

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2021

Volume 47, Number 2

County COVID-19 vaccine distribution expands eligibility

Inside this month

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Arlington County is now in Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution for COVID-19. Eligibility now extends to all seniors aged 65 and older, frontline essential workers, and persons aged 16–64 years with certain conditions or disabilities. Distribution is being coordinated with Arlington County's Department of Health, Virginia Hospital Center, healthcare providers, and pharmacies. Eligible residents are asked to pre-register to start the appointment process.

Several Fairlingtonians have already received both vaccines. They were eligible because they fall under the CDC's phase 1a category: healthcare personnel. This includes Fairlington Arbor resident Betty Young. Betty works at a local hospital as a physical therapist and sees patients being treated for Covid. She received her first vaccine at the end of December and her second one in early January.

"Getting the vaccine filled me with hope, and I think it's our best bet for moving forward," she said. "It can save your life, but it can also help save the lives of your neighbors. I look forward to when everyone who is eligible can be vaccinated."

Chiropractor Dr. Edward Beck, a Meadows resident, also received the vaccine. Seeing upwards of 100 patients weekly, he recognized the need to be protected. "Our entire office staff is grateful to have received the vaccine in a timely manner. The process at Arlington County's Syphax Center was smooth and efficient."

Now, in Phase 1b, teachers and childcare workers are eligible to receive vaccines. Abingdon 5th grade teacher and Meadows resident Kerry Abbott is looking forward to getting vaccinated so she can return to work in the classroom safely. "Getting the vaccine is an important step in having us return to in-person learning. I miss seeing my students and colleagues."

Dr. Reuben Varghese is Arlington County's Public Health Director and serves as a member of the Vaccine Advisory Working Group for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Varghese released a video on why he made the personal decision



Betty Young, a healthcare worker, was among the first Fairlington residents to receive both shots of the coronavirus vaccine. Photo courtesy Betty Young.

Continued on page 21

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. Due to COVID, meetings are being held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

FCA monthly meeting February 10

The FCA board will hold a work session. There will be no special presentation.

Regular board business:

- Approval of January 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 Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:
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Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to the Advertising Manager at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page 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

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Calendar

Fairlington Knits

Monday, February 1, 6:30-7:30 pm
See page 25 for details

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 7 pm
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 15
FCC closed

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, February 20, 4 pm
See page 25 for details

Book Group

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 pm
See page 25 for details

February is Black History Month



See page 9 for an eyewitness account of Civil Rights era Fairlington. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Leslie Cameron, Jennifer Davies, Bob Gronenberg, Guy Land, Andrew Raab, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fire station 7 on S. Abingdon St. has been shuttered for over two years, but Arlington County is hoping to consider the reuse of the site later this spring.

The county expects to engage the community in that process.

The impacts of COVID-19 sidetracked discussion of the station's future last year. Because of a significant decline in revenues, the county put on hold most items in the multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including station 7. The tight budget environment also resulted in staffing shortages, which limited the capacity of staff to focus on non-priority items.

County staff expect to revisit the gameplan for the station once the board has adopted the budget for next year, work has begun on an updated CIP, and the county has a better sense of the longer-term impact of COVID on county finances.

The station was closed in October 2018 when a preliminary engineering evaluation revealed that the engine bay floor was structurally insufficient to safely support modern-day fire equipment. Part of the living quarters for the fire fighters was located below the apparatus bay.

A more extensive engineering study confirmed the structural weaknesses and noted that a variety of significant, and expensive, steps would be required to make the station both structurally sound and compliant with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Informal estimates suggested the cost would run in the millions of dollars.

Faced with these substantial cost estimates to maintain a station that no longer met county preferred-size requirements, the county chose to permanently close the station.

Built in the 1940s, station 7 was the county's only one-bay station where the apparatus bay is located above a lower level. The weight of the fire engines housed at the station had roughly doubled since the station was built, including an approximately 60 percent increase in weight since the last major renovation in 1983.

With the closure of the station, coverage of Fairlington shifted to station 9, just up the hill on Walter Reed Dr. The crew of station 9 have continued station 7's tradition of being engaged with the community, including participating in our Fourth of July celebration and escorting Santa through Fairlington.

FCA will work with the county to make sure our residents can weigh in on possible uses of the site. We welcome your suggestions.

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

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

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

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Major redevelopment planned for former Landmark Mall site

A mixed-use, walkable urban village, anchored by an Inova medical campus, would be built on the site of the former Landmark Mall under a proposal announced in late December by the City of Alexandria, Inova Health System, and a development joint venture. City leaders say the proposal would revitalize Alexandria's West End.



Conceptual drawing of the proposed Landmark redevelopment. Graphic courtesy Inova Health System.

In addition to a new and expanded Inova Alexandria Hospital, which would replace the current hospital, the plan includes residential, retail, commercial, and entertainment offerings integrated into a cohesive neighborhood with a central plaza, a network of parks and public spaces, a new fire-EMS station, and a transit hub serving bus rapid transit, DASH, and Metrobus.

Affordable and workforce housing would be enhanced through developer contributions and co-location with community facilities.

Construction at Landmark could begin as soon as 2023, with the first buildings delivered in 2025.

Inova, the leading nonprofit health care provider in Northern Virginia, would invest \$1 billion to create the new medical campus. Inova intends to work with the community to request that the city rezone the current Inova Alexandria Hospital site on Seminary Rd. to permit a variety of residential uses, which would facilitate the sale of the property in advance of the relocation to the Landmark site.

The 52-acre Landmark site is one of the most desirable large-scale underdeveloped sites remaining within the Capital Beltway. For years, the site was under consideration for development by its owners, which include the Howard Hughes Corporation, because the mall, like many malls, suffered a decline in customers. The Macy's store, which had been a key anchor, closed in 2017.

According to a press release, the Landmark site would allow Inova Alexandria Hospital to enhance patient-centered programs and services through a larger emer-

gency room; additional private patient rooms; and the Inova Schar Cancer Institute at Alexandria Hospital, which would offer full cancer services, including radiation and infusion. The hospital would be one of only three Level II trauma centers in Northern Virginia. The addition of a medical office building would enable an estimated 50 specialty physicians to see patients on the same campus as the new hospital.

The plan envisions a minimum of 3.5 acres of public park space across the site, including a central park. The central open space would serve as a gathering area for neighbors within the redeveloped Landmark site as well as communities throughout the West End and beyond.

Alexandria's West End borders North and South Fairlington. In its heyday Landmark was a frequent destination of Fairlingtonians.

The proposal includes the use of \$54 million in public bond financing to allow the city to acquire the land for the hospital and lease it to Inova, as well as \$76 million in public bond financing for site preparation and infrastructure at the Landmark site and adjacent Duke St. and Van Dorn St. corridors.

These investments are expected to generate \$778 million in city tax revenue over the 30-year life of the bonds, which will cover the principal and interest on the bonds as well as contribute to public safety, schools, human services, transportation, environmental protection, and other expenditures in the city's general fund.

Two preliminary virtual community information meetings were held in January to begin discussions with the community, provide an overview of each project, and answer general questions. Additional community engagement sessions are expected later in the spring. FCA will examine options for a briefing by city staff for Fairlington.

—Guy Land

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GAO recommends coordination to address helicopter noise

Following a year-long study, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has released a report on helicopter noise in the Washington, D.C. area. Their recommendation is that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) develop a mechanism to exchange helicopter noise information with helicopter operators in the D.C. area. FAA agreed.

Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) was one of ten community organizations the agency interviewed in conducting the study. FCA President Guy Land and Treasurer Ed Hilz shared anecdotal information with investigators about the disruption that Fairlington residents experience because of frequent flights over the neighborhood. Hilz has coordinated Fairlington helicopter complaints for a number of years.

GAO noted that a major helicopter route parallels I-395.

The study found that due to limited sharing of information, the FAA and helicopter operators each lack key information that would help them more fully respond to helicopter noise concerns in the D.C. area.

According to GAO, the FAA has not communicated with operators about helicopter noise or forwarded complaints from the public to them. Similarly, helicopter operators often receive noise complaints from the public—and some of these complaints are not directed to the correct operator—but they do not typically share these complaints with the FAA or with other operators.

“By developing a mechanism to share helicopter noise information,” GAO concluded, “FAA and helicopter operators would be better positioned to consistently identify, track, and respond to individual noise concerns made by residents. Moreover, such a mechanism would help provide FAA with a broader understanding of the extent of helicopter noise in the D.C. area and help determine what, if any, additional actions are needed to address helicopter noise.”

Although Fairlington residents have reported an apparent increase in the volume of helicopter traffic over the



A helicopter flies through Fairlington during a vibrant winter sunset. Photo by Jason Rosenthal.

neighborhood in recent years, FAA data indicate the number of annual flights in the D.C. area actually decreased slightly from about 31,000 in 2017 to 29,000 in 2019.

The GAO report notes that the airspace in the D.C. area is complex, with a number of restrictions prompted by national security concerns as well as separating commercial air traffic from helicopter flights. Where helicopter routes overlap with commercial passenger airplanes, helicopters may fly as low as 200 feet above mean sea level. Elsewhere, the helicopter route structure generally establishes

maximum altitudes between 1000 and 1300 feet above mean sea level throughout most of the D.C. area.

The study found that military operators had the greatest share of helicopter flights (37 percent), followed by air medical (21 percent). Other major types of flights included tourism and chartered flights, law enforcement, and news reporting.

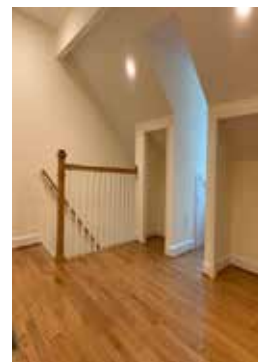
In September 2020, the FAA deployed an online noise portal that prompts a complainant to provide the details to address the complaints, including contact information, street address, and time of incident.

The GAO report can be found at <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-200>.

—Guy Land

Exercise equipment is for adults only

The Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation reminds residents that the exercise equipment at the southwest corner of the field at the Fairlington Community Center is for adults only. A playground for kids, which was completely renovated two years ago, is at the other end of the field.



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Remembering Civil Rights era Fairlington

Rob Shostak has a clear memory of pulling his little red wagon down the sidewalk helping his family move from their apartment on Abingdon St. to a new apartment on S. Buchanan St. It was 1952, and Fairlington was a garden apartment community consisting of modest units sporting a tiny kitchen, a single bathroom, and basements (for the ground floor units) that were divided into a private area and a common area for washing machines and dryers.

Shostak lived in Fairlington from birth, in 1948, until he went off to Harvard University, where he would earn both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. It had much of the same charm that exists today, with one ignoble exception—the only people of color in the neighborhood were the hired help who actually lived elsewhere.



Demonstrators march to end segregated housing along S. 31 St. in front of the Fairlington rental office in 1963. The protest drew a number of onlookers. Photos by Rob Shostak.

"I remember my first interaction with black kids," said Shostak. "It was 1958 and my mother had signed us up for swimming lessons at East Potomac Park. I remember thinking how strange it was to see other kids with a different skin color."

Most of Shostak's education was in segregated schools: at Abingdon Elementary School, then Gunston Middle School (where he met his future wife), until he arrived at Wakefield High School, which desegregated as he started classes in the fall of 1963.

"Most of us were fairly oblivious to the significance of the cultural changes in progress at the time," he said. "Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech had just been delivered on the Mall a few weeks before the beginning of our freshman year."

Even though black students attended Wakefield at the time he was there, Shostak's interaction with them was limited, as classes were "tracked," i.e., separated into



levels on the basis of presumed academic ability. The higher levels were mostly occupied by white students, while the black students who had matriculated into Wakefield from lower-performing segregated schools were tracked into the lower level.

He contacted the *All Fairlington Bulletin* after discovering a few old photographs of a Civil Rights demonstration he had taken in front of the Fairlington Rental Office on 31st St. in the spring of 1963.



While he has few memories of his own teenage political ideas, he does remember his family's staunch support of the Civil Rights movement, a very polarizing political issue in 1960s Fairlington (and Virginia in general). Shostak's mother was a voter registrar at the time and was therefore in charge of collecting the state poll tax, the \$1 voting fee that had been imposed as a means of voter suppression. Knowing that the tax was discriminatory, she would pay the fee for black voters out of the family pocket. However, it was only during the riots of the mid-60's, such as the Watts riot of summer, 1965, that Shostak fully realized the intensity of the deep-rooted social inequality that prevailed at that time.

Continued on page 23



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Great Harvest Bread Company builds community during COVID-19

Long-time Fairlington residents Brad and Megan Hurst are coming up on their seventh anniversary of owning a franchise of the Great Harvest Bread Company, located off of Quaker Lane in Alexandria.

In addition to the variety of breads, muffins, and cookies that their loyal customer base enjoys, the Hursts are active in serving the local community in a variety of ways.

When the COVID pandemic began and many grocery stores suffered shortages of bread, Great Harvest donated more than 10,000 loaves to various organizations in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Currently, a \$5 donation to the store buys two loaves of bread for families in need. This past May, Great Harvest Bread provided 100 healthy plant-based meals to families of Abingdon Elementary School.

The store also has a history of on-site programs for the



Megan Hurst helps prepare COVID relief food boxes outside her store, with help from Fairlington resident Deborah Staren-Doby. Photo by Guy Land.

community, including bread making classes for adults and tours for student groups (such as Girl Scout troops and local elementary students). To continue these community initiatives while maintaining social distancing regulations, Megan recently held a virtual tour on bread making for a local Girl Scout troop.

In the coming months, Brad and Megan plan on bringing back a local bluegrass band to perform in front of the store for customers.

This group was part of Great Harvest Bread Company's 25th Anniversary celebration in 2018.

Megan said the best part of owning a Great Harvest Bread Company store is "the personal relationships built up with our neighbors."

—Andrew Raab

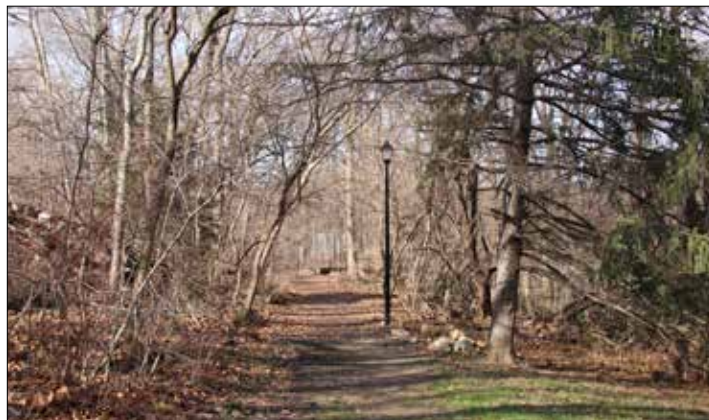
County gives briefing on Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

A new Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) in Arlington County is in the works for 2021 into May of 2022, according to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

David Farner, Deputy Division Chief for Parks and Natural Resources, and Jerry Solomon, Community Engagement Manager, presented to the virtual Fairlington Citizens Association board meeting on Wednesday, January 13, discussing the plan timeline and opportunities for residents to offer suggestions and feedback.

The FNRP is a sub-element of the 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan, which identifies the major public-space needs of the community. The project launched in the fall of 2020 and is currently in the visioning and information gathering phase.

Key topics of the proposed plan include invasive plant management, tree canopy percentage, and habitat conservation on both public and private property throughout the county.



The Commons "woods" offers an opportunity for a partnership with Arlington County in enhancing the county's forestry resources. Photo by Guy Land.

Fairlington Commons resident Joann Mills asked the county representatives for support maintaining Fairlington's natural areas.

Continued on page 13

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For the love of nature, what is a snag?

One of the many features that make Fairlington a great place to live is the wonderful trees that adorn our neighborhood. These trees not only provide aesthetic and climatic benefits to us but also serve an important ecological function for the wildlife that share our community.



A dying tree in the Commons was only partially cut down to provide a snag. The double trunk forms a perfect V for victory and a lovely addition to the ecosystem. Photo by Tina Byrd.

When a tree dies in Fairlington, our first thought is usually to have that tree removed and replaced because we deem it to be unsightly or lacking any obvious value. What most of us do not realize, however, is that dead trees can provide as much habitat for wildlife as living ones.

Standing, dead trees, known as snags, are nature's apartment complexes and grocery stores. They are home to nesting birds and roosting bats and provide denning sites for mammals, reptiles and amphibians. More than 80 North American bird species nest in snags, including many found in Fairlington, such as woodpeckers, chickadees

and Carolina wrens. Insects proliferate in slowly-decomposing snags, making them an important source of food for birds, the majority of which rely on insects as an essential component of their diets.

Blue jays, squirrels, and other species of local wildlife also use snags to store gathered food.

Woodpeckers have an especially important relationship to snags. Their strong, pointed beaks drill holes that provide habitat, not just for themselves, but also for secondary nesters who would otherwise have nowhere to raise their young.

Snags are an essential element of healthy forests but can also play a critical role in supporting wildlife in urban and suburban settings. As climate change and land-use change accelerate biodiversity loss, communities like ours can step up to help create a more hospitable environment for species that in time may become threatened or endangered. One way to do that is by keeping dead and dying trees in the ground. In Fairlington, the Commons and

Fairlington Villages have snags in areas both visible from the street and off the beaten path.

Tall, dead trees are clearly a no-go in places where they could fall on buildings, people or property. Fortunately, trees located downhill and away from structures and foot traffic pose little risk and can be trimmed down to six feet in height. There are several areas across Fairlington that meet these criteria and could easily support one or more snags.

Many of us in the neighborhood enjoy feeding and observing the myriad bird species that call Fairlington home. Let us go one step further by helping to preserve the essential habitat that these animals depend on. On your next walk around Fairlington, take a moment to appreciate the tremendous value of the trees around you, both living and dead.

—Leslie Cameron

County briefing from page 11

"Our forest areas are badly overrun by English Ivy," she said. "One of our primary concerns is invasives, not only on our property but also on the county properties. Both the Utah park and Fairlington Community Center have invasives that are coming on to our property. We are very interested in working with the county and we would like to improve private forests in this plan."

She also requested help from the county in watering trees, mentioning that only a handful of volunteers have undertaken the responsibility for dozens of trees.

Fairlington, both at the individual and homeowners association level, has a history of high engagement and cooperation with the county both in the tree canopy program and the stormwater wise program, both of which work to conserve the local environment and natural resources.

The county representatives assured listeners that they would have ample opportunity to participate in, and offer suggestions on, the plan and its management of private property areas.

Another large focus of the plan will be to maintain the balance between land for recreational use versus natural space.

For regular updates on plan initiatives, visit <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/natural-resources-management-plan/>.

—Regina Bethencourt



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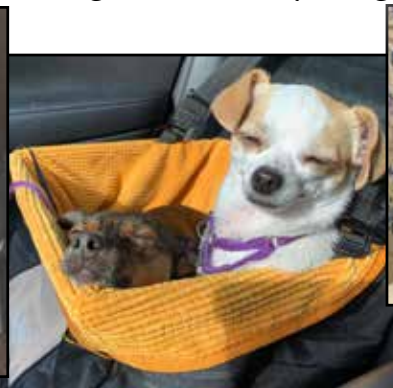
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Another Pandemic Impact: Social Isolation



As the pandemic enters its eleventh month, almost everyone is feeling the strain, whether they are students, professionals, or retired seniors. Fairlington families are struggling to balance their children's virtual learning while

while working, either from

home or outside the home. Others in our community have faced financial hardships, particularly those in the service sector.

Of particular concern is the nearly half (49.8 percent) of Arlington's older adults who live alone, increasing the risk of social isolation, loneliness, and limited access to support—conditions exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

CDC guidelines ask seniors living alone to take additional precautions when leaving the house as they are considered high risk, which can add to stress.

Rachel Coates, Bureau Chief for Arlington County Aging and Disability Services Division, commented, "The pandemic has reaffirmed our need for connection."

Arlington County's Senior Adult Mental Health program manager, Harry Ayling, shared that for many older people, converting to tele-therapy (virtual or telephone mental help support and/or therapy sessions) has been challenging for a myriad of reasons. Tele-therapy may trigger feelings of distance, intensify feelings of depression and/or anxiety, and worsen symptoms because of the universal triggers imposed by the pandemic: *lack of control and unpredictability*.

Ayling commented, "We also know that many individuals, regardless of age, are coping with this lack of control and feelings of loss using alcohol, drugs, and tobacco more frequently to cope." People prone to isolation are cutting off from their supports, including their mental health providers.

For some this has led to subtle cognitive decline or exacerbated existing cognitive loss due to the low level of engagement and stimulation. Others, as a result of quarantine, experience reduced physical activity and a general decline in physical health and functioning.

Ayling concluded, "Although Arlington County's Area Agency on Aging is providing assistance from a distance, we are still here for the community offering information, resources, and providing advocacy to Arlington County residents, their caregivers, neighbors, and care partners."

Throughout the pandemic, Fairlingtonians offered their support to seniors living alone by bringing over meals and running errands such as grocery shopping or picking up orders at the pharmacy. There continue to be many ways people can help the community. Volunteer Arlington lists opportunities to serve and support those impacted by COVID. The Arlington Department of Parks and Rec's 55+ programs offer a plethora of activities for any area of interest so that seniors can remain engaged.

As Coates noted to all Fairlington residents, "this past year has brought significant challenges, especially for our older adults, but it also provided opportunities to launch new programs, give back through volunteerism, and to provide meaningful connections in creative collaborations. There is hope with the vaccine that we will return to life before the pandemic, but let us take the lessons we have learned over the past year, and strive to be better when we are together again."

—Jennifer Davies

Vaccine Registration:

- Arlington County's Vaccine resource site: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/>
- Clinic registration site: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/registration/> or call the County's COVID hotline; 703-228-7999.
- Visit Virginia Hospital Center's COVID vaccine registration site: <https://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/patients-visitors/safe-care-with-us/covid-19-vaccination-information/>

Arlington County Resources:

- Arlington County Aging and Disability Resource Center, 703-228-1700 or visit <https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/>
- Arlington County Senior Adult Mental Health program, 703-228-1700 or visit <https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/programs/mental-health/>
- Essential needs: Benefits, Food and Financial Assistance, Community supports, 703-228-1300
- COVID Hotline, 703-228-7999
- Department of Human Services—Assistance from a Distance (during COVID): <https://departments.arlingtonva.us/dhs-service-delivery-modifications-due-to-covid-19/>
- Emergency Mental Health Services, 703-228-5160

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- ♥ *GRILLED SALMON FILET WITH ORANGE CHIPOTLE SAUCE OR BROWN BUTTER SCALLOPS ACCOMPANIED WITH PARMESAN RISOTO AND ROASTED ASPARAGUS.

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2021

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(A) Yes
(B) No
(C) Somewhat

DOES YOUR JOB ALLOW FOR EXTENDED REMOTE WORK?
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(A) Yes
(B) Sometimes
(C) Never

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(C) Rarely

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(B) No

SOURCES:
1. The Housing Market Outlook: A Report from the National Association of Realtors
2. HomeAdvisor, "Housing Market Outlook: A Report from the National Association of Realtors"
3. Clark, Stephen, "Your Life: How to Choose the Right Home for Your Needs"
4. The Housing Market Outlook: A Report from the National Association of Realtors
5. The Housing Market Outlook: A Report from the National Association of Realtors

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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

Rescued Siberian Huskies make Fairlington home

The Iditarod gets underway March 6, but you may have already seen two Siberian Huskies out for their daily runs through Fairlington. They are Yukon and Bumble, owned by Sarah Moore. Yukon is about 10 years old and weighs 40 lbs. Her brother Bumble is 6 years old and weighs in at 87 lbs. They were both misfits with a troubled past but have found a happy forever home in Fairlington. We caught up with them for an interview after one of their runs.

Q. How did you and your parents meet? Where did you come from?



Yukon. Photos by owner Sarah Moore.

Yukon: I was adopted from a Siberian Husky Rescue from Pennsylvania. I was a stray dog for a very long time and had a very hard life before I was adopted. Every time I was caught, I'd escape again because I didn't know any good things about humans. I was even shot with a shotgun. So when I was finally trapped to become someone's dog, I didn't know that would be a good thing. I spent the first years of my family dog life very scared and couldn't be pet. But, it turns out that my Mommy was very patient with me and I learned to love being inside on my warm bed with lots of good food (I love scrambled eggs!).



Bumble.

Bumble: I was in the Arlington Animal Welfare League after being dropped off as a puppy for being "too much" to handle. I think someone hit me too, but I can't remember that far back. I didn't know how to interact with people, and I was very bouncy. My mom always tells me that's why I got my name because "Bumbles Bounce." My mom was on a waiting list with a local husky rescue to foster a dog, and that's when she got a phone call about me. As soon as I met her and my new sister, Yukon, I knew I didn't want to be fostered, I wanted to live with them full time as my new family.

I could never leave my new sister—I had a feeling she needed me!

Q. What is the best thing for you living in Fairlington? How did you convince your folks to move here?

Yukon: Our mom was already living in Fairlington when we were adopted, and we are so happy she was! We love all the open areas to run and sniff. As working dogs, we get our mom up early every day and take her for a run all through the neighborhood before she goes to work.

Q. How has COVID-19 changed your daily routine?

Bumble: I love it because I get to hang out with Mom all day. We even get more treats sometimes because as huskies, we love to talk—so when Mom is on a work call, we get a treat to stay quiet!

Yukon: I miss our local Fairlington dog walker, but I know Mommy will have to go back to work soon and we will see her again! I just feel better knowing my Mom is around though.

Q. What were your greatest challenges to overcome? And what is your favorite reward?

Yukon: It was really hard to learn how to be a real dog and not think that I'm a little wild wolf. Now that I'm a family dog, I am confident enough to ask my Mom for treats, and howl at her when I think she needs to go for a walk. My favorite reward is getting to go for a car ride to the woods for long hikes. We usually go somewhere every weekend. Oh, and I love scrambled eggs too.

Bumble: I get really anxious when mom leaves the house without me, and I go to her bookshelf and tear up books. I just try to show her how much I miss her, but I know she doesn't like that very much. My favorite reward is bacon! And I just learned that you can put cheese on bacon—and that's the best.

—Barbara Berti

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Virginia DOT addresses light outages along I-395

Have you seen the light? Recently the Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) convinced Virginia Department of Transportation senior leadership that the multitude of lighting outages along I-395 south from the Pentagon, to and including the Shirlington Circle, was unacceptable and deserved priority attention.



The Shirlington Circle and the pedestrian overpass are safer now that new lights have been installed. Photos by Bob Gronenberg.

For months, if not years, major merge points at Washington Boulevard and Shirlington were accidents waiting to happen, particularly on those dark and rainy nights. And more recently, a lighting outage plunged the popular Shirlington-Parkfairfax pedestrian overpass into total darkness.

Many roadway and signage outages stemmed from the I-395 Express Lanes Project construction, while others are attributable to pre-existing or unrelated

causes. Contractual and jurisdictional complications had been cited as major impediments to resolution.

The Express Lanes Project is now officially complete, and lighting repairs are finally underway. In some cases, the culprits were tripped or defective circuit breakers, faulty ballasts, degraded cables, or individual pole issues.

Irrespective of complexity, it took a serious “nudge” by the TLUC to get things going, but progress is finally evident. At press cutoff time, some lighting, including the overpass, has already been restored, with the remainder scheduled in the coming days.

—Bob Gronenberg, Chair, Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee



A worker replaces lights along I-395.

Fairlington residents support frontline workers with holiday lights

Christmas lights still adorned the doorsteps of dozens of Fairlington homes well into January in support of frontline healthcare workers in the COVID-19 pandemic.

HCA Virginia, a large healthcare provider network, launched the “Keep Your Lights Up for Healthcare Heroes” campaign on December 31st, urging residents and businesses to keep their lights on to spread cheer throughout the month of January.

“Our healthcare heroes have been fighting this virus for nine months—doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, aids and support staff,” the campaign read. “They are weary from the physical and emotional toll of what they see every day. As they drive to or from their shift, the holiday lights will express support for our healthcare heroes.”

County COVID, continued from page 1

to get the vaccine. He made clear that all residents have the choice to make informed decisions.

“If you have concerns about the vaccines, please talk to your usual healthcare provider. This is a personal decision,” he said. “It’s up to you, not me or any other healthcare provider to make the final decision for what is best for you and your situation.”

Dr. Varghese explained that both Pfizer and Moderna’s efficacy and safety record is why he decided to get the vaccine. “While questions always linger, with the current information we know about the virus and the vaccines, I know the vaccines add an extra layer of protection against a virus that can cause serious illness and death. ...For me, the known benefits of these two COVID vaccines and their temporary side effects outweigh the known risks of the virus. The virus has no benefits.”

—Jennifer Davies

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FCA Hires New Bulletin Editor



Regina Bethencourt

The FCA board hired Regina Bethencourt as the new Bulletin Editor starting with the February 2021 issue. Bethencourt has lived in Fairlington since 2018 and is an active member of the community. She is a former journalist who now runs a business from home specializing in content creation, branding, and web development. Her goal as editor to increase awareness of Fair-

lington programs and initiatives among residents and in the broader local community.

Bethencourt lives in Fairlington Meadows with her husband and three young children.

Fairlington Creative Preschooler Program Opens



The Fairlington playground attracts lots of kids on a sunny January day. Photo by Guy Land.

According to Arlington County, the Creative Preschooler program has decided to open cautiously. As of the writing of this article, the preschool planned to open on Jan. 21 to current registrants and release available spots to interested new registrants in the weeks following.

"After working diligently to ensure we meet all of the Governor's Virginia Forward and other state guidelines, we have determined that we can reopen," an announcement email read. "Programs will be at Carlin Hall, Fairlington, Gunston and Madison locations."

New sanitation and safety measures are in place including frequent handwashing, daily sanitation of all surfaces, daily health screenings, and masks required indoors for all participants and staff.

Current registrants will be contacted first and then spaces will open to the general community. Visit <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/tots/creative-preschool-program/> for updates and more information.

Remembering, from page 9

His years in Fairlington were generally happy ones, he says. The greatest concern, apart from those that all youngsters face growing up, was the possibility of nuclear war with the Soviet Union, given that ground zero (the Pentagon) was only a few miles away. But Shostak and his friends (naïvely) assumed that grown-ups had the situation under control, and spent those early years biking around Fairlington, patronizing the movie theaters in Shirlington and South Fairlington, and playing kickball with other kids.



Rob Shostak and now wife, Nan Shostak, at their Wakefield High School senior prom in June 1966. Photo courtesy Rob Shostak.

"Back then we had no fenced patios," said Shostak, "so families lived in a community with a constant supply of neighbor children with whom to play. Most every family had a grill in the open common area in the back yard, and neighbors would BBQ outside together almost every summer evening."

Shostak's visit to the newly-rebuilt Wakefield High School as part of his 50th Reunion four years ago gave him a chance to reflect on the vast societal changes that have occurred since his time there. "I was pleasantly surprised by the cultural and racial diversity that characterizes today's generation. Today, more than 75 percent of the student body consists of people of color, and yet the percentage of students achieving proficiency in math and reading/language arts is higher than the Virginia state average. A reminder that much progress has been made since my time, even if there is much more to do."

Today, Shostak lives with his wife near Palo Alto, CA. His last visit to Fairlington was when his mother, who still lived in the area, passed away in 2018 at the age of 103.

—Regina Bethencourt



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gathered a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby, but since social distancing set in, we've adapted. We continue to gather monthly, but on Zoom. We focus on having an opportunity to chat with neighbors and maintain connections. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants or Zoom theme.

For February, the following event is planned:

On Saturday, February 20, 4 pm, let's get together for tea! Whether you prepare a feast of yummy treats or just a simple cup of tea or coffee is up to you. We can compare notes on notable places we've had high tea, and consider where to go, once restaurants are open again. Please RSVP by email to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com, and the Zoom coordinates for our tea will be sent to you a few days in advance.

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

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 23, to discuss *Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen*, by Mary Norris.

The author, "whose first book chronicled her passion for punctuation, here recounts, with the same contagious wit and enthusiasm, her obsession with Greece—its

language, history and culture." —*New York Times Book Review*

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. Our meeting will be held on Zoom this month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Join us for a virtual Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meet-up on February 1st

Join with fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship on Monday, February 1 from 6:30-7:30 via Zoom. Knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people makes us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

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

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

Fairlington Bocce

Interested in a fun outdoor activity with neighbors and friends? Then you are interested in playing bocce! If we have enough people interested then we can arrange a time that works. To express interest or get more information, shoot an email to marcyakel@gmail.com.

Fairlington Moms' Club

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



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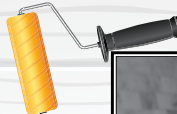


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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



A deeper look at the rose

On the 14th of this month, 250 million roses will be bunched in bouquets, wrapped in paper, delivered and presented as symbols of affection. Usually grouped in a dozen—most often red with long thorny stems—their blooms remain stout for about a week if stowed in a vase with water.

California produces over half of all roses cultivated in the United States. For Valentine's Day, Colombia exported 4 billion (yes, with a b) roses to the United States in 2017, according to the *Washington Post*. Ecuador produces the most roses sold worldwide for Valentine's Day. They cost more this time of the year since Valentine's Day accounts for 20 percent of rose growers' yearly income—simple supply-and-demand math.

Most arrangements of roses include sprigs of baby's breath—a tiny white flower in the carnation family. Its Greek name, *Gypsophila paniculata*, refers to its loose-clustered flowering structure, a pleasant contrast to the tightly-woven petals of the rose.

Rose Colors and their Significance:

Red = love

Pink = elegance, appreciation, and affection

Yellow = warmth and friendship

White = purity (commonplace on altars of matrimony)

Peach = gratitude



Roses along S. 34th St. Photo by Guy Land.

In nature, however, the rose plant is anything but clustered and ornate. Instead, it climbs, wanders, stretches, and grows in a contorted fashion that needs renewal pruning and spraying. Years ago, a rosebush needed to be trellised due to its habit. If it was planted at a fence, branches were tied to the wood panels so thorny leaders wouldn't impede a walkway or reach into a neighbor's garden. Blooms only appeared on the ends of brown, woody branches covered in thorns.

The rose carries great significance for our culture even beyond its annual appearance on Valentine's Day. For example, the word, "rose" is frequently used in language.

Remember Nat King Cole's "Rambling Rose" song from 1962? "Every rose has its thorn" is a lesson in life. *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* is a novel by Joanne Greenberg and song written by Joe South later recorded by both Lynn Anderson and Loretta

Lynn. "Take time to smell the roses" coaxes us to slow down. "Roses are red, violets are blue, I'll never love someone the way I love you" is read over and over.

Rose may be the most popular woman's name from a flower although Violet, Heather, Erica, Lily, Jasmine, Poppy, and Daisy also are strong contenders. During World War II, "Rosie the Riveter"—the kerchief-wearing machinist flexing her bicep—symbolized women's powerful role in support of U.S. troops during World War II. That Norman Rockwell painting decorated a cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1943.

If you are lucky enough to be the recipient of one rose or a dozen this Valentine's Day, make sure to take some time to remember its long history and powerful impact on our culture.

—Bill Sullivan
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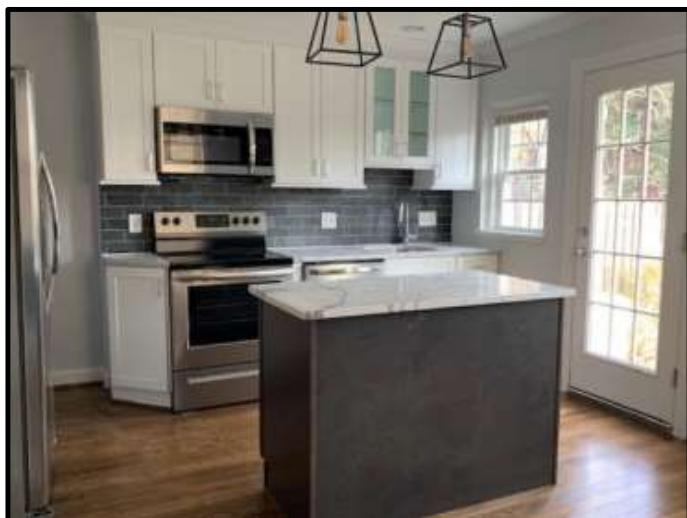


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SULLIVAN's LANDSCAPING: Don't let your garden sleep all winter. Colder weather is a good time for clean-ups – including pruning and mulching. Flagstone patios also may be installed this time of year. This is my 31st year servicing Fairlington homeowners as well as residences in Alexandria and Arlington. Email Bill at Billsullivan41@gmail.com or call 571-213-9567 for a free consult.

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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



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