

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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Volume 49, Number 8

www.fca-fairlington.org

## Local police present on countywide increase in crime

### Inside this month

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Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) Community Engagement Division briefed the Fairlington Citizens Association and residents at the June monthly meeting. The presentation was led by Corporal Patrice Malone. Commander Richard Conigliaro, a former Fairlington resident, and Deputy Chief Wayne Vincent, both 28-year ACPD veterans, also attended.

The briefing covered Fairlington specific crime statistics (excluding both the Alexandria section and Park Shirlington), legislative updates, and warnings on potential scams. Officers also fielded specific questions from community members.

The Community Engagement Division, formally referred to as Community Outreach, was created two years ago under ACPD's new chief, Charles "Andy" Penn. Corporal Malone explained the 10-person team is intended to "create positive interactions first," with residents rather than the first time being a result of an emergency response. Community engagement ranges from civic association briefings to "Know your Rights" talks with youth.

A review of Fairlington's 2023 year-to-date (YTD) crime statistics revealed a 100 percent increase in domestic assault and battery (up from 6 to 12), 200 percent increase in identity theft (up from 3 to 9 cases), and 78 percent increase in larceny from auto (up from 9 to 16). The latter includes stolen car parts or property. Crime overall also increased not just in Fairlington, but countywide.

Malone acknowledged that one of the neighborhood's biggest concerns was the Bradlee Shopping Center, noting that it lies entirely within the City of Alexandria's jurisdiction. ACPD can only assist if Alexandria City police request it.

Bradlee Center's corollary crime effects have and may continue to spill into Fairlington. This includes this year's carjacking that ended up in abandoning a vehicle in Fairlington, a series of auto larcenies, and an attempted break-in. Officers suggested coordinating with Fairlington's closest civic association in Alexandria, which would be Seminary Hill, for better follow-up with Alexandria City police.



*FCA Treasurer Paulin Leonida talks with Arlington County Police Deputy Chief Wayne Vincent after the June FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land.*

*Continued on page 27*

# Coming up

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

## FCA monthly meeting August 9

No meeting is currently planned for August, but check FCA's Facebook page for updates..


### 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](http://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 Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, [www.avatartech-llc.com](http://www.avatartech-llc.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
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<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
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6 p.m., **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com).

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

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**For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)**

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## Calendar

### FCA monthly meeting

No meeting is currently scheduled in August

### Fairlington diners

Monday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Our Mom Eugenia  
4044 Campbell Ave  
Arlington, VA 22206

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group

Wednesday, August 16, 7 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center

### Fairlington book group

Tuesday, August 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center

## Community activism starts young!



*Young Fairlingtonians sell baked goods outside of the Fairlington Community Center to raise awareness for mental health. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Regina Bethencourt, Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Leslie Cameron, Jenn Davies, James Harlow, Guy Land, Lorin Venable, and Robin Weinick.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some Fairlington residents who are seeking routine Arlington County permits for improvements to their units have recently been required to request a waiver of the county's zoning rules that impose certain setback requirements for multi-family buildings.

Some Fairlington buildings do meet the set-back requirements, but many others do not. While the issue has been more prominent in the case of owners who want to install egress windows, the requirement applies also to any structural improvement, even if the improvement is entirely within the interior of the unit, such as moving a wall to open up a kitchen.

Before the county will give you a permit to move an interior wall, for example, you must first seek a waiver of the zoning setback requirement by petitioning the county's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and appearing before a BZA hearing.

While the zoning regulations are not new, the county has only recently started enforcing them against Fairlington owners, creating confusion and frustration on the part of owners and their contractors and adding several months and more expense to the cost of a renovation project.

This issue was first brought to FCA's attention late last year by a couple of contractors and real estate agents. The spring saw additional owners encounter this problem. FCA Board member Dianna Bentley has had several conversations with county staff on potential ways to solve this.

The Board of Zoning Appeals itself dislikes having to consider these waiver applications and has encouraged FCA to make the case directly to the county board. Some BZA members have warned that they may start voting against these Fairlington waivers—not because they disagree with them but as a way of getting the county board's attention.

There seems to be agreement that the zoning rules were issued after Fairlington was built and the drafters of the rules failed to protect Fairlington as a non-conforming property. There is also agreement that there is no way affected Fairlington units can come into compliance.

Because of the potential impact on Fairlington owners, FCA is working on a formal request to the county board for a solution that will lessen the burden on owners without unreasonably disrupting the county's larger zoning system. The application of the zoning rule to Fairlington is unreasonable and creates an unnecessary burden on our owners.

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





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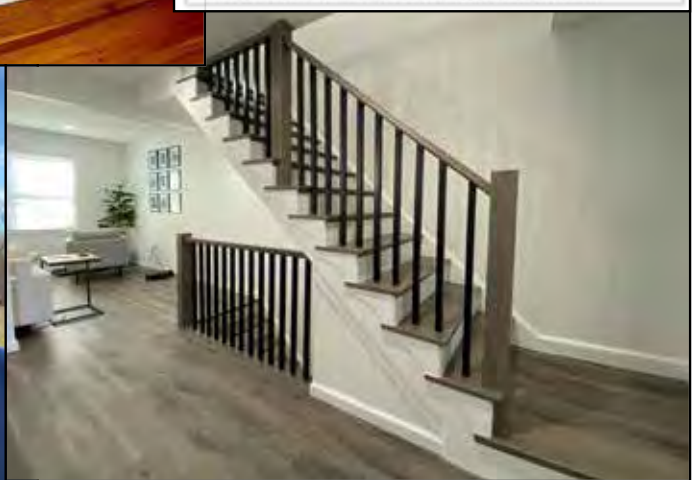
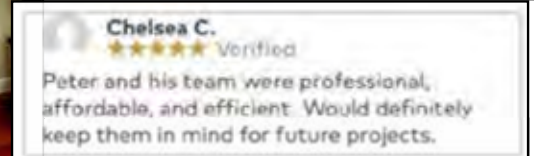
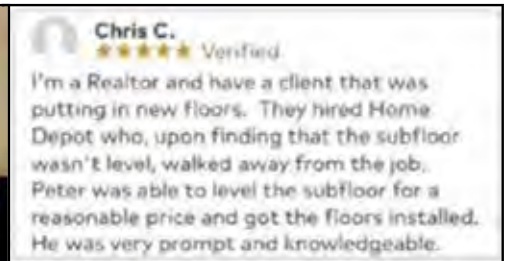
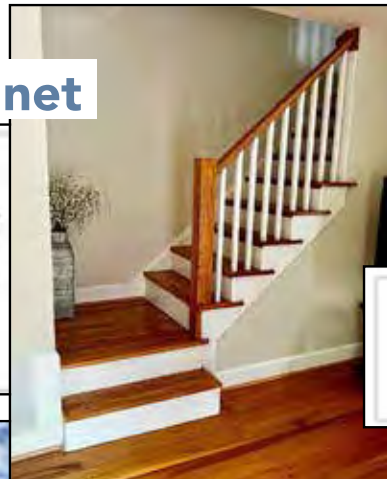
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## Primary election sends mixed signals

The June 20 Democratic primary election in Arlington saw voters embrace somewhat different perspectives in the race for county board, while affirming the progressive focus on the incumbent Commonwealth's Attorney. In the first use of ranked-choice voting, voters selected Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham to be the Democratic candidates in November's general election for two slots on the Arlington County Board.



*FCA President Guy Land welcomed Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey (far right) and county board candidates Susan Cunningham and Maureen Coffey to the Fairlington Fourth of July Celebration.*

Descriptions of the race sometimes viewed the two of them as representing different perspectives in Arlington, with Cunningham raising questions about the board's approach to "missing middle" housing, while Coffey generally endorsed the policy. Some observers also saw generational issues at work, with Coffey (a renter living in Clarendon) bringing younger voters to the polls in the Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor and Crystal City, while Cunningham drew strong support in North Arlington.



*South Fairlington resident Jane Bergen prepares to welcome voters to the FCC during June's Democratic primary.*

Cunningham led after the first round of voting, but in succeeding rounds, Coffey narrowed that lead as the second-choice votes of Jonathan Dromgoole and Tony Weaver pushed her closer to Cunningham. When Julius "JD" Spain was eliminated, a significant chunk of second-choice votes pushed Coffey over the top. After another round,

the elimination of Natalie Roy boosted Cunningham

into the top spot for the other slot.

Fresh off their victories, both Coffey and Cunningham dropped by the Fairlington Fourth of July parade and visited with Fairlington residents.

They will face independent Audrey Clement and Republican Juan Carlos Fierro in November.

Precinct totals in the first round of voting will not be available until August, so it is not currently possible to determine which candidates were Fairlingtonians, first choices. But an unofficial map from the county released a couple of days after the election indicated that Cunningham carried the South Fairlington precinct, while Coffey carried the Abingdon precinct.



*Fairlington residents Lydia Redway, Tracey McGovern, Elizabeth Lyons, and Jennifer Clardy Chalmers visit with county board candidate Maureen Coffey at the Fairlington Fourth of July event. Photos by Guy Land.*

In the heated race for Commonwealth's Attorney between incumbent Parisa Dehghani-Tafti and Josh Katcher, Dehghani-Tafti comfortably carried both Fairlington precincts, winning 58 percent of the vote in the South Fairlington precinct and 68 percent in the Abingdon precinct.

These percentages were higher than her county-wide total of 56 percent. Both candidates marshaled active campaigns in Fairlington.

In the race for sheriff, where long-time Sheriff Beth Arthur was not seeking re-election, the race in Fairlington was close between Jose Quiroz and Wanda Younger, just as it was across the county. Quiroz carried the South Fairlington precinct by 5 percentage points, while Younger eked out a narrow margin of less than 1 percent in the Abingdon precinct. Countywide Quiroz received 39.7 percent of the vote, compared to 33.9 percent for Younger. James Herring garnered 26.4 percent.

—Guy Land

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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.

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# FCA addresses neighborhood concerns with county permitting

The FCA board gathered virtually for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 12. A main topic of discussion were the increasing issues with Arlington county permitting and the headaches it has caused for neighborhood residents.

Dianna Bentley, who has served as the FCA point of contact on this issue, said that Fairlington has almost always experienced an easy permitting process for interior renovations. However, in the last two years, the county has come into possession of the plats of the Fairlington buildings and are now reluctant to approve new permits without pursuing an additional variance.

"I met with representatives of the county earlier in the year and they told me that many of the permits that were approved before should not have been because they are nonconforming to building code," said Bentley.

Fairlington's buildings were built before many of the building code regulations were put into place.

Denied permits have halted renovation for many Fairlington residents. Affected homeowners have experienced added time and expense due to pausing construction and the additional fees required to seek a variance.

County officials have told Bentley that this would have to wait until next year because the current 2023 work plan does not include a study on Fairlington buildings.

Fairlington resident Andrew Horowitz shared his frustration with the county board members during the meeting.

"I attended the May BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) meeting and the board members were very grumpy about my variance," he wrote. "They feel these variance requests are not appropriate for their board. They don't want to deal with them."

Other Fairlington residents have taken to the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page to ask for advice and help on managing the denied permits.

"I am trying to remove the wall between the kitchen and dining room which I have seen done in tons of homes here. (I'm in a Clarendon I)," wrote one Fairling-



*The monthly FCA board meeting is open to all Fairlington residents to attend, either virtually on Facebook or in person at the Fairlington Community Center.*

ton resident. "My permit was recently rejected by Arlington County and my contractor does not understand why or what we need to do next."

The reason for the denial is expressed as: Per Article 16: §16.2.3.A. - Repairs and alterations may be made to a nonconforming building or structure; provided, that no structural alteration shall be made except those required by law or ordinance, or as provided in §16.2. Repairs and alterations to a

nonconforming dwelling, building or structure not otherwise permitted under this Zoning Ordinance are prohibited, unless approved under a use permit or variance pursuant to sections §15.6.4 and §15.6.6.



*A county permit is required for many home improvement projects in Fairlington, including common requests like the removal of a wall as seen in this Barcroft kitchen. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.*

FCA board member Julie Butler expressed concern that the difficulty in obtaining permits will lead to an increase in residents completing unapproved projects, which could lead to problems with health and safety of residents or the integrity of the condo buildings.

"We are creating conditions or an environment where the only solution is for people to take shortcuts,"

agreed FCA vice president Jenn Davies.

Acting in its official capacity as a county liaison, FCA is working on the pursuit of a zoning ordinance amendment that would streamline the permitting process.

The FCA board is working on drafting a letter enumerating the concerns with the current permitting process and plans to send it ahead of the September meeting of the Arlington county board.

—Regina Bethencourt

# Fairlington farmers market welcomes a new vendor



This month marks the return to school, preseason football, and National Farmers Market Week, which takes place August 6–12. The Fairlington Farmers Market joins markets across the country in celebrating the vital role farmers markets play in our nation's food system.

Farmers markets preserve farmland, stimulate local economies, increase access to nutritious food, support healthy communities, and promote sustainability. Thank you to everyone for supporting our market since 2015 and helping it grow into a vibrant community hub and gathering spot every Sunday.

The market is open each week from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through November 19 and is located on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center.

There is a lot going on at the market this month, including the arrival of breakfast burritos from our newest vendor, Atlixco's Mexican Grill – please give them a warm welcome to our neighborhood market!

We would also like to recognize and thank our newest sponsor, Active & Connected Family Therapy. With several locations in Virginia, including offices in Fairlington and Falls Church, Active & Connected

provides a range of services and specializes in individual therapy for young children through older adults, couples therapy, and family therapy. To learn more, stop by their table at the market on August 20, or visit [activeconnected.com](http://activeconnected.com).

The new vendors who have joined us this season are excited to be at our market and appreciate the positive feedback from shoppers.

This month we spoke with Joel Finkelstein, who established Qualia Coffee in 2009 as DC's first small-batch roasting label, with a focus on delivering the freshest, carefully sourced beans to their customers.

"Our philosophy is to treat roasted coffee like fresh produce, said Finkelstein. "We exclusively sell our coffee directly to customers within days of when it was roasted. By not selling our coffee through wholesale channels, we can control when our coffee gets into customers hands and pursue a roasting process that emphasizes flavor over shelf life."

Each week, Qualia offers fresh roasted, single-origin beans, hot coffee brewed on site, and their very popular full-strength cold brew by the cup and in take-home jars.





“Because we treat our coffee like fresh produce, we are a perfect fit for the Fairlington market. Selling at the farmers market allows us to deliver our fresh roasted beans as well as talk to customers in our ongoing effort to connect them to where their coffee comes from.”

Finkelstein added that Qualia Coffee has a retail coffee-house in DC’s Eckington neighborhood that is open 7 days a week. For more information, visit [qualia.coffee](http://qualia.coffee).

### Mark your calendar for this month’s activities:

- August 6: Music by Swingology
- August 13: Facepainting by Cristina
- August 20: Active & Connected community table

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.



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“ Greg was wonderful to work with and helped us find a great place to live! We really appreciated his knowledge of the area and he went above and beyond in helping us even when scheduling viewings went a little crazy! Really great experience overall! - *Ryan W.*

“ I wholeheartedly recommend Heather to anyone in need of a real estate agent who genuinely cares about their clients. Her professionalism, expertise, and personal touch were instrumental in making my mother's dream of owning her own place a reality. We are forever grateful for her guidance and support throughout the entire process. Thank you, Heather, for going above and beyond, and for holding our hands from A to Z! - *Carlos T.*

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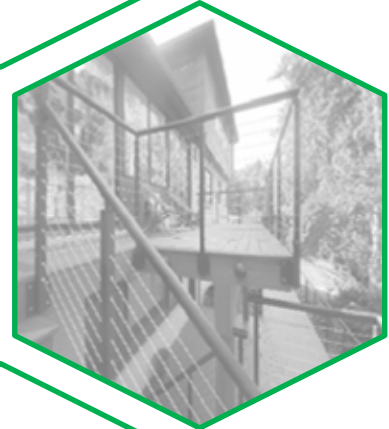
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# For the love of NATURE



## *What happened to the bugs on the windshield?*

Growing up, I remember my Dad spending weekends in the summer working on the lawn, using synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, getting rid of clover and all the other “weeds,” bagging up the grass clippings and leaves for trash, and watering watering watering.

He worked hard for that velvety green expanse. I also remember so many fireflies in summer that we could run around with jars and catch them without trying, the air was filled with thousands of buzzing insects, and on long drives, we had to get out to clean the bugs off the windshield. It has been a long time since we had to do that.

### ***We depend on bugs!***

My Dad inspired my love of gardening, and I’ve gardened all my life. As an adult I shared those “traditional” ideas. As recently as 15 years ago, there weren’t any native plants in our patio garden. I did have non-native invasive plants like nandina, burning bush, and butterfly bush.

I used synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, dumped liquid insecticides into the ground to kill “pests” on our tree, and used foggers to kill the mosquitoes. Then I watched a video with entomologist Doug Tallamy. He talked about his realization that no holes in his perfect (non-native) plants meant no insects were eating them.

He began to understand that having no native plants to eat would sooner or later mean no insects. Researchers talked about rapidly declining populations of insects around the world, which some called the “insect apocalypse.” Tallamy explained that insects are the foundation of the ecosystem and that if we actually won our war on insects, we would be destroying the ecosystem we depend on.



*Bees on mountain mint, a native plant and pollinator magnet. Photo by Ed Colonna.*

### ***Building habitat for insects and other wildlife***

I began to see our patio as a piece of a living ecosystem. We started pulling out the non-native invasive plants and replacing them with native plants.

We stopped using pesticides. We added bird baths, and in the fall we now leave the fallen leaves and dead stalks standing. More birds are visiting now, eating the bugs now living under the leaves. And there are more buzzing insects

in the air. Wonderful!

Most of the green space across Fairlington’s 300+ acres is covered with traditional lawn grass (a non-native import from Europe). The foundation beds are full of non-native and invasive nandina, liriopse, vinca, English ivy, and so many others.

More and more residents are working with boards and grounds committees to remove invasive plants, add natives, and reduce the use of pesticides in common areas. The changes in our patio took years, we couldn’t spend all that money at once, and we had a few failures.

But now our patio contributes to the ecosystem around us. Tallamy has a vision of a Homegrown National Park, getting residents to convert private property into critically needed habitat—one yard at a time.

This could be Fairlington! Want to join the movement? Check out [www.homegrownnationalpark.org/](http://www.homegrownnationalpark.org/) to start. Please send questions and comments to [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Leslie Cameron



# WHERE YOU LIVE!

*Fairlington to Fort Hunt Edition*

There is so much to **LOVE** about Fairlington — there's the charm, the green space, the sense of community, and the amazing location — but sometimes you just need more. My *Life After Fairlington* journey led me to Fort Hunt, and I'm always thrilled to share my neighborhood with my clients!

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Find out what I **LOVE** about Fort Hunt! Follow me @IHeartFortHunt on Facebook and Instagram as I introduce local businesses, highlight family-friendly activities, and showcase upcoming events and open houses!

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~ The Ungers



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# FAIRLINGTON

## *pet profiles*

### *Arlington—a wonderful place to live and a wonderful name for a dog*

Did you know the Red Golden Retriever is actually a Golden Retriever? They have a dark golden coat that looks red, hence the name. South Fairlington is home to Arlington, a 16-month-old Red Golden Retriever. She is everything they say about the breed—playful, happy, friendly to both humans and canines alike.

This has been her first and only home and she is well-known in the neighborhood; busy meeting, greeting, and chewing on whatever she can find on her walks. Pet Profiles had a bouncy introduction to Arlington and couldn't wait to find out more about this highly social and energetic dog.

*How did you get your name?*

Hi friends! I'm Arlington, and I'm named after the county that we live in. My mom moved to Arlington four years ago and fell in love with the area. My mom had been waiting for almost a year to get me and can you believe it? She couldn't pick out a name for me! Finally, a few weeks before she picked me up she came up with the idea of – Arlington, aka Arlo. Arlington holds a special meaning in her life, and now mine. And from an historic perspective, the name Arlington represents loyalty, courage, and the enduring bond between family members.

*What is your favorite place to go in the neighborhood and why?*

Ah, Shirlington, a dog's paradise! When it comes to a dog's favorite place in Shirlington, it must be the park. It's a tail-wagging wonderland filled with exciting sights, smells, and endless opportunities for fun. At the park, we can unleash our inner party animals! We zoom around with all our furry friends, playing exhilarating games of chase and tag. It's a canine social hotspot



*Arlington in her favorite place: the great outdoors. Photo courtesy of Ashley George.*

where tails are wagging, tongues are lolling, and there's never a shortage of playmates.

*What advice would you give other dogs about living here?*

Hey, fellow furry friends! Listen up, 'cause I've got some advice for living in this doggie heaven: sniff everything. Seriously, the world is your smelly oyster! From lamp posts to fire hydrants, make sure to give each scent a good, long sniff. It's like reading the neighborhood news bulletin with your nose!

*Do you enjoy obedience training? What do you like? What don't you like?*

Obedience training is great because I get an endless amount of treats. I have learned a handful of tricks like sit,

down, stay, and drop it. We are still very actively working on not jumping on my human neighbors—this one seems to be the most challenging command to learn.

*What do you say to the squirrels running in front of you when you're on your walks?*

My response to the squirrels running in front of me during walks would be a series of excited barks, playful leaps and uncontrollable wiggles. I can't help but get excited when I see those furry little creatures scurrying around! My instincts kick in, and I feel a strong urge to chase them. One of these days, I'll catch you, and we'll have ourselves a good ol' game of tag!



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## A fabulous Farlington fourth

July 4 provided a red, white, and blue spectacle on the streets of Fairlington, as the crowd returned to its pre-Covid level of participation and enthusiasm for the annual Independence Day parade. With a police escort, fifers in traditional colonial garb led the parade, followed by Fairlingtonians walking, scooting, riding, and strolling.

Neighbors joined in the parade or lined the streets to wave and cheer for those marching and then gathered for hot dogs and ice cream. A bake sale benefitting the Arlington Food Assistance Center offered additional food choices, while kids had the opportunity for some great face artwork.

Elected officials and candidates worked the crowd while residents purchased new FCA shirts.

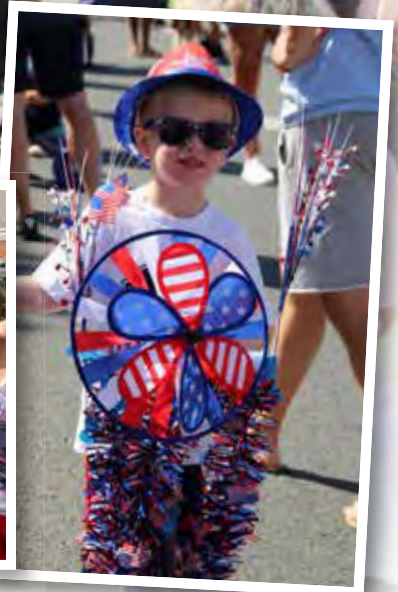
The celebration was jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association, whose community activities committee and management team coordinated the details.

Thanks go out to Arlington County Police for their assistance and to the team of Fire Station 9 for providing the fire truck to bring up the rear of the parade. FCA also thanks Jonathan and Michelle DeWitt, the fifer duo who both led the parade and performed an impromptu concert once the parade was over.

*Photos by Guy Land.*











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## ***Eat my bubbles! Fairlington FINS kick off a summer of fun***



*Fairlington FINS “graduates” now compete in NVSL summer swim league, clinching Division 9 on July 15. L to R: Addie Young, Colleen Bett, Emerson Mancari, Libby Beck, Amelia Young, Ezra Mancari, Emmett Wiedemann, Archie Wiedemann. Photo by Jessica Mancari.*



*FINS summer season of 2023. Photo by Lorin Venable.*

Fairlington FINS kicked off the season with their first scheduled meet at the Mews pool in July. Although the meet ended up being canceled due to lightning, this year’s team is excited to put their competitive spirit to the test in the upcoming weeks. The program will continue at the Arbor and Glen pools and the FINS team wants to extend a thanks to all three Fairlington communities for hosting the FINS 2023 program.

—Lorin Venable

## ***July 4 bake sale a scrumptious success***

A huge “thank you” to all the generous Fairlington families and friends who baked and purchased homemade treats at the July 4th Bake Sale. We’re proudly donating \$500 this year to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, bringing our 18-year donation total to more than \$22,500.



*The annual 4th of July bake sale brings in funds for local nonprofit. Photo by Guy Land.*

The Fairlington Farmers Market loaned us their tent for the day to help keep the hot sun off this year’s treats and volunteers. Monika and Gabriela Schiller were amazing partners to work with—Gabriela was largely responsible for us selling out everything that was donated this year.

Finally, thanks to 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

---

## ***Family Movie Night to return Sept. 9***

FCA will again sponsor Family Movie Night for Fairlingtonians on Saturday, Sept. 9 on the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) field. At press time, residents were voting on their preferred movie title.

Residents are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and their favorite theatre snacks to set up a picnic on the FCC field and enjoy a movie under stars as the new school year begins.

The movie is set to begin just after sundown (around 7:30 p.m.), but those attending are encouraged to come early to set up and visit with friends and neighbors.

Please note that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the grounds of the FCC.

Though there are floodlights behind the FCC, the further reaches of the field will be much darker when the movie ends around 9:45 pm Residents are encouraged to bring flashlights, camping lanterns, or phones equipped with flashlight settings to navigate their way home after the show.

See the next issue of the *Bulletin* or FCA’s website for more information.



# The Federal Reserve Has Announced Four More Interest Rate Hikes in 2023

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## It's time for the Arlington County Fair

Starting a new gardening column is something I have looked forward to for a long time. It's not often I get a chance to reach out to a new audience. My name is Kirsten Conrad, and I serve the residents of Arlington County and the City of Alexandria as the Virginia Cooperative Extension Agriculture Natural Resources Agent.

I am still surprised by how many people do not know about Extension or what we do in our offices in the Arlington Community Center. My program encompasses a broad range of subjects that include education on pesticide and fertilizer reduction, insect and disease pest management in the home and landscape, the use of native and non-native plants, tree and shrub pruning, along with soil health and nutrient management. I work with about 240 Master Gardener volunteers to do this work.

Since 2008, I have worked with the 230 Arlington Regional Master Naturalists on education for residents on invasive animals and plants, stream water quality and issues that surround deer, mosquito, and tick control. I also work with the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria on tree health and canopy preservation, and the Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture on gardening and food production.

Future articles will focus on native plant profiles, maintenance tips and tricks, maybe a few design ideas, and of

course troubleshooting on problematic insects and landscape pests. Want to see something specific? Let me know.

The Arlington County Fair is one of our most important annual events that takes place inside and around the Thomas Jefferson Community Center on 2nd St. This year's fair will take place from August 16 to the 20th. <https://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us/visit/#schedule> Virginia Cooperative Extension has a huge presence at the Arlington County Fair.

Our Master Gardener volunteers are in charge of the Flower, Herb and Vegetable section of the Competitive Exhibits. You can enter your blue-ribbon tomato, zinnias, and basil (and photos, artwork, sewing, honey and baked goods too!) and get money premiums! There are adult and kids' divisions. Get started on your entries here: <https://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us/participants/#competitive-exhibits>.

In addition, Cooperative Extension will have tables in the vendors section with representatives from Energy Masters, Master Food Volunteers, 4H Youth Leadership Development, Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Master Financial Volunteers.

I hope to see many of you there this year.

—Kirsten Conrad, [kirsten.conrad@vt.edu](mailto:kirsten.conrad@vt.edu)

### Extension Master Gardener Help Desk

703-228-6414 or [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com)

#### Small Garden Plant of the Month

August is when the perennials come out to play! In their prime are Coneflowers, Black eyed Susan, Beebalm, Salvia, and Hibiscus. You can prune the really tall late bloomers like Ironweed and Chrysanthemums to help control height and legginess. For a low maintenance native groundcover perennial for a small garden try Three-Leaved Stonecrop.



*Sedum. Photo by Elaine Mills.*

This low growing sedum is deer proof, tolerates some shade, and has no pests or diseases. Keep it happy by letting it dry out between waterings.

#### August Garden Checklist

To do:

- ✓ Keep watering your vegetable and flower crops! We recommend 1" per week for shrubs and trees too!
- ✓ Deadhead your summer flowering perennials and annuals to encourage continuing blooming. Chelsea chop your tall blooming perennials to do size control and manage their legginess.

August is when the garden is in its prime! Visit the Extension Demonstration Gardens at eight different locations throughout Arlington and Alexandria <https://mgvn.org/demo-gardens/>.



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## *A summer of fun and preparing for fall*

As readers of the *Bulletin* know, Abingdon Elementary School is a hub of activity during the academic year. Nearly 900 students and staff (many of whom are Fairlington residents) converge on the school each day to learn, work, and build community. And the bustle doesn't stop when the last bell rings. Abingdon hosts concerts, enrichment classes, and community events like Trunk-or-Treat and International Night.

What readers may not know is that the Abingdon community is far from dormant during the summer months. On July 1, the new PTA executive board assumed office and got to work. The task list includes identifying the priorities for the upcoming year, formulating a budget, developing a calendar of events, and planning fundraising campaigns.



*An Abingdon student waters the school garden. Photo courtesy of James Harlow.*

The seeds for PTA success in October and March are planted in July and August.



*Rising Kindergarteners meet new friends at a popsicle playdate. Photo courtesy of James Harlow.*

Young Fairlingtonians who attend Abingdon are busy this summer too—and not just frolicking in the pool. They are applying skills, such as communication, respectfulness, and creativity, learned during the school year at summer camp.

They are continuing to care for the school garden. They are digging through the packages they received with 10 free summer reading books.

Rising Kindergarteners are doing their part by meeting future classmates and making new friends at popsicle playdates on the Abingdon playground.

Abingdon's community partners also continue to pitch in. Field to Table, the Arlington-based non-profit that runs the Fairlington Farmers Market, recently awarded the PTA a community grant. Grant funds will be used to support the school garden and provide food assistance to the school community.

The 2023-2024 school year may not start until August 28, but the groundwork for a vibrant and productive year is laid during the summer.

And all Fairlingtonians still have opportunities this summer to support the Abingdon community—a community which reflects our rich neighborhood culture.

Rising Kindergarteners can attend the final popsicle playdate on Saturday, August 12, at 10 a.m. on the Abingdon front (blue) playground.

New and returning students can attend the school open house on Thursday, August 24.

Parents, grandparents, and other caregivers can join the PTA through our website, [www.abingdonpta.org](http://www.abingdonpta.org).

Community members can contact PTA by email {[president@abingdonpta.org](mailto:president@abingdonpta.org)} about donating funds, supplies, expertise, or time.

With all of us working together, our Abingdon Cardinals can reach new heights in the coming year.

—James Harlow

### ***APS School Year Calendar:***

**Saturday, August 12**—Kindergarten Popsicle Playdate, 10 a.m.

**Thursday, August 24**—Abingdon School Open House

**Monday, August 28**—First Day of School





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# Fairlington bartender pivots pandemic downturn into home bartending book

Nathan Wilkinson, a Fairlington resident for more than eight years, has worked as a bartender and mixologist at several restaurants in Washington, DC, Arlington, and Alexandria.



*Nathan Wilkinson has worked as a bartender throughout the Washington, DC region. Photo by Liz Farina Markel.*

He loved his job mixing and creating new cocktail recipes and was devastated when COVID-19 brought his entire livelihood to a standstill.

“A lot of bartenders, myself included, left the industry and took with them years of experience that would prove difficult to replace when bars eventually opened up,” he said.

During this time, he discovered that there

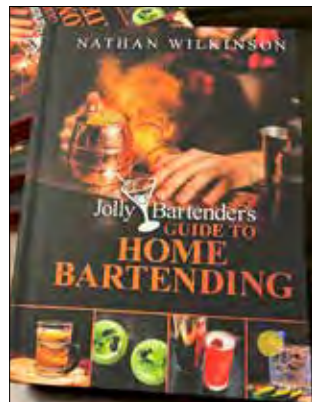
was a demand for people looking to recreate a restaurant quality cocktail at home.

He put his skills to the test writing a book called *The Jolly Bartender's Guide to Home Bartending*, named after his website: [www.jollybartender.com](http://www.jollybartender.com). It is focused on helping amateur cocktail enthusiasts easily re-create high-level cocktails at home.

“Space is limited in Fairlington homes, but it isn’t necessary to build a twelve-seat bar in your basement,” he said. “You want a selection of spirits and other ingredients that will make your home bar flexible enough to make almost any recipe included in the book, but let your tastes be your guide.”

Wilkinson plans to host a tasting and a book-signing event in Fairlington in the coming months. Read the *Bulletin* or visit [www.jollybartender.com](http://www.jollybartender.com) to find out more.

—Regina Bethencourt



*Wilkinson's book is available at Barnes & Noble.*

## Q&A with Nathan Wilkinson

*What ingredients would you recommend for a bar starter kit?*

If you are talking tools and glassware I have a few recommendations for a starter kit. Look for a mixing tools kit with a bar spoon, a jigger that measures quarter, half, one, and one and a half ounces. The shaker should be a cobbler shaker (3 pieces including a strainer, not 2.) You will also need a mixing glass and Hawthorne strainer. For glassware, I recommend 4 of each of the following glasses: Old Fashioned, Collins or highball, cocktail (martini glass), and red wine glasses. I recommend shopping at World Market or discount stores where you can buy other specialty glasses individually.

*What is one common misconception about cocktails that you think people have?*

The biggest misconception I see that people have about a home bar is that it has to resemble a restaurant bar. Restaurants are all about speed and service. So they have many more glasses, larger containers, shakers big enough to make four of the same cocktail at a time, and dozens of flavors of vodka. This isn’t practical in a home. The tools aren’t ergonomic for single cocktail use; and you should only buy the flavors of vodka you will definitely use, keeping in mind that there are simple ways to infuse natural flavors into vodka to get what you need.

*What is your personal favorite cocktail recipe for the summer months?*

A great cocktail for summer is the Daisy. It can be made with any base spirit from whiskey, rum and gin to brandy, vodka and pisco. It’s fizzy and tart and strong enough to satisfy the experienced drinkers but very approachable for novices.

3 oz. gin, whiskey, rum or vodka  
1 oz. lemon juice  
1 tbsp. grenadine  
1 tsp. sugar syrup  
sparkling water  
orange slice

Combine base spirit, lemon juice and syrups in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into a chilled Collins glass. Top with sparkling water and stir. Garnish with an orange slice.



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### *Local police from page 1*

ACPD stressed the importance of reporting destruction of property, such as slashed tires.

“We don’t know, what we don’t know,” Malone said, adding that this can limit ACPD’s investigative work to establish patterns. Filing a report can be done online or by phone.

Officers also urged people to call the non-emergency line, 703-558-2222, for example if you hear a scream or hear a car accident and only call 911 for an active threat or true emergency.

One resident noted that of the 105 cases reported in Fairlington in 2023 YTD, only 10.5 percent resulted in an arrest. He felt that the number was low. Corporal Malone responded that in order to pursue an investigation, there needs to be evidentiary value and the victim has the right to prosecute or not.



*Corporal Patrice Malone reviews crime statistics with a crowd of roughly forty Fairlington residents. Photos by Guy Land.*

Staffing shortages continue to exist and this is consistent with police departments nationwide. As Commander Congigliaro noted, “County is working with us to increase salaries. Hopefully down the road, staffing will return to what it normally is.”

ACPD encouraged residents to reduce crimes of opportunity by developing safety checks like the “9 p.m. routine” of checking locks, closing and locking windows, and securing bikes and other valuables rather than leaving them outdoors.

They also recommended Fairlington residents look into Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) such as motion sensor lights, cameras and Ring doorbells. Officers noted that the neighborhood watch signs do not usually work. They did acknowledge that the older car alarms that make a lot of noise are a deterrent, also joking that the best car theft prevention



*FCA Secretary Jennifer Chalmers visits with ACPD Deputy Chief Wayne Vincent and Capt. Richard Conigliaro.*

was a vehicle with manual transmission.

Corporal Malone provided legislative updates, including no use of tobacco or marijuana for children under the age of 21. Recreational marijuana is legal in owned multifamily dwellings. Renters would need permission from landlords.

Smoking on a balcony or patio is legal, but may violate homeowner association rules. Smoking marijuana on the street will result in a \$25 traffic summons. Smoking marijuana in a car is not illegal, but can result in a DUI, if operating a vehicle.

A few residents inquired about traffic safety in the neighborhood. Corporal Malone reiterated staffing shortages that limit ACPD’s ability to regularly enforce. “Speed cameras are coming,” to school zones and construction zones, she noted.

Of particular interest was parking enforcement on the 30th Rd. circle during Abingdon’s drop off arrival time. Officers noted that drop-off parking/traffic is not unique to Fairlington and it happens at almost every school.

ACPD recommended contacting the Special Operations Section (SOS) to lodge a complaint and request increased patrol. Again, it was mentioned that there were limited hours and staffing for this.

FCA President Guy Land asked what types of crimes Fairlingtonians should be on the lookout for. Officers answered that phone scams were of concern, including calls involving Bitcoin, arrest warrants, and gift cards. “Do not listen to any request to transfer money.”

At the conclusion of the briefing, FCA thanked ACPD’s Community Engagement Division for their thoughtful responses and hard work serving the Arlington community.

—Jenn Davies



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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

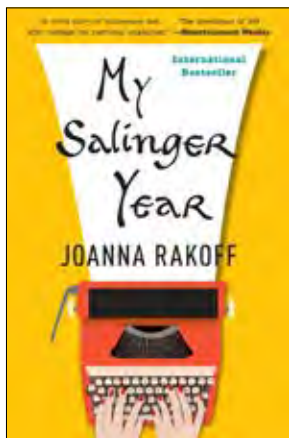
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In July, we enjoyed burger night at Ramparts, which is always a favorite.

Here's what's planned for August:

Monday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m., Our Mom Eugenia, 4044 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206, 571-970-0468, [www.ourmomeugenia.com](http://www.ourmomeugenia.com). We'll return to Shirlington to try out this new, highly recommended location of this restaurant.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 not later than 24 hours in advance if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her--include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in August to discuss *My Salinger Year*, a memoir by Joanna Rakoff. We will meet Tuesday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

According to Amazon.com, the book is “a keenly observed and irresistibly funny memoir about literary New York in the late nineties, a pre-digital world on the cusp of vanishing.”

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book.

## Fairlington Moms' Club

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

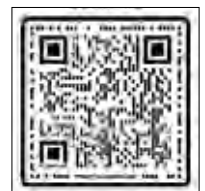
## Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden

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



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosts a monthly article discussion group. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss an article on a DEI topic.



This month we will be discussing “Racial Microaggressions in Everyday Life: Is Subtle Bias Harmless?” on Wednesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. We will be meeting virtually in August. Please contact Lydia Redway at [lydia.redway@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.redway@gmail.com) for the link to join.

All are welcome to join, even if you don't read the article! For a link to the article, please scan the QR code.



# Mini-ads

*Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.*

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*Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.*

## MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

**Email:** [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com)

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

**Drop Box Location:** Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

**Cost:** 50 cents per word.

**Include with ad copy:** Name, address, phone #, email address, and ad category (see Mini-ads for options).

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



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