio and offices and the installation of a large media screen at the building's ground level.

Keeping WETA in Arlington has been a priority for county leaders. Under a January 2018 letter of intent between the county and WETA, the county would provide up to \$2.25 million in economic development incentive grants over

the next 15 years. The county would also make up to \$500,000 in urban design improvements near the WETA headquarters. WETA would invest at least \$15 million in the expansion and retain its roughly 300 employees in Arlington.

WETA's studio produces such popular national programs as PBS NewsHour and Washington Week.

The FCA Executive Board unanimously supported WETA's application.

—Guy Land

FCA endorses West Alex senior living

The FCA Board at its July meeting unanimously endorsed the application by the developer to build an assisted living facility (continuum of care) on the remaining parcel of the West Alex development at King St. and Beauregard in Alexandria. The lot was originally approved for an office building, but according to the attorney for the developer, the current market will not support an office building.

Representatives of Benchmark Senior Living, which will operate the facility, briefed FCA on the plans for the 117-unit development at its June meeting.

The building that was originally approved for office use

is being modified to be a residential building, but the essential design and character remain the same as the 2015-approved plan. The applicant is requesting that the approved height be increased to allow an additional story of living space and to allow rooftop structures as amenity space for residents. The parking required for the new use is the same or less than the office use, and the traffic generated by the use is projected to be less than the office use.

The application is expected to go before the Alexandria City Council in early fall.

—Guy Land



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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(Io Piazza and Shirlington Village Condominium) with heights more in line with that of the Hilton Garden Inn. The study would also impose height limits on the site of the AMC theater.



The study recommended heights for various buildings in Shirlington. Graphic courtesy Arlington County.

The county board tweaked the study to permit the developer to seek additional height so long as it is consistent with the plan's vision and guiding principles, including compatibility with adjacent and nearby buildings, while "managing the negative visual impacts of additional height."

The plan identifies more than 20 guiding principles to shape future development in Shirlington. The first of these emphasizes maintaining a vibrant mixed-use community that includes a strong small- and medium-format retail, dining, and entertainment environment.

Another principle endorses high-quality and engaging arts, amenities, and public gathering spaces, while yet another encourages development that enhances the pedestrian experience and is "visually compatible with adjacent residential properties and the historic Campbell Avenue retail core with appropriate design treatments and transitions in height, bulk, and scale." That principle states that higher building heights are more appropriate along the periphery of Shirlington.

Other guiding principles of the study recommended maximizing the use of biophilic and sustainable principles in new and existing development.

FCA submitted comments on the proposal to the county planning commission and the county board. "There's a

lot to like, and a lot to be concerned about," FCA President Guy Land told the planning commission, applauding the plan's focus on maintaining the historic character of Campbell Ave. but expressing concern about potential building heights.

The letter to the county board cautioned against permitting a "visual canyon effect" of tall buildings that would be inconsistent with the center of the Village.

FCA called upon the county "not to look at Shirlington in a vacuum," citing new developments that are either on the drawing board or underway all around Fairlington.

The study was the product of over a year of community engagement with county staff and the county's Long Range Planning Committee, including a walking tour of the study area, a community forum, an online survey, and resident participation in six meetings of the Long Range Planning Committee. (See the April *All Fairlington Bulletin* for more background on earlier discussions of the plan.)

FCA was represented in those discussions by Vice President Jennifer Davies and Board Member Chris Weathers.

FCA's letter can be found on the FCA website. The study can be found at: https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2020/07/FINAL_REDUCED-Single-Sheet-Combined-1.pdf

—Guy Land

Fairlington Cares update



Fairlington's new 501(c)(3) organization, Fairlington Cares, held its organizational meeting in July and elected the following officers (left to right): Guy Land, president; Jennifer Davies, secretary-treasurer; and Michael McGinn, vice president. Photo by Elizabeth Beck.

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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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Shirlington lunch counter sit-ins shaped desegregation 60 years ago

Sixty years ago this summer, the growing civil rights student protest movement engulfed Shirlington, as several Howard University students organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters across Arlington, including two in Shirlington Business Center, as the Village at Shirlington was then known.

The Arlington sit-ins were an outgrowth of the more famous student sit-ins that began earlier that year at the F.W. Woolworth department store in Greensboro, North Carolina. The student protests launched a wave of activity pressing to desegregate public accommodations across the South. (The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture has a major exhibit on the lunch counter sit-ins, including stools from the Greensboro Woolworth.)

In Arlington, the sit-ins started at a Peoples Drug Store in Cherrydale on June 9, followed that same day by sit-ins at a Drug Fair in Buckingham. A crowd of shoppers, white students, and neo-Nazis harassed the biracial group of demonstrators in Cherrydale.

When negotiations with white business leaders yielded no progress, the protests spread to Shirlington a few days later. Fourteen students sat down at the lunch counter in the Colonial Room (the lunch area) of the Shirlington location of Lansburgh's Department Store, then a leading D.C. department store, on Saturday, June 18.

Lansburgh's was located in the 2800 block of Randolph, where businesses such as Samuel Beckett's Pub are now. (Campbell originally dead-ended at Randolph.)

According to reports, a demonstrator was accidentally served a cup of coffee, but the counter was closed. The president of Lansburgh's stated that the closure was required for the company to determine if the protestors were violating any laws by integrating the diner. The demonstrators sat at the darkened counter for seven hours until the department store closed.



Protestors sit-in at the lunch counter of the Cherrydale Peoples Drug Store in Arlington in June 1960. Image courtesy D.C. Public Library, © The Washington Post.

A couple hours after the initial visit to Lansburgh's, a group of students walked down the street to protest at the lunch counter at the Shirlington F.W. Woolworth, which was located near where Guapo's is today on Campbell Ave., which was then known as 28th St.

The lunch counter was closed. The Woolworth protestors likewise remained until the department store closed. The protestors proclaimed a moratorium on additional sit-ins until the next week to give businesses

time to reply to their request for negotiation.

The demonstrators indicated that their ultimate goal was a dialogue with business owners and community leaders on "immediate and orderly" racial integration of eating facilities. They said they were focused on mediation and discussion for two reasons: the improvement of Arlington community relations and the economic well-being of the community.

On Tuesday, June 22, the Woolworth store in Shirlington became the first to announce that patrons would be served regardless of race in their Virginia stores as in their Maryland and Washington, D.C., stores (lunch counters at those stores had already been integrated). The change would be effective immediately.

That afternoon, an integrated group of protestors walked into the Shirlington Woolworth store and were served at the counter. Lansburgh's and the Peoples Drug Store chain quickly announced that they would also be desegregating their counters.

In less than two weeks, biracial student-led protests had resulted in the desegregation of lunch counters at nearly all chain department stores and drug stores in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax.

—Guy Land

This is the first in a periodic series of articles examining the stories and history of race and race relations in the larger Fairlington area.



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PAW PRINTS

Protect your pets from scorching summer heat

At the time of this writing in mid-July, the D.C. metro area is on pace to set a record for the longest streak of days exceeding 90 degrees or higher. And if *you're* hot because you can't lounge by one of our Fairlington community pools, imagine how your furry friend must feel!

The summer heat is now more extreme and lasts longer than ever before. Each year, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's (AWLA) Animal Control team receives hundreds of calls related to heat safety concerns. In this hot weather, it's vital that you're taking the necessary precautions to ensure your pet is staying safe. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

Leave your dog at home!

Given the longer days and sunny weather, you may be tempted to take your pet in the car with you while you travel or run errands. Don't do it! The temperature inside a parked car can exponentially increase and be deadly for a pet within a matter of minutes, even in the shade or with windows down. Wondering if it's OK to leave the car running with the A/C turned on instead? Well, what happens if you're delayed and something malfunctions? It's just not worth the risk—leave the pup at home!

If you see a pet unattended in a hot car, immediately call 911 and, if possible, stay on the scene until the police or Animal Control arrive. If you try to physically intervene, you may be held criminally liable. In Virginia, only law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and animal control officers are legally exempt.

Avoid the hottest parts of the day. Take your pet



Infographic courtesy Sam Wolbert/AWLA.

out only in the morning or evening. If activity is unavoidable, don't do anything strenuous, take frequent breaks to cool down, and make sure your pet is rehydrating. On walks, always try to avoid the asphalt because it can quickly burn a dog's paws. If it's too hot for your hand after a few seconds, it's too hot for your dog.

Know the signs of heat-stroke.

Each pet is different, and some are more at risk of heatstroke than others. Pets who are very old, very young, or overweight, as well as brachycephalic breeds (like boxers, pugs, or other short-muzzled dogs or cats), have a much harder time cooling off in hot weather.

If you suspect your pet is suffering from heatstroke, you should

take steps to gradually reduce your pet's temperature including: moving the pet to the shade or in an air-conditioned environment; use ice packs, cold towels, or cool (not cold) water to the head, neck, and chest; or offering your pet small amounts of cool water or ice cubes to lick. Contact your vet immediately if your pet is exhibiting signs like heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, vomiting, fever, unsteadiness or a staggering gait, or a deep red or purple tongue.

It may be hard for your pup to be confined indoors for long periods of the day during these summer months. To help, AWLA offers tips and virtual classes to keep your dog entertained in your home. Make sure you're following AWLA on social media or subscribe to their newsletter via awla.org for all the latest event news or pet behavior tips and information.

—Sam Wolbert

A Fairlington Fourth

Fairlington's Fourth of July 2020 certainly looked different than in past years, but there was still a great celebration despite COVID restrictions and social distancing.

In the spring, it became clear that Fairlington's traditional parade and party would not be able to occur due to the ongoing pandemic. As a result, the FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association, who jointly sponsor the parade, began brainstorming how we could celebrate our nation's birthday while remaining socially distant and safe. Noting the popularity of fire truck Santa, the FCA reached out to our friends at Fire Station 9.

Since there was concern that a fire truck parade would not be possible given COVID restrictions, the FCA also sponsored a Fairlington-wide patriotic decoration initiative complete with pinwheels and flags, and invited the community to decorate our neighborhood sidewalks

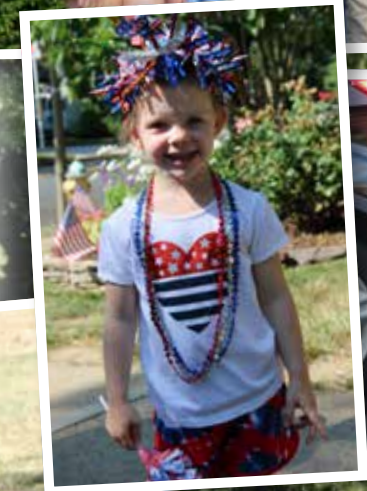
with chalk. Bins with supplies were placed throughout most of the community, per approval from the individual condo associations. The days leading up to Independence Day saw awesome decorations throughout the community, fun chalk drawings, and lots of red, white, and blue!

Fairlington was treated to not just a single fire truck, but a huge parade of emergency vehicles from Station 9, Alexandria, and Ft. Myer, with police escort. The vehicles moved at a slow pace and waved to every single person who lined the streets of Fairlington, waving their flags and pinwheels and wearing their patriotic leis.

FCA thanks the Arlington County Police Department, Arlington County Fire Department (especially Captain Justin Tirelli), and Fairlington Villages.

—Julie Butler





Photos by Guy Land.



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Summer in Fairlington during COVID-19

As the county entered phase 3 on July 1, changes could be observed throughout Fairlington. Some pools opened or expanded their swimming options. Playgrounds, including the Fairlington Community Center, welcomed back children, and the Fairlington Community Center opened its doors in a limited capacity to residents who use the fitness rooms. Many Fairlington pets could finally find some freedom at the dog parks. For those who eat out in Shirlington, residents have seen an expanded outdoor dining area on the new pedestrian-only section of Campbell Ave.

Parents with children in Arlington Public Schools adjusted to the mid-July announcement that the start of the school year would be delayed one week to start September 8 and all students would start the year at home with distance learning. It is still possible for families that opted for in-person learning two days a week to be able to attend school in mid-October should conditions support it.

Throughout the summer, FCA has continued to partner with the Abingdon PTA and staff to provide weekly meals and basic supplies to families in Park Shirlington and other areas within Abingdon's attendance zone.



FCA Director Chris Weathers distributes masks to Park Shirlington residents. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

Approximately 150 meals are provided every Thursday in Park Shirlington alone. In July, the FCA and PTA handed out reusable face coverings to residents. Now considered an essential item to gain access to most indoor spaces, the cloth mask initiative was part of the County's Department of Human Services program.

In addition, Fairlington residents have collected and assembled hundreds, if not thousands, of individual packets of food items/snacks, toiletry kits, and feminine hygiene products. The packets are then handed out along with the meals. Arbor residents Jeni Hornback (Abingdon's former PTA president) and Melania Saraniero have been amazing examples of giving back to the community. Jeni

remarked, "Thanks to the generosity of this community, we have been able to assemble and distribute over 700 toiletry kits to families in need in South Arlington."

—Jennifer Davies

FCA still has a stock of face coverings available for residents in need. Please call Chris Weathers at 703-402-4648.

Alexandria seeks funding for King Street improvements

The City of Alexandria is seeking roughly \$40 million from the Commonwealth's Smart Scale program for the Upper King St. Multimodal Improvements project. The targeted area runs along King St. from Quaker Ln. on the east to Menokin Dr. on the west and borders Fairlington Glen, Fairlington Arbor, and Fairlington Mews.

The conceptual proposal includes stormwater management facilities, landscaping, and street trees work, as well as other improvements for walking, biking, transit, and safety improvements for drivers. FCA had written the city earlier this year urging action on stormwater management and landscaping in that area.

The FCA Board unanimously agreed to support Alexandria's application and encouraged Arlington County to endorse it as well. The Arlington County Board voted its support in late July.

City staff caution that at this stage, the proposal is just

a concept that, if funded, will be developed and refined over the next couple of years. This year's applications are for funding that the Commonwealth would provide in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

"We intend to engage the communities in the area later this year or early 2021, pending the current COVID crisis of course, to discuss the project, the key elements our plans direct us to implement, and ideas for fitting it all into the space we have," said Christine Mayeur, who directs Alexandria's Complete Streets program and has coordinated the application.

FCA expects to host a work session with residents once the funding has been secured and Alexandria begins fleshing out the details of the project. "We would love to work with you all and hear from your constituents about your challenges with the corridor at that time," Mayeur said.

—Guy Land

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Thank you, Susan Renehan

A huge thank you goes to the outgoing editor of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, Susan Renehan, for all the wonderful work she did for more than a year and a half. Susan's guidance, editorial judgement, writing, and editing helped make the bulletin a better publication.

During her tenure, she produced a two-page graduation spread in the June issue to recognize the recent graduates amid difficult pandemic circumstances, and she expanded coverage of the local schools to include Gunston Middle School. Susan also provided in-depth coverage of local elections, including the candidate Q&A for the recent school board election. Thank you, Susan, for your contributions to the *All Fairlington Bulletin*! You will be missed.

The *All Fairlington Bulletin* informs residents of news and events in the neighborhood, provides advice on gardening and other topics, and highlights the great things you and your neighbors are doing to help your community.

If you have an interest in neighborhood news, are a budding photographer, or want to contribute to the newsletter, please let us know, as we're looking for volunteer writers and photographers to help cover our neighborhood in a meaningful way. If you have a writing, journalism or photography background, even better! Send us an email at afbeditors@yahoo.com.

FCA Family Movie Night Coming Sept. 12

In the words of King Trollex from *Trolls World Tour*, "Tonight is about family, love and music." That night will be the FCA family movie night, which we hope to hold on Sept. 12, 2020. The FCA is in communication with Arlington Parks and Recreation in order to reserve the FCC field so that we may host this screening of *Trolls World Tour*. While Arlington Parks and Recreation is not currently accepting reservations for any event that is not specifically sponsored by the county due to COVID-19 restrictions, we hope to still be able to hold this event due to our early efforts with the county.

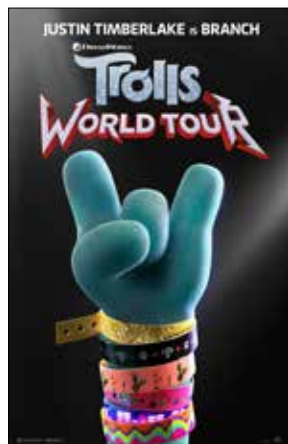


Photo courtesy
universalpictures.com.

Since the FCA felt that it would be fun to screen a movie that missed its cinema debut due to COVID-19, we settled on *Trolls World Tour*. *Trolls World Tour* is the sequel to the first Troll's movie, featuring Anna Kendrick as Poppy and Justin Timberlake as Branch.

—Julie Butler

Democrat Takis Karantonis Wins Arlington County Board Seat

Arlington County held a special election July 7 to fill the late Erik Gutshall's seat on the county board. Democrat Takis Karantonis won with 62.5 percent of the vote, while Independent Susan Cunningham received 32.5 percent and Republican Bob Cambridge received 4.7 percent.

In the Fairlington precinct, 238 votes were cast, one of which was for a write-in candidate. Fairlington voters gave Karantonis 52.5 percent of the vote, Cunningham 37 percent, and Cambridge 10 percent. The Abingdon precinct saw 184 votes, which broke out to 59.8 percent for Karantonis, 31.5 percent for Cunningham, and 8.7 percent for Cambridge.

Gutshall served on the county board since 2017 and died in April after a brief battle with brain cancer. Karantonis, an economist with a background in urban and regional planning, was born in Greece and has lived in Arlington since 2007. He served as the executive director for the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization for more than six years, among other roles.

Karantonis' term as a county board member will last through 2021.

—Liz Opsitnik

Petition seeks to rename bridge

A petition with almost 1,400 signatures is asking the Arlington County Board to name the Abingdon St. bridge over I-395 "Black Lives Matter Bridge." Fairlington resident Kristen Johnson presented the petition to the county board at its July 18 meeting.

County attorney Stephen MacIsaac told the board that the bridge is controlled by VDOT and any action on naming the bridge would need to go through the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Virginia General Assembly.

County board members emphasized the importance of broader community discussions about systemic racism.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants.

Our June Zoom dinner was great fun, and included a prior member who moved away, back just for our virtual dinner.

Wednesday, August 19 at 5:30 pm, we'll have a Zoom cocktail hour. While we will continue our hiatus from restaurant meals through August, we'll try a different approach from last month, which was a truly virtual dinner, because nobody brought food. Please email the organizer at carol_dabbs at yahoo.com if you want to receive the invitation to this virtual event—and plan to bring your favorite cocktail or aperitif!

Please watch this space in the September AFB for news about possible September restaurant visits. If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list.

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, August 25, to discuss *Rabbit, Run*, a novel by John Updike.

"Rabbit, Run introduces us to the author's most enduring protagonist, Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom, a onetime high-school basketball star who, on an impulse, deserts his wife and son, with tragic consequences." —*Amazon.com*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment is required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. The location of our meeting will be provided by email. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list.

Join Fairlington Knits! and Crochets, virtually, on August 3

Join us for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet and fellowship Monday, August 3, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm via Zoom.

We're meeting on Zoom so we can share what we're working on, ask for help/advice, or to get inspiration for a project. Log in from your home to talk with other like-minded people about projects that might interest you.

Email Turner for the Zoom information to join: turnerwork@aol.com.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' nights out. We have a great list-serv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families.

We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$30 support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.

Community Center parking alert

The Fairlington Community Center in South Fairlington has opened in a limited capacity, and parking has become an issue during the lock-downs, as residents are using the lot for daily and overnight parking as many of us are working from home. This is a reminder that you should not use this lot for daily parking or leave your car there for days at a time. There is no residential parking in this lot from 7 am to 9 pm. During the day, only participants and employees of the community center can park in this lot. If you choose to park in this lot after 9 pm and overnight, you need to move your car by 7 am. Thank you for your cooperation.



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Summer at the Fairlington Farmers Market



August is a great time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market. There's plenty of fresh, seasonal produce, including apples, Asian pears, blackberries, blueberries, nectarines, peaches, beets, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, herbs, peppers, squash, corn, and tomatoes. Our weekly market e-newsletter includes information on what vendors will be bringing each week, so be sure to sign up at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

It's also time to celebrate National Farmers Market Week, August 2-8! Despite challenges never experienced before, the national farmers market community has shown great resilience and creativity during COVID-19. Even though we can't mark this week with our typical special events, now more than ever it's important to recognize and thank our vendors, sponsors, market manager,

volunteers, and market committee for the work they do to bring our market to the neighborhood each week.

Thank you to residents and shoppers for following the market's health and safety guidelines during the ongoing pandemic. Please continue to wear a face covering, practice social distancing, enter the market on S. Utah St. and exit on S. Stafford St., and follow the one-way traffic pattern within the market. These practices will help ensure we are allowed to remain open and keep providing a convenient source of nutritious and healthy food in Fairlington.

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

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For the love of nature

A column by Fairlington gardeners who love native plants

In recent years, Fairlington garden committees and gardeners have recognized the importance of planting native plants. For years, gardeners sought to have gardens full of beautiful plants, most of which were not native to our area. What we failed to recognize was the relationship that has evolved between insects and native plants.

Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, said, "All plants are not created equal, particularly in their ability to support wildlife. Most of our native plant-eaters are not able to eat alien plants, and we are replacing native plants with alien species at an alarming rate, especially in the suburban gardens on which our wildlife increasingly depends. My central message is that unless we restore native plants to our suburban ecosystems, the future of biodiversity in the United States is dim."

Our native insects have evolved with native plants to support each other. For example, the monarch butterfly will only lay its eggs on a milkweed plant, and that is the only plant the larva will eat. This is true with other

butterflies and moths. Butterflies are very particular about the plants they lay their eggs on, and the larva are very particular about which plants they will eat—all of which are native plants.

As Tallamy points out, some plants support more insects than others. The oak tree is right at the top of the list, providing food for 557 species of caterpillars, which feed the birds. It is estimated that chickadee parents need over 6,000 caterpillars to feed just one brood. When we plant a non-native tree, for example a ginko, it supports no native caterpillars. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports nearly 3 billion birds are gone since 1970, and one simple action that you can do to help birds is plant a native plant.

Next time you add a plant to your garden, use a plant native to Northern Virginia. There are plenty of online sources to find the perfect plant, such as the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Virginia Native Plant Society, and Plant NOVA Natives.

—Tina Byrd

Mews chalk art helps celebrate pool opening



I commissioned our favorite neighborhood chalk artist, Lisa Michelle (lisa.m.portraits@gmail.com), to draw a mural at the entrance of the Mews pool so we could celebrate the beginning of summer, even though our pool opened three weeks late this year. She came up with the idea and drew the beautiful scene you see in Guy's pictures. She worked on

them for 12 hours but her effort was worth it as we enjoyed the pictures for many days. It was cool to see adults and children alike marveling at Lisa's talent and putting smiles on people's faces during this difficult year.

—Renee Powlette, Mews Board President

Photos by Guy Land.



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-Shirley Z.



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- Blake and Kate N.



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- Steven K.

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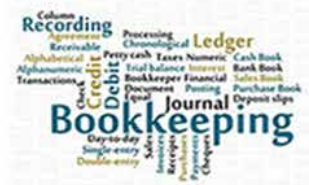
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Plants that can beat the heat

The dog days of August are here. That might be a slight toward canines (I have a beagle) but I've only heard it applied to the standard baseball season, which drags on for 162 games over six months.

Like baseball players, landscapers also work in the heat. I laugh when I hear meteorologists say, "It will be a beautiful day with lots of sunshine." Tell that to farmers, roofers, highway road crews, or house painters.

With scorching heat and humidity, what plants tolerate August's heat? It's vital to know when families vacation for a week. All plants need irrigation in summer but some are more tolerant of heat. And some are drought-tolerant. Here's what to include in your garden that'll withstand our hot climate.

Crape myrtle: Trees range from 10 to 30 feet tall and bloom from late June into early October. Cultivars bloom at different times within that 3 ½-month timeframe. A cultivar is a hybrid of the same genus and species. Each cultivar has a different flower color and different leaf color come autumn. There are even crape myrtle shrubs that grow just 3 feet tall with a 2-foot spread. Research online to see which cultivar you prefer.

Rose of Sharon: It's classified as a small tree or large shrub with 3-inch-wide flowers showing in purple, lavender, white, and pink that show in summer. Before they open, buds cluster on branch tips. The leaves have undulating margins. Rose of Sharon is a multi-trunked,



Crape myrtle tree in the Glen. Photo by Guy Land.

fast grower that gets big. Like lilac or beautyberry, its multi-trunked appearance can look a bit cluttered. Like camellia, many of its flowers fall before fully opening on the branches but this provides a colorful display on the brown mulch.

Knock Out rose: This blooms from spring into very late fall. Branches become filled with red, pink, yellow, or white flowers. And leaves emerge from the lowest to the tallest branches. Knock Out roses grow fast—vertically and horizontally—so they will fill open spaces.

Barberry: This shrub has tiny, oval maroon leaves—a pleasant break from all-green foliage in the landscape. Some cultivars have yellow foliage. There is no recognizable flower. Barberry loves our summer heat. The specimen bears thorns that easily break off into your skin, so be careful when you prune.

Juniper: This is maybe the most drought-tolerant specimen besides yucca or cactus. You won't see a flower but you will notice aqua bells (fruit), which dangle from the tight branching habit. Gin is made from this fruit. Rub your fingers on a piece of fruit and inhale. Foliage of juniper is either a sage green or bluish green. The leaves are bristly. You can buy a pyramidal-shaped plant or one with a vase-shaped habit where the branches lean to the left and right. This plant takes heat. That's why you notice juniper planted on roadway median strips that get all-day sun and receive no irrigation other than rain.

Euonymus: Euonymus shrubs have paddle-shaped, green foliage and some cultivars have white or yellow markings (variegation). There also is a ground cover, winter creeper, which crawls along the ground. There are dwarf cultivars that only grow 10 inches tall with a similar spread.

Abelia: This specimen has a dense, round shape but new growth in the form of herbaceous (non-woody) stems that reach out into the air. Look closely and you'll notice the branch stems are red. The 1-inch-long, fragrant flower is shaped like a bugle and comes in white or pink. Landscape crews shear this shrub into perfect circles but I prefer the natural look with free-flowing, new stems left unpruned.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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