

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

DECEMBER 2021

Volume 47, Number 12

Calling all neighbors: give the gift of blood on December 7–8

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Appointments are now open for Fairlington's December Blood Drive for Children's National Hospital (CNH), sponsored by FCA and Fairlington Cares.

Grab a friend or colleague, walk over in between meetings, or make it a family affair. However you choose to participate, please consider giving blood as a part of your holiday donation list this year.



This is a much-needed blood drive for CNH. Blood donations for CNH have been down by 70 percent due to the pandemic and December is traditionally a slow month for donations.

Our Fairlington Community can help. Please join us for this life-giving event.

It normally takes less than an hour to donate a unit of blood. One unit of blood donated can help 4–5 children. If we donate 25 units of blood over the course of the two days, we can help over 100 children. If we donate 50 units of blood, we can help 200–250 children.

All blood collected will remain at the hospital to support children with cancer, sickle cell disease, surgeries, and other chronic illnesses.

Help us keep the healing going this holiday season.

Step 1: Read eligibility requirements

*** Learn about CNH basic blood donor eligibility requirements. If you are uncertain of your eligibility, read our more detailed requirements.

Step 2: Register for an appointment.

Call (202) 476-5437 or Register online.

To register for Tuesday, December 7:

Continued on page 21

Coming up

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

FCA annual meeting December 8

Note: The annual meeting will be held in person at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Special Presentation: Representatives of the Shirlington Branch Library will describe the services offered by the library.

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

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 Citizens Association.

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

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
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
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

Board of Directors

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Guy Land, President	Julie Butler
Jennifer Davies, Vice President	Jennifer Clardy Chalmers
Ed Hilz, Treasurer	Paulin Leonida
Chris Weathers, Secretary	Lydia Redway
	Vacant

Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

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

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

6 p.m., **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: afbeditors@yahoo.com.

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and checks 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
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
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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Calendar

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, December 6, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
See page 27 for details

Blood drive

Tuesday, December 7 and
Wednesday, December 8
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 7 p.m.
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book group

Thursday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.
See page 27 for details

Fairlington diners

Saturday, December 11, 12 p.m.
See page 27 for details

Santa ride

Saturday, December 11, 2 p.m.

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, December 20, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
See page 27 for details

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25
FCC closed

Year-end shredding



Arlington county has resumed free paper shredding for the public the first Monday of every month at the Trades Center near Shirlington. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Tina Byrd, Jenn Davies, Guy Land, Chu Pak, Sara Rasmussen, and Bill Sullivan

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Exciting things are happening at the WETA building in Shirlington.

If you've driven through Shirlington in the past month, you have no doubt seen the construction activity there. WETA is expanding its building to move its production facilities from the other side of Four Mile Run and bring everything under one roof.

This is about more than just providing a facelift for the building and relocating some employees. According to WETA Chief Operating Officer Jason Daisey, the goal is to create a modern media facility. Right here in Shirlington.

WETA's presence has always been one of the special treasures of Shirlington. But when the construction and renovation project is completed, it will provide a new sense of vibrancy in our neighborhood.

When you take friends for an early evening meal at Carlyle, you can point across the street and tell them that the station's popular weekday evening program *PBS NewsHour* is originating from Shirlington.

WETA expects to use their expanded building to better engage the community.

Plans call for a large ground-level window that opens onto a bank of video screens, giving the public a sense of the production and broadcast activity going on inside. That will be much more lively than today's staid conventional office building.

While WETA already has a vigorous outreach program of working with area schools, the station expects to boost that by welcoming students to their new building. You can already imagine the vitality that flows from students visiting the facility and learning about digital production.

And, of course, there's the greater likelihood of encountering some of the station's on-air personalities on the sidewalk.

Station leaders are also talking about ways to enhance public art in connection with the building—or, through conversations with Arlington County, the pedestrian bridge across Shirley highway.

With the "new" WETA at one end and Signature Theatre at the other, Campbell Ave. can become a key center of arts and culture in Arlington.

That's good for us in Fairlington. FCA was pleased to support WETA's application when it came before the county board last year. The station has been a good neighbor. We look forward to the new energy that will flow through Shirlington when this project is completed in 2023.

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



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Fairlington 2021 Wrap Up

Unit size	# Sold	Avg Days on Market	Avg Sold Price
1br/1+bth	42	13	\$429,650
2 br/1+bth	127	16	\$521,988
3br/1+bth	13	11	\$608,285

*Information gathered from BrightMLS as of 11/8/21. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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Arlington continues strong Democratic tradition despite Republican victories

Fairlington's two precincts joined other Arlington voters in affirming Arlington's reputation as a strongly Democratic county in last month's election. While Republican Glenn Youngkin narrowly carried the state, Democrat Terry McAuliffe handily won in Arlington, getting over 75 percent of the vote—close to the 80 percent that Joe Biden received last year.

Voters in Arlington and Alexandria elected Alexandria Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker to the Virginia House of Delegates, giving her 75 percent of the vote. Four Arlington precincts, including the two that serve Fairlington, are in that legislative district.



Delegate-elect Elizabeth Bennett-Parker visited with Fairlington resident Jeni Hornbeck outside the Fairlington precinct on election day. Photos by Guy Land.

Bennett-Parker was frequently seen knocking on doors in Fairlington. She visited the Fairlington Farmers Market the Sunday before the election and dropped by both Fairlington precincts on election day.

Delegate Charniele Herring, who represents the Fairlington residents who live in Alexandria, ran unopposed.

County voters returned incumbent Takis Karantonis to the county board, giving him 60 percent of the vote. First time candidate Mary Kadera, who won the endorsement of county Democrats this summer, was elected to the vacancy on the school board, getting almost 78 percent of the vote.

Voters overwhelmingly approved the four bond issues that were on the county ballot.

Because the mail and early voting ballots are not



allocated to individual precincts, it is not possible to determine precisely how Fairlingtonians voted. But the same-day voting generally followed the larger county-wide pattern, though same-day voting tended to be a bit more Republican than the early vote.

At the Fairlington precinct, which votes at the Fairlington Community Center, McAuliffe received 72 percent of the same-day vote. At the Abingdon precinct, which includes not only North Fairlington but also residents of adjacent communities, McAuliffe won 74 percent of the vote.



Volunteers for the county Democratic party handed out sample ballots at both of the precincts serving Fairlington.

Parker-Bennett drew 72 percent of the vote in the Fairlington precinct and 74 percent of the vote in the Abingdon precinct.

While turnout was about 27,000 less than last year, it was nevertheless up significantly over the statewide election in 2017.

—Guy Land



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You better watch out: Santa is coming to town!

Santa and his elves are scheduled to ride their firetruck through Fairlington on Saturday, December 11, at 2 p.m.

For more than 20 years, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) has coordinated a Santa firetruck parade through the neighborhood, including a modified version last year at the height of the pandemic. It has become a true holiday tradition and a favorite annual event for our smallest neighbors.

Before the parade, Santa usually starts with a meet and greet at the Abingdon parking lot and then tours the neighborhood to waving crowds, concluding at Fairlington Community Center for another walk around meet and greet.

The parade route will work its way through the main



Santa shares a socially distant wave from the firetruck during last year's parade. Photo by Guy Land.

streets of North Fairlington before crossing the bridge and winding through South Fairlington.

Fire Station 9 brings their best festive sirens and lots of candy. 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.

Pre-pandemic, Santa would sit on the back of the truck for photos and kids could look inside the truck.

Pandemic regulations and

restrictions for this year are still under discussion and will be announced closer to the event.

Follow FCA on Facebook or visit www.fca-fairlington.org for the latest on our 2021 Santa ride.

—Regina Bethencourt

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

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.



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WETA begins Shirlington expansion project

Construction is well underway for the expansion and renovation of public television station WETA's building on Campbell Ave. in Shirlington. The bulk of the building addition is expected to be completed by August of next year, with the internal renovation being completed by January 2023.

WETA Chief Operating Officer Jason Daisey briefed the Fairlington community on the work at FCA's virtual monthly meeting on November 10.

The project will renovate 90,000 square feet of office space in the current office tower and add additional space by converting the patio area between the current building and the parking garage to a four-story structure connected to the office building.

The expansion will enable WETA to retire its aging and obsolete production facility on S. 27th St. near Jennie Dean Park and move all of its production activities to a new studio in Shirlington. WETA produces the weekday *PBS NewsHour* program and Friday evening's *Washington Week in Review*.

WETA will sell the property that now houses the production facilities to Arlington County, which plans to demolish the building and use the property to enhance the offerings of Jennie Dean Park. The park is currently being renovated. These actions are consistent with the larger plan for Four Mile Run Valley that the county board approved a couple of years ago.

All WETA employees will then be located at the building on Campbell Ave. Daisey projects that when the consolidation is completed, roughly 350 employees will work in the Shirlington building.

FCA supported WETA's request to the county for increased density to accommodate the consolidation of its activities at one site.

The most immediate impact on Shirlington traffic will be temporary street or lane closures to allow the installation of new underground power lines around the perimeter of the building. Work began on that in early



A construction worker strolls past the site of the expansion of the WETA building on Campbell Ave. Photo by Guy Land.

November and is expected to be completed by the December holidays.

It is being done one small section at a time to minimize the impact on traffic flow. "Road closures will be phased," Daisey said.

"We're committed to keeping the area around the facility as safe and accessible as it can be" during the construction, Daisey told the FCA Board. "We're trying to impact the local community as little as possible," he said, stressing the importance of trying to

maintain pedestrian access around the construction site.

In response to a question from FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz, Daisey stated that the parking garage would not be changed as part of the project. It would still be available to the public after hours.



A digital rendering of the WETA building expansion shows the facade facing Campbell Ave. Photo courtesy WETA.

One aspect of the new addition will be a street-level window that looks onto a video wall showing broadcast or production activities inside the building.

Daisey noted that the building would have space conducive to events for donors and the general public. He also reaffirmed the station's commitment to working with area schools. "Our goal is to connect more with the community than ever before," he said.

—Guy Land

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What Will HOME PRICES Be Like in 2022?

Given the past year of bidding wars and soaring prices, many potential buyers and sellers are wondering:

- Will prices be higher or lower?
- Should we sell now or wait?
- Should we buy now or wait?



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Art Truck visits Fairlington

The popular Arlington Art Truck made a return visit to the Fairlington Farmers Market earlier this fall, featuring the work of Washington, D.C. artist Tommy Bobo. Fairlington kids were intrigued as Bobo showcased his exhibit, *Chromatic Curiosity*, which is described as colorful ephemeral artwork on urban surfaces, using the sun and color wands designed by Bobo.

The bright sun that day made the variations of colors and shapes on the FCC parking lot particularly engaging for young Fairlingtonians.

"The pieces I make are about amplifying nuance, giving



D.C. artist Tommy Bobo displays some of his works and engages Fairlington kids with the colors and shapes they create on the parking lot at the farmers market. Photos by Guy Land.



light a physicality that confronts the viewer with something they may have otherwise taken for granted," Bobo explains. "Through materials that disperse and magnify, my work makes light tangible and produces an experience for the viewer that is a balance between a science fair and the transcendent."

The Arlington Art Truck is sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Division of Arlington Economic Development. The Art Truck previously visited the farmers market in August.

—Guy Land

County makes Fairlington street improvements

Arlington county work crews began work in November on two Fairlington street improvement projects—the intersection of 34th St. and 36th St. and Abingdon St. between 31st Rd. and 31st St.



County work crews narrowed the intersection and moved the sidewalk at the intersection of 34th and 36th Sts. Photo by Guy Land.

At the intersection of 34th St. and 36th St., the Department of Environmental Service shortened the crosswalk by extending both corners, making the turn radius from 34th on to 36th sharper.

The extended corners, and relocated sidewalk, replaced the bollards that had been installed at the intersection last December. The bollards were intended to be temporary.

The improvement was designed to improve safety. In the past, residents noted that cars would often turn onto 36th St. at a high rate of speed after crossing the Abingdon St. bridge.

The improved intersection was the result of an FCA effort that started roughly two years ago to enhance walkability and safety in the neighborhood.

The improvements on Abingdon St. are likewise designed to improve walkability by installing a sidewalk at street level on the north side of Abingdon St. between 31st Rd. and 31st St. Before beginning the sidewalk installation, which includes and gutter work, the county had to relocate the water main in that block.

This project is a part of the county's Neighborhood Conservation program. FCA supported the sidewalk installation.

—Guy Land

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

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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Winter interest in your garden

Winters can be long and gray, but your patio garden can diminish that dreariness and be transformed into a place of natural beauty. Remember that winter interest does not have to be all about evergreens.

Look at spent flowers and grasses and see them for their sculptural forms. The dried seed heads not only bring beauty to the garden, but they also provide food and cover for birds and wildlife. When left standing, dried flower stalks and stems can be as striking as the bare trees in winter.

What is more interesting to look at on a dreary day than songbirds enjoying the seeds in your garden? Small birds like chickadees and goldfinches often perch right on the seed heads, while larger birds forage for seeds on the ground.

Native perennials provide a cornucopia of seeds for our wintering songbirds plus architectural beauty. Goldfinches love purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) seed heads. Coastal Joe-pye-weed (*Eutrochium dubium*) not only provides seeds but is also a larval host for moths. New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) has seed clusters that persist into winter. Coreopsis and orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*) seeds are also bird favorites.

Sedges and grasses, whether evergreen or not, provide structure and texture in winter. Most of these plants prefer sun, but some will tolerate shade. Plantain-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginea*) is evergreen and a good alternative to liriope. Little blue stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) all will add texture and structure to your winter gardens. Plus, some of these grasses provide seeds for the birds in winter and are larval host plants for butterflies.

Evergreens add a pop of color to your winter garden. If you have a shady garden, evergreen plants such as Christmas ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and marginal wood ferns (*Dryopteris marginalis*) are beautiful all winter with their tall graceful fronds.



Pink muhly grass will add interest to your landscape in all four seasons. Photo by Tina Byrd.

There are several evergreen native ground covers that are good replacements for non-native invasive plants such as English ivy, periwinkle, Japanese pachysandra, or liriope. Native plants, such as Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*), wild pink (*Silene caroliniana*), and hairy alumroot (*Heuchera villosa*) will give a splash of color to your winter garden.

Plants with winter interest are noted for their ability to brighten and add flare to a landscape during the coldest months. Some are noted for their berries, some for their bark, and some for other reasons but all will add interest during those otherwise stark times of the year. Lucky for us, sprinkled throughout Fairlington's common areas, you can find many plants with winter interest.

For more information on the right plant for your garden, check out the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia at <https://mgnv.org/> and Plant NOVA Natives at <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>.

—Tina Byrd

Feel free to send us questions or comments at fortheLoveofNature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

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Superheroes, witches, goblins, oh my!

Halloween night fell on a crisp clear Sunday; the perfect costume weather. In true Fairlington tradition, neighbors of all ages brought out their spookiest decor and attire, creating a Halloween experience for the books.

Photos by Guy Land





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Fairlington soccer camp hosts DC United player Felipe Martins



Soccer camp participants included Vivian McGinn, Alex T, Reid Millison, Benjamin and Katie Stieber, MJ Ly, Jack Broekemeier, Ned Lyons, Lily Aronson, and Michael and Lucas Yaroschuk. Photos by Chu Pak.

Fairlington community residents and realtors, Dianna Bentley and Chu Pak, coordinated with DC United Soccer player, Felipe Martins, to hold an agility and skills camp in late October for children aged 6–12 years old. The day was filled with coaching, scrimmages, and parents taking lots of pictures. It culminated with a one-on-one meet and greet autograph session and a fun raffle with team signed equipment and jerseys. Expect a

future meet and greet with more DC United players in the coming months.

“It was a lot of fun to take a break from my day job as a footballer to work with the youth,” said Martins. “It was so much fun to coach the children of Fairlington.”

—Chu Pak

Farmers market closes out a record-breaking year



The Fairlington farmers market experienced its biggest crowds ever in 2021. The market is held on Sunday mornings from May through late November.

Photos by Guy Land.





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Fairlington Christmas ornament available for purchase



The FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) have a number of items for sale this holiday season including ornaments and the Fairlington architect's map reproduction.

The price for each ornament is \$10 and the map costs \$50. 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.

You may reach the office at (703) 379-1440 or office@fairlingtonvillages.com. If you have questions, please visit www.fca-fairlington.org.

Wanted: **new board members for FCA**



Interested in making a difference in your community?
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Fairlington? Consider running for the FCA board this year. Now accepting applications. Find out more at www.fca-fairlington.org.

Letters to the Editor

Pedestrian safety

The article, "Recent collisions raise concerns about neighborhood pedestrian-vehicle safety," in the previous *All Fairlington Bulletin* brings to mind that pedestrians need to play an active role in keeping themselves and others safe. The "pedestrians rule" mindset is not only dangerous (it puts people and dogs at unnecessary risk and will do nothing to reverse a situation in which a dog or person is injured or killed and has no place in creating a safe environment), but it is incorrect as well (pedestrians have rules/laws they need to follow)—as George Castanza said, "We live in a society!"

Dogs and children are at particular risk since they're low to the ground (not all cars have backup cameras) and are often ahead of the walker/parent. A driver will

not be able to see them when looking out the rear window to back up. Those using the lots as walk-throughs also should consider the emotional trauma someone who hits a person or dog will experience.

The parking lot is intended for cars and the ramps at either end are intended for those with disabilities (e.g., those who need wheelchairs), not strollers, to be able to access the lot; nor are they shortcuts from one portion of the sidewalk to another. Fairlington spent a lot of money on fixing our sidewalks so we have a safe place to walk/run. Besides, most of us are getting exercise (for ourselves or our furry friends), so why short-change yourself! Get in those extra steps and keep you and everyone else safe - physically and emotionally!

—Fairlington resident

A note of thanks

I and others in the past have criticized the choice of content in the *Bulletin* being too political and too focused on social issues. The opinion expressed was that the *Bulletin* would better serve our community if it focused on uplifting content about our great and unique community.

I/we want to now take the time to praise the effort and the content of the most recent editions of the *Bulletin*. They have been filled with community information and events and the pictures put a smile on your face. By the way, the November *Bulletin* was one of the most robust that I recall.

Please know that most folks in our community do try to

imagine and think about the effort that it takes to generate a monthly bulletin. On behalf of those folks please accept our gratitude and thanks to you and the staff that, whether rain or shine, make the *Bulletin* happen.

—Mike G.

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

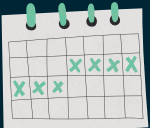


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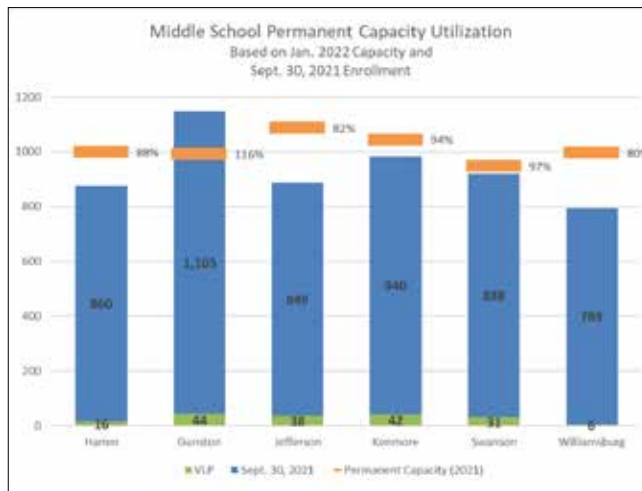


School board pauses elementary school boundary proposals

At the November 3 Arlington School Board meeting, Superintendent Francisco Durán recommended postponing the 2021 fall boundary process that would have impacted Abingdon's attendance zone.

The decision was made in part because Abingdon had lower than expected enrollment numbers. The school board also cited the opportunity to look at Abingdon and Drew in the larger context of all elementary school boundaries.

According to the press release, "Taking a pause for the elementary school level allows staff to review the planning units assigned to Abingdon and Drew comprehensively with all other schools as part of a broader elementary boundary process, versus only considering two elementary schools in isolation."



This graph from November 3 school board meeting shows the crowding issue at Gunston middle school. Photo courtesy apsva.gov.

A larger boundary process will take place in 2022 including at-capacity elementary schools Glebe and Hoffman Boston.

The Superintendent did recommend proceeding with the new boundary adjustments for middle school students attending Gunston, who would move to Kenmore, and for high school students attending Wakefield, who would move to Washington-Liberty.

Gunston and Wakefield are the largest middle and high schools respectively in the County. While Gunston and Wakefield are Fairlington's zoned schools, the proposed changes would not impact any Fairlington students.

—Jenn Davies

Calling all neighbors from page 1

<https://bit.ly/3ktaJ68>

To register for Wednesday, December 8:
<https://bit.ly/3qDJnON>

Step 3: Please notify CNH if you need to cancel your appointment.

We try to have some subs lined up. A day or even a few hours notice will help us fill your slot.

Questions? If you have questions about eligibility or other items, contact the CNH at (202) 476-5437.

If you have general questions or would like to sign up as a possible sub for the blood drive, please contact Sara Rasmussen at srazzz@aol.com.

—Sara Rasmussen

Logistics:

Date: December 7–8, 2021

Location: Fairlington Community Center (inside), 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Parking: There is parking at the Fairlington Community Center

* Donors must eat a very good breakfast/lunch and start hydrating with water the day before donation and on day of donation drink 16 oz. of water—no fasting.

* Everyone must be willing to wear a mask (vaccination and non-vaccination), which is a mandate by Children's National unless actively eating in the room.



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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

Sonny—a dog for all seasons and full of talent

Sonny, a 3-year-old, 30-pound Schnoodle lives with his family in South Fairlington and is an extraordinary dog. He cuts quite the canine profile with his buoyant white curls of allergy-free fur. He is extremely playful, sensitive, and caring, and he can dance like Fred Astaire. His family started Fairlington's famous 5K race for "A Cure for Ellie", coming up its 8th year in 2022. Even with his busy home life, he graciously spent a lovely afternoon with Pet Profiles.

You drove from Indiana to Fairlington. How do you like it here? What is your favorite thing to do here that you couldn't do in the mid-west?

My humans purchased me from a dog breeder in Indiana. One of them has horrible dog allergies so I was the best fit for them. I don't remember much about Indiana because I was so little. I do remember the 12-hour car ride in a crate. To this day I'm still a little nervous in cars.

So, to answer your question, I absolutely love it here. Fairlington is the best place in the world. There are lots of squirrels to watch. We have miles and miles of sidewalks and a super cool dog park. People are friendly, and I get a lot of attention. Honestly, I just love this neighborhood.

Have you ever participated in the 5K race for "A Cure for Ellie" that runs through Fairlington in April? Do you run it or are you the official mascot?

My first year at my new home I ran in the Fairlington 5K and it was awesome! There were so many happy humans and happy dogs and we were all running really fast in the same direction. I still don't know what we were chasing, but it was fun. Because of COVID-19, my humans had to cancel the race for a couple of years, but they said we get to do it again on April 23, 2022. I've been practicing by chasing my friend Wilson around the dog park. He is a very fast Australian shepherd.

You're hypoallergenic and there's some regular maintenance



Sonny shows off his favorite trick: dancing on his hind legs. Photo courtesy Vivian McGinn.

that goes with that. Can you tell us what that means and how it works?

Ugh...This is not my favorite part of being a Schnoodle. My humans take me to this place every other month where I have to take a bath. Then I have to endure two hours of brushing, cutting, and blow drying. My mom says it's more expensive than her haircuts.

Your sister describes you as having a special sense of caring and understanding. Explain how you do it?

Dogs have a sixth sense that humans don't. We can sense when someone isn't feeling well. Some dogs can even sniff out cancer! One of my sisters has a special brain condition called LBSL which affects her balance—so I'm very careful to play gently with her and don't pull on the leash when she is walking me. She is the best at belly rubs! My

other sister is a little bit hyperactive and loves to wrestle and play tag. I get most of my wiggles out with her.

Where did you learn to dance on your hind legs? Did you see that on TV or YouTube?

Honestly, it just comes naturally. I don't mean to sound conceited, but the truth is I'm very agile. I can balance on my hind legs for a long time. It's not really something you can teach. You either have it or you don't. I usually do this when I want treats, because my humans think it's "so adorable." They give me all kinds of yummy stuff like American cheese. I love American cheese! That stuff is addictive.

Christmas is coming. Can you tell us what is on your wishlist?

I really want a toy squirrel that squeaks. I'd also like a new bully stick and some cheese bones.

—Barbara Berti

Interested in sharing your pet with Pet Profiles?
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Pet Profiles—A Year in Review: where are they now?

Our Pet Profile column launched in February 2021 and quickly became a favorite feature in the *Bulletin*. We loved meeting and getting to know many of our neighborhood animal friends and are thankful for a community that welcomes and values them as much as their human families do.

Here is an update on some of the pets we met this past year. Our thanks to all of them and their owners for making this column so much fun.

February 2021—Bumble and Yukon



Photo courtesy Sarah Moore.

The two huskies who practiced their daily runs through North and South Fairlington moved to Denver, CO in July. They sent us this update:

Bumble: We are loving it out here! The cooler temps and low humidity is our kind of weather. We saw some snowflakes the other day...I know a big snow is coming. I can feel it in my paws. Yukon has enjoyed all the hiking.

Yukon: Our Mom takes us on great hikes. We go everywhere. We discovered cactus. It doesn't smell very good. Ouch! We miss our Fairlington friends, but we're happy in our new home and doing great.

March 2021—Finnegan



Photo courtesy Emily Toner.

The 4-month-old yellow lab who moved to Fairlington just before St Patrick's Day is all grown up now and has a new baby brother. He sent Pet Profiles this message: Hi fellow Fairlingtonians! I've had a lot happen since you last heard from me! In September I turned one AND got a new baby brother. Brooks and I are best friends and love taking walks around the neighborhood together. If you see us out and about, please stop and say hi!

April 2021—Figaro

The Norwegian Forest cat who loved to take walks in the cold and spent 2 nights at the pool after he got disoriented in a Fairlington snowstorm has had some



Photo courtesy Carol Bazan.

other amazing adventures. His mother says he's doing great. After his adventure in the snow, he has been let off restriction and we go out for a bit every evening. We stay close to home and come in most nights before bedtime. Sometimes he follows my daughter home; she lives at the opposite end of the court I live in. He has turned into a fulltime snuggler and loves tummy rubs.

June 2021—Katie



Photo courtesy Chris Raider.

Katie was the yellow lab mix who was getting ready to be the flower girl in her parent's wedding. She's had a wonderful time living in Fairlington. Her newlywed parents sent us an update: Katie has had a very busy fun summer going on different adventures. She went hiking in the Shenandoah Mountains and got to see a few waterfalls. She has spent a lot of time with her dog cousins in Lorton running

around in the woods. She also got to spend some time at the beach with her grandparents while we were on our honeymoon.

August 2021—Teddy-Ro



Photo courtesy Erin McCarthy.

Teddy was found wandering the streets in PG County. He easily adjusted to a new life in Fairlington and was the 'little dog' in our Big Dog/Little Dog feature. He has been busy making new friends in Fairlington (both human and canine) especially his new puppy friend Rocket. He's also been cheering for the Buffalo Bills (Go Bills). All this fun makes him tired while he watches mom work from home.

Our thanks and best wishes to all for a happy and better New Year!

—Barbara Berti

CHRISTMAS

Dessert Menu

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

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather once or twice a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In November, we enjoyed Ruthie's All Day, which lived up to the buzz generated by its opening in Arlington.

In December, we'll have our traditional visit to Great Falls for a delicious meal in a lovely holiday setting.

Saturday, December 11, 12 p.m., Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066, 703-759-3800, <http://www.lauberagechezfrancois.com>.

Because we do need to confirm our reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8. Please leave a voice-mail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.



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Book Group

The Fairlington Book Group will not meet in November as previously announced, but instead on Thursday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres.

And please mark your 2022 calendar for our first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, January 25, when we will discuss *Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown*, by Anne Glenconner.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive details about our meeting a few days in advance.

Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meet-ups in December

Tune in online to join two Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meetings in December: Monday, December 6 and Monday, December 20 from 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship. Knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people helps us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

We meet virtually, at the same time, on the first and third Monday of each month until we can meet in person again. All levels of crafters are welcome—beginner to expert.

Email Turner for the log-in information to join the calls: 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 several community service projects, routine playdates, craft days, family parties, and moms' nights out. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting with other Fairlington families. We welcome all Fairlington moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.

Holiday Cheer At The Energy Club!

Join us December 15th for our last
Member Appreciation Day of the year!

FREE guest day, joining specials & a community social from 6-8 PM

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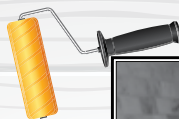


Greetings! My name is Angel Villanueva, and I spent 18 years working full time for the late **Victor Sison** of **FAIRLINGTON MAINTENANCE SERVICE**, learning construction and repair from the ground up. If you knew Victor, then you know me, and it will be my pleasure to serve you! I have worked in hundreds of Fairlington homes. Specializing in bathroom and kitchen remodeling!

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—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Tom and Ron's iconic Fairlington garden

By now, most South Fairlingtonians have noticed the lush garden along the home front of Tom and Ron on S. 34th Street. If you haven't, walk 200 yards from S. Wakefield Street (toward the bridge) and look to your left.

The couple has lived here since 1995 and was recommended to our neighborhood by Chuck Edwards, long-time South Fairlington resident and former landscape & grounds manager for the Meadows (the village tucked inside S. Stafford St., S. 35th St., S. Utah St. and S. 34th St.).

Year by year, the pair has improved their English-style border landscape by adding new plantings that pose as a mini arboretum: beautyberry, Mexican cigar, nandina, lenten rose, kerria, fern, winterberry, arborvitae, Korean mum, magnolia, sweet box, turtlehead, hydrangea, Japanese forest grass, tulip, hosta, euonymus green spire, veronica, and mondo grass. I've missed a few but you get the drift.

They worked with the Mews board on planting designs and installation and visited local nurseries to learn about the culture and habits of various specimens.

"We get all kinds of feedback from passersby," Ron said. "They ask questions, bring relatives and children. A few have said, 'You have no idea how your garden makes us feel.'"

I can attest. In my 30 years of landscaping Fairlington patios, countless times I hear from my customers, "I can't remember the name of the



Tom and Ron have lived on 34th St. and maintained their famous garden since 1995. Photo courtesy fairlington.org.

plant but do you know who maintains that gorgeous garden along the home front on S. 34th Street?"

Actually, the horticulture and landscaping skills of Tom were honed at an early age.

"When I was young, my aunt in Warrenton shared her gardening magazines with me," he said. "And then she'd share slips and volunteer plants with me."

A few years ago, Ron decided to promote Tom's work. A self-made web designer, he created www.fairlington.org and devised a link called "Tom's Garden." In it are color photographs of their Fairlington garden depicting vivid floral and leaf colors.

And in 2006, their garden was featured in a summer issue of *Washington Gardener* magazine.

They not only designed their garden, they do the dirty work as well.

Often, you'll see them out front weeding, pruning, and watering no matter the weather.

"It's a release for me," Tom said. "Like Zen."

For years, they had their share of indoor work—Ron at the Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department and Tom as an English teacher in Prince William and Fauquier counties. So, the outdoor maintenance is a godsend for the retired couple.

And their designing doesn't end at the front door. Inside their home is a vintage collection of furniture and paintings. One couch with cranberry-colored cushioning dates from the late 1800s. When they're not admiring their antiques or thinking of the next plant to install outside, they enjoy the company of their gray cat, Sammy.

—Bill Sullivan
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peter@petersflooring.net



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

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Julie Flory
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