

Santa Claus is coming to Park Shirlington and Fairlington December 9

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The Santa parade is a beloved annual tradition in the Fairlington community. Photo by Guy Land.

Santa will make a second stop at Abingdon Elementary school bus loop (3035 S. Abingdon.) The parade will conclude to greet fans at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.). As always, if duty calls and Santa's firefighter friends have to use their truck to help others in an emergency, their journey may be cut short.

Please join your friends and neighbors to celebrate Santa and welcome the wonderful team from Fire Station 9! See Santa's scheduled route through Fairlington on p. 7, and check out the FCA website for a map of his ride (www.fca-fairlington.org).

Note: In case of inclement weather, Santa will not stop at Abingdon Elementary School, but just circle the bus loop. Please check Facebook and the website for updates the day of the event.

—Jenn Davies

Fire Station 9 has confirmed with Santa that he and his fire-fighting elves will once again parade through the neighborhood on Saturday, December 9 beginning at 2 p.m.

This year, Santa and his elves will start the route at Park Shirlington apartments north side parking lot loop (closest to the school). Santa will greet families, hand out candy canes and let children check out the fire truck. They will then proceed along their route through Fairlington on both the north and south sides of the neighborhood.



**Santa's route
on page 7**

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 13

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. 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.

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
Metrolink 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/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

Board of Directors

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

Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • ehliz@earthlink.net

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 fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.

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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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

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Calendar

Fairlington diners

Thursday, December 7, 12 p.m.
Auberge Chez Francois
332 Springvale Rd
Great Falls, VA

Santa parade

Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m.

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington book group holiday dinner

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.
Carlyle
400 Campbell Ave
Arlington, VA

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25
FCC closed



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While December brings Santa to the neighborhood, it also brings FCA's annual meeting. That's where we elect board members and officers for the coming year and hear from you what you would like us to focus on.

All owners and residents in Fairlington are automatically members of FCA, so you don't need to pay membership dues or sign up to come. Just show up. This year's meeting is Wednesday, December 13, at 7 p.m. in room 100 of the Fairlington Community Center.

More importantly, consider helping with FCA's work. There are several ways you can give back to your community through FCA.

First, serve on the FCA board. That's a great way to help shape the organization's priorities. Board terms are one year, so you could try it out for a year and not feel tied to a multi-year commitment. All board members are volunteers. You don't get paid for it—at least not in money—but you do get the satisfaction of making an important contribution to Fairlington.

One board member has already indicated he will not be able to serve another year, so there's at least one opening. And a couple of other current board members are undecided. That means you don't have to worry about trying to push aside someone who is already on the board.

We are exploring ways to keep the time commitment manageable, such as reducing the number of meetings each year and doing more of our work electronically. We know everyone has multiple obligations.

Second, volunteer to help with one of our activities, such as the Fourth of July celebration (jointly sponsored with Fairlington Villages), family movie night, or Santa's visit on the fire truck. We need helpers.

FCA has two broad goals: to be the voice of Fairlington to local elected officials and their staffs—such as our work on preserving Park Shirlington as affordable housing and tackling a weird zoning issue that adversely affects some Fairlington homeowners—and to support activities that foster a vibrant sense of community, enhancing the value of living in this neighborhood.

I thank this year's board for their great work on these things. I encourage you to consider joining them next year. Shoot me an email to let me know you'd like to help out. Hope to see you on December 13.

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



Happy
Holidays

we wish you joy



Contributors this month: Barbara Berti,
Regina Bethencourt, Leslie Cameron, Jenn Davies,
James Harlow, and Guy Land.

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

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Miracle On 28th St S

Join us on December 10 for hot cocoa,
a screening of Elf, & holiday fun!



Fairlington Calendar

Sign up by December 11 to receive a
FREE 2024 Fairlington calendar!

Visit www.fairlington.life to register for our holiday offerings!

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This is not intended to solicit property already listed. If you are currently represented by another brokerage or firm, please disregard.



The Home & Garden Tour is back in 2024!



Have you renovated your unit? Or transformed your garden? If you're a homeowner and interested in being on the 2024 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, please attend our first meeting Monday, January 8, 2024 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at the North Fairlington Community Center at 3001 S. Abingdon St.

The 2024 tour will be held **Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.** and will include

both North and South Fairlington. This event benefits the Fairlington Historical Society fairlingtonhistorical-society.org—and is held every two years.

The tour is a beloved Fairlington tradition which has been on hiatus since 2019, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is really a wonderful opportunity to see what your friends and neighbors have done to their homes and to get some great ideas and good contacts.



The last Home & Garden tour took place in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by Guy Land.

Or, if you'd like to volunteer to help with signage, hospitality, house sitting or promotion, and other tasks, please come to our January meeting. There's always a lot to do and we'll have updates in the bulletin and on social media—including as the months go by, so stay tuned.

Continued on page 15

Fairlington giftables available for purchase ahead of the holidays

As the holiday season approaches, don't forget about the Fairlington Historical Society's unique assortment of Fairlington-specific gifts.

These items are perfect for a neighbor, friend, or to display in your own home or on your tree.

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 orna-

ment 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. You can place your order at www.fca-fairlington.org (Paypal or a major credit card) and you can pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office (3001 S. Abingdon St. 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 buildings, 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 fairlingtonhistorical-society.org and mail it with your check to FHS, 2776 S. Arlington Mill Dr., #150, Arlington, VA 22206.

Fairlington Maps

The original map of the Fairlington community was probably prepared c. 1943 by the architect Kenneth Franzheim for the Defense Homes Corporation and subsequently revised for Fairmac, the firm that man-

Continued on page 15

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A Fairlington Christmas: holiday fun in the neighborhood

Many residents who have called Fairlington home for decades, know that the neighborhood likes to go all out when it comes to the holiday season.

In addition to beautiful, elaborate light displays, the Santa parade on December 9, and neighbors who share holiday cheer, Fairlingtonians also enjoy participating in the many local events near the neighborhood.

Some highlights include:

Light Up the Village—On **Saturday, December 1**: The Village at Shirlington is hosting its annual Light Up the Village event featuring holiday musical performances, a tree lighting celebration, photos with Santa, and much more.

The 3rd Annual St. Nicholas Market—On **Sunday, December 3**, the Third Annual St. Nicholas Market will be held on the grounds of St. Rita Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It features homegoods, art, apparel, jewelry, woodwork, and



The Village at Shirlington hosts their annual Christmas tree lighting each year in early December. Photo courtesy of The Village at Shirlington.

glühwein. Food and drink is available for purchase. The event is held outdoors, rain or shine.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol" (runs December 1-16)—Visit <https://thelittletheatre.com/> to purchase your tickets to see this Christmas classic.

Pet Photos with Santa—On **Monday, December 11** make your way to Fashion Centre Pentagon City with your pet and pose with Santa! Enter the mall entrance from Level 1 of the parking garage next to Nordstrom.

Believe—A Holiday Concert—Walk over to Fairlington United Methodist Church on **Sunday, December 17** at 3:30 p.m. and get ready to be captivated by "Believe—A Holiday Concert," a magical in-person celebration of the season in four-part harmony.

—Regina Bethencourt

Santa's route through Fairlington

1. Arrive Park Shirlington North Lot (closest to school) at 2 p.m.
2. Depart around 2:15 p.m., Right onto S. 31st St.
3. Cross S. Abingdon St and S. Buchanan St.
4. Right onto S. Columbus St. crossing S. 30th St.
5. Right onto S. 29th St. crossing S. Buchanan St and S. Abingdon St.
6. Enter Abingdon Elementary School parking lot, bus loop.
- STOP for a meet and greet.**
7. Depart school parking lot, left onto S. Abingdon St. cross bridge onto S. 34th St.
8. Turn right on S. Wakefield St.
9. Turn left onto S. 36th St., cross over S. Utah St. and S. Taylor St.
10. Left onto S. Stafford St.
11. At the traffic circle, left onto S. 34th St.
12. Right onto S. Utah St., continue past S. 32nd Rd.
13. Right onto S. 32nd St (passing Utah field and park)
14. Right onto S. Stafford St., continue to the Fairlington Community Center parking lot for a 15 minute stop (3308 S. Stafford St.) Approximate arrival time; 2:45 PM.
15. Return to Fire Station

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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FCA annual meeting set for December 13



Elections for the 2024 Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Board of Directors will be held at the organization's annual meeting on Wednesday, Decem-

ber 13, 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.

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. Residents will also have an opportunity to suggest priorities and activities for FCA for the coming year.

All residents and owners in Fairlington are members of the association.

—Guy Land

Wakefield musicians visit Fairlington

The Wakefield Warriors Marching Band returned to North Fairlington to help Abingdon Elementary celebrate Halloween, restoring a tradition that had been interrupted by COVID.

December will bring several winter concerts by Wakefield musicians, with the choral concert on December 6, the orchestra concert on December 12 and the winter band and guitar concert on December 14. All performances are held in the Wakefield High School auditorium, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St.



Students Angelina Kaminsky and Clara Wright of the Wakefield High School Madrigals perform an impromptu concert at the entrance to the Fairlington Farmers Market in early November. Students in various Wakefield music programs spent the weekend soliciting donations from neighbors as part of this fall's Tag Day fundraiser. Photo by Guy Land.



A group of Abingdon alumni pose for a photo marking their first visit to play at Abingdon since the pandemic. Photo courtesy of Melody Kisor.



The Wakefield Warriors Marching Band perform at Abingdon School. Photo by Dan Burd.



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For the love of NATURE



Helping our smaller neighbors survive winter

It's December, time to get out the winter jackets and warm up the apple cider. For humans, that is.

The inhabitants of our natural world use other strategies to survive winter's cold, some pretty ingenious. But as we have paved or grassed over critical habitat, replaced the native plants that provide food for caterpillars with non-native plants that don't, cleaned up fallen leaves and flower stems that provide shelter or food, used more chemicals in our gardens, and added artificial lights to the night sky—we have made survival more challenging.



This native stiff goldenrod left standing in a Fairlington patio is providing food for a song sparrow in November, when other food sources are scarce. Photo by Tina Byrd.

Here are some of nature's survival tactics and how we can help:

Eastern monarchs migrate thousands of miles to central Mexico, starting north again in March, laying single eggs on milkweed plants along the way. Most insects stay local, however. Some overwinter as larvae under fallen leaves or other cover, like the woolly bear caterpillar.

Others replace the water in their bodies with glycerol, a kind of "antifreeze." Fireflies overwinter as larvae in the soil under leaf litter or other cover. Nymphs of dragonflies, mayflies, and stoneflies live in streams or other water, sometimes under ice, though the pollution is too much for certain species. Praying mantises overwinter as eggs laid on twigs, stalks, and leaves.

Some insects overwinter as pupa in a chrysalis, attached to stems or branches of plants that will provide food for the emerging caterpillar. Some bees nest in dead flower stems left standing over winter. Bumble bee queens overwinter as adults, burrowing into the soil under leaves. Lady beetle adults shelter in tree holes, and under leaf litter, logs, or rocks, and in soil.

Some bird species migrate, some stay local. Check out

how many birds migrated over Arlington the night before at birdcast.info. On November 1, per birdcast.info, 234,000 birds migrated over Arlington County. They included dark-eyed Juncos, warblers, wrens, sparrows, vireo, grebes, and brown creepers.

To survive the dangerous migration journey, they need dark to navigate and they need food and water along the way. Birds staying local need water too. Many animals need insulation (fat, fur, or feathers) to survive. Birds fluff feathers and roost together to stay warm.

Amphibians and reptiles rely on their environment to maintain body temperatures. When it gets cold, some species conserve energy by slowing their metabolism and remaining still. Wood frogs actually stop their hearts, stop breathing, and freeze, and then thaw out in spring. Many amphibians survive in dens, caves, hollow logs, old rodent tunnels, or under leaves.

We can help:

- Plant native plants, including milkweeds, and leave flower stalks standing in winter.
- Leave fallen leaves, branches, and logs.
- Put water out, even just a dog bowl of water.
- Turn off our outdoor lights or use motion detection lights or timers.
- Keep cats, which kill billions of birds each year, inside.
- Minimize or eliminate chemicals in our gardens and leave some soil in patios to absorb stormwater, keeping more of it out of streams.

Email forthe love of nature@googlegroups.com with questions or for planting recommendations in your patio and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Leslie Cameron

Not sure how to decorate for the holidays? We're here to help!

Holiday decorating is a very welcomed tradition in the Fairlington neighborhood. Many non-residents travel from the local area from Arlington and Alexandria to drive through Fairlington's neighborhoods and experience the joy of the holiday light displays.

If you are new to the neighborhood, or just new to decorating and aren't sure where to begin, enjoy the following photos of past Fairlington decor to spur your imagination and make this year one for the memory books.



If decorating just isn't your style, remember you can create your own traditions to spread warmth and cheer to your neighbors. A few ideas to get you started:

- Bake a couple of batches of your favorite Christmas cookies and package them up in small containers to bring to your closest neighbors.



- Buy an extra bag of dog treats and hand them out for your furry friends.
- Invite your neighbors for an evening of caroling in your courtyard.
- Ask your elderly or handi-capped neighbors (or parents of young children!) if they could use any help with Christmas shopping or wrapping.
- Invite a lonely friend over to drink hot cider or cocoa and watch a holiday-themed movie.
- Buy several pairs of warm gloves and snacks and keep them in your car to hand out to any homeless people you might see on the street.

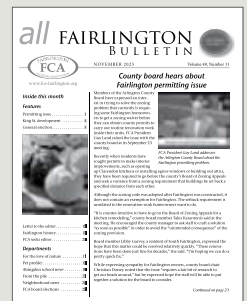


Above all, remember that this season is about preparing your heart to notice daily opportunities for simple acts of love and kindness that can mean so much to others.

—Regina Bethencourt

Seeking candidates for paid position with The Bulletin

The *All Fairlington Bulletin's* editor, Regina Bethencourt will be leaving in 2024. Bethencourt has held the position for three years, and her contributions to the mission of the *Bulletin* will be greatly missed. The FCA Board thanks her for her dedicated service.



The *AFB* is looking for a motivated professional to take on this role.

This is a paid position. Responsibilities include content strategy, writing articles, editing submissions, supervising layout, and copy-editing. If interested, please contact Guy Land at president@fca-fairlington.org.



Photos by Guy Land.



FAIRLINGTON

pet profiles

Crosby the cuddler and snuggler is at home in Fairlington

If you live in North Fairlington you may have already met Crosby, a 19-pound terrier mix, and his mom. Crosby loves to sit close to his mom and is extremely outgoing with his neighbors and friends. He is especially good with children. And he loves to play with them. He may see you coming down the street, and when he does, he'll stop and take a good long look..."who are you?" And wait...wait for it..."oh yes! I know you!" And suddenly from a standstill he is running excitedly to say 'hello!' It is a very unusual way to meet and greet, but as a 9-month-old he is still learning the neighborhood. And he is very cautious.



Crosby is a 9-month-old terrier mix who lives in North Fairlington. Photo courtesy of Annie Corbelli.

Crosby came to Fairlington from Operations Paws for Homes a rescue, where he was fostered with 10 other dogs. He will soon have his DNA tested to get a better idea of his background. He's been going through puppyhood experiencing everything from teething to neutering. His trip to the vet was a big event, but Crosby did fine. *Pet Profiles* got some helpful insights about health care, music and friendships and exercise. Crosby will soon become a member of Snouts and Stouts, the only indoor dog park and brewery in Arlington.

Are you named after David Crosby or Bing Crosby? How did you get your name?

I was named Crosby because that is the name of the street my mom lived on and grew up on in Buffalo. The name holds a lot of sentimental value for her. My mom is also very into music, she loves Tom Petty—he is one of her favorites. One of the things my mom told me is that Crosby, Stills and Nash opened and toured with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, so David Crosby is the secondary reason I was named Crosby.

How do you like the neighborhood? What do you like best about your walks around Fairlington?

I love the neighborhood that I live in. There are so many dogs to play with and so many nice people to say hello to! Walks are a super happy time for me. I love saying hello to anyone and everyone who wants to say hi to me. I also love going on walks to Shirlington—it's just more people to say hello to!

Who are your good friends and why?

My best friend, Teller, lives right next door to me. Teller and I play almost every day—we have so much fun together. We go on walks, we run around the yard, and we chase each other in the house. I also love Sam, who is a Golden Retriever. I see Sam on my walks in the morn-

ing before my mom goes to work. I know I get a little too excited sometimes, but Sam is really patient with me and never gets frustrated with me. When I grow up, I want to be just like Sam.

Do you have any holiday plans? News Year's resolutions?

I went to Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving and will go back again for Christmas, which I am super excited about. I love the car ride there—I relax and sleep in my super comfy dog bed and car seat. When I get to Pittsburgh, I have lots of family who love me a lot and who play with me. I see little kids and some big kids. It is a lot of fun! My New Year's resolution for 2024 is to keep having fun, go on lots of walks and get lots of exercise and be nice to everyone I meet.

This is the final installment of Pet Profiles. We have had a wonderful time meeting so many fantastic cats, dogs and Fairlington residents. A big thank you to all of them who shared their stories with us. All best wishes to our readers and our animal friends for a new year filled with lots of treats and love.



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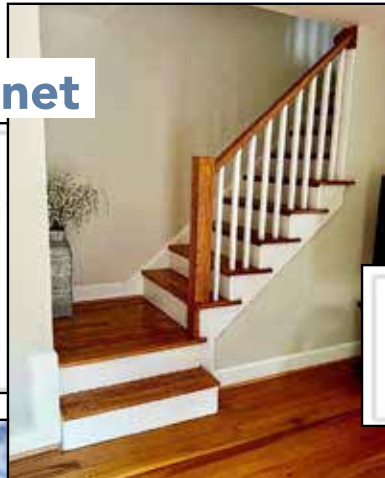
STAIRCASE REMODELING

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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.

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.

Chelsea C.
★★★★★ Verified
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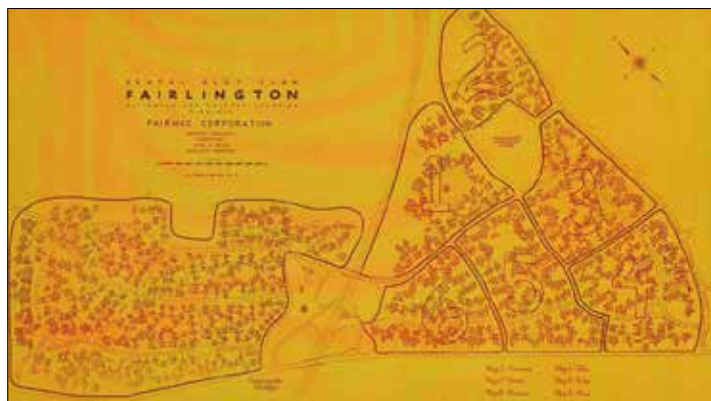
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Fairlington residents, including County Board member Libby Garvey (l), enjoyed the 2019 home tour. Photo by Guy Land.

You can also reach us at: homeandgarden@fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org if you can't attend the meeting but are still interested, or have any questions or would like to get involved. We plan to start looking at homes in the new year.

—Barbara Berti



aged 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 and mail it with your check to FHS, 2776 S. Arlington Mill Dr., #150, Arlington, VA 22206.



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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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Art Truck makes season's last visit to Fairlington

What makes a good community? How are you a good neighbor? These were some of the questions visitors to the Fairlington Farmers Market were invited to answer by writing on a temporary wooden fence installed at the market in late October as part of the Arlington Art Truck's "Fences to Benches" interactive art project.

Created by local artist Michael Verdon, the fence is designed to invoke separation and privacy, but also foster a conversation about access and equality and overcoming barriers.

Using markers of various colors, dozens of Fairlingtonians shared their ideas on what it means to be a good neighbor directly on the fence. Eventually the fences will be converted into 48 linear feet of community-decorated public picnic benches placed in selected locations around the county. The writings on the boards will be weather-sealed and on display for all to contemplate.

The project particularly encourages a conversation about Arlington's Racial History Timelines work.

Fairlington was one of the Arlington Art Truck's eight stops across the county that featured Fences to Benches. Other stops included the Rosslyn Jazz Festival, Green Valley Day, HB Woodlawn Middle School, and the Langston-Brown Community Center.

Arlington Art Truck is a program of Arlington Cultural Affairs, a division of Arlington Economic Development that delivers public activities. The Arlington Art Truck is a temporary mobile experience that travels around Arlington County bringing art to where the people are.

The Art Truck made three visits to the Fairlington Farmers Market this summer, enjoying a warm reception from market patrons.

—Guy Land



Photos by Guy Land.

Shirlington

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ABINGDON *school news*



And that's a wrap on the fall semester of school



A group of Abingdon students visit the Capitol in the late 1970s.

As the holiday season gets underway, the Abingdon PTA wants to step back and thank the Fairlington community for all it has done to support Abingdon students, parents and staff this year. From donating dozens of pounds of candy for our trunk-or-treat event, to cheering on our Cardinals AND the Wakefield Warrior band at the Halloween parade, to showing up for our restaurant spirit nights and Election Day Bake Sale—and raising thousands of dollars for Abingdon in the process!—you have shown up each and every time we have asked. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Abingdon has had 13 principals since 1951? The school has also undergone at least four different expansions/renovations over the years. Librarian Ms. Fatouros has provided a number of historical photos, which we have proudly displayed at www.Abingdonpta.org. If you have Abingdon history tidbits or photos to share, email us at pta@abingdonpta.org!

Your support has allowed PTA to:

- Fund grants for vocabulary learning aids for the whole second grade; flexible seating in a third grade classroom; and the Cardinal Kids Mentoring Program—with more grants to come later in the year!
- Fund two brand-new Odyssey of the Mind teams at Abingdon, for which participating students and parent coaches will participate in scientific and problem solving challenges and have lots of fun while learning new skills.
- Provide the entire Abingdon staff with breakfast and lunch on several occasions.



Current students celebrate Trunk or Treat on 10/28.

- Host an amazing Trunk or Treat event and start planning for our winter events.

Thank you, local business partners!

We also want to thank our important community business supporters: Dominos Pizza, Silver Diner, Harris Teeter, Kona Ice and Einstein Bagels for their invaluable contributions to our school community so far this year. If you represent a local business and would like to discuss supporting Abingdon, please reach out to us at pta@abingdonpta.org.

Holiday opportunities to support Abingdon families

We will soon announce a few opportunities for the broader Fairlington community to support Abingdon families during the holiday season. Stay tuned - and check us out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonElementaryPTA>) for updates.

We need you!



We're always looking for volunteers to ensure our yearlong programming is fun and successful.

Please scan the code and fill out our survey to let us know we can count on your help.

Abingdon School Dates

December 21-29—Winter break

January 2, 2024—School resumes



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FROM THE PILE

Plants with Winter interest

Winter is coming and it is traditionally a drab grey time of year that is often wet and not a particularly inviting time to be out in the garden. But I am here to challenge you that does not have to be ugly!



Chasmanthium latifolium (River or Wild Oats, Northern Sea Oats) seed heads in July turn a lovely russet brown in winter. Photo by Elaine L. Mills.

In addition to overwintering annuals like pansies (*viola* spp.), and perennials like late winter blooming hellebores (*helleborus* spp.), the ornamental grasses, sedums, rudbeckias, and echinaceas have attractive seedheads that are attractive all winter long and that in some cases will attract songbirds looking for seeds to feed on.

Here are some ideas on woody shrubs that you can put into a small landscape to add pizzazz and some brightness to get us through until the Spring growing season.

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*): This deciduous holly produces vibrant red berries that persist through the winter.

Camellia (*camellia* spp.): Known for their beautiful, waxy flowers, some camellia varieties bloom in the winter.

Witch hazel (*hamamelis* spp.): These shrubs produce unique, spidery flowers in late winter, adding a touch of color to the landscape.

Winter daphne (*daphne odora*): This evergreen shrub produces fragrant pink or white flowers in late winter.

Japanese andromeda (*pieris japonica*): With cascading clusters of bell-shaped flowers, this evergreen adds interest to the winter garden.

Red twig dogwood (*cornus sericea*): Known for its bright red stems, this deciduous shrub provides winter color, especially against a backdrop

Remember to consider factors such as soil type, sunlight, and water availability when selecting plants for your garden.

Environmentally aware gardeners strive to achieve at least 70 percent native plants, but there are many non native plants that are not invasive.

Want to know more about perennials, grasses, and groundcovers with winter interest? Check out this recorded presentation on natives with winter interest: <https://mgmv.org/mg-virtual-classroom/sl-class-video/natives-winter-interest-video/>.

—Kristen Conrad



Red twig dogwood 'Cardinal'. Photo courtesy of fairfaxgardening.org.

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—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner



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Fairlington voters follow county trend

November's general election produced no surprises in either Arlington or Fairlington, with Democratic candidates receiving roughly the same share of the vote in Fairlington as they did countywide. Republican and independent candidates drew less than 20 percent of the vote in a low-turnout election.

Voters elected Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham to the two vacant seats on the Arlington County Board and chose incumbents Sen. Barbara Favola and Del. Alfonso Lopez to represent the Fairlington part of Arlington in the General Assembly in Richmond.

According to preliminary and unofficial totals, Cunningham received 43,664 votes countywide, outpacing Coffey's 39,890. That pattern held in South Fairlington, where Cunningham got 783 votes to Coffey's 774. But in North Fairlington Coffey edged out Cunningham, 737 to 783.

Independent Audrey Clement and Republican Juan Carolos Fierro were well back, with Fierro getting 238 votes and Clement 220 votes in South Fairlington and Fierro receiving 197 and Clement getting 192 in the Abingdon precinct.

Clement, who had run for the county board a number of times previously, had made opposition to the county's new "missing middle" (Expanded Housing Options) policy the centerpiece of her campaign.



Poll volunteers hand out voter information at the Fairlington Community Center during the November election. Photo by Guy Land.



Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham were elected to the two vacant seats on the Arlington County Board. Photos courtesy of maureencoffey.com and susanforarlington.com.

Because there were two vacancies, the top two vote-getters were elected.

Miranda Turner was elected to the school board. James Vell Rives had suspended his campaign earlier in the year.

Most county officials, such as clerk of court, commonwealth's attorney, commissioner of revenue, sheriff, and treasurer, were elected without opposition.

Sen. Barbara Favola's vote in the two Fairlington precincts was near her countywide tally of roughly 81 percent, compared to Republican David Henshaw's 19 percent.

Del. Alfonso Lopez had a countywide vote of 83 percent over Republican Major Mike Webb. Lopez ran up a similar margin in the Fairlington precincts.

In the Alexandria portion of Fairlington, incumbent Adam Ebbin was comfortably re-elected to the State Senate. Del. Charniele Herring faced no opposition.

The South Fairlington precinct consists exclusively of Fairlington residents, while the Abingdon precinct overs North Fairlington residents as well as residents of adjacent apartment and condo communities. Early in-person and mail voting is not recorded by precinct, so the precinct numbers reflect the totals of those people who voted on November 7.

Only 36 percent of Arlington's roughly 175,000 registered voters cast ballots in the election.

—Guy Land

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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 Busboys and Poets in Shirlington.

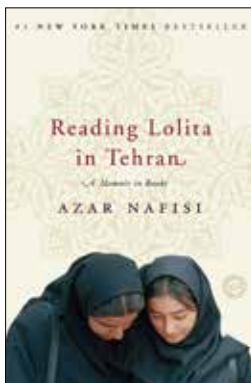
In December, we'll have our traditional visit to Great Falls for a delicious meal in a lovely holiday setting for a special treat.

Thursday, December 7, 12 p.m., Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066, 703-759-3800, <http://www.lauberagechezfrancois.com>. We'll enjoy lunch (either a la carte or the 3 course Prix Fixe lunch for \$57-62, 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 noon on Wednesday December 6th. 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

Book Group



The Fairlington Book Group Holiday Dinner will be Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Carlyle restaurant in Shirlington. The deadline to RSVP is December 8. Members of our email list will receive details about how to RSVP. If you would like to be added to our email list, call Carol at 703-379-6840.

And mark your calendar for our first meeting of the new year, Tuesday, January 23, when we will discuss *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books* by Azar Nafisi. More details about the January meeting will be available in next month's *Bulletin*.

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 for further information.

Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden



Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.

Handel's Messiah Sing-along

Visit Fairlington United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m. for the 20th annual Handel's Messiah sing-along. Featuring guest soloists Cassidy Dixon, Randa Melhem, Carl Hengen and Fitzgerald St. Louis.

Admission is free. You can bring your own Messiah score or purchase one for \$9 at the door. Visit fairlingtonumc.org for more information.

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

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