

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2020

Volume 46, Number 12

www.fca-fairlington.org

'Tis the season—Fairlington gives blood, December 9 and 10

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Giving blood saves lives. Even as coronavirus spreads across the globe, the need for blood donations remains. Due to people staying home and social distancing, blood donor organizations across the country are seeing the nation's blood supply decrease and the same is true at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Fairlington is here to help. If you are healthy and eligible to donate blood, we invite you to do so at our Fairlington Friends of Children's National Blood Drive occurring on Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Thursday, Dec. 10 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.



Children's National®

The drive is sponsored by FCA and Fairlington Cares, the community's new nonprofit.

The donations will be taken by appointment only (link is below and will be posted on the community Facebook page) and spots are limited so we encourage you to sign up soon. It is very important you keep your appointment to ensure we supply Children's National with the maximum amount of blood we can given the limited number of spots due to COVID-19 precautions.

Since blood is a living substance, the shelf life is short and must continually be replenished. Blood donation is safe. The blood collectors check the health of all donors before they are allowed to donate. Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 through the blood donation process or via a blood transfusion, since respiratory viruses are generally not known to be transmitted by donation or transfusion.

We ask that all donors come with their masks on, as recommended by the CDC, and respect social distancing. Anyone who is not feeling well should refrain from donating blood. We want to reinforce that only those donors who feel healthy on the day of donation and who are completely asymptomatic should donate, even excluding those who report symptoms from allergies.

The standard blood donation provides one pint of blood. This one pint of blood can be used to help four to five children. Children like Fairlington's own Whitaker Weinburger, 5-year-old stage 4 neuroblastoma survivor, who received treatment and multiple blood transfusions at Children's National.

Continued on page 19

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 annual meeting December 9

Presentation: Officials of Alexandria City Public Schools will provide an update on The High School Project.

Election: Members of the Fairlington Citizens Association will elect officers and directors of the Executive Board.


Regular board business:

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

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

Online resources:

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

 Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Citizens Association.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.	
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
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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

Board of Directors

Officers

Guy Land, *President*
Jennifer Davies, *Vice President*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*
Rebecca Sayres, *Secretary*

Directors

Julie Butler
Kent Duffy
Donald Staren-Doby
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:

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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 or pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Designed and printed by More Vang.

Calendar

Fairlington Knits

Monday, December 7, 6:30 pm
See page 25 for details

Book Group

Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 pm
See page 25 for details

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 7 pm
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Blood drive

Wednesday and Thursday, December 9 and 10, 10 am – 3 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Santa's fire truck ride

Saturday, December 12, 2–3 pm

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, December 13, 5:30 pm
See page 25 for details

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25
FCC closed

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1
FCC closed

Halloween parade



Roughly a dozen Arlington County police vehicles paraded through Fairlington on Halloween, to the delight of hundreds of masked trick-or-treaters. FCA appreciates the commitment of the Arlington County Police Department to Fairlington. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Duncan Carr, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Rebecca Sayres, Shelly-Ann Sinclair, Brooke Schmidt, Bill Sullivan, and Shirin Wertime.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December brings FCA's annual meeting, a time to reflect on the year's activities and elect the board that will guide next year's work. FCA board members are all volunteers. Their efforts help make the community better for all of us. But they are also just the official tip of a larger corps of informal volunteers that implement much of the work.

There's still time to let us know if you are interested in serving on next year's board. Three of the current members are leaving the board, so there are openings.

Kent Duffy is wrapping up ten years on the board, including several years as vice president. He's been a real mainstay of the board's work—a source of calm and careful insight, a creative thinker about community solutions, and an advocate for turning fire station 7 into a local brewery (OK, that's in jest, partly). During his tenure he focused on the county's parking policies and Metro's plans to scale back bus service. He crafted many of the online surveys that have helped us gauge residents' views.

Rebecca Sayres will also be leaving us, having been our secretary the past two years. She has been our liaison to the Fairlington Historical Society, playing a key role in the community's 75th anniversary celebration and co-chairing last year's home and garden tour. Her work yielded October's very successful brass quintet concert.

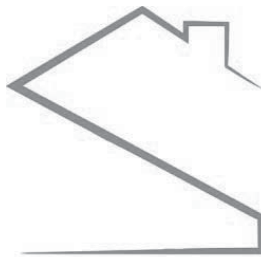
Sam Wolbert departs the board after two years. The good news is that he has agreed to direct the strategic planning process of Fairlington Cares, the community-focused nonprofit that FCA launched earlier this year. Sam was a member of last year's class of Leadership Arlington. I'm glad we'll still be tapping his insights.

We thank all three of them for their dedication to the neighborhood. They have made Fairlington a better community.

And while I'm applauding the work of key volunteers, I want to give a particular shout out to Fairlington Villages resident Brooke Smitherman Schmidt, who has almost single-handedly coordinated our first-ever blood drive to benefit Children's National Hospital. She brought the idea to us, coordinated the logistics with Children's, and made the arrangements with the FCC. I encourage you to sign up to donate.

Brooke and our retiring board members represent the best of Fairlington. All of us thank them and the scores of other volunteers.

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



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FCA board to be elected at December annual meeting

The election to fill all nine slots on the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Executive Board will highlight the organization's annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7 pm. The meeting will be held virtually and streamed live on FCA's Facebook page.

The board consists of four officers and five directors. A term on the board lasts for one year, and all members are volunteers. Board members can be re-elected for subsequent terms.

Three members of the current board have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election. Two of them are moving out of the neighborhood and one has recently assumed new responsibilities. Those retiring board members are Kent Duffy, Rebecca Sayres, and Sam Wolbert. All three have served multiple years on the board. FCA thanks them for their service to the community.

The other board members are President Guy Land, Vice President Jennifer Davies, Treasurer Ed Hilz, Chris Weathers, Julie Butler, and Donald Staren-Doby. All have indicated their intention to seek re-election.

Representing all Fairlington residents, FCA is a great

place to support our community. The board sponsors neighborhood activities, such as September's movie night, the Fourth of July parade, October's concert by the Alexandria Symphony brass quintet, and this month's Santa Ride. It also publishes this newsletter.

The board speaks on behalf of the community to local elected officials on things like nearby real estate development or general policies that could have a particular impact on Fairlington residents.

FCA holds monthly meetings from 7 to 9 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Those meetings are currently being held virtually. At the meeting the board hosts speakers who cover a range of issues affecting Fairlington, including schools, parking, and environmental sustainability.

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in the community, serving on the FCA board offers a great opportunity. Contact FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies, vp@fca-fairlington.org, for more information or to indicate your desire to serve.

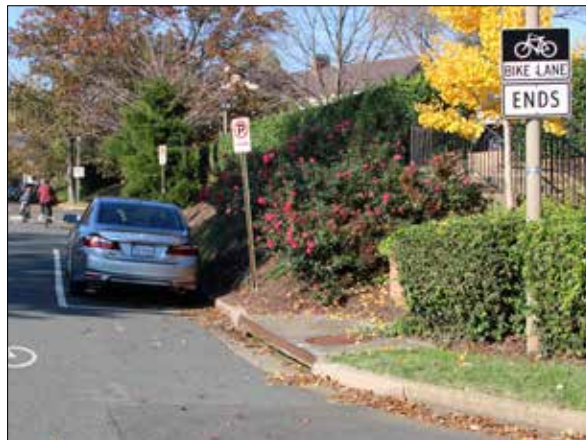
—Guy Land

County committee to consider sidewalk project

Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) is slated to consider a proposed sidewalk and street improvement project in North Fairlington at its December meeting.

The county's design engineers have prepared a plan for the installation of a missing sidewalk, curb, and gutter along the north side of S. Abingdon St. between S. 31st St. and S. 31st Rd. (diagonally across the street from old Fire Station 7 and the STEM Preschool).

The proposed sidewalk would be six feet wide and would be installed in the existing parking lane with two parking spaces being removed. One new pedestrian ramp would be installed at the corner of 31st St. and one new pedestrian ramp would be installed at the corner of 31st Rd. The addition of the sidewalk will require the relocation of the existing stormwater inlet.



The proposed NCAC project would add a sidewalk along S. Abingdon St. between 31st Rd. and 31st St., preserving the bicycle lane but eliminating two parking spaces. Photo by Guy Land.

A bus stop has also been proposed for relocation to the corner of 31st St. and Abingdon St. The existing bike lane would remain in place.

The project met the county's required 60 percent threshold of support from affected property owners—Fairlington Villages and Fairlington Court. A cost estimate is currently in the works and was expected to be completed by the end of November. If the NCAC recommends funding, the project will go before the Arlington County Board for approval early in 2020. NCAC projects are funded out of county

bond issues.

FCA Board members Ed Hilz and Rebecca Sayres represent Fairlington on the NCAC.

—Rebecca Sayres



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Alexandria school officials to brief FCA on The High School Project

Leaders of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will brief the Fairlington community on The High School Project at FCA's annual meeting, December 9. The High School Project seeks both to solve space issues created by a growing enrollment and to rethink the way the city is delivering high school education.

A portion of Fairlington Villages is in the City of Alexandria, and some of those families have children attending ACPS.

Because of population growth, ACPS projects that by 2025 the city will have 5,000 high school students, compared to the 3,800 students the system serves today.

T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria's only high school, currently offers 400 courses between its two major campuses, the main location on King Street, close to South Fairlington, and the former Minnie Howard Elementary School on Braddock Rd.

The King Street campus houses roughly 3,065 students in grades 10-12, including more than 700 International Academy students, a STEM Academy, Academy of Finance, and multiple Career and Technical Education pathways. The Minnie Howard campus houses roughly 850 ninth-grade students.

Since the summer of 2018, ACPS has been exploring innovative ways to solve future capacity issues and at the same time redefine the high school experience to create a high quality, meaningful and applicable education for every student in Alexandria.

The Alexandria school board considered two basic options: creating one connected high school that would expand T.C. Williams by linking it with other school locations or building a second high school somewhere in the city. In September 2019, the school board voted to expand T.C. Williams High School into a Connected High School Network by building a new building at its Minnie Howard campus.



The Minnie Howard campus of T.C. Williams currently serves ninth-grade students. Photo by Guy Land.

Under this plan ACPS will be completely integrating ninth-graders with 10th-12th graders. A report commissioned by the school board in 2016 recommended against the split model that ACPS has been using with ninth graders taking most of their classes at the separate Minnie Howard campus. Incorporating ninth graders into T.C. Williams will require that courses and programming for the Minnie Howard location be entirely reimaged and redesigned.

The tentative plan calls for a new building on the Minnie Howard campus that will be able to house 1,600 students and will be approximately 300,000 square feet. Students will continue to attend school on the Minnie Howard campus until a new building is completed in 2024.

—Guy Land

The perfect Fairlington gift— architect's map reproduction

Perhaps you have noticed the sepia toned map of the Fairlington community hanging in the North Fairlington Community Center. The original map was probably prepared c. 1943 by the architect Kenneth Franzheim for the Defense Homes Corporation and subsequently revised for Fairmac, the firm that managed the post-World War II rental community from 1947–1972.

The map was updated by CBI Fairmac, the firm that oversaw its conversion to condominiums in 1972–1978, and later revised by FHS to better define the villages.

FHS is now making 36" x 24" reproductions available for purchase for \$50 each, postage included.

Go to fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org and select 'Publications and Tours.' Download the 'Fairlington Architect's Map' order form and mail your form and check to FHS, 2776 Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, VA 22206.

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Santa Claus is coming to Fairlington December 12

The popularity of the July 4th fire truck parade and the Halloween Arlington County Police Department parade has inspired Santa to ride again with our friends at Fire Station 9! Safety protocols in place during the pandemic will mean a few changes this year, but we can still wave and cheer on Santa and his crew of elves as they make their way through the neighborhood on Saturday, Dec. 12.



South Fairlington residents warmly greeted Santa last year as he rode the fire truck through the neighborhood. Photo by Guy Land.

This year Santa and his firefighter elves will start in the Abingdon Elementary School parking lot (3035 S. Abingdon St.). The trucks will gather shortly before 2 pm. (Note the earlier start time.)

The current plan is for Santa to do a “walk and wave” around the parking lot to his young Fairlington fans who will be waving back from a safe distance. There will not be any candy canes handed out this year or visits into the truck. Santa will also not be able to pose for pictures at the back of the truck. We all want to keep Santa

and our fire fighters safe and healthy so they can do their important jobs.

With engine lights ablaze, the crew and their jolly friend Santa will then depart and proceed through Fairlington on both the north and south sides of the neighborhood. Please see the slightly changed route below. The parade will conclude at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.), where Santa will then disembark for another socially distant “walk and wave” to his avid fans.

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 below and check out the FCA website for a map of his ride (www.fca-fairlington.org).

—Jennifer Davies

Note: In case of inclement weather, Santa and the crew might not be able to conduct the parade. We will do our best to keep you posted and/or find an alternate date. The parade may also be affected by new COVID restrictions.

Santa’s route through Fairlington

1. Arrive Abingdon Elementary School parking lot around 2 pm
2. Depart around 2:15 PM, driving down S. 29th St.
3. Cross S. Abingdon St. and S. Buchanan St.
4. Left onto S. Columbus St., continuing around the S. 30th St. traffic circle
5. Left onto S. 31st St., crossing S. Buchanan St.
6. Right onto S. Abingdon St., crossing bridge onto S. 34th St.
7. Right on S. Wakefield St.
8. Left onto S. 36th St., crossing over S. Utah St. and S. Taylor St.
9. Left onto S. Stafford St. at the traffic circle
10. At the traffic circle closer to community center, left onto S. 34th St.
11. Right onto S. Utah St., continuing past S. 32nd Rd.
12. Right onto S. 32nd St. (passing Utah field and park)
13. Right onto S. Stafford St., continuing to the Fairlington Community Center parking lot for a 15-minute stop (3308 S. Stafford St.)
14. Return to Fire Station 9



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Because your safety, health, and peace of mind is our top priority, you can rest assured we are taking every precaution to ensure your safety and well-being. We have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they do not come in to work if they feel sick or if they have a fever. They have also been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before, during, and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

Until this crisis is over, we will continue to monitor the developments set by the CDC and our local governments and will make any necessary adjustments to our practices to keep you safe.

We support our community and feel that it is everybody's job to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and in that light, we encourage you to take advantage of telephone, Facetime, and video consultations for all your home improvement needs.

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Voters opt for mail ballots or early voting

More Arlingtonians voted in November's general election than voted four years ago, although voter turnout this year fell just short of the 2016 percentage, according to county officials. In all, 131,518 voters, or about 79 percent of 166,416 registered voters, cast ballots on Nov. 3. In 2016, turnout was 82 percent (122,023 of 148,032 registered voters).

Absentee turnout this year was record-breaking, with more than 108,394 Arlingtonians (65.1 percent turnout) casting their ballots by mail, drop box, or in person before election day.

With so many Arlingtonians voting before Nov. 3, turnout remained light throughout election day, with only 23,124 people voting (14 percent turnout). Poll observers and canvassers reported a steady, but light, trickle of voters throughout the day at the two Fairlington precincts.

Countywide, President-elect Joe Biden received 80.3 percent of the vote, compared to Donald Trump's 12.9 percent. Sen. Mark Warner garnered 79.4 percent of the county vote, while challenger Daniel Gade received 20.5 percent. In the House race, Rep. Don Beyer picked up 78.9 percent of the Arlington vote, and Republican Jeff Jordan got 20.8 percent.

Because the mail and early voting ballots are not allocated to individual precincts, it is not possible to determine how Fairlingtonians voted. The same-day data, however, suggests that the voters who favored Republican candidates were more likely to go to the polls on election day than voters who cast ballots before Nov. 3. For example, the same-day voting at the Fairlington precinct showed Joe Biden with a much narrower margin, 55.0 percent to 38.8 percent, than he won countywide when same-day and early voting ballots are combined.

—Guy Land



Photos by Guy Land.

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Nearby park honors pioneer of Black education

If you are like me, these past several months have brought you out and about to explore all our neighborhood has to offer. We are quite fortunate to have a fair amount of green space and recreational options here in South Arlington. Of particular note is the Jennie Dean 12-acre park located at 3630 South 27th St.

Adjacent to Shirlington Park and the Shirlington Dog Park, Jennie Dean Park boasts a picnic shelter, two baseball/softball fields, two tennis courts, a basketball court, and a drop-in field. Many Fairlington parents are familiar with it as the site for their kids' baseball games.

But who is Jennie Dean? While there is differing information on when she was born, what we do know for sure is Dean was born into slavery in Prince William County, Virginia. She was likely a teenager when the conclusion of the civil war brought an end to slavery.



Jennie Dean Park near Shirlington. Photos by Guy Land.



A park plaque displays a picture of Jennie Dean and recounts the history of the park in the lives of African-Americans who lived in the nearby Nauck community.

Dean's legacy began as the founder of the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth in 1893. The school offered African-American children the opportunity to learn valuable trades, which included agriculture, carpentry, masonry, electrical, plumbing, and welding for boys and cooking, sewing, and gardening for girls.

For many years it was the only secondary school open to African-American youth in Northern Virginia.

Dean's legacy to educate African-American youth continued after her death in 1913 even as her school transformed over the years through the period of segregation and desegregation.

In 1938, Prince William, Fairfax, and Fauquier coun-

ties purchased the school and it became a regional high school for African-American students. In the 1950's, Fairfax and Fauquier counties built their own segregated schools, which ended the three-county partnership. Prince William County then consolidated African-American students from Brown Elementary School of Manassas with the regional high school in 1954 and the school became known as the Regional High School and Elementary School. After the call for construction of a new elementary school and high school, the school was opened in 1959 and named in Jennie Dean's honor.

In the 1960's Northern Virginia began desegregating schools, and the Jeannie Dean school became a junior high school. In 1977, the school became the Jennie Dean Middle School when the City of Manassas established its own public school system. After renovations in the early nineties, the school reopened and became the Jennie Dean Elementary School. It currently serves students from preschool through the fourth grade in Manassas.

In October Manassas unveiled a statue of Dean at the Jennie Dean Memorial and Manassas Industrial School to pay tribute to her contributions to the education of African-Americans in Manassas and Prince William County.

And let's not forget the Jennie Dean Park right around the corner in Shirlington! We have a tribute to her legacy in our very own backyard to explore and enjoy. In the mid-1900s, Jennie Dean Park was the only recreational facility for African-American Arlingtonians. There are currently plans in Arlington County to renovate the Park, which should be completed by the third quarter of 2021.

—Shelly-Ann Sinclair

Need a Fairlington holiday gift?

The Fairlington Historical Society's *Fairlington at Fifty: May 1943-May 1993*—the definitive history of our community—is available for \$20 plus \$3 for postage and handling. Filled with photographs, history, and stories, the book is a perfect holiday gift for neighbors and former neighbors. Download the order form at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.



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Composting offers an easy way to help the environment

Composting is an easy and effective way for Fairlington residents to help free up space in landfills, save money on trash disposal, and reduce the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Food is the largest single source of waste in the U.S., accounting for approximately 20 percent of municipal landfill waste according to the EPA. Fortunately, each of us can do our part by separating out organic matter from other solid waste. Arlington County makes composting easy with a free food scraps drop-off for county residents at its Earth Products Recycling Yard (4300 South 29th St).



Shirin Wertime disposes of her family's kitchen waste at the Shirlington compost drop-off site. Photo by Teresa Cordova.

Located in the Trades Center around the corner from Shirlington, off of South Arlington Mill Dr., this drop-off consists of two large green organics carts at the yard's scale house where residents can dump their food scraps and other compostable items. Accepted materials include fruits, vegetables, food soiled paper (paper towels, napkins, and paper plates), coffee grounds, filters and tea bags, breads, grains and pasta, meat and seafood (including bones), and plate scrapings. Just

remember to remove

stickers or tags from any items before composting. Unlike some industrial facilities, Arlington County's composter cannot handle so-called bioplastics (number 7), made of renewable sources like corn. These disposable items, including cups, containers, straws, bags, or cutlery, might be labeled as compostable, but are not accepted at the county drop-off.

Once collected, food scraps are processed in the county's large on-site vessel composting unit. The resulting nutrient rich compost is used for landscaping projects in county public spaces and in student gardens. Applying compost helps enrich soil, suppress diseases and pests in plants, and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. Last year, Arlington residents helped transform 79 tons (158,000 lbs) of food scraps into beneficial compost!

Not sure how to go about separating and storing organic

waste in your home? A simple method is to buy or create a countertop compost pail for use during meal preparation or cleanup. With smaller amounts, you can even freeze your organic waste, thereby eliminating any unpleasant odors. When your pail fills up transfer the contents to a leak-proof bucket outside or in a corner of your kitchen. You can then drop off your full bucket(s) for composting at the County facility.

The Fairlington Farmers Market normally accepts food waste during the market season, but it suspended its collection this year due to concerns over COVID-19. Another option is to buy or create a backyard composter or an indoor worm composting bin. There are also private services that will directly collect food scraps from your home for a fee. Whatever method you choose, you can feel good in knowing that by composting, you are doing your part to help fight climate change and replenish the soil that nourishes us.

—Shirin Wertime

County to craft new natural resources plan

Arlington County has begun developing a Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP).

An update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and the 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan, the FNRP will collectively address the conservation, planting, and maintenance of trees and unique ecosystems in Arlington County.

The plan will cover topics regarding impacts and opportunities related to Arlington's tree canopy, natural lands, urban development, wildlife, recreation, public education, and stewardship among others.

The FNRP is a sub-element of the 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan, a component of the County's Comprehensive Plan that identifies the major public space needs of the community.

The project launched earlier this fall and calls for visioning and information gathering from November through February. It will include a series of community engagement opportunities and draft updates. FCA is exploring with the county ways for the Fairlington community to help shape the plan. For more information or to share your thoughts, see <https://engage.arlingtonva.us/collections/forestry-and-natural-resources-plan>.

—Guy Land

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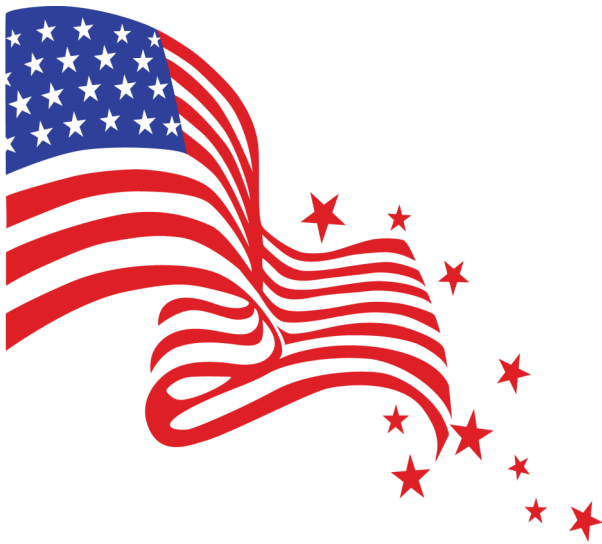
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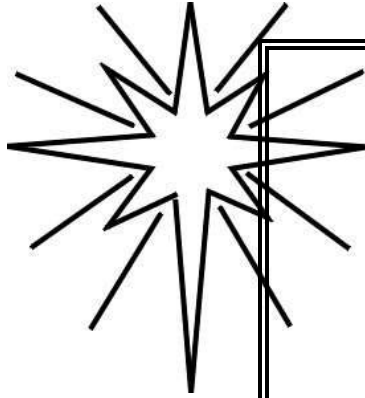
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*Hail and Blessed
be the hour and the moment
when the Son of God was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight
in Bethlehem,
in piercing cold.*

*In that hour, vouchsafe, oh my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
through the merits of the Christ Child
and His Blessed Mother.*

Amen.

♦ St. Andrew Novena ♦

There they were in the stable. It was before the shepherds came and before the three kings followed the star with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Joseph gathered scraps of hay and built a small fire to keep them warm. Just then a robin flew from the eaves fanning the flames to keep the fire alive and in doing so her breast turned red. A cow lay down to block the wind from reaching the family and the breath of the big red horse melted the frost. A striped cat warmed Mary's feet while a dog stood guard in the doorway, destined from that moment to become the friend of mankind forever. The old sheep gave up her wool to soften the crib where the baby lay, and deep inside she knew she was seeing the Lamb of God. Further back a donkey strained to hear the first cries of the child and his ears grew long.



Merry Christmas ♦ Happy Hanukkah ♦ Season's Greetings

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Local 5K goes global to help Fairlington girl

Because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, this year's 7th Annual Fairlington 5K was converted into a virtual event and rebranded as the "Awesome 5K." Over the years, this local tradition, usually held in April at Abingdon Elementary School, has helped raise over \$100,000 for research into LBSL, a rare and degenerative brain and spinal cord disease that impacts 12-year old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn.

Despite the changes, hundreds of Fairlington residents still participated in the race on their own schedule between October 10 and November 7, along with other LBSL-affected families all over the world.

This year's 5K brought in an incredible \$35,000 for the LBSL cure effort at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, where doctors are close to developing novel treatments for Ellie's disease.

Race organizers say they plan to resume the annual in-person Fairlington 5K as soon as it is safe to do so. For more about Ellie you can visit ACureforEllie.org.

—Beth McGinn

'Tis the season from page 1

Thank you for your donations to help make sure the blood supply stays stocked and ready for those children who need it. For detailed information on donor eligibility, see <https://childrensnational.org/departments/pathology-and-laboratory-medicine/blood-donor-center/eligibility>.

All donors must eat a hearty breakfast and/or lunch to avoid reactions. Also, you will not be able to donate unless you eat and drink 16 oz. of water prior to donating.

To donate blood, click on the appointment links below:

December 9:

<http://www.cnmcblooddonor.com/index.cfm?group=op&step=2&opid=6410&opidh=D8997990B8C719450F8EFC0BC7C7F78D&idt=44147.6148727>

December 10:

<http://www.cnmcblooddonor.com/index.cfm?group=op&step=2&opid=6411&opidh=F8958006706C412F02E03D17A60F39F3&idt=44147.6053935>

For more information, please contact Brooke Smitherman Schmidt, smithermanjb@gmail.com, 205-613-3721.

—Brooke Schmidt

Order your ornament online with PayPal before the holidays!



The FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) are again selling Fairlington brass-plated ornaments. The price for each ornament is \$10. Because of the pandemic, FCA is accepting online orders only for this must-have Fairlington ornament. Place your order at www.fca-fairlington.org using PayPal or a major credit card.

You may pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office, 3001 S. Abingdon St., during regular business hours. Please contact the office ahead of time to schedule your visit, as management is limiting the number of people who are in the front office at any one time. You may reach the office at (703) 379-1440 or office@fairlingtonvillages.com.

If you have questions, please contact FCA Secretary Rebecca Sayres at rebecca@fca-fairlington.org.

Fall flavors bake sale



With a nod to the late Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Fairlington residents and friends sponsored an election day bake sale to benefit Futures Without Violence and the National Women's Law Center. Photo by Guy Land.



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Holiday tips to keep your pets happy

The holidays are officially upon us, and that means ample food, toys, or decorations for your furry family members to get into. If you have a curious cat or energetic dog, you may want to follow these simple steps to keep your pets safe during this time of year.

- **Be mindful of your decorations.** Holly, mistletoe, and lilies offer a festive cheer, but are toxic to animals. Tinsel or potpourri may also be tempting for pets to eat and are best to be avoided. Finally, we all enjoy candles, but make sure a pet isn't left alone near a lit one!
- **Families and visitors.** With more people coming and going, now is a good time to make sure your pet is up-to-date with their identification (pet tags, microchips) should one slip out the door. Is one of your out of town visitors bringing

a pet to mingle with yours? Make sure all pets spend time acclimating to each other and supervise their interactions before leaving them alone.

- **Keep your pets entertained.** Providing plenty of enrichment for your pets is the best way to avoid any trouble. Need some ideas? The Animal Welfare League of Arlington hosted a virtual dog enrichment course on Nov. 17 and a virtual cat enrichment course is slated for Dec. 1. For more information, visit awla.org.

The holidays are a wonderful time of year, and following these easy tips will ensure everyone – including your four-legged friends – stay safe and healthy during this time. Happy Holidays!

—Sam Wolbert

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—Mary Thomasson,
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Abingdon and FCA team up to support families during holidays

The pandemic will pose new challenges to yearly traditions this holiday season. Like Fire Truck Santa, community volunteers are figuring out how to keep popular traditions going, but in a safe manner. This includes providing turkeys and groceries to Abingdon's 50 most vulnerable families in time for Thanksgiving, as well as a winter coat and supply drive before the December holiday break. There is an increase of families in need this year.

Abingdon's PTA president Jackie Winkelvoss commented, "The PTA is looking forward to collaborating with Abingdon staff and the Fairlington Citizens Association to support those in our community during these challenging times. We are grateful for the donations from Abingdon families and Fairlington residents that allow us to do this work as the pandemic continues."

This Thanksgiving, Abingdon's Parent Liaison Coordinator, Caty Branco, secured a donation of 25 turkeys from a local DC non-profit. Abingdon PTA will purchase an additional 25 turkeys. Abingdon parents and staff signed up to collect specific food items to complement the turkeys.

Local Girl Scout Troop # 4646, under the leadership of long-time Fairlington resident Elizabeth Lyons, will buy 50 pies to help in the effort. In lieu of picking up turkeys and groceries at school, Abingdon staff have volunteered to deliver them.

Clothing and supply drive

For the December holidays, Abingdon PTA and FCA will team up to launch a winter clothing and supply drive. School social workers are currently working on a specific list of needs tailored to each family. The plan is to create holiday packages that include basic need items not covered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), such as toiletries, cleaning supplies, diapers, and feminine hygiene prod-

ucts, as well as winter clothing and a few toys or presents.

Once the list is finalized, an Amazon Wishlist and Walmart shopping list will be created, so residents can easily purchase items online. There will be collection bins on December 12 at the start of the Fire Truck Santa parade (Abingdon parking lot) and at the conclusion (FCC parking lot). Please see FCA's website and the FCA Facebook page for details.

—Jennifer Davies

Guest column: a student's view of virtual learning



*Duncan Carr and Bryn Effgen work on assignments in Mrs. Nesbitt's class.
Photo by Bret Carr.*

Hi. I am Duncan Carr and I go to Abingdon Elementary. I am in Mrs. Nesbitt's 3rd grade class. I like that my teacher is so nice. We have school iPads and we use school equipment for virtual learning. Sometimes it is hard to write, read, do math, or PE, but I like the apps that we use for learning.

Without a teacher by your side it's sometimes hard to know what you're doing in class. I like everyone in my class. I am in a pod. A pod is where you are with your friends for virtual school. I have lunch and recess outside with my friends every day.

One of the good things is you can travel to places even when we have school. I have gone to the beach, parks, and a museum during virtual learning!

I hope to go back to school when COVID-19 is over. I miss seeing my friends at school.

—Duncan Carr, age 8

Editor's note: With classes meeting virtually, the Bulletin invited an Abingdon student to share his perspective on school this fall. Duncan and his family live in the Commons.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

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

Since social distancing set in, however, we've adapted. Our picnicking days are over until spring, but we will continue to gather on Zoom monthly, so we can stay in touch. For December, the following event is planned.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 5:30 pm, let's have a Zoom holiday reception! Bring your favorite libation, decorate your backdrop, and/or wear your Santa hat or other festive attire. We can talk about how we're celebrating in this strangest of holiday seasons, ever. Please RSVP by email to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com, and the Zoom coordinates will be sent to you a few days in advance.

If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list.

Book Group

Because of the holidays, the Book Group is meeting earlier than usual this month. We will have a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 pm. At that time we will discuss *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, by Candice Millard.

"At once an incredible adventure narrative and a penetrating biographical portrait, *The River of Doubt* is the true story of Theodore Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of one of the most dangerous rivers on earth." —Amazon.com

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. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Fairlington Knits! and Crochets

Feeling low and disconnected due to the pandemic? Knitting together, showing off our work, talking with like-minded people makes us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm. Join us for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship on Monday, Dec. 7 from 6:30–7:30 pm via Zoom.

We're meeting on Zoom so we can see what everyone is working on, ask for help/advice or for inspiration for a project. All levels of crafters are welcome—beginner to expert. Log in from your home and be inspired!

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

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 a number of 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 for further information.

Sip & stroll during the holidays

Sip, stroll, and shop around The Village at Shirlington as you take your beverages to-go. Stop by Aroma, Busboys & Poets, Cheesetique, Guapo's, Palette 22, Samuel Beckett's, Damn Good Burgers, Copperwood Tavern, Dudley's Sport & Ale, Adara Spa, or Taco & Piña to grab a drink, relax in the public spaces, and celebrate the holidays.





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Fairlington 2020 Wrap Up

Unit size	# Sold	Avg Days on Market	Avg Sold Price
1br/1+bth	29	7	\$433,527
2 br/1+bth	117	9	\$524,929
3br/1+bth	13	16	\$623,923
4br/1+bth	1	4	\$691,000

*Information gathered from BrightMLS as of 11/5/20. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Colorful plants for narrow Fairlington beds

Last month, I was extracting a Carolina jessamine vine from a Fairlington fence between the patios of Leann and Jeff. “New fences are being installed Monday,” Leann said. So, I went over the next morning to preserve a vine she had cultivated for years. ‘Preserve’ meant cutting two pinewood panels so I could pull the vine free and let it lean over her patio.

As I looked down at the soil, I noticed the bed was about 14 inches wide, max—typical of side beds in Fairlington patios. Still, this space can house mature vines or plants with vertical habits. Plants with wide spreads situated here will inhibit your walking space on the patio.

Vines are ideal since they don’t have bulk. I’ve shared this story before but I will share it again. I was walking down a sidewalk in Old Town years ago and noticed the bed between the sidewalk and a brick residence was about the width of a Fairlington patio side bed. There was a Pyracantha vine there that had matured and was espaliered against the brick building. Not one branch was leaning over the sidewalk.

But someone made a home here. It was a mother mockingbird hovering low to protect her eggs in a nest. The thorns on the branches were almost two inches long and served as ‘swords’ in case a predator hawk or crow came snooping. The nest was tightly wound in a crotch of two or three main limbs of the pyracantha. Even I didn’t disturb the bird.

Besides a **pyracantha** (which has white flowers in April–May and orange fruit in October–November), there are other vines for sale at the nursery. Leann’s **Carolina jessamine** has yellow flowers in the shapes of tiny bugles which appear in spring. The leaves are one-inch long, pointed at the terminal margin, and evergreen.

Clematis does well in sun or shade. Its flowers are over four inches in diameter and show in lavender, purple, or white in spring and summer. The herbaceous stems are fragile so you’ll need a trellis to train the stems. Clematis is a semi-evergreen perennial. You can totally cut it down in autumn or just trim the dieback (dormant dead stems).

Honeysuckle attracts your nose and eyes. When the flowers bloom in May through October, you can smell them from 50 feet away. The flowers are tube-like (think of a pipe cleaner cut in two-inch lengths) and show in yellow, white, or salmon. Like the clematis, its stems are soft and need support (think trellis).

Wisteria is one of the stronger vines. It grows fast and shows in 10-inch-long panicles of lavender flowers from late April into early June. The stems are woody and over an inch thick, so it’s wise to attach it to an iron trellis at your fence. Keep an eye on wisteria’s habit, as it will grow and reach to wherever it wants.

Besides vines, there are vertical-growing shrubs that situate well in a narrow bed. **Camellia** is an upright



A winter-blooming camellia on S. Columbus St. Photo by Guy Land.

grower with little width. It has shiny, dark-green leaves that show all year. There is a fall-blooming (small leaf) type and a winter-blooming (large leaf) type. Flowers are rosettes, three inches in diameter, show in white, pink, or red, and have yellow eyes.

Let camellia grow and watch it cover your fence with evergreen foliage and gorgeous flowers from September into early April. Camellia flowers are not fragrant and do not bloom from early April into early September.

Euonymus ‘Green Spire’ is a favorite of mine. It has one-inch-long, oval evergreen leaves on sturdy, vertical stems. Stand back and look at one. Each branch has a different height, like those tubular steel or copper pipes in a church organ. This needs no pruning either. It will reach five-to-six feet in height with little (one-foot) width. It is a handsome plant that does well in bright sunlight or shade. Plant three of them in a side bed for the best effect.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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Bryan S.
★★★★★ Verified
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Peter was very kind, helpful, and very cost effective without sacrificing quality. We love our new carpet floors! Thank you, Peter!

Najia G.
★★★★★ Verified
Excellent service! the guys were on time for the job. Worked quietly, and professionally. Cleaned up after the job was done and were very polite and respectful. I am so impressed. Thank you.

Chelsea C.
★★★★★ Verified
Peter and his team were professional, affordable, and efficient. Would definitely keep them in mind for future projects.

Chris C.
★★★★★ Verified
I'm a Realtor and have a client that was putting in new floors. They hired Home Depot who, upon finding that the subfloor wasn't level, walked away from the job. Peter was able to level the subfloor for a reasonable price and got the floors installed. He was very prompt and knowledgeable.

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Open air concert



Fairlington Arbor resident Josephine Van Hoey, along with a fellow young Arlington violinist, performed a late fall concert of duets behind the Fairlington Community Center. Josephine is a member of the American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Photo by Guy Land.



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"The physical and mental boost I feel after taking Michelle's classes has been essential to my overall health and well-being, especially during the pandemic. I was diagnosed with a degenerative spine condition last year and—with Michelle's expert guidance—I have been able to rebuild my core and back strength and avoid major back surgery! My spine doctor was thrilled with my progress!" —N. Ridgell

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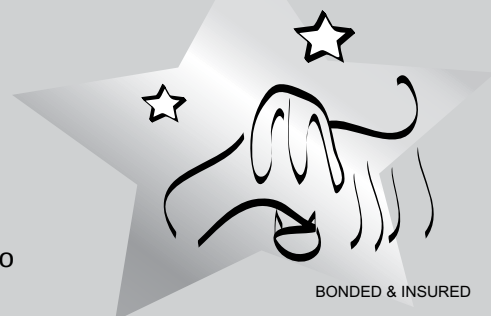
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MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am–9 pm, M-F, 8 am–5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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



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