

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2019

Volume 45, Number 2

County staff to brief Fairlington on Amazon package

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Arlington county staff will discuss the plans for Amazon's new headquarters at a special briefing for Fairlington residents in late February hosted by the Fairlington Citizens Association. At press time details were still being worked out, so check the FCA website for updated information on the briefing.

In mid-November Amazon announced that it will establish a major new headquarters in the Crystal City and Pentagon City area. Amazon is expected to invest roughly \$2.5 billion for the headquarters, which will create more than 25,000 high-paying jobs. The project will occupy 4 million square feet of energy-efficient office space, with the opportunity to expand to 8 million square feet over the next dozen years.



That area of Arlington has suffered from a glut of vacant office space ever since the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) round saw the exodus of thousands of defense-related jobs.

For the proposal Arlington and Alexandria partnered with property owner and developer JBG Smith to present Amazon with a 150-acre site that is a mixture of existing vacant buildings and developable land. The area is served by three Metrorail stations and a commuter rail station. The area also offers 13,000 resident units, with the potential for additional density to support the project.

To assist the project Arlington and Alexandria will be investing \$570 million in transportation projects, including rail connections, transit facilities, multi-modal streets, and transportation technology. These were already on the books as part of each jurisdiction's long-term capital improvement plans.

The Commonwealth of Virginia will also invest up to \$195 million of non-general fund money in new or expanded transportation projects, including an additional entrance to the Crystal City Metro station and a south entrance to the new Potomac Yard Metro station. Other projects include

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Don't forget!

The Fairlington Home Improvement Showcase will be held on Saturday, January 26, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The event will be held from 9 am to 1 pm and include presentations and a chance to speak with participating contractors.

Coming up ...

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

FCA monthly meeting February 13

There will be no presentation at the February 13 meeting. The Board will hold a work session. There will be a special briefing on the Amazon project later in February. Check the FCA website for details.

Regular board business:

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

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

Online resources:

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

 Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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/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

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Guy Land, *President*
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Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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

Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews 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

Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services. AFB reserves the right to refuse any advertisement based upon either content or artistic expression. The opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers are theirs and should not be taken as reflecting the opinions of the FCA or its board members. AFB reserves the right to edit or refuse contributions. All photographs are © copyright the photographer or source identified.

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 4, 6 pm
Hank's Oyster Bar
1026 King St., Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 7pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 18
FCC closed

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, February 18, 6:30 pm
Clyde's
1700 N. Beauregard St, Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, February 26, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Snow Day



Fairlington residents young and old enjoyed sled riding on January 13 after snow blanketed the region. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Melanie Alvord, Sara Tuke Carr, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Joe Reed, Susan Renehan, Bill Sullivan, and Lindsay Willmann.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How do we "grow" what FCA is and does? How can we be a stronger intermediary or connector or facilitator between our residents and groups that serve Fairlington? How do we better tap the reservoir of skilled leaders who live in Fairlington? What activities would our residents like to see us offer? These are some of the questions the FCA Board will be grappling with in 2019.

Fairlington residents are served, at least informally, by a broad range of organizations that enrich life in our community. From the MOMS Club, to the Northern Virginia Master Gardeners, to several scouting organizations, to the PTAs that serve Abingdon Elementary, Kenmore Middle School, and Wakefield High School, these groups both provide services to Fairlingtonians and take advantage of the talent and energy of Fairlington residents to accomplish their work.

For many of these, FCA could be a natural ally in amplifying their work or strengthening their ties to the neighborhood. We need to make them part of the larger fabric of community that FCA seeks to foster. This year we will be developing an inventory of these groups and designating informal liaisons to many of them.

We need to expand the circle of people who are helping guide FCA activities. Fairlington is home to scores of leaders—at work, in outside groups, in formal programs. FCA will be seeking to capture some of their energy and vision.

We must strengthen ties to Park Shirlington and Shirlington House. Both apartment complexes are part of the geography that is served by FCA. The county expects us to represent their interests, along with the interests of the condo and homeowner association residents. We have to find better ways of connecting with those families and making sure they are part of community-wide conversations.

Finally, we need to determine the right mix of activities that we should sponsor that responds to the needs and interests of our diverse community.

We invite you to weigh in on these questions through an online survey. The survey will help FCA identify groups around the neighborhood that might welcome a more visible presence in Fairlington, and it will guide us in crafting the lineup of activities for this year. You can access it through the FCA website or through the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page.

We need your help as FCA crafts a larger vision for enriching life in Fairlington.

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



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Some restrictions apply. *Offer expires February 28, 2019. Presentation and tour with membership advisor required. Must be 18 years or older, local resident and first-time guest. ID required. Offer valid to non-members only. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

FCA asks Alexandria to consider safety improvements at two key intersections

Responding to resident requests, the FCA Board at its January meeting called on City of Alexandria staff to take another look at potential safety improvements at two key intersections at the boundary of Fairlington—the King St. and S. Wakefield intersection and the S. 36th St. and Quaker Ln. intersection.

At the King and Wakefield intersection, FCA has asked the city to remove the asphalt extension from the westbound lanes on King St. While there isn't a formal slip lane at that intersection, when there is a red light on King St., drivers behind the first car sometimes do not wait until they are at the crosswalk to make a right turn but instead use the asphalt extension to bypass the car queue.



The intersection at King St. and S. Wakefield St. Photo by Guy Land.

safety. FCA has received complaints about this safety issue from residents who live near the intersection.

At the 36th & Quaker Ln. intersection safety problems are caused by drivers on Quaker Ln. blocking the intersection, which prevents 36th St. drivers from crossing Quaker Ln. In addition the geometry of the intersection and the stopped traffic block the sightline of 36th St.



The January meeting of the FCA marked the first time that the new 2019 Executive Board worked together. Pictured front row, left to right: Lindsay Willmann, Vice-President; Ed Hilz, Treasurer; Guy Land, President; Rebecca Sayres, Secretary. Pictured back row, left to right: Jennifer Davies, Sam Wolbert, Kent Duffy, Sara Tuke Carr, Chris Weathers. Photo by Susan Renahan.

drivers, which prevents them from safely checking curb lane traffic.

Fairlington Glen residents in particular have expressed their desire to see the city make improvements to this intersection.

FCA is asking City of Alexandria staff to work with representatives from FCA, Fairlington Glen, and other interested condo associations on developing solutions to improve the safety of the 36th & Quaker Ln. intersection.

—Guy Land

FCA appoints representatives for local government activities

The newly installed FCA Board held its organizational meeting and work session January 9, selecting delegates to the Arlington and Alexandria civic federations and a county advisory committee.

Guy Land, Ed Hilz, Rebecca Sayres, and Jennifer Davies will serve as delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation, while Fairlington Villages board member Melanie Alvord will be FCA's delegate to the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations. FCA maintains an active membership in both groups, which represent civic associations on county and city matters.

Ed Hilz was chosen to be Fairlington's representative to the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) for another year, with Rebecca Sayres continuing to serve as the alternate representative. The NCAC recommends community projects to the county board for funding.

The FCA Board also appointed members to its internal bylaws and audit committees. It conducted a preliminary review of the FY19 budget, with final adoption to occur at the February board meeting.

—Guy Land



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Fairlington 5K Early Bird deadline fast approaching

Snow may be falling, but spring temperatures and the annual Fairlington 5K are right around the corner. In fact, registration for the sixth annual race is now open at www.Fairlington5K.com.

Come join over 600 of your neighbors and runners from across the region as we flood the streets of Fairlington on Saturday, April 27, for a good cause. Money raised goes to support medical research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute to help cure 10-year old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn. McGinn suffers from a rare neurogenetic condition known as Leukodystrophy-LBSL. The disease slowly robs children of their ability first to walk, then to stand, and then to coordinate all fine and gross motor skills. A portion of the proceeds also benefit reading and physical fitness programs at Fairlington's neighborhood elementary school, Abingdon Elementary, where McGinn is a fifth grader.



Ellie McGinn is a 5th grader at Abingdon Elementary.

This family-friendly event starts at 8:30 am near the school, crosses the I-395 overpass, winds past the South Fairlington Community Center, and then ends back at the school. There is also an optional "1K Walk & Fun Run" for families with small children. Dogs and strollers are always welcome.

Temporary road closures will be announced prior to the race so that residents can plan accordingly.

The cost of registration for adults is \$35 and includes a t-shirt. Children ages six to 16 can participate for just



Runners at the Fairlington 5K enjoyed a morning of exercise and camaraderie while also supporting a good cause. Photos by Guy Land.

\$20, and children ages five and under are free. Register before February 28 for an "early bird discount."

—Joe Reed

Preschool plans growth

The STEM preschool, located on S. Abingdon St., plans to expand by leasing additional space in the commercial buildings next to the fire station.

According to preschool executive director Portia Moore, the Sure Shot production company is leaving and the preschool has the opportunity to expand the preschool into their space. The additional space will enable the preschool to add a nursery, another class for one-year-olds, and a kindergarten.

"We have had many requests for infants/babies," says Moore, "and our wait list is long for the 1's class."

The expansion would add 40 additional children, bringing the total to 106.

The STEM preschool will be seeking a use permit from the county for the additional space. FCA supported the school's use permit requests in 2014 and 2015. The FCA Board will consider the latest expansion proposal at its February 13 meeting.

—Guy Land

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Your chance to become CERT certified

What is CERT? It stands for Community Emergency Response Team, and both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria sponsor CERT programs. CERT is composed of volunteer community members who are trained to save lives and reduce injuries in a major disaster when activated by the county or city. In less than major disaster situations, CERT-trained Good Samaritans save lives and reduce injuries wherever they are.



who are 18 years of age or older, or 16 or 17 if accompanied by a parent or guardian. For residents of the City of Alexandria, training is open to those who live or work in the city and who are 18 years of age or older. CERT training typically involves some lifting, carrying, and working on the floor. However, training is generally modified to use each person's abilities to the maximum. Applicants must pass a national criminal background check to be accepted.

Training is free and provided by Arlington County at its Fire Training Academy by instructors from the Arlington County Fire and Police Departments and in Alexandria training is sponsored by its Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management.



A fire fighter teaches splinting as part of CERT training. Photos courtesy Arlington County CERT program.

Generally, topics covered during CERT training can include, but are not limited to:

- Disaster/emergency preparedness
- Skills to identify, anticipate, and reduce hazards in the home and at work
- Extinguish small fires/fire suppression
- Assist emergency responders
- Conduct light search and rescue
- Basic medical care
- Utility shutoff
- Reduce survivor stress/disaster psychology

For Arlington residents, CERT training is open to all residents, and those who work full-time in the county,

Training sessions in both localities are normally held in the spring and fall.

For more information about the Arlington CERT program, please visit: <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/>. If you are interested in CERT program training, please email: CERTArlingtonVA@gmail.com

For more information about the City of Alexandria's CERT program, please visit: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/CERT>. If you are interested in CERT program training, please email: ray.whatley@alexandriava.gov.



CERT teachers volunteer community members how to respond in a crisis.

The CERT program is a national initiative; more information can be found here: <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>.

—Melanie Alvord

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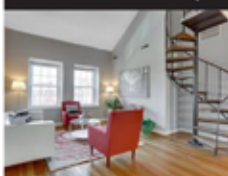
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Seeking Home & Garden Tour homes for spring 2019

The Fairlington Historical Society's (FHS) biennial Home & Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2019. This very popular event showcases the architecture, grounds, and unique homes in our community.

We are seeking nominations for tour locations. Since many who attend the tour are looking for renovation ideas, we are especially interested in including homes and gardens that have had major renovations. As in past years, we hope to include at least one home from each of the Fairlington neighborhoods, with examples of each floor plan type (Braddock, Clarendon, Edgewood, etc.).

The FHS is also inviting neighbors who can dedicate a little time to help with planning, advertising, fundraising, and ticket sales, as well as serving as guides and helpers on the day of the tour. If you would like to nominate a home or garden—or would like to volunteer—please contact Patty Clark (pclark620@gmail.com; 703-820-73280) or Terry Placek (placekterry11@gmail.com; 703-671-7550).

—Cindy Kunz

Wanted: partner organizations for community planning

In 2019, the FCA is looking for new ways to engage Fairlington residents. With a goal of continuing to sponsor popular neighborhood activities like Movie Night and the Home Renovation Showcase, the FCA Board will survey residents to identify groups in and around the neighborhood that would like to take a more active role in the Fairlington community.

Fairlington is fortunate to have thousands of active and engaged residents with a variety of backgrounds and expertise. Many hold memberships in local organizations that would be valuable partners in FCA's work to maintain the active and close-knit community that makes the neighborhood such a unique and enjoyable place to live.

Groups serving both children and adults are welcome, as FCA searches for partners in planning future activities and events that serve Fairlington residents. A link to the survey will be posted to the Fairlington Appreciation Society page and the FCA website in February, with the goal of compiling a list of possible partner organizations based on the results.

—Lindsay Willmann

Fitness gets an upgrade



Work continues on the improvements at the Fairlington Community Center. Pictured here, contractors prepare to install new fitness equipment at the FCC field. Photo by Guy Land.

Monique O'Grady to address FCA on issues facing Arlington schools



Arlington School Board Member Monique O'Grady will be the guest speaker for the March FCA meeting. She will address a number of topics currently facing the Arlington School Board including elementary school boundaries. The March meeting of the FCA will be held on March 13 at 7 pm at the FCC.

Monique O'Grady is a long-time Arlington resident, a former television news reporter, and a member of the Arlington County School Board. She will be the guest speaker at the FCA meeting on March 13. Photo courtesy Arlington County.



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South Walter Reed Drive improvements continue into 2019

Starting in October of last year, construction began on a section of South Walter Reed Dr. between Arlington Mill Dr. and Four Mile Run Dr. This section of Walter Reed Dr. connects two of the County's busiest multi-use trails (Washington & Old Dominion and Four Mile Run) and is a major access point to the Shirlington area. The county is currently constructing a project to improve this short but critical segment of Walter Reed Dr. and encourage more bicycle and pedestrian trips, improve access to Shirlington and better support county service vehicles that rely on this connection. Construction will continue through summer 2019.



Construction along South Walter Reed Drive. Photo by Susan Renehan.

As of January 2019, crews were nearing completion of the first phase of construction. Work continues on the west side of Walter Reed Dr. between Four Mile Run Dr. and Arlington Mill Dr. During this phase, one of the southbound lanes for Walter Reed Dr. is closed during normal construction hours (9 am to 4 pm), and the west-side sidewalk is closed. The W&OD Trail and Four Mile Run Trail will remain open; pedestrians and cyclists should follow signed detours. Detour routes will be marked to direct pedestrians and cyclists safely around the work zone.

The second phase of construction is expected to begin in mid-February, weather permitting. During this phase the western sidewalk on Walter Reed Dr. will be open and the eastern sidewalk will be closed on Walter Reed Dr. between Arlington Mill Dr. and Four Mile Run Dr.

Once completed, the project will include a number of noticeable improvements including:

- New crosswalks and curb ramps, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at both intersections;
- ADA-compliant bus stops;
- Two multi-use trails, 10-feet wide and two-directional on each side of Walter Reed Dr.;
- A utility/buffer strip between the trails and vehicle

lanes (similar to Joyce Street trail near I-395);

- Restriping automobile travel and turn lanes to be 11.5-feet wide at outside lanes, 10-feet at interior lane and 11-feet wide at turning lane (existing travel lanes are all 10-feet wide);
- Complete technology upgrades at the Walter Reed Dr./Four Mile Run Dr. and Walter Reed Dr./Arlington Mill Dr. intersections, including new traffic signals, pedestrian signals, lights,

LED signage, etc.;

- Realign westbound Arlington Mill Dr. to one left turn and one right turn lane in order to improve crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians;
- Improve slip lane crossing at Walter Reed Dr./Arlington Mill Dr. intersection;
- Slip lane improvements;
- Larger island with plantings and ADA-compliant curb ramps;
- Raised crosswalk between Four Mile Run Trail and island;
- Realign Four Mile Run Trail's approach of crossing to improve visibility to and from trail users and crosswalk;
- Install appropriate signal/signage technologies to better support crosswalk users including a group of signs, rather than just one sign, to emphasize the crossing;
- Pedestrian and bicycle way-finding signage (to be installed by the County's Trail Wayfinding Project);
- Street lighting, both sides of Walter Reed Dr.;
- Landscaping.

More updates will be available as the county continues to provide information on the progress of this project.

—Courtesy Arlington County Transportation Division

SPRING MARKET STARTS NOW

Considering selling in 2019? The spring market is approaching, and with low interest rates and low inventory the buyers will be out in full force! The Amazon HQ2 announcement has buyers and investors motivated to buy now. Call me today to discuss how this impacts you if you're ready to sell this year or not.

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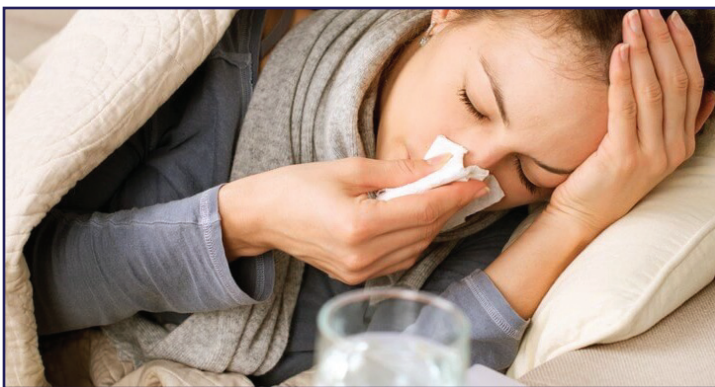


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Paint Build Create

On Saturday, January 12, children and their parents enjoyed a wide variety of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activities as part of "Paint Build Create." Some of the activities featured this year included bubble painting, mirror boxes, kaleidoscopes, kinetic sand, cup and string telephones, simple

levers, and slime creation. This free event, sponsored by Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, was held at the Fairlington Community Center and was open to children of all ages and ability levels. *Photos by Guy Land.*



Laura Barragan (pictured left), the Special Events Coordinator for the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation and Jenn Davies, FCA Director.



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Fairlington explores walk zone possibility

During the fall 2018 Arlington Public Schools (APS) elementary boundary process, several changes to Abingdon Elementary's attendance boundary were proposed, including maps that would have moved all of South Fairlington to Drew Model Elementary School for the 2019–2020 school year. While these proposed maps were ultimately turned down, there will be another elementary school boundary process in 2020 that will result in new boundaries for Abingdon Elementary and surrounding elementary schools.

As it currently stands, North Fairlington is located in Abingdon's school walk zone, which means students who live in North Fairlington do not receive bus transportation to school. Per APS's boundary policy considerations, residents located within a school walk zone to their neighborhood school have not been considered for rezoning in past boundary processes.

Currently, South Fairlington has two assigned school buses that serve students; while many students in South Fairlington do walk, bike or scoot to school, it is not considered a designated walk zone. Many Abingdon parents in South Fairlington are advocating that APS reconsider partial or full walk zone status for South



Despite the chilly temperatures, many Abingdon students cross the bridge from South Fairlington in order to walk to school even during the winter months. Photo courtesy Fairlington United Twitter feed.

Fairlington. Parents have cited factors such as close proximity to Abingdon (residents are all within approximately one mile), contiguous sidewalks, no traffic lights, crosswalks, an easily accessible bridge, and two posted crossing guards. Any expansion of the school walk zone would result in a corresponding reduction in school bus service. Without any changes to the school walk zone, it is assumed that South Fairlington will continue to be eligible for rezoning in 2020.

In December, Abingdon parents met with Kristin Haldeman, APS Director of Multimodal Transportation Planning, and Lauren Hassel, APS Safe Routes to School Coordinator, to learn more about how APS Transportation makes decisions about school community walkability and safety. Haldeman and Hassel shared several exciting ideas to promote walkability, including “walking school buses,” incentivizing walking with friendly competition, and developing a system to encourage carpooling. APS Transportation has expressed interest in improving walk safety and discouraging single-car ridership.

This spring, Fairlington families who support walkability initiatives hope to work with APS Transportation staff and the community as they make transportation decisions regarding the 2019–2020 school year. If you would like to be part of the conversation you may email fairlingtonwalks@gmail.com.

—Sara Tuke Carr

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improvements to Route 1, a pedestrian bridge from Crystal City to Reagan National Airport, and a transitway expansion supporting Pentagon City, Crystal City, and Potomac Yard.

According to county officials, Arlington's direct financial incentive to Amazon is an annual pay-for-performance grant tied to the company meeting 6 million square feet in office occupancy over 15 years. The incentive has a value of approximately \$23 million. The incentive funding comes from a percentage of the new incremental revenue generated by the County's Transient Occupancy Tax, which is a tax paid by tourists and business travelers on hotel rooms or other paid lodging.

Another major component of the overall package is funding to create a Virginia Tech Innovation Campus near the Amazon headquarters. The campus will house master's and doctoral level programs that dovetail with the tech industry's most pressing demands. The campus will build on the growing innovation economy in Alexandria and Arlington.

In the weeks since the Amazon announcement, county residents have asked questions about the project's impact on taxes, transportation challenges, housing

costs, and school impacts, as well as how major aspects of the project will fit within the county's regular real estate development process. Staff members are expected to address these general topics during the briefing.

—Guy Land

New editor at All Fairlington Bulletin



Susan Renehan is the new Editor of the All Fairlington Bulletin. Photo by Guy Land.

Starting with the February issue, Susan Renehan is the new Editor of the *Bulletin*. A resident of Fairlington for the past nine years, Renehan has been very active in the community. Renehan and her family are regulars at a number of annual Fairlington events including the Fairlington 5K.


Renehan replaces long-time *Bulletin* contributor and Editor Christine Chirichella.

Chirichella will remain in her role as Webmaster of the FCA website as well as assisting with e-mail and social media. FCA appreciates Christine's work on the newsletter over many years.

—Susan Renehan


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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In January, our visit to Hank's Oyster Bar didn't occur for a variety of reasons, so we'll plan to go there in February instead. We'll follow with a visit to Clyde's on Trivia Night. Perhaps we can do better than our sound defeat at Beckett's several years ago!

Monday, February 4, 6 pm, Hank's Oyster Bar, 1026 King St., Alexandria, 703-739-4265, www.hanksoysterbar.com. This earlier-than-usual start time will enable us to order oysters at a happy hour price which ends at 6:30 pm. In May 2005, the first Hank's Oyster Bar opened at Dupont Circle and began serving what was termed "Urban Beach Food." In 2007, the second Hank's Oyster Bar on King Street in Old Town opened. Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 pm on Sunday, February 3. 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.

Monday, February 18, 6:30 pm, Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, 703-820-8300, www.clydes.com. This is a local favorite, nearby with easy parking. We'll go on their Trivia Night, which starts at 7 pm. The crab cakes are a favorite with a number of the regular diners, as are the hamburgers. Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 no later than 6 pm on Sunday, February 17.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the month preceding the event, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in February as we discuss *The Shell Seekers* by Rosamunde Pilcher.

"An instant bestseller when it was first published, *The Shell Seekers* is an enduring classic which has touched the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. A novel of connection, it is the story of one family—mothers and daughters, husbands and lovers—and of the passions

and heartbreak that have held them together for three generations." —Amazon.com.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Canasta Group Doubles the Fun

Our local Canasta group has multiplied the cards, the luck, and the fun. We are now playing "Hand and Foot," a Canasta-type card game played coast to coast. If playing your hand was fun, there may be wild cards waiting in your foot! Join this local group, which plays Tuesday mornings at a church hall near Fairlington. Having card-sense is helpful, but we're happy to teach you the rules of this game. Call Carol Ann 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Email fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to join.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.

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Abingdon Read-A-Thon gets underway soon!



In February, students will use their love of reading to raise money for the Abingdon PTA. Photos courtesy @AbingdonPTA Twitter feed.

From February 4-15, Abingdon students of all ages will take part in the third annual Read-A-Thon, under the theme "Abingdon Loves Reading." The Read-A-Thon is designed to build excitement around reading and encourage students to spend time enjoying books. Students will read at school and at home and log their hours on their individually-tailored on-line pages. Classes that log the most time reading will win prizes, including gift cards the teachers can use to stock their classrooms.

Abingdon Calendar

Read-A-Thon

February 4-15

Early Release

February 13

President's Day Holiday (no school)

February 18

Abingdon Movie Night

February 22

Help Support Student Reading!

The Read-A-Thon also serves as a major fundraiser for the Abingdon PTA. Proceeds will help fund PTA activities throughout the year. The PTA provides significant support to Abingdon students and staff, including funding professional development opportunities for teachers, organizing appreciation events for school staff, hosting community-building activities such as school dances, and assisting families in need with food, winter coats, and other essentials.



For the Read-A-Thon students will log time spent reading both at home and at school.

Local businesses are encouraged to sponsor the Read-A-Thon. For as little as \$250, your business ad will appear on every individual reader's page, every class donation page, and the general Abingdon donation page. Abingdon readers, families, and their friends will learn more about you and your business and know you support their read-

ing project. To sponsor the event, just go to <https://www.read-a-thon.com/donate/> and enter 19270. In addition, individual community members are invited to support the Read-A-Thon by making donations, either directly to Abingdon students they know personally or through the general link at <https://www.read-a-thon.com/school/individual>. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to Abingdon's Teacher and Support Staff of the Year!



Abingdon Support Employee and Teacher of the Year, Clare McLean and Jordan Kivitz. Photo from Abingdon Twitter Feed @AbingdonGIFT.

Hearty Congratulations to Abingdon Teacher of the Year, science teacher Jordan Kivitz and Support Employee of the Year Clare McLean. Mr. Kivitz and Ms. McLean were selected by their colleagues for this honor. The next step is consideration for Arlington County teacher and support employee of the year. Good luck Mr. Kivitz and Ms. McLean!!

—Carrie Lewis

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Making these common mistakes in your patio garden?

Since we're still a good month away from designing and planting, February is timely to consider general plant health. There are too many diseases to examine them all. Many manifest depending on climate, geographic location and genus. But we can look at the basics—guidelines that apply to the plantings in Fairlington patio gardens.

Overwatering: This is a problem with some landscapes I encounter outside Fairlington. Either the system irrigates excessively or doesn't adhere to the timer, leaving puddles of water in mulched beds and lawns. Plants don't need "wet feet." Root systems can take in only so much water so flooding chokes the root zone. Yes, more frequent watering is needed in our brutally hot summers but never so much as when water pools.

Lack of Watering: If you travel from May through September, it's smart to have someone water your plants. Due to our excessive heat and humidity, water evaporates from the soil and transpires from the leaves at a higher rate when heat indexes approach/exceed 100 degrees. All that's needed is to aim the hose (with a good water stream) around the base of a plant for 10 seconds.

Location Matters with Plants, Too: Be sure to plant sun-loving plants in direct sunlight. And if you have a shade specimen, it needs to be planted where sunlight is absent. Not following this rule results in a specimen's poor health or death. If you have a tree in your patio (or



Weeds are not just unsightly but an invasive enemy to patio gardens. Photo courtesy Pixabay.

there is a large tree outside your patio fence), this creates deep shade. So any plants beneath this canopy should not "need" full sun. If you have a tree inside your patio, its branches (when mature) may block sunlight coming through your windows. Those tree branches also will grow over the fence and into your neighbor's patio—never wise since we share side fences.

Space is Needed: Every plant has a root system and those roots need space to extend in the soil. These roots take in water so if plants are situated too closely together, their root systems will compete for water—not smart in our hot summers.

Mulch Modestly: Mulch keeps root zones warm in winter and cool in summer but excessive amounts are unnecessary. Mulch piled high pro-

hibits water from reaching the soil and leaching down to plant roots. When piles of mulch become wet after a rainstorm, mildew, mold, and odor will occur.

Wind: Patio fences block lateral wind but wind still swirls inside the fences. High or constant winds dry out soil, which robs a root zone of its moisture. So if wind is a factor inside your patio (or your patio faces West), know that your plants may need a boost in irrigation.

Root Balls: These should be aerated. You can do this with a screwdriver or a spade fork. And if the very bottom of the ball is hard, just cut off the bottom two inches until the roots dangle from the soil. This allows the roots to breathe (take in water from the ground). And know that the root ball should not be buried too deep or too shallow. Just have the top inch or two of the ball sitting above ground level.

Weed Control: We hear a lot about "invasive" plants. Weeds are invasive enemy No. 1. The roots of weeds depend on water and "steal" it from plant roots. And if weeds are out of control, they grow around plant branches, blocking sunlight. Plus, it's unsightly to see weeds "strangling" plant branches. Never allow weeds to grow into the a/c compressor. Those perforations in the units are there for a reason—air flow.

—Bill Sullivan
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A color version of this newsletter is available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

Thanks to our great customers we have reached our 40th anniversary! We are family owned and operated. Your neighbor is our best reference. Call for a free estimate and detailed explanation of our service. A.V. Sison 703-820-8635.

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable and experienced. Good references. Flexible scheduling. Reasonable rates. We are licensed, insured, and employees covered through Worker's Comp. We bring our own equipment. Weekly, biweekly, monthly, occasionally, one-time, move in/out, offices. For free in-home estimate, call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

Pet Services

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC. Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call/text 703-629-1970.

HOME ALONE FELINES. Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services. homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504; www.hafr.org


HEATHER'S HOUNDS LLC.

Professional Dog Walking and Pet Sitting. Fairlington based. Contact Heather Fogleman. Call or text: 703-508-1492 Email: heathershoundsva@gmail.com

Fairlington ornaments still available



Contact Rebecca Sayres at rebecca@fca-fairlington.org.

 Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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

The Area's Best Property Management Company



Family Owned & Operated since 1984

 **ARLINGTON REALTY**
Family Owned Since 1984 • Serving VA, MD & DC

Contact us today!

703.836.6116

aaronseekford@gmail.com

30% Discount on Tax Preparation

We can prepare your Federal & State income taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for 25 years.



Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information. Call today to schedule an appointment and get a **FREE** Retirement check-up!

Charles Coker, CPA 703.931.3290
charles.coker@cpa-coker.com

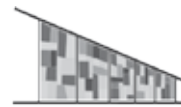
 **CHRIST THE KING**
THAT CHRIST BE KING IN OUR LIVES AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS



Worshiping Christ the King

Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

1801 North Quaker Lane • CTKAlexandria.org



LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

Long & Foster Falls Church/Arlington Sales Office
6299 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22044
Office: 703.543-9660



Listed for Rent \$1,475/month

4906 B-2 29th Road South
Arlington, VA 22206
1BR/ 1BA

Britt Grouby 703-409-0486



Listed for Sale \$219,000

5101 8th Road S Unit #8
Arlington, VA 22204
3BR/ 2BA

Karen Freije 703-402-6133



Listed for Rent \$1,920/month

2869 S Buchanan St. Unit #C1
Arlington, VA 22206
1BR/ 1BA

Barbara Kirkland 703-405-5920



Listed for Rent \$4,350/month

4336 N Henderson Road
Arlington, VA 22203
4BR/ 2.5BA

Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



Listed for Rent 2,400/month

4720 29th St. South
Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/ 2BA

Timi Obikoya 571-970-8172



Listed for Rent \$2,450/month

3506 Wakefield St. South
Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/ 2BA

Bud Wood 703-599-6482



Listed for Rent \$2,300/month

5500 Holmes Run Parkway Unit #1404
Alexandria, VA 22304
2BR/ 2BA

Samantha Xiao 571-277-9426



Listed for Rent \$2,300/month

4800 28th Street S. Unit #E
Arlington VA 22206
2BR/ 2BA

Barbara Kirkland 703-405-5920



Listed for Rent \$2,200/month

2873 Abingdon Street Unit #A-2
Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/ 2BA

Sandra Graves 703-577-5633