

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

DECEMBER 2022

Volume 48, Number 12

## Santa Claus to ride through Fairlington on December 10

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Santa and his elves are scheduled to ride their firetruck through Fairlington on Saturday, December 10 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 at the height of the pandemic.

It has become a holiday tradition and a favorite annual event for neighbors of all ages, including the furry ones.

Before the parade, Santa will meet and greet visitors in the Abingdon Elementary School parking lot and then tour the neighborhood. Participants line the streets along the parade route, which concludes at the Fairlington Community Center for another walk around meet and greet.

The parade route will work its way through the main streets of North Fairlington before crossing the bridge and winding through South Fairlington. Young firetruck aficionados will have the chance to sit on the back of the truck and ask questions to the firefighters, or Santa.

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.

Follow FCA on Facebook or visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org) for the latest on our 2022 Santa ride.

—Regina Bethencourt



*Santa waves to crowds of eager children during the 2021 parade.  
Photo by Guy Land.*



**Santa's route  
on page 9**



### Last chance before the holidays!

Don't miss your chance to have this commemorative Fairlington ornament hanging on your tree this year! See page 13 for order details.

# 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 14

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

**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](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Citizens Association.

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

Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, [www.avatartech-llc.com](http://www.avatartech-llc.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
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<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
571-403-1943 • [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

### Board of Directors

Officers	Directors
Guy Land, President	Dianna Bentley
Jennifer Davies, Vice President	Julie Butler
Ed Hilz, Treasurer	Paulin Leonida
Jennifer Clardy Chalmers, Secretary	Lydia Redway
	Donald Staren-Doby

### Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • [treasurer@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:treasurer@fca-fairlington.org)

### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Advertising Manager:** Katarina Lesandric

**Distribution Manager:** Sarah Lloyd

### — 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](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com).

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

### 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
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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
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**Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District**

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

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Designed and printed by More Vang.

## Calendar

### Santa ride

Saturday, December 10, 2 p.m.

### FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 7 p.m.

FCC

3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington diners

Saturday, December 17, 12:00 p.m.

Auberge Chez Francois

32 Springvale Rd

Great Falls, VA 22066

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

FCC Closed

## Votes and donuts!



*The Abingdon Elementary PTA sells baked goods on Election Day to raise activity funds. Photo by Guy Land.*



**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Sharon Burd, Leslie Cameron, Guy Land, Terry Placek, and Bill Sullivan.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 14 brings the annual meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA), your community civic association. All Fairlington residents and all Fairlington owners are members. Renters, not just owners, have a voice.

I believe FCA is the only civic association in Arlington that doesn't charge a membership fee. They use those fees to finance their activities. We are fortunate to have a robust newsletter whose advertising revenue gives us the financial resources to support our activities.

Civic associations like FCA are an important component of the public engagement process for decision-making in Arlington and, to a lesser extent, Alexandria. The county board looks to FCA as the collective voice of Fairlington. The board members seek our views on major permitting issues that affect our neighborhood and they value our thoughts on broader county policies and actions.

For example, FCA has worked closely with county board members and county staff, as well as the property owner, on the redevelopment of Park Shirlington in an effort to limit increased density and preserve the apartments as affordable housing. We are pleased that the county has now given its final approval to a plan that will preclude added density and will preserve Park Shirlington as affordable housing for 75 years.

Other examples include engaging with county staff and Federal Realty Investment Trust on plans for enhancing the streetscape in Shirlington, keeping it competitive while maintaining its special character.

In addition to being the community's voice on local government decisions, FCA seeks to foster a strong sense of community within Fairlington. By helping maintain a vibrant neighborhood, FCA contributes to the overall value of living in Fairlington.

FCA activities this year have included cosponsoring the Fairlington 5K to benefit Abingdon Elementary, joining with the Fairlington Villages condo association in a fabulous Fourth of July parade, hosting a family movie night and, later this month welcoming Santa as he rides the fire truck through the neighborhood.

FCA relies on volunteers to accomplish our work—Fairlington residents who simply want to contribute to their community and help make it even better. We are always looking for more people to help.

I invite you to swing by our annual meeting. In addition to electing board members, the meeting will give you a chance to share your ideas on how FCA can add value to life in Fairlington.

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





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# Fairlington voters give di Ferranti, Sutton strong margins

While the “missing middle” debate roiled the election for Arlington County Board in some parts of Arlington, it appears to have had minimal impact on Fairlington voters. Incumbent Matt di Ferranti garnered a larger share of the vote in the two Fairlington precincts than he did countywide.

Di Ferranti picked up 66 percent of the vote in the South Fairlington precinct and 69 percent of the vote in the Abingdon precinct. Countywide, voters gave di Ferranti roughly 61 percent of the vote.

The missing middle debate, which includes a draft plan to allow upzoning in single-family home neighborhoods, has sparked considerable pushback in many neighborhoods, particularly in North Arlington. But because Fairlington does not have single-family homes, it has avoided some of the controversy surrounding the proposal.

The debate helped propel independent Audrey Clement, who has been a perennial candidate for either the county board or the school board, to her largest showing in any of her campaigns. She received over 28 percent of the countywide vote, but her totals in the two Fairlington precincts were 23 percent and 20 percent, almost identical to the percentages she got in those precincts in her 2021 race for county board.



*Volunteers help get out the vote outside of the Fairlington Community Center on Election Day 2022. Photo by Guy Land.*

In the school board race, Bethany Sutton received 62 percent of the vote in the South Fairlington precinct and 63 percent in the Abingdon precinct. Those are lower than her countywide percentage of almost 68 percent. Her opponent, Vell Rives, lives in North Fairlington.

School board races in Virginia are nonpartisan, but Sutton had secured an endorsement from the Arlington Democratic party.

In the congressional race, the Fairlington precincts generally voted in line with the rest of the county. Incumbent Don Beyer received 77 percent of the vote across the county, while in each of the Fairlington precincts he received 75 percent.

Fairlington voters overwhelmingly endorsed the six bond issues that were on the ballot, with the bond issues for stormwater improvements and renovation of the county’s water pollution control plant winning the approval of over 80 percent of Fairlington voters.

The South Fairlington precinct consists exclusively of Fairlington residents, while the Abingdon precinct covers North Fairlington residents as well as residents of adjacent apartment and condo communities.

—Guy Land

## FCA annual meeting set for December 14

Elections for the 2023 Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Board of Directors will be held at the organization’s annual meeting on Wednesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. in room 100 of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The meeting will be entirely in person.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting and hold office for a term of one year. All of the nine positions are up for election each year. Board members receive no financial compensation for their service,

but they have the satisfaction that stems from helping strengthen the Fairlington community.

Please let FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies know if you are interested in running for a position on the board, [vp@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:vp@fca-fairlington.org).

The annual meeting will also see a report from the FCA president on the past year’s activities and an update on the organization’s finances.

—Guy Land

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# County OK's financing package for Park Shirlington

At its October 12 meeting the Arlington County Board unanimously approved the final component of its financing package to facilitate the acquisition and renovation of the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St.

The board action caps a three-year process of transferring ownership of the property under a plan that will preserve it as affordable housing and avoid greater density in the area. It will enable the owner to undertake a complete renovation of the interior of the buildings.

A representative of the partnership that owns the property briefed the Fairlington community on the renovation plans in July. FCA sent a letter to the county board expressing general support for the project.

During county board discussion of the proposal, board member Libby Garvey, who lives in South Fairlington, noted the broad support that the plan has from Fairlington residents. "My Fairlington neighbors have all been pretty much supportive of this project," she said.

"The folks who live here [Park Shirlington] are important members of our community," she continued. This project "creates a healthy and diverse community where it's comfortable for everybody to live."

Under the plan approved by the county, the new owner of the property (a partnership between Standard Communities and non-profit Foundation Housing) will maintain all 294 apartments as affordable housing for 75 years. There will be no additional units built on the site. The only new structure will be the addition of a community center and a leasing office.

This replaces an earlier proposal that was projected to more than double the number of units on the property.

The apartments will be available for residents whose household income is no more than 60 percent of the area median income. In this area, that is about \$85,000 for a household of four people.



*The renovation of Park Shirlington apartments will maintain the current number of apartments and is expected to take about two years. Photo by Guy Land.*

While the county has completed its part of the financing, some bond financing from the commonwealth of Virginia is needed to finish out the package. Park Shirlington did not make the cut for the Governor's bond financing program this year, which was oversubscribed with applications. But the owner is prepared in case an approved project falls out, and will apply for funding under next year's state bond program.

Renovation will begin soon after the bond financ-

ing is in place. The renovation is expected to take about two years.

The new community center and leasing office will be located generally near the north/west entrance to the property just past Fort Reynolds Park on 31st St., adjacent to a bus stop.

The community center will contain a gym, computer center, and multipurpose room which can be used in part for programming for residents and for social gatherings. The resident programming could potentially include things like educational assistance for school-age children and financial and employment coaching for parents.

The extensive renovation will occur in sections, with all the residents in a particular section moving to a "swing" section for about three weeks while their units are being renovated. They would still be living on site.

In addition to a complete overhaul of the units, the renovation will include the installation of solar panels on the roof. The panels are projected to provide roughly a third of Park Shirlington's energy needs.

The financing package also will create a "digital equity" reserve to enable residents to afford broadband access.

The county board approved a total loan of \$31.9 million for the project. This is coming from the county's Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

—Guy Land





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## Art Truck returns to farmers market



Young art truck participants work on their sculptures of Arlington's threatened birds. Photos by Guy Land.

With a focus on threatened birds in Northern Virginia, the popular Arlington Art Truck made its third visit this year to the Fairlington Farmers Market in November. The art activity, which drew a steady stream of Fairlington residents, saw participants create a "seedbird" sculpture

in the shape of threatened birds made of native Arlington seeds and clay to subsequently be planted in a garden or patio.

Artist Greg Stewart, professor at James Madison University, and Naz Anissi, a park naturalist from Arlington County's Conservation and Interpretation, led the hands-on activity, emphasizing how climate change affects the birds and trees of Arlington and the importance of native plants and species.



Photos of "species of concern" in the area provided the guides for the clay work by Fairlington's emerging artists.

The Arlington Art Truck is sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Division on Arlington Economic Development.

—Guy Land

### 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.*





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# For the love of NATURE



## *Stormwater: slow it down, spread it out, soak it in*

In an oak forest, the water from a 2-inch downpour, which is more than 54,000 gallons per acre, is captured almost entirely by leaf litter and the organic humus on the forest floor. Where rain cannot soak in, the same 2-inch rainstorm causes a flood. Of course, it has been a long time since Arlington was all forest. In fact, around 42 percent of the county's land today is impervious—roads, sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops.

Runoff from these impervious surfaces and our lawns goes into storm drains and then—untreated—to Four Mile Run, the Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay, along with pollutants that harm aquatic and other wildlife. Rushing stormwater from runoff erodes stream banks, exposing tree roots, destroying habitat, and depositing excessive sediment on the bottom.

Damaged streams don't work properly, which harms our ecosystem. Groundwater needs to be regularly replenished ("recharged") with rainwater percolating down through soil. When stormwater rushes off impermeable surfaces into storm drains, this groundwater is not replenished, lakes and reservoirs get lower, the water table is further down, and we can experience drought.

Fairlington has a lot of grass—doesn't this help? Yes, to a point. Lawn is more permeable than asphalt or concrete but less permeable than non-compacted soil with a diverse plant cover. Extreme storms, which are becoming the norm, deliver more water faster, so that even lawn surfaces can flood.

Residents can help increase permeable surface. For



*Rainstorms flooded parts of Fairlington Arbor in August 2021. Photo by Anne Kusserow.*

the next patio upgrade, consider a grid of concrete pavers with void space filled by turf, sand, or gravel, or an aggregate of stone particles and concrete with pore spaces (more ideas here: <https://www.udel.edu/canr/cooperative-extension/fact-sheets/permeable-impermeable-surfaces/>).

Leave several inches of soil and space at the edges to soak in some water rather than installing a "wall to wall" paved surface. Add container plants! They soak up water too. The more we can slow the water down, spread it out, and soak it in, the better.

Some Fairlington associations have taken steps to better manage stormwater on the property rather than sending it all into the storm drains. The Commons, working with the county, replaced the eroded hillside on Utah St. with several StormwaterWise projects that include rock swales and berms, plus native trees,

shrubs, and plants. Fairlington Villages has installed seven rain gardens, which temporarily hold stormwater and slowly infiltrate it into the soil, while filtering out pollutants and recharging the water table.

Landscaping practices like adding organic matter (e.g., leaving some of the fallen leaves), encouraging deeper turf roots (e.g., requiring higher mower heights), reducing lawn by expanding beds, and adding plant cover to beds increase the ability of ground to absorb water. Feel free to send questions or comments to [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Leslie Cameron

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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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## FCA to sponsor MLK Jr. Day of Service

FCA will partner with the Abingdon Elementary School PTA to clean up the Abingdon Community Garden at the school on Monday, January 16, as a community service activity to mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

All members of the Fairlington community—not just those who have children enrolled at Abingdon—are invited to join the cleanup activity that day. Volunteers can also pick up litter on school grounds if the garden goals are achieved quickly.

“We had a nice turnout last year despite the chilly weather,” said PTA President Sharon Burd. “We’re excited to keep the garden momentum going with the community’s support.”

Additional details will be provided in the January issue of the Bulletin. This will be the first time FCA has sponsored a community-wide volunteer activity to honor the civil rights leader.



*All community members are invited to help clean up the Abingdon Community Garden on Monday, January 16. Photo by Guy Land.*

In 1994 Congress passed a bill to dedicate the national holiday as a national day of service.

—Guy Land

## Unique Fairlington holiday gift items available for purchase

*{This article corrects ordering inaccuracies published in the November 2022 All Fairlington Bulletin}*

### **The Fairlington Ornament**

In 2018, the Fairlington Historical Society and the Fairlington Citizens Association partnered to create the Fairlington ornament in honor of the community’s 75th anniversary. The ornament has proven to be very popular and we continue to make it available. Priced at \$10, each comes boxed with a brochure insert explaining the ornament design and offering a brief history of the neighborhood.



*FHS and FCA sell Fairlington-themed ornaments, historical books, and an architect’s map of the community every holiday season. Photo courtesy fca-fairlington.org.*

You can place your order at [www.fcafairlington.org](http://www.fcafairlington.org) (Paypal or a major credit card) and you can pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office (3001 South Abingdon Street) anytime Monday-Friday (8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.) and Saturday (9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.). The office is closed on Sundays and all Federal holidays.

### **Fairlington at 50**

Fairlington at 50 is a comprehensive history of the neighborhood, written in 1993 by resident and historian, the late Catherine D. Fellows. The book is a treasure of narrative and photographs that describes the land, the guildings, life as a rental community, the conversion to condominiums, and many Fairlington landmarks. Republished with updated information and additional photographs in 2003 for Fairlington’s 60th anniversary, it was published again in 2012 in a memorial edition dedicated to Fellows, who died in 2010.

Please download a book order form at [fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) and mail it with your check to FHS, 2776 South Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

### **Fairlington Maps**

The original map of the Fairlington community was probably prepared c. 1943 by the architect Kenneth

*Continued on page 15*





# Happy Holidays

*Wishing you and your family health,  
happiness, & peace this holiday season!*



## Fairlington Calendar

Sign up by  
December 10 to receive  
a 2023 calendar!



[khassociates.com/calendar](https://khassociates.com/calendar)



## Miracle Off 34th St S

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## Climate conscious celebrating for the holidays

Did you know that our consumer habits are driving climate change and that Americans produce 25 percent more waste than usual between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, sending an additional one million tons/week to landfills?

We CAN do better. Our Climate Action Info Sheet this month is full of practical ideas for cards, gifts, wrapping, entertaining, even cleaning up that can reduce your greenhouse gas footprint during the upcoming holiday season. Amaze your loved ones with some of these creative ideas and help the climate all at the same time.

Access our Climate Action Info Sheet by scanning the QR code here:



Unique Fairlington from page 13



Architect's map of Fairlington. Photo courtesy Fairlington Historical Society.

Franzheim for the Defense Homes Corporation and subsequently revised for Fairmac, the firm that managed the post-World War II rental community from 1947–1978. The map was updated by CBI Fairmac, the firm that oversaw the conversion to condominiums in 1982–1978, and later revised by FHS to better define the villages.

36" X 24" reproductions on matte poster paper are available for purchase for \$50 each, shipping included.

Please download a map order form at [fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) and mail it with your check to FHS, 2776 South Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

—Terry Placek

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ONLINE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING!

## Interested in serving your community? Join the FCA board!



FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2023 FCA Board. Board members set the policies for the association and serve one year terms.

Anyone interested in serving on the board should email FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies at [vp@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:vp@fca-fairlington.org). All nine seats on the board will be up for election at the December 14 annual meeting.

Directors receive no compensation for their service, other than the satisfaction of helping make Fairlington an even greater place to live. For information about what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.





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Happy Holidays & a very Happy New Year  
from our family to yours!



## Top New Year's HVAC RESOLUTIONS

- ★ Check all the vents and registers in your home for any obstructions from furniture or other household items.
- ★ Upgrade to a programmable thermostat. With a programmable thermostat, you can control what times of day your HVAC system runs, which will help you cut down on energy costs, as well as lessen the burden on your HVAC system.
- ★ Resolve to change your air filter regularly. This is a very important task, which will help keep your HVAC system in good shape. Change your air filter every month to prevent future problems and keep your HVAC system running effectively.
- ★ Schedule a maintenance tune-up for your HVAC system, aiming for twice per year in the spring and fall. Regular maintenance checks will increase the efficiency of your HVAC system and help avoid mechanical problems and breakdowns.



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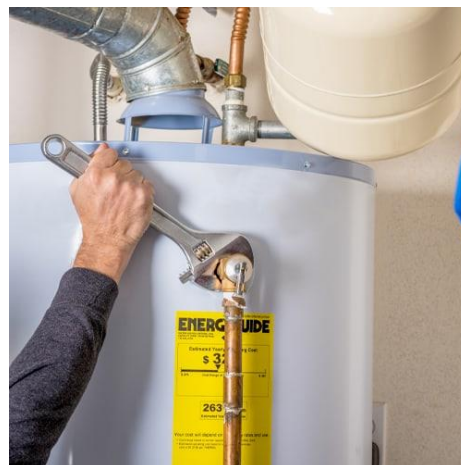
Many appliances in your home rely on steady, clean sources of water, and your plumbing system is interconnected in many ways. In addition, your home's plumbing connection to the outside world must be in good condition as well. Sewer backups can spell disaster.



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Take advantage of our seasonal specials! And remember, we offer a 10% military discount and senior citizens receive 10% off, every day!

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Military personnel receive 10% off on any plumbing service (maximum of \$500).

Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount. Only one coupon may be applied per transaction. Coupons must be surrendered at the time of service.

### SAVE \$100

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\*A **before & after** video camera inspection of the line will be done to verify that the line is clear. Hydro-jetting of main sewer line & video camera inspection must be completed together in order to receive a discount. Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount. Only one coupon may be applied per transaction. Coupons must be surrendered at the time of service.

### SAVE 10%

First-time customers receive 10% off on any plumbing service (maximum of \$500).

Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount. Only one coupon may be applied per transaction. Coupons must be surrendered at the time of service.

### SAVE 10%

Senior citizens (65 and older) receive 10% off on any plumbing service (maximum of \$500).

Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount. Only one coupon may be applied per transaction. Coupons must be surrendered at the time of service.

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# CHRISTMAS

## Dessert Menu 2022

Buche De Noel (serves 12)

Chocolate Truffles

Decorated Gingerbread Santa Face

Alpine Ginger Villa

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

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

Pumpkin Pie

Mincemeat Pie

Lemon Meringue

Apple Pie

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# FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

## *The year in review: where are they now?*

Here's an update on some pets you met this year.

### **February 2022: Tom, Geri, and Boo**

Tom and Geri (now five) got a new family member in 2021—Boo who is now over a year old a still full of mischief.

Boo, the little kitty we adopted turned 1 in October and has had a wonderful year. She is as full of mischief as when she was a kitten and is a regular member of the cat family now. Tom has really taken her under his wing and she's like his little shadow.

Tom and Geri are healthy and happy and love their new sister. Geri has dropped a few pounds in the last year...doctor's orders. Tom started losing some hair on his legs so he's eating special food for skin allergies, and it seems to be improving. Boo has been great at getting both of them to jump around and be playful.

### **April 2022: Misty**

Misty was an extraordinary dog. She lived in Fairlington 14 years of her life. She passed away in May, at age 16, shortly after being featured in Pet Profiles. She enjoyed a wonderful life and a loving family. Misty gave them something incredibly special that only a beloved dog can give.

*A note from her owner: Misty gave me the best sixteen years of my life. She gave us her unconditional love and loyalty. It was such a pleasure growing up alongside her. Without a word she taught me responsibility, compassion, patience, and the meaning of love. She also taught me how to let go. Misty was such a gift to all of us, and we treasure all of the memories we have with her. She was my first dog, and that's something that can never be replaced. She will forever live in our hearts.*

### **July 2022: Ferris and Speedy**

Cats that look at the fashion pages of People magazine? Well, that's one way this brother/sister duo spend their



*Misty Love passed away this May, shortly after being featured in Pet Profiles. Photo courtesy Eryka Staren-Doby.*

time. Some pretty 'cool cats' here. And now....

*A note from their owner: Speedy Ortiz and Ferris Mewler spent much of 2022 working on themselves. Speedy took up yoga (and is even considering training to become a teacher), while Ferris decided to start therapy (he has childhood trauma from the laser pointer—that red dot is so hard to catch). They look forward to starting the new year as the best versions of their cat-selves.*

### **August 2022: Revel and Peppers**

Revel and Peppers had to be the most joyous, fun, dogs in the neighborhood, but some news that may not be welcomed...

*A note from their owner: Revel is a year and a half now and is currently continuing her obedience training, but her parents have little hope for her to graduate at (or near) the top of her class. She seems to be less interested in swallowing things she shouldn't but is still showing a lot of interest in petty theft and minor destruction of whatever she can get her paws on. She is especially interested in chewing sunglasses lately, but since she isn't swallowing them, it is a step in the right direction. Luckily her best buddy Peppers is a good influence and comes over often for playdates, which keeps her out of trouble.*

*Between puppy "pawties" at Frolick and meeting new friends on walks, she spends most of her time fending off the mailman and making sure the squirrels in the neighborhood are aware of her presence. Her family is moving before the end of the year and Revel is extremely excited to have a big yard of her own to run in. Her parents are worried she might get lonely and are considering adopting or fostering a sibling for her or even starting a doggie daycare. Peppers is already scheduled for a long visit. We hope to come back to Fairlington to see all of our amazing neighbors. We will miss you all very much!*

Interested in sharing your pet with Pet Profiles?  
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## Fairlington 2022 Wrap Up

Unit size	# Sold	Avg Days on Market	Avg Sold Price
1br/1+bth	42	19	\$418,772
2 br/1+bth	120	13	\$554,787
3br/1+bth	12	9	\$664,308

\*Information gathered from BrightMLS as of 11/9/22. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



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## *Abingdon shares its gratitude for a fruitful fall semester*



*Abingdon is thankful to the 28 hardworking volunteers for lending a helping hand with planting cover crops and putting our school garden to bed for the winter. Some volunteers pause for a quick photo with our prize winning zinnia plant. Photo by Juan Sanchez.*

As we celebrate our school community's accomplishments, we are thankful to the many hardworking volunteers, educators, staff, and families/friends who have been generous with their time, energy, and kindness to support our Cardinals. Every task or activity has a lot of love and care put into it. Through our organization, we find ways to support the classroom, our educators, and most importantly, our children.

Among the many community-building activities we have recently hosted, we loved seeing our Cardinals dressed in their costumes and Trunk or Treating in the school parking lot. The cheers and giggles from students enjoying the beautiful autumn day with their friends and families will surely be an everlasting childhood memory. We also are thankful for the school community joining us to watch Coco and learn about how our friends celebrate the Day of the Dead.

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn about the Native American Jingle Dress Dance (and see an eagle feather up close!) from a Fairlington parent, Ms. Andrea Nesbitt, who generously took the time to share her cultural heritage and traditions in the Abingdon Community Garden.

Additionally, we thank Fairlington neighbors Karen Olson Weaver and Donna Volpone for generously gifting the Abingdon Community Garden so many winter greens for our students and lending their time and energies with the garden workday.

Karen shared, "It's a great joy to see families and neighbors working together, in the garden. I can't think of a better way to build community and a love of nature. Thank you Cardinals!!!"

I hope you will consider staying engaged and connected with us as we continue advocating for our Cardinals: Facebook, Twitter, and [www.abingdonpta.org](http://www.abingdonpta.org).

Support Abingdon's Flock this Holiday Season

- **Holiday Gift Card Drive:** We are collaborating with our school's social worker to support 40 Abingdon families through the holidays with Target gift cards. Any and all Target gift card donations will be accepted and will be given to families in increments of \$25. Kindly drop off gift card donations in the school's front office; Attention: PTA. There will be a lockbox there for storing these gift cards.
- **AmazonSmile:** You are cordially invited to sign up for AmazonSmile to support the Abingdon PTA. When you sign up here (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1289072>) and shop on <https://smile.amazon.com>, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent to Abingdon PTA. Friends, families, and neighbors are also invited to sign up too!
- **Coat Drive:** We are collecting new and preloved coats, mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for Abingdon students in the school's front office. Thank you for sharing the warmth. For additional information contact [meganmiller44@gmail.com](mailto:meganmiller44@gmail.com).
- **Abingdon Snack Pantry:** Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. for Abingdon's new snack pantry. Sign up <https://tinyurl.com/32ymrww3>.

—Sharon Burd



# Happy Holidays

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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In November, we dined at Copperwood in Shirlington.

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

Saturday, December 17, 12:00 p.m., Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066, 703-759-3800, <http://www.laubergechezfrancois.com>.

We'll enjoy lunch (either a la carte or the 3 course Prix Fixe lunch for \$55-60, plus tax and gratuity) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting. (The small glass of wine included in the past is no longer included in the Prix Fixe price.)

Because we must confirm our reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## Book Group



The Book Group will not meet in December. Mark your calendars for our first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. We will be reading *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah.

"The Four Winds is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—

the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots." —Amazon.com

We hope you'll join us in 2023. Happy new year!

## Fairlington Moms' Club

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

## Wakefield Holiday Shop/Winter Bazaar

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**Najia G.**  
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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  
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**Chris C.**  
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# DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



## *2022's top gardening questions answered*

December is a good time to review what we've learned (myself included) about patio gardening this past year. Gardening mistakes teach us how to be better gardeners. And climate change has affected the culture of plants so, as gardeners, we're always learning. Here's a sample of things to remember:

**Hydrangea planting:** Years ago, Hydrangea was a "sun-lover" but no more. The most vigorous Hydrangeas are ones you see growing in partial or deep shade. You may notice some in full sun but they were planted years ago and have established root systems to tolerate direct sunlight.

**Fern care:** Typically, a shade-lover, one day I noticed a bank of fern thriving in direct afternoon sunlight. Remember, not all fern are deciduous. Autumn, wood, Japanese painted, maidenhair, lady, bird's nest and Christmas fern are common names for evergreen fern. Look for the Latin nomenclature on plant labels to signify evergreen: *athyrium*, *dryopteris* and *polystichum*.

**The importance of open space:** Think of a layout cluttered with plants whose branches are reaching into other plants or are dragging the ground. The garden can be so crowded, you can't see the soil. Think about pruning some plants as well as removing others. When you do, plants that remain will stand out, whereas before, they were unnoticeable.

**Soil care:** In many gardens, the soil is packed with clay, rock and roots from an old tree. This makes it hard to dig a hole for a new plant. But once the hole has been dug (wide enough with extra room for the root ball), add soil conditioner to the base of the hole. Once the plant is in the hole, add more soil conditioner around the perimeter of the root ball. There is no need to dig up the entire garden to amend soil.



*Careful soil care and amending soil issues is an important part of creating a robust garden. Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons.*

**Be patient with annuals:** These are flowers that live one year. They arrive at nurseries in mid-April and live until the second frost (early December). Even though pansy, mum and kale are colorful fall plants and available in October, there's no need to remove your flowering annuals (geranium, petunia, vinca, impatiens, begonia or marigold) until they perish. Pansy lives until late March/early April and tolerates ice and snow.

**Crape myrtle pruning:** Pollarding (a radical prune where limbs are



*Crape myrtle produces abundant purple and pink flowers toward the end of the summer. Photo by Guy Land.*

cut to 7-feet above the ground) is trendy but not necessary. A pollarded Crape Myrtle produces more branches which produce more flowers and leaves, giving the tree a dense habit. For a "natural" look, avoid pollarding. A subtle prune is to cut the spindly, sometimes black branches in the interior.

**Evergreen highlighting:** A garden full of evergreen specimens doesn't have to be "just green." Some evergreens offer variegation. A few euonymus cultivars show yellow, white or pink on its leaves. Wintercreeper euonymus, a ground cover, shows pink on its leaf margins in winter. Aucuba has splotches or dots of yellow. Liriope has lines of white along the edges of its thin leaf blades. Rug juniper has a bluish/purplish tinge on its foliage. Mahonia's leaves sometimes mutate into orange or purple.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)





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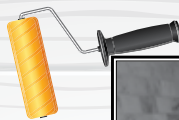


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