

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

DECEMBER 2019

Volume 45, Number 12

Santa Claus is coming to Park Shirlington and Fairlington on December 14

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Santa Claus will be making his annual trip through Fairlington, this year hosted by Fire Station 9 based on Walter Reed Dr. Photo by Guy Land.

The permanent closure of Fire Station 7 will not stop Santa and his fire-fighting elves from visiting Fairlington this year! Please give a warm welcome to the crew from Fire Station 9 (located at the top of Walter Reed hill) as they keep this wonderful community tradition going.

This year, Santa and his firefighter elves will start the route at 3 pm at Park Shirlington apartments in the north side parking lot loop (closest to Abingdon

Elementary school). They will then proceed along their route through Fairlington on both the north and south sides of the neighborhood from 3 pm to 5 pm, making stops along the way.

With engine lights ablaze, the crew and their jolly friend plan to take their usual tour of Fairlington's streets, stopping for Santa to greet fans at both the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon St.), and the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.). As always, if duty calls and Santa's firefighter friends have to use their truck to help others in an emergency, their journey may be cut short.

Please join your friends and neighbors to celebrate Santa and welcome the wonderful team from Fire Station 9! See Santa's scheduled route through Fairlington on p. 19.

—Jennifer Davies



Santa's route on page 19



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Last chance before the holidays!

Don't miss your chance to have this commemorative Fairlington ornament hanging on your tree this year! See page 25 for order details.

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 December 11

Election: The annual election of officers and directors for the Fairlington Citizens Association will be held.

Regular board business:

- Approval of November 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 Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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Guy Land, *President*
Lindsay Willmann, *Vice President*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*
Rebecca Sayres, *Secretary*

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Sara Tuke Carr
Jennifer Davies
Kent Duffy
Chris Weathers
Sam Wolbert

Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Book Group

Tuesday, December 3, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Knits

Monday, December 9, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Santa's Firetruck ride

Saturday, December 14, 3–5 pm

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, December 19, 11:30 am
Auberge Chez Francois
332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls

Fairlington Knits

Monday, December 23, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25
FCC Closed

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1
FCC Closed

Poll position



Girl Scout Cadette Troop 4594 sold baked goods at Abingdon Elementary on Election Day. The troop, comprised of seven girls in grades 6, 7, and 8, is raising money for an international trip they are planning. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Sara Tuke Carr, Patty Clark, Jennifer Davies, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Rachel Mallory, Susan Renehan, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, Lindsay Willmann, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This time of year Fairlington pulses with neighborhood activities that provide a small-town feel to a community that is inside the beltway and just a few minutes from downtown DC. It's quite remarkable.

Last month's food drive by Cub Scout Pack 350 had Scouts going throughout the neighborhood collecting a truck load of cereal, canned vegetables, soup, and pasta that Fairlingtonians had left at their doors.

The pack is sponsored by Fairlington United Methodist Men, a part of Fairlington United Methodist Church. Many of the Scouts live in Fairlington, and Fairlingtonian Rolf Blank has been the anchor of the group for years.

An informal group of neighborhood organizations joined with staff of Abingdon Elementary School in sponsoring a winter coat and Thanksgiving meal drive to ensure that Abingdon's neediest families, some of whom live nearby, are not cold or hungry during this season.

Sponsors included FCA, the Fairlington MOMS Club, Girl Scout Troop 4646, and their middle school counterparts, the Girl Scout Cadettes, most of whom live in Fairlington. Long-time resident Elizabeth Lyons coordinates the Scouts.

For both of these drives, it's not just the leadership of Fairlington residents that make them successful; it's also the generosity of all of you who support them.

On December 14, Santa will again ride the fire truck through Fairlington, an annual event that turns out scores of kids along the route. Sponsored by FCA, in collaboration with Fire Station 9 (the station that now serves Fairlington), this has become a neighborhood tradition. Even if you don't have kids, I encourage you to check out how the street corners and front porches are dotted with children eagerly waiting to see Santa. Talk about a Norman Rockwell image!

Several of the condo associations sponsor their own holiday celebrations, such as Fairlington Villages' annual party for residents and the Mews' festive caroling through their courtyards. These also enrich the neighborhood experience.

And, of course, when the weather isn't too cold, over a weekend you will often find residents out in the early evening admiring their neighbors' decorations—many of which are quite impressive. In some cases entire courtyards coordinate candles in the windows.

Taken together, these activities testify to the spirit of community, volunteerism, and neighborliness that is the hallmark of Fairlington. Thank you for making this a great place to live.

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

Happy Holidays!

We feel truly blessed
& thankful to have spent
another year serving the
Fairlington community.
We're proud to call many of
you not only neighbors,
but also friends!
We wish you all a joyous & safe
holiday season!

Kay, Chris, Yolanda, Doug, Kerry, & Brett



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Developers share plans for Park Shirlington

On Wednesday, November 13, the FCA hosted a meeting with Standard Communities and Foundation Housing, the owners of the Park Shirlington apartments, to learn about plans for significantly increasing density on the 15-acre Park Shirlington site. Park Shirlington is the garden-style apartment complex that sits on 31st St. S., at the top of the hill that goes down to Shirlington from Fairlington.



FCA Director Jennifer Davies speaks with Melissa Danowski and Michael Cullen from Arlington's planning and housing department. Photos by Guy Land.

Standard Communities and Foundation Housing, developers who specialize in preserving affordable housing, acquired the Park Shirlington property in 2017 with the assistance of a \$6 million loan from the Arlington Housing Investment Fund.

Steve Kahn of Standard Communities and Andrew Argetstein from Foundation Housing, led the presentation, along with Chris Gordon from KGD Architecture, an Arlington-based architectural firm specializing in affordable housing. Also present were Melissa Danowski and Michael Cullen from Arlington's Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development; Holly Bray, Chair of the Arlington Housing Commission; and a room of Fairlington residents.

The developers' stated goals for the project are to preserve long-term affordable housing; retain current residents; create housing to suit diverse economic needs; enhance the community's character; and create and expand green space. Kahn and Danowski both noted that earlier proposals for the site when it was under dif-

ferent ownership were not concerned with preserving affordable housing or whether residents were displaced.

Currently, Park Shirlington has 294 units, and the redeveloped site will retain 294 affordable rental units, while adding 423 units for sale, for a prospective total of 717 units as the proposal is currently drafted. The affordable units are meant to be affordable for renters with incomes between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income.

The developers expect to submit a proposal to the county by the end of the year. The proposal will then go through the site plan review process, with a hoped-for approval late next year. The developers also do not yet have financing for the project. If all goes according to the developers' current plan, the project will be completed four years from now.

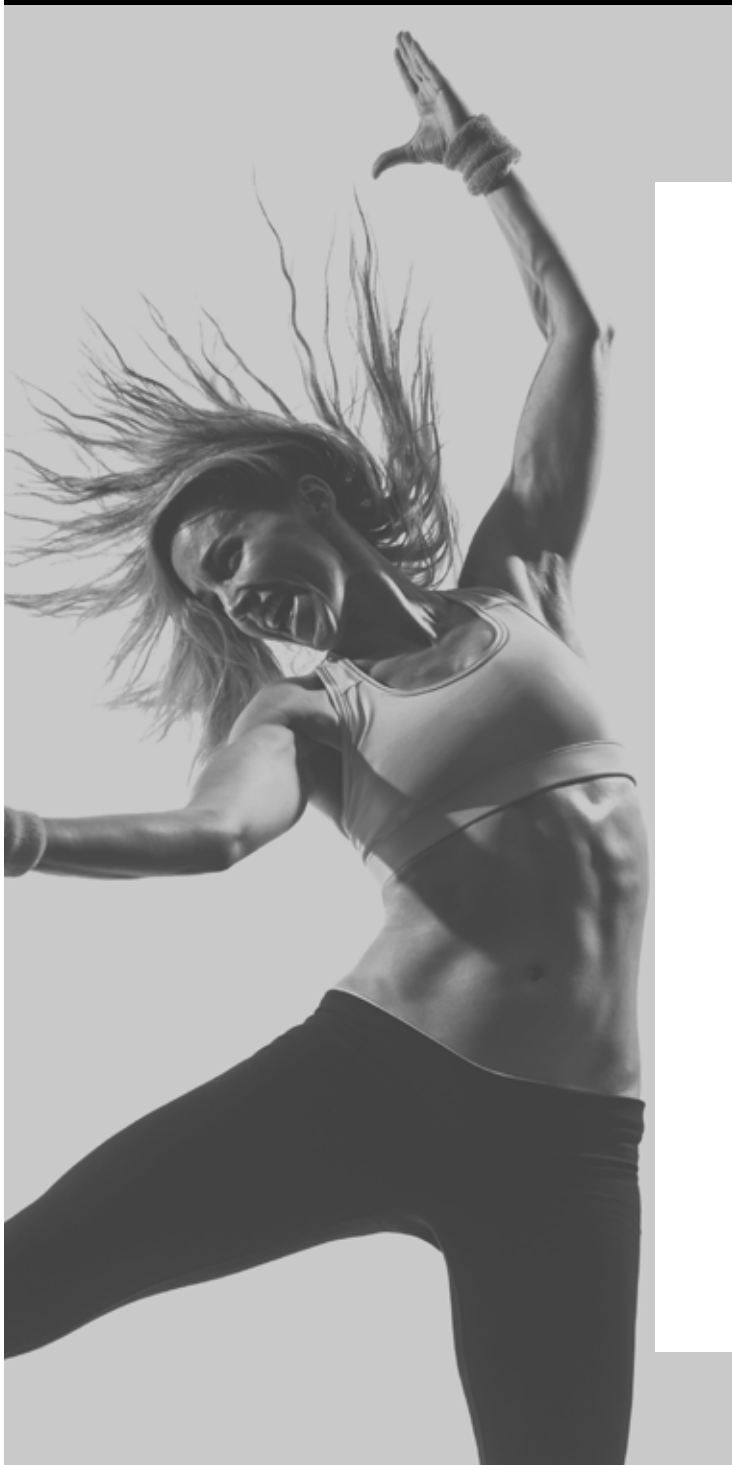
The project will be done in two phases. During the first phase, units in the five buildings on the southern side of 31st St. S. that abut I-395 will see significant renovations that will be carried out while residents remain in their units. A five- to seven-story apartment building will also be built along the hill that overlooks I-395. Because of the incline of the site, part of the building will be built into the hillside.



Chris Gordon, Steven Kahn, and Andrew Argetstein speak to the November meeting of the FCA.

Once that building is complete, residents on the northern side of 31st St. will have the opportunity to move to the units on the southern side. The units on the southern side will remain as rentals, and depending on the conditions of the government financing that is secured for the project, the rentals will have to remain affordable for 30 to 60 years or more.

Continued on page 21



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FCA OK's new bus shelter on Buchanan

The FCA Board has endorsed Arlington County's proposal to install a bus shelter and bench on the inbound side of S. Buchanan St. near the intersection with S. 30th St. FCA approval was required before the county would move forward with the project.

The county's proposal came in response to a request from a North Fairlington resident who noted the number of people who use that bus stop. Although the request was simply for the installation of a bench, when county staff investigated it, they determined that the ridership at the stop justified a shelter.

According to Mark Mainardi, Senior Capital Project Manager with Arlington's Transit Bureau, that stop has 56.4 average daily boardings. The threshold for a bench is 10 or more daily boardings, while 40 or more boardings qualifies for a shelter.

All work will occur within the county right-of-way



This graphic shows the design of the county's proposed bus shelter on S. Buchanan. Image courtesy Arlington County.

(between the sidewalk and the street), so there will be no impact on Fairlington Villages property. Both trees in the area of the improvement will remain. The Transit Bureau will work with the county arborist to ensure proper tree protection during the construction process. The proposed shelter matches the type and style of other bus stop shelters in the vicinity.

Plans call for moving the stop closer to the inter-

section and removing the existing concrete slab. To accommodate the shelter, that side of Buchanan will be narrowed at the intersection. County staff note that this will provide traffic calming and, as a safety measure, shorten the pedestrian crossing distance.

Although the work schedule has not yet been determined, the project will be completed during this fiscal year.

—Guy Land

FCA Board to be elected at annual meeting

On December 11 at 7 pm at the FCC (3308 S. Stafford St.), the FCA will hold its annual meeting, including elections to fill all nine positions on the 2020 Executive Board. The Board is comprised of nine members, including four officers and five directors.

A term on the Executive Board lasts for one year, and all members are volunteers. Board candidates can be re-elected for subsequent terms.

Current FCA Board members are Guy Land, Lindsay Willmann, Ed Hilz, Rebecca Sayres, Sara Tuke Carr, Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, Chris Weathers, and Sam Wolbert. Both Sara Tuke Carr and Lindsay Willmann are stepping down at the end of their current terms; the FCA thanks them for their service.

Representing all Fairlington residents, FCA is a great place to support our community. The board sponsors neighborhood activities including movie night, the

Fourth of July parade, Santa Ride, and Home Renovation Expo. It also publishes this newsletter.

FCA holds monthly meetings from 7 to 9 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. At the meeting, the board hosts speakers that cover issues affecting Fairlington, as well as the wider Arlington and Alexandria communities.

Board members give input on board policies and actions, and serve one-year terms. Outside of meetings, the time commitment can be as great or as small as you prefer.

If you, your spouse, or a neighbor is looking to get more involved in the community, email FCA Vice President Lindsay Willmann (vp@fca-fairlington.org) for details. The list of candidates will be published on the FCA website at least 10 days before the annual meeting on December 11.

—Lindsay Willmann



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Arlington, Alexandria regulate micro-mobility devices

On November 16, the Arlington County Board adopted regulations for e-scooters and other shared micro-mobility devices that will allow their use on sidewalks (with limitations), trails, and bike lanes, unless specifically signed or marked otherwise. In operation and use requirements, the devices will be treated largely like bicycles.

Devices will be required to have speedometers. Motorized scooters and skateboards will have a top speed of 15 miles per hour, and e-bicycles will have a top speed of 20 miles per hour on streets and trails.

When operating on public sidewalks, the top speed of all the devices is restricted to six miles per hour. The devices will not be allowed to operate on sidewalks where a protected bicycle lane is available and may be prohibited from other sidewalks at the Manager's discretion.

"Arlington is all about transportation options," Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey said. "Based on the evidence gathered during our pilot program,



Arlington and Alexandria have taken steps to further regulate dockless mobility devices like this ebicycle, recently parked at the corner of 31st and Abingdon Sts. Photo by Guy Land.

scooters and other micro-mobility devices are a viable transportation alternative for many."

The City of Alexandria recently wrapped up a nine-month long shared mobility device pilot program, to evaluate the safety and use of shared electric scooters and the overall performance of scooter companies in Alexandria. Following this Phase I pilot program, the city will vote on December 14 whether to proceed with the Phase II pilot program to further study and evaluate the devices.

The Phase II pilot program as proposed has a number of changes including:

- Permitting scooters on sidewalks unless explicitly banned (same as bikes)
- Requiring a 15 mph speed limit on streets
- Limiting one rider per device
- Requirements for deployment/rebalancing devices in different neighborhoods

—Courtesy Arlington County, City of Alexandria

2020 elementary boundary process begins

On November 5, Arlington Public Schools (APS) released the latest information on the 2020 Elementary Boundary Process. Currently, Abingdon Elementary is not directly impacted; however, the overall boundary process will have a county-wide impact, and will include Abingdon.

The first phase of the process looks at the current placement of option schools within the county, as the new Reed Elementary will be opening up in North Arlington in September 2021. The opening of Reed Elementary will allow a shift of population to that school, opening up other seats at neighborhood schools.

There are two current proposals that APS is exploring that would shift the locations of various schools to accommodate growth. The impacted schools in phase one include Key Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Arlington Traditional School (ATS), Carlin Springs, and Campbell Elementary School. APS has developed an informative infographic and video available at [www.apsva.us/wp-](http://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Infographic-for-Elementary-Planning-003-1.pdf)



[content/uploads/2019/11/Infographic-for-Elementary-Planning-003-1.pdf](http://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Infographic-for-Elementary-Planning-003-1.pdf) to explain the two proposals in detail.

APS will continue to seek feedback on the following dates: December 6: "Friday Facebook Live" at apsva.us/engage; December 9: 7 pm at Swanson Elementary there will be a "What We Heard" Community Meeting; December 9–18: Online Community Questionnaire will be available at www.apsva.us/engage; December 10: 6:30 pm at Central Library there will be a "What We Heard" Community Meeting; December 13: 12–1 pm, "What We Heard" Online Webinar; December 16: 7 pm at Kenmore Elementary, Spanish language: "What We Heard" Community Meeting.

The school board is expected to take action on these proposals on February 6, and new phases of the boundary process will continue to be announced throughout the spring.

—Sara Tuke Carr



Jennifir Birtwhistle

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Fairlington 2019 Wrap Up

Unit size	# Sold	Avg Days on Market	Avg Sold Price
1br/1bth	12	8	\$285,000
1br/2bth	22	8	\$455,897
2 br/1+bth	20	6	\$383,204
2br/2+bth	86	9	\$494,645
3br/1+bth	7	14	\$573,286

*Information gathered from BrightMLS as of 11/1/19. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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Fire station 7 to close permanently



Arlington County Fire Chief David Povlitz spoke to the October meeting of the FCA. Photo by Guy Land.

After months of study and research, Arlington county made the official pronouncement that Fire Station 7, located on S. Abingdon St. in Fairlington, has been permanently closed. The county issued a press release announcing the decision on October 17.

County Manager Mark Schwartz made the final decision following recommendations from both the county's Department of Environmental Services,

which oversees design and construction of county facilities, and the Arlington County Fire Department. The station had been closed on a temporary basis since October, 2018.

"This was not an easy decision, because we know the

community has had a special relationship with Fire Station 7 and its personnel for more than half a century," Schwartz said. "However, asking taxpayers to pay for rebuilding a station that doesn't move us forward in meeting our community's growing needs would not be fiscally responsible."

The October FCA meeting featured presentations from both the Fire Chief and county staff to discuss fire and emergency service delivery in Fairlington and the structural condition of the existing station (see November AFB for details). Fire Chief David Povlitz had previously recommended that the station be closed.

"The Fire Department takes our responsibility to the Arlington community very seriously," Chief Povlitz said. "We're confident that Fire Station 9 and nearby stations in Alexandria and Fairfax County will continue to provide thorough fire and emergency services coverage for Fairlington."

Currently, staff from the Department of Environmental Services is developing a process for options to determine future uses of the site that will include engagement with the community, including the FCA.

—Courtesy Arlington County

World Champions



The World Series gave Nationals fans a chance to celebrate, and it gave Fairlington celebrities the Little Presidents a chance to show off their legendary Halloween costumes. Arlington Little League sponsored an outdoor viewing party at Barcroft during game two of the World Series for Nationals Fans. Fairlington's Little Racing Presidents made a special guest appearance to get the crowd going. From L to R, Jose Segui, Andrew Ladd, Ryan Beck, Owen McGinnis, Beau Branch, and Matthew Ladd. Photos by Jennifer Davies.



Young baseball players and Nats fans, Ryan Beck and brothers Matthew and Andrew Ladd, attended the World Series parade.



Arlington Little League President and Fairlington resident Adam Balutis cheers on the Nats. Photo courtesy Arlington Little League.

Coming Soon Clarendon in the Arbor

Nicely updated Clarendon for Rent coming soon in the Arbor in December. Tasteful light grey paint and pretty hardwood floors. White Kitchen with Stainless Steel appliances. Energy Efficient windows and newer HVAC. Updated baths. Assigned parking and convenient Arbor location. Private setting with green space out front. Don't miss it!



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FCA Director named to Arlington's 40 Under 40



Sam Wolbert is an FCA Director, the President and CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, and a Fairlington resident. Photo by Chelsea Jones.

The FCA is proud to announce that Sam Wolbert, FCA Board Member, is a recipient of the Arlington Leadership Center for Excellence's 2019 40 Under 40 awards. The 40 Under 40 awards honor forty trailblazers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their personal or professional spheres, and who are devoted to making positive change within the Arlington community.

Apart from his role on the FCA, Mr. Wolbert is also the President & CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA). Founded in 1944, AWLA provides animal adoption and community programs to the Northern Virginia and D.C. metropolitan area, as well

as animal rescue and control services within Arlington County.

Mr. Wolbert is a proud resident of Fairlington, where he's lived since 2018. "It's truly an honor to be selected as a 40 Under 40 honoree and to be recognized alongside other local leaders," Mr. Wolbert said.

395 Express Lanes now open

The 395 Express Lanes officially opened on November 17. The Express Lanes replaced the previous HOV Lanes; the biggest change is that the lanes are now monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, instead of during peak hours. Anyone can use the lanes if they are willing to pay the toll, and to use the lanes for free you must be in an HOV-3 vehicle.

Another change that comes with the opening of the 395 Express Lanes is that everyone using it is required to have an E-ZPass—even if your vehicle is HOV-3 (three or more people including the driver). To use the 395 Express Lanes for free when you are HOV-3, you need an E-ZPass Flex.

You can swap your E-ZPass for a Flex or order a new one. For more information, visit ezpassva.com/EZPages/Get-Flex.aspx.

Home Improvement Showcase coming in February

The Fairlington Home Improvement Showcase is set to return for its fifth year running on February 15, 2020, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The event will once again feature contractors who know the intricacies and quirks of our historic buildings and help unit owners improve their homes.

The seminar format will highlight common strategies contractors use to create a brand-new kitchen, finish an attic, install new windows and doors, and brighten up a basement, just to name a few remodeling possibilities. There will be many opportunities to ask questions and learn about unique design options that can enhance the quality of living and value in Fairlington.

More details, including the format, speakers, and schedule, will be announced on Facebook and on the FCA website, <http://www.fca-fairlington.org>.

—Chris Weathers

Celebrate your milestone with the AFB

Do you want to honor someone celebrating a milestone who lives here in the neighborhood?

Would you like to recognize a special teacher, caregiver, or coach?

Do you want to congratulate your child's teammates on a successful season?

The *All Fairlington Bulletin* has ad space available to interested residents in multiple sizes and a range of prices. Contact the Advertising Manager at admanager@fca-fairlington.org.



Messiah Sing-Along in Alexandria

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Holiday Bazaar

To Benefit the
Grace Episcopal Church
Food Pantry

Saturday, Dec. 7th
10 am to 4 pm



Grace Episcopal Church
3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria
www.gracealex.org

Interested in being an Exhibitor?
Email Cor Medrick at: holidaybazaar.grace@gmail.com



Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas



Happy Holidays

Joyeux Noel

Happy Kwanzaa

**Welcome to all the new owner/residents
of Fairlington in 2019.**

Happy Holidays to everyone!

Feliz Navidad

Happy Boxing Day

Pat

Seasons Greetings



Patricia Quinlin, Realtor®, MBA
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Election Day brings incumbent victories



Election Day 2019 in Fairlington saw clear skies, voters, volunteers, and lots of campaign signs. Photo by Guy Land.

On Tuesday, November 5, Virginia held its general election. Most of the offices on the ballot in Arlington and Alexandria were races in which the incumbents were running unopposed.

In the only contested race, two seats on the Arlington County Board were up for election. The incumbents, Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey, both running on the Democratic ticket, were easily re-elected. They were running against two independent candidates, Audrey Clement and Arron O'Dell.

Fairlington voters chose the two Democratic candidates for Arlington County Board by a wide margin. The two Fairlington precincts had similar returns.

Precinct 12, "Fairlington" precinct, votes at the Fairlington Community Center. Precinct 12 had voters choosing Katie Cristol (40.6%) and Christian Dorsey (38.4%) over candidates Audrey Clement (11.8%) and Arron O'Dell (6.8%).

Similarly, in Precinct 22, the "Abingdon" precinct, voters at Abingdon Elementary split along very similar lines: Cristol received 40.7% of the vote and Dorsey received 37.2% of the vote, while Clement received 14.6% and O'Dell received 6.1%.

Other races on the ballot included members of the Senate of Virginia and the Virginia House of Delegates. Senator Adam Ebbin (D), Delegate Mark Levine (D), and Delegate Charniele Herring (D) were all re-elected without opposition.

—Susan Renahan

FHS held historic materials education event

Historic preservationist and Fairlington resident Julie Butler spoke at an event sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) on November 7. Butler shared her knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the slate, bricks, and mortar used in Fairlington buildings. She also brought samples of some of the large variety of roofing slates available to illustrate their distinctive features.

Approximately 20 people attended the event. FHS saw the evening as an opportunity to introduce Ms. Butler to the community, and help Fairlington management and homeowners understand the benefits of careful research and the use of appropriate materials and contractors in the maintenance and renovation of our historic properties.

—Patty Clark



Julie Butler, a historic preservation expert, spoke at a November event sponsored by the FHS. Photo by Terry Placek.

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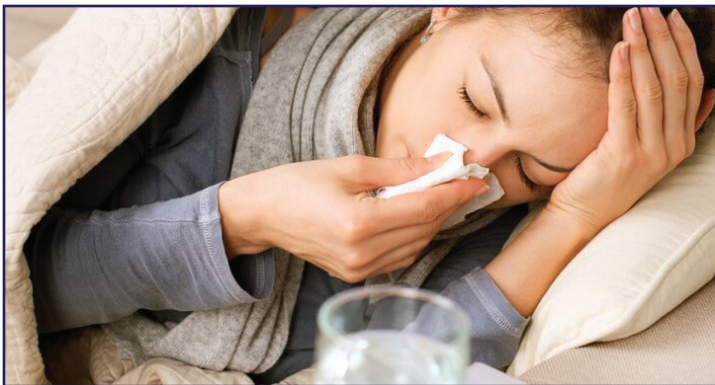


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Fairlington Farmers Market hosts 5th birthday party



The Fairlington Farmers Market closed on November 24 after another successful season. The market will resume in the spring. Photos by Guy Land.

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold and steady rain on October 20 to join the fun at the Fairlington Farmers Market birthday celebration. Regular shoppers, and even a few new ones, stopped by the market tent for cake and giveaways. Kids enjoyed food-related games and activities, and of course, birthday cake!

In appreciation of the residents who come to the market each week and support their businesses and farms, our wonderful vendors donated beautiful food baskets, pies, pasta, empanadas, fudge, coffee, produce, gift certificates, and coolers for our birthday raffle. Four lucky shoppers won delicious prizes!



A big thank you to Ana's Twist, Bonaparte-Rustiq Bakery, Café

Los Suenos, Faerie Springs Farm, Foggy Mountain Pasta, Hog Haven Farms, Kuhn Orchards, Mama's Donut Bites, Pleitez Produce, Sandy Bottom Acres, Sexy Vegie, and Spring Valley Farm and Orchard for their generosity and commitment to our neighborhood market.

The market will be back next May.

—Lynne Blasi

Scouting for Food



On November 2 and November 9, more than 80 scouts from Pack 350 (Cub Scouts) and Troop 350 (Scouts BSA) participated with more than 60 parents to collect food from the North and South Fairlington, Claremont, and Douglas Park neighborhoods. It was a huge success, especially in Fairlington, where residents have been actively assisting Pack 350 for the past five years. Photo by Guy Land.

County board renews farmers market

The Arlington County Board has renewed the permit for the Fairlington Farmers Market for another five years. There was no debate on the renewal, which was approved at the board's October 19 meeting. The permit will be subject to an administrative review by county staff in three years.

The permit envisions no major changes in the operation of the market, which is located behind the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St. The market is allowed to operate from April through November on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm.

The briefing material prepared by staff for the board's consideration noted that there had been no complaints or other issues raised with county staff. FCA supported the permit renewal, calling it an asset to the community.

In October the market celebrated its fifth year of operations. Field to Table, Inc. holds the permit to operate the market, while a group of Fairlington volunteers oversees market activities, including recruiting vendors, coordinating special events, and monitoring customer satisfaction.

The market is supported financially by FCA, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, and Kay Houghton & Associates.

—Guy Land

CHRISTMAS

Dessert Menu 2019



Buche De Noel (serves 12)

Chocolate Truffles

Decorated Gingerbread Santa Face

Alpine Ginger Villa

Pumpkin OR Cranberry Cheesecake (7" serves 6-8)

Pumpkin OR Cranberry Cheesecake (9" serves 12-14)

Pumpkin Pie

Mincemeat Pie

Lemon Meringue

Apple Pie

Pecan Pie

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Santa's route through Fairlington

1. Arrive Park Shirlington north lot (closest to Abingdon school) at 3 pm.
2. Depart around 3:15 pm; turn right onto S. 31st St.
3. Cross S. Abingdon St. and S. Buchanan St.
4. Right onto S. Columbus St. crossing S. 30th St.
5. Right onto S. 29th St. crossing S. Buchanan St.
6. Right onto S. Abingdon St.
7. Stop at North Fairlington Community Center parking lot (3005 S. Abingdon St.) for 15 minutes.
8. Left onto S. Abingdon St., cross bridge onto S. 34th St., and turn right on S. Wakefield St.
9. Turn left onto S. 36th St., cross over S. Utah St. and S. Taylor St.



10. Left onto S. Stafford St.
11. At the traffic circle, turn left onto S. 34th St.
12. Right onto S. Utah St., continue past S. 32nd Rd.
13. Right onto S. 32nd St. (passing Utah field and park).
14. Right onto S. Stafford St., and continue to the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) parking lot for a 15-minute stop (3308 S. Stafford St.)
15. Return to Fire Station.

Note: In case of inclement weather, Santa will not stop at Fairlington Villages Community Center. He will proceed along the route and make an indoor stop at the Fairlington Community Center gym to greet children and hand out candy canes. Please check Facebook and the website for updates the day of the event.

Holiday happenings in Shirlington

Village at Shirlington: Light up the Village, December 5, 6 pm to 8:30 pm

On December 5, the Village at Shirlington will be transformed into a winter wonderland featuring musical performances, horse and carriage rides, and activities for children. The two blocks of Campbell Ave. in front of the Shirlington library are blocked to vehicular traffic so that pedestrians can wander up and down the streets, taking in the decorations and enjoying the sights.

Many of the restaurants in Shirlington offer specials on this evening and shops have extended hours and special events.

The main event is the annual tree lighting. This year, the tree lighting is hosted by Adam Tuss of NBC4. Santa is scheduled to make an appearance as well! There are lots of good viewing spots on the plaza in front of Shirlington library.

The event is scheduled from 6 pm to 8:30 pm; check the Village at Shirlington's Facebook page for additional information including what to do in case of inclement weather.



Dogma: pet photos with Santa, December 7-8, 6 pm to 8 pm

Visit Dogma Shirlington on December 7 or December 8 from 6 pm to 8 pm to get your pet's photo with Santa. For more information, visit Dogma's website, www.dogmabakery.com/newsroom.

Hilton Garden Inn: Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 21, 8 am to 12 pm

The Hilton Garden Inn is sponsoring their 9th annual Breakfast with Santa and holiday food drive. The event includes a buffet breakfast and an opportunity to talk to Santa. You may take your own photo if you wish.

There is no charge for the event but they do ask for donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Space is limited; to make a reservation call 703.820.0440 and ask for Musa or select sales.

—Susan Renehan

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—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner

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Phase two will see the demolition of the units on the northern side and the construction of “missing middle” housing that will provide “entry-level affordability” for homebuyers with incomes near the Area Median Income. The exact mix of units has not yet been determined, but will likely include studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, as well as townhomes.

KGD Architecture has provided representational visuals of the planned development, but emphasized that no architectural style has been chosen yet, and the structures will look different in the final proposal submitted to the county. The new homes will not mimic Fairlington’s distinctive style, but will be designed to complement it to give a sense of connection between the two communities.



This map shows the plan for the redevelopment of Park Shirlington. Image courtesy Pennant Housing Group.

Other design goals include: enhancing the walkability of 31st St. between Fairlington and Shirlington, creating green common areas and playgrounds, as well as to be determined amenities and common spaces for rental on both sides of the development. The site will include street and underground parking.

A traffic study has not yet been conducted, but is in the works, as is a new tree survey. The developers aim to maintain as many mature trees as possible, but an earlier survey showed that some were going to need to come down for health reasons.

This meeting followed up on a presentation held at the County Trades Center in Shirlington in October and a November 12 meeting hosted by FCA for residents of Park



An artist's rendering of the site of the redevelopment of Park Shirlington shows the future 31st St. Image courtesy Pennant Housing Group.

Shirlington. The FCA plans to host future meetings before the county decides whether or not to approve the project.

The November 13 meeting was recorded and is available for viewing on FCA's Facebook page, @FCAcivic. The slide presentation is also available on FCA's website, www.fca-fairlington.org. The developers welcome community input and have already made adjustments to their draft proposal based on the October community meeting.

—Michelle Woolley

FCA holds briefing for Park Shirlington residents



FCA Director Jennifer Davies welcomes Park Shirlington residents as Steven Kahn of Standard Communities and Andrew Argetstein of Foundation Housing prepare to brief residents. Photo by Guy Land.

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Halloween parade canceled; students celebrate in classrooms



Halloween celebration inside Abingdon. Photo courtesy Abingdon Twitter feed @AbingdonGIFT.

Due to the forecast of rain and thunderstorms on Halloween this year, Abingdon's Halloween parade was cancelled. This didn't dampen

enthusiasm for the holiday, however, as many students and teachers wore costumes to school and celebrated in their classrooms.



4th grade teacher's costumes for the Halloween celebration. Photo courtesy Sonjia Davis Twitter feed @davisESL_STC.



Students in 3rd grade celebrating Halloween in their classroom. Photo courtesy Mrs. Nesbitt Twitter feed @MrsNesbitt2.

Fall festival a success

This year's Fall Festival, which is organized by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), was a success. In the gym, there was Halloween-themed music playing for students



Students playing games in Abingdon's cafeteria at the Fall Festival. Photos by Rachel Mallory.



Students dancing in Abingdon's gymnasium at the Fall Festival.

to dance to, while the cafeteria boasted a number of games and treats for sale. Amber Mustafa, PTA co-president, said, "It was a successful event with a great turnout. We hope everyone had fun dancing and playing games."

Upcoming events at Abingdon

In December, the Abingdon PTA will be hosting a coat drive for students at the school. To help out, please donate new or like-new children's coats at the front office during school hours. There will also be an Adopt-a-Family event to assist families in need; to help with this event, please donate grocery store gift cards at the school office. If you have questions, contact the PTA at abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

—Rachel Mallory

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Wakefield happenings

Wakefield senior reaches finals of national competition

Wakefield senior Ela Gokcigdem was a finalist in the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship National Entrepreneurship Challenge. Gokcigdem created ePearls (www.pearltech.com). EPearls are wireless noise cancelling earbuds that can be used as part of an active lifestyle. The earbuds are made out of recycled plastic and sell for \$25.

Gokcigdem donates to Conservation International with each ePearl purchase. She wanted to create wireless and affordable earbuds while also recognizing environmental impact. In addition to working with Arlington business teachers and clubs, Gokcigdem attended multiple business camps and programs over the years including Harvard Business Academy, Babson College Summer Study for Entrepreneurship, and UC Berkeley Business and Entrepreneurship Conference.



The Wakefield High School choir performs on December 17. Photo courtesy Wakefield.

Upcoming Wakefield performances

The Wakefield Performing Arts Department presents multiple performances in December. Drama students perform *She Kills Monsters* on December 6–7 and December 13–14. This is a comedy/fantasy play about Agnes Evans, who stumbles across her sister's Dungeons and Dragons notebook. According to the script notes, the play is full of homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture.

The music department concerts are on the following dates: Orchestra, December 10; Band, December 12; Guitar, December 16; and Choral, December 17. All performances are 7 pm in Wakefield auditorium.

Wakefield musical groups routinely win Superior ratings. Any performance is a good example of the strength of Arlington Public Schools music instruction. Many of the students in Wakefield's music department, especially in orchestra, are former Abingdon students.

—Donna Felipe

Order your ornament online with PayPal before the holidays!



The FCA and Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) are selling Fairlington brass-plated ornaments. The price for each ornament is \$10. The FCA is accepting online PayPal orders to make it easier to purchase this must-have Fairlington ornament. Place your order at www.fca-fairlington.org, using PayPal or a major credit card. Then, pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office, 3001 S. Abingdon St., during operating hours. Ornaments will also be available for purchase at the next FCA meeting on Wednesday, December 11. If you have questions, please contact FCA Secretary Rebecca Sayres at rebecca@fca-fairlington.org.

Census 2020



Census workers answer questions at the Fairlington Farmers Market in advance of the 2020 U.S. Census. Photo by Guy Land.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In November, we visited a new Sardi's in the Bailey's Cross-roads area, a new place for us.

For December, we'll have just one event, to allow space on our calendars for all of the other annual events we attend.

Thursday, December 19, 11:30 am, Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, 703-759-3800, www.laubergerchezfrancois.com. (No change from last month's save the date announcement.) As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, we'll enjoy lunch (either a la carte or the three course Prix Fixe lunch for \$45, including a glass of wine, plus tax and gratuity) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting.

Because we do need to confirm our reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 pm on Wednesday, December 18. Do 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.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in early December to discuss *The Age of Innocence*, a novel by Edith Wharton. Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize, it was the first Pulitzer awarded to a woman. We are meeting on Tuesday, December 3, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Because of the holidays, the group won't meet again until late January.

Canasta Group Doubles the Fun

Our local Canasta group has multiplied the cards, the luck and the fun. We are now playing "Hand and Foot," a Canasta-type card game played coast to coast. If playing your hand was fun, there may be wild cards waiting in your foot! Join this local group, which plays Tuesday mornings at a church hall near Fairlington. Having card-

sense is helpful, but we're happy to teach you the rules of this game. Call Carol Ann 703-931-8533.

Join us for Fairlington Knits and get crafty



Photo by Turner Houston.

Join Fairlington Knits! on Monday, December 9, and Monday, December 23 at the Fairlington Community Center from 6:30-8 pm for a knit/crochet meet-up. Bring what you're working on, share what you know, and learn new skills. Meet new friends, some who might be neighbors, and enjoy an evening of making things with like-minded people. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome. The events are posted on the Fairlington Appreciation Society's Facebook page. For more information, contact: Turner at 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-serve 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. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Patio garden hits and misses

With the growing season and calendar almost eclipsed, let's reflect on some gardening concepts (including those ideas that didn't turn out so well) and simple changes you can make in your theme and design for 2020. The next few months are the ideal time to organize your thoughts and research the many types of plants.

Vines: Many times, I've seen them consume the patio fence. It might be English ivy, wisteria, or even trumpetvine.

Initially, each is attractive. Ivy presents a rich swath of dark green. Wisteria offers lavender panicles of flowers from May through June. Trumpetvine displays orange bugles growing amid Kelly green, serrated foliage.

Just know that most vines run wild. They never stay contained unless you keep a vigil with pruning shears in hand. So, if you do plant one of these specimens, take the time to keep them in their space so they don't grow over the fence into your neighbor's patio or begin to strangle the plants in your own beds.

Think about inserting a wooden or iron trellis in the soil. Secure it to a fence panel using strong string or a couple screws at the top along the edge of the trellis. To start, a vine will attach to the trellis and twine around the many sections.

Vines that aren't so vigorous are clematis, Carolina jessamine, and star jasmine. Clematis has white, purple, or pink flowers in the shape

of a star. Its leaves are one-inch long and the stems are pliable and break apart with a pinch.

Carolina jessamine has yellow flowers in the shape of a bugle. Its leaves are shiny and evergreen. This specimen needs shade.

Star jasmine is another shade lover that bears white, fragrant flowers on an evergreen blanket. All these are easier to contain since they are herbaceous (meaning non-woody) in the stem.



Wisteria offers lavender flowers, but also requires maintenance. Photo by Guy Land.

Ground cover: It will cover the ground space if left alone. For some, the plant's leaves, stems, and flowers are more appealing than mulch or soil. Left unobserved, these growers will attach to anything.

Lamium has a magenta summer flower and mushy leaves with a variegated-like frosting on top. Periwinkle is basically a shiny, evergreen

carpet that will show off its lavender flowers in summer. Pachysandra grows about eight inches tall. It has scalloped-edged, lime-green leaves with white flowers in April and May. Ajuga has a paddle-shaped leaf that is shiny and either maroon or purple. Come March and April, true-blue flowers appear above its foliage.

Shrubs: Be sure to read a plant's habit (its mature size). Poor planning will yield a crowded mix of plants that elbow each other and fight for space. With this presentation, each specimen loses its effect, especially in a small Fairlington patio.

Recently, I removed a euonymus that had grown five feet in height and two feet in width. It was attractive and healthy but on either side were mature dwarf nandinas. There was no space between this threesome until I dug up and removed the centerpiece and replaced it with a young azalea "encore." The new ensemble worked because of the variation in sizes and space that allowed maximum air circulation, sunlight, and irrigation in a rainstorm.

When ground cover and shrubs interact, it's not pretty. Never do you want ground cover growing up to and into a nearby shrub. Prune a circle around the shrub to expose the mulch, which will serve as a neat border to the ground cover's onslaught. Doing so will provide more water for the shrub (since the two specimens no longer will compete for a drink).

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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