



All Fairlington Newsletter
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President's Message

August 2026

Last month, I received a very nice note from a former Fairlington resident who now lives in California. They shared that they continue to read the newsletter because it helps them stay connected to the neighborhood. It reminded me of how this community has been home to different generations for more than 80 years.

Residents of all ages call Fairlington home. Having lived here for a little over 20 years, I have gone from a professional who traveled internationally on a regular basis, to a stay-at-home mom, to trying to achieve the work-life balance of career and children. Amazingly enough, my husband and I are only a few years away from becoming empty nesters. Each stage of our lives here in Fairlington has brought new connections and new friends.

I love that we have a Moms Club, Grandmas Group, Book Group, Knitting

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there is something for every resident to connect with locally. If not, consider creating your own group and let us know! We'd be happy to help spread the word.

Try to stay cool during these last few weeks of summer. Good luck to all the students heading back to school later this month!

Next Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Meeting: Wednesday, August 12, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually and livestreamed on [Facebook](#).



—Jenn Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org



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July 4th Parade Photos by Guy Land.

Save the Dates! FCA Is Gearing Up for Fall!

September 9 | 7:00 p.m.

FCA Monthly Meeting

The FCA welcomes Arlington Electoral Board Secretary Dominick Schirripa and General Registrar/Director of Elections Gretchen Reinemeyer for a discussion on preparations for the November midterm elections, including Ranked Choice Voting and election safety.

Location: Fairlington Community Center, Room 134.

September 12 | Dusk

Outdoor Movie Night on the FCC Field

Grab your chairs and blankets and join your neighbors for a fun evening under the stars! Help us choose this year's movie. Will it be Cars (2006), Zootopia 2, Sing, or Annie? Voting opens late August, check our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). Fairlington Movie Night is proudly sponsored by [Kay Houghton & Associates](#).

September 27 | Noon

Stumbling Stones Dedication & Walking Tour

Join the FCA, the [Arlington Historical Society](#), and the [Fairlington Historical Society](#) for a dedication and walking tour honoring those who were once enslaved on the Carlyle Plantation, now the site of Fairlington. Learn about their lives and the history of the land they lived and worked on. Additional program details and the exact meeting location will be announced soon.

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Photos above courtesy of Arlington County Board Member JD Spain. Left photo: Spain with Matt de Ferranti (middle, blue shirt), Guy Land (right) and residents. Right photo: Spain with FCA President Jenn Davies.

July Fourth Parade Highlights

Fairlingtonians braved the summer heat to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday in style! Residents of all ages marched, biked, and wheeled down South Abingdon St. to the colonial sounds of a fife and drummer. Escorted by the Arlington County Police Department and followed by Fire Station 9, the parade concluded with free hot dogs, ice cream, and a welcome opportunity to cool off in a sprinkler, which quickly became a crowd favorite.

Arlington County Board members Maureen Coffey, Susan Cunningham, Matt

The annual parade is jointly organized by the FCA and Fairlington Villages.
[Check out this year's July 4 Parade collage.](#)

—Jenn Davies



July 4th Parade Photo by Guy Land.

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Photo courtesy of Lauren Schaub.

Fairlington FINS Wraps Up a Great Season

Fairlington FINS conclude another great neighborhood swim season. Over the first three weeks of July, 57 Fairlington children participated. The swim program concluded with a pizza party at Fairlington Commons July 24. Fairlington FINS organizers would like to thank the Mews, the Glen, and the Commons for hosting each week. This year welcomed new high school coaches, including Coach Emmett from the Glen as well as junior coaches George, Harper, and Isabel—all Abingdon alumni and Fairlington residents!

—*Lauren Schaub*

August Events Calendar

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

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, August 8, noon

[Duangrat's Thai Restaurant](#), 5878 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, (703) 820-5775

Excellent Thai cuisine; parking is on the side away from Bailey's Crossroads

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your name and how to contact you on the day of the event, in case plans change. To receive these event notices earlier each month, send your email address to the above contact.

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held virtually and livestreamed on [Facebook](#).

Arlington County Fair

August 14–18

Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3502 2nd St.

<https://arlingtoncountyfair.us/>

Fairlington Book Group

Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 134

The Fairlington Book Group will meet to discuss *The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles and Their Secret World War* by Stephen Kinzer. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

Fairlington Grandmas Group

Calling all grandmothers—whether or not you have grandchildren currently living in the neighborhood. The group meets monthly, and sometimes more often, for happy hours, coffees, theater outings, and other social activities. For more information, contact Peggy Jondahl at pjondahl@gmail.com.

Fairlington Moms

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

- Playgroups for different age groups, accommodating all moms & schedules
- Family holiday-themed events
- Moms' nights out
- Meal trains and support for when you need it most
- Our very own classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group

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July 4 Bake Sale Gives Back

A huge thank you to all the generous Fairlington families and friends who baked and purchased homemade treats at this year's July 4th Bake Sale. Thanks to your support, we're proud to donate \$500 to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, bringing our 21-year total to more than \$23,800.

Thank you to the FCA and the Fairlington Villages Condominium Association Activities Committee for once again incorporating the bake sale into the neighborhood's annual July 4th celebration.

A special thank you to Deb Miller, Mary Gunderson, and Tony Radich for making it all happen!

Food Distributions Continue at Park Shirlington

Did you know that more than 11% of Arlington residents, over 26,000 people, experience food insecurity?

On the first Wednesday of every month, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., the Capital Area Food Bank and the FCA partner with volunteers to provide food to our community neighbors.

Our next distribution dates are August 5 and September 2. Interested in lending a hand? [Sign up here](#) to volunteer.



Photos by Emily Keith and Erin Lattimer.

Fairlington Moms Club Summer Party

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Fairlington Villages Community Center. The event was sponsored by Dr. Rai of Shirlington Pediatric Dentistry, Ashley Mele of Briar and Main Travel Boutique, and Elsie Oldaker-Wills of Ready, Set, Gymnastics!

Families enjoyed snacks and drinks while children participated in an obstacle course and travel-themed activities. We love when our community can come together and connect, and we're so grateful to our sponsors for making it possible!

Our next family event will be our annual potluck the weekend before Halloween. If you're interested in joining our community of moms, membership is free! Please contact fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com.



New Fairlington Ornament for Sale

This year's holiday ornament features the former Fire Station 7, affectionately known as "The Little House." Although the station officially closed in 2018 due to structural issues, it remains a beloved Fairlington landmark.

Arlington County has proposed decommissioning the building, and Fairlington residents will have an opportunity to participate in the community engagement process to help determine its future.

In the meantime, you can celebrate this neighborhood icon by purchasing the 2026 Fairlington ornament for \$20. The FCA will also have ornaments available for purchase at select community events throughout the year.

To reserve an ornament or learn more, email vp@fca-fairlington.org.



Photo courtesy of Caroline Weinroth.

Farmers Market

National Farmers Market Week

August is a busy month at the Fairlington Farmers Market, with many special events, and celebrating National Farmers Market Week, August 2 to 8. Field to

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annual celebration highlights the vital role farmers markets play in our nation's food system and the value markets bring to their communities. Follow [@fairlingtonmarket on Instagram](#), [Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook](#), and subscribe to the weekly newsletter at www.field2table.org for updates.

August 2

Live music by Mike Setti; fitness classes with Just Move with Joy (10:30 a.m. Strength Training and 11:00 a.m. Yoga); meet Alexandria Schoolhouse; and chat with the FCA.

August 9

Live music by John Kamman.

August 16

Live music by Molly; henna by Houda.

August 23

Live music by Molly and Gemma; build your own flower bouquet with Walking Wind Farm and Florist.

August 30

Live music by Two Peas; meet Ready, Set, Gymnastics; and chat with Arlington County's TRAC (Transportation Resources for Arlington County).

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Learn more at [Fairlington Farmers Market – Field to Table](#).

Special thanks to returning sponsors [Active & Connected](#), [FCA](#), [Fairlington Dental](#), [Fairlington United Methodist Church](#), and [Kay Houghton & Associates](#).

Parking is available on S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., in the community center parking lot, or on Quaker Ln. Dogs are not permitted, except for service animals.

Stop by the market tent to say hello this summer.

—Charlotte Terry

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fireflies. As an added benefit 80% of the plants are native species. Photo by Tina Byrd.

For the Love of Nature

What Happened to the Fireflies?

Fireflies, which are actually beetles, are fascinating creatures that light up our nights and bring a sense of magic to our environment. Scientists attribute the firefly population decline to artificial light pollution, pesticides, and habitat loss. We can all help fireflies return. Here are three ways:

- **Leave the leaves.** Use fallen leaves as mulch in your patio garden, and encourage your association to leave leaves in foundation beds instead of removing them. Fireflies prefer moist soils and will often choose to place their eggs under leaf litter, where the soil is less likely to dry out.
- **Skip the lawn chemicals.** Avoid broad-spectrum pesticides and other lawn chemicals, which can kill fireflies during every stage of their life cycle.
- **Reduce outdoor lighting.** Keep nighttime lighting to a minimum so fireflies can find each other to mate.

Try these simple steps and help the fireflies.

—Tina Byrd



www.FairAngel.biz
AngelVillanueva33@gmail.com

Government Updates

August 4 Dual Primary

Eligible voters may participate in either the Democratic primary (County Board and U.S. House of Representatives) or the Republican primary (U.S. Senate). For more information on candidates, election events, and early voting, see the links below.

The Arlington County Board race will use [Ranked Choice Voting](#) and features three candidates:

- [Julie Farnam](#) is a career public servant, small business owner, and APS parent. This is her second campaign for local office.
- [Matt de Ferranti](#) is a former lawyer, lobbyist, and teacher. He is seeking a third term after first being elected in 2018.
- [James DeVita](#) is a trial lawyer, former federal prosecutor, and 36-year Arlington resident. This is his fourth campaign for local or state office.

Fairlington has two polling locations:

- Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) for residents south of I-395.
- Abingdon Elementary School (3008 S. Abingdon St.) for residents of Fairlington Villages and Fairlington Court.

Alexandria residents vote in the primaries at their assigned [Alexandria polling locations](#).

Virginia Tax Holiday

Stock up on qualifying school supplies, clothing, hurricane and emergency preparedness supplies, and certain ENERGY STAR™ and WaterSense™ products without paying state sales tax starting Friday, August 7 through Sunday, August 9. Enjoy the savings whether you shop online, in-store, or by mail or phone. Learn more [here](#).

Neighbor Spotlight

Stephen Gregory Smith

Stephen Gregory Smith is a playwright, lyricist, pet care specialist, and the neighborhood's podcaster of record. Listen to the Fairlington Friends Podcast wherever you get your podcasts.

What brought you to Fairlington?

"We moved here in 2000 after college, and immediately fell in love with the neighborhood. We've lived in three different units, and while we have moved away for a year or two to other neighborhoods, we always come back here. We love it, and the people."

One neighborhood change?

"Less stringent decoration rules. Life is a celebration. We're not here long. Fill the time with joy and whimsy."

Who's making a difference?

"Kay Houghton is a wonderful force in the neighborhood, whether it's helping connect families to homes, helping connect rescue animals to families, or supporting and producing local events. She really goes above and beyond for our neighborhood."

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