

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2022

Volume 48, Number 2

[www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

## School Board liaison to address FCA in February

### Inside this month

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*FCA President Guy Land talked with School Board Chair Barbara Kanninen at a visit to Abingdon Elementary in 2018. Photo by Kent Duffy.*

Arlington School Board Chair Barbara Kanninen will present at FCA's virtual monthly meeting on February 9. The meeting will be live streamed on FCA's Facebook page and residents can submit questions through the chat function.

Kanninen is the board's liaison to FCA, helping to keep the community informed about school news, updates and opportunities to volunteer. She has served on the school board since 2015. She visited FCA in 2018 and 2020.

The public school system has been a focus of much debate in the last few years as educators and administrators navigate the challenges of a global pandemic and virtual learning environments. While schools are now open in 2022, school officials are still working through pandemic related restrictions including quarantine regulations, mask, vaccine and testing requirements.

Some of these priorities may change in the wake of the inauguration of new Governor Glen Youngkin on January 15. Already, Youngkin rescinded the executive order requiring masks in K-12 schools stating that parents should have the right to make their own decisions about the educational environment of their children.

Several counties in Northern Virginia, including Arlington county, have stated their intention to continue to require masks for teachers and students despite the order from the Governor. It remains to be seen whether Virginia parents in these counties will have the right to opt out.

Kanninen is expected to address changes like this as well as present general updates and plans for local schools in the upcoming year. Topics that will most likely be on the agenda for Kanninen at the FCA meeting in February include: include finalizing FCA's 2022 budget, planning for the Fairlington 5K, adopting the 2022 schedule for blood drives, and community conversations on diversity, equity, and inclusion

She is looking forward to connecting with the community.

*Continued on page 23*

# Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually and are streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

## FCA monthly meeting February 9

**Special presentation:** Arlington School Board Chair Barbara Kanninen will discuss priorities of the school board.

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Citizens Association.

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

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

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Miss Utility	811
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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm)

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

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

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

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## Calendar

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 7 p.m.  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Fairlington diners

Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details

### Presidents Day

Monday, February 21  
FCC Closed

### Book group

Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Black History Month affords the opportunity to reflect on the rich African-American heritage that marks much of the area near Fairlington.

These days it's hard to realize that Black communities once thrived just across the way from present-day Fairlington. Over a hundred years ago, the part of Alexandria that lies along King Street from Quaker Lane to I-395 was home to dozens of Black families, with businesses, schools, and churches serving the Black neighborhood.

Research suggests that the leaders of this community valued education, work, and faith. Many owned property. A number of them worked at the Episcopal High School and the Seminary. In the late 1800s, they established a school for neighborhood children and founded a church. Oakland Baptist Church on King Street continues that legacy today.

Over time these families were displaced—often aided by the City of Alexandria—and the racial and cultural character of the area changed, erasing much of the visible presence of the Black community that had been there.

To the north of Fairlington, Green Valley (often called Nauck), which generally lies across Four Mile Run from Shirlington, is one of the oldest Black communities in Arlington. Its roots predate the civil war, but much of its growth occurred in the early decades of the 20th century, when it became a leading center of Black life in Arlington.

Jennie Dean Park, which serves Green Valley, was once Arlington's only public recreation area for Black families. Named for a freed slave who established the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, the park is in the final stages of getting a major renovation—part of a larger county effort to help keep Green Valley vibrant and competitive.

As this newsletter noted a couple of years ago, Shirlington itself was the site of one of the major lunch-counter demonstrations in Arlington in the 1960s.

FCA is committed to helping enrich our understanding of our area's Black history. But we are also encouraging contemporary community conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A working group led by FCA Board member Lydia Redway has spent several months reviewing materials that could help facilitate those discussions, including toolkits endorsed by Arlington County or developed by organizations in this area. You can read more about this on page 17. We welcome your participation in these neighborhood conversations.

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



**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Leslie Cameron, Sue Davis, Guy Land, Vicky McCaffrey, Beth McGinn, Lydia Redway, Bill Sullivan.

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



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### CHOOSE 2 DELICIOUS ENTREE FROM THE FOLLOWING

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- ♥ \*CHICKEN VALENTINO - CHICKEN BREAST STUFFED WITH SUN-DRIED TOMATO, BASIL AND FRESH MOZZARELLA CHEESE AND SERVED WITH ROASTED ASPARAGUS AND RICE PILAF. ☐
- ♥ \*GRILLED SALMON FILET WITH ORANGE CHIPOTLE SAUCE ACCOMPANIED WITH PARMESAN RISOTO AND ROASTED ASPARAGUS. ☐
- ♥ \*BROWN BUTTER SCALLOPS ACCOMPANIED WITH PARMESAN RISOTO AND ROASTED ASPARAGUS. ☐

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- ♥ \*\*LUCIOUS CREAM PUFF WITH MIXED BERRIES ☐
- ♥ \*\*RASPBERRY MARQUIS ☐
- ♥ \*\*PETIT FOUR (LEMON POPPY SEED) ☐

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## Registration for the Fairlington 5K now open

You can now sign up for the April 23 Fairlington 5K by going to [www.Fairlington5K.com](http://www.Fairlington5K.com). This beloved neighborhood event raises funds for physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary as well as for research into a cure for Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn, who suffers from a rare brain and spinal cord condition known as LBSL.



*Abingdon St. was full of runners in the 2019 5K.  
Photo by Guy Land.*

The cost of registration is \$30 and includes a dry fit t-shirt. But you must register before March 19 to secure the early bird discount and shirt. After that date, the cost of registration is \$35 and t-shirts are not guaranteed. Registration for children ages six to 16 is \$20, and children five and under are free.

There is also a special 1K Walk & Fun Run for those with small children or participants seeking a less challenging course. As always, dogs and strollers are welcome.

In addition to the race, the event features a silent auction. Local businesses donating goods or services receive special signage on the official Fairlington 5K t-shirts, as well as other unique marketing opportunities to the Fairlington community.

Donations, which range from items such as mountain bikes from Spokes Etc. to teeth Whitening at V.C.O. Orthodontics, will be auctioned off online Saturday, April 30. The auction will

also feature vacation home getaways, wine tastings, and many other fun opportunities and experiences.

If you would like to donate an item, please contact race organizer Beth McGinn at [bfrigola@gmail.com](mailto:bfrigola@gmail.com).

—Beth McGinn

## Arlington public libraries expand hours in 2022

Beginning on January 3, designated Arlington County Public Library locations reopened on Sundays and now stay open until 8 p.m. Monday–Thursday. New hours are listed on the website. The closest library location to Fairlington is Shirlington Branch Library located in the downtown Shirlington area.

Representatives from Shirlington library addressed the FCA board at the annual meeting in December 2021. They shared a summary of their ongoing programs for adults and children and expressed interest in expanding their outreach in the Fairlington community.

Shirlington library is excited to offer its patrons more hours to access in-person services in 2022. They have an extensive browsing collection, holds pickup, board games, American Girl dolls, in-library use newspapers, socially distanced computers, and free Wi-Fi access.

Patrons are welcome to bring a covered drink into the library and browse the stacks or work at one of the many tables throughout the building. The Campbell Room, which seats up to 75 people and is made available daily for quiet study can be reserved by the public for programs and meetings which are free and open to the public. The room includes tables, chairs, and an overhead

### Shirlington Branch Hours

Monday: 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.

Tuesday: 12 p.m.– 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.

Friday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

projector for presentations. Before leaving the library, don't forget to stop by The Friends of the Library book sale located in the lobby.

Patrons who cannot make it into the library can access the digital collection through the library's website 24/7. Your library card will allow you to listen to eAudiobooks, read eBooks and digital magazines, and upskill by using learning tools such as LinkedIn Learning and Universal Class.

The library offers a complement of in-person and at-home services. Please check the website for a complete list and description of services.

As your neighborhood branch, Shirlington Library is happy to answer any questions you may have about services and programs. They can be reached at 703-228-6545.

—Vicky McCaffrey

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## FCA plans blood drives for 2022

Based on the community's enthusiastic response to the three neighborhood blood drives FCA has sponsored for the past two years, FCA is crafting a plan to host at least three, and maybe four, blood drives in 2022.

Our partner in our previous blood drives has been Children's National Hospital. They provide the staffing and equipment, while FCA arranges access to the room, Fairlington volunteers help load and unload the equipment, and FCA and Fairlington Cares provide cookies from Great Harvest Bakery for those individuals who donate blood.

Sara Rasmusson, who lives in nearby Parkfairfax, has taken the lead in facilitating the drives, while FCA Secretary Jennifer Chalmers coordinates the events on behalf of FCA. South Fairlington resident Brooke Schmidt led the first drive in 2020.

Inova Blood Donor Services has also approached FCA



*Volunteers help unload the Children's bus for last year's blood drive. Photo by Guy Land.*

about sponsoring a drive in Fairlington. FCA will be exploring options for one drive to be run by Inova.

Blood supplies in the D.C. area are alarmingly low, in part due to COVID-19. The donations by Fairlington residents were important last year in helping address the need. In 2021 the two Fairlington blood drives donated 30 units of blood for Children's. This will help up to 150 children.

The relationship between FCA and Children's has worked well, and FCA welcomes the chance to continue that partnership.

Although the specific dates have not yet been worked out, we would expect to host a blood drive roughly once a quarter. Specific information will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Bulletin*. We hope you will consider donating blood this year.

—Guy Land

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## Oh Deer! Addressing the population's impact on Arlington's forests

Fairlington has seen its share of white-tailed deer visitors in our forested areas or in our gardens or landscaped areas. Across Arlington, deer are numerous. They are beautiful but they are also doing significant damage to Arlington forests. The following information about the impact of deer in our community is drawn from presentations and articles by Bill Browning (see the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists blog at <https://armn.org/blog/> for more).

### Impact of deer on a healthy forest

A healthy forest has an understory of vegetation in multiple layers, including plants, seedlings, shrubs, and young trees. This understory provides food and cover for many species of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. The understory also includes the seedlings and saplings of the canopy trees, which form the future generations of the forest.

Deer, along with these other species, depend on forest to survive. They eat the vegetation and use it for cover.

Natural lands are said to have a certain carrying capacity for deer—that is, the number of deer a piece of forest can support and still sustain itself.

Where there are more deer than the land can support sustainably, deer can do substantial damage.

An adult deer eats 5–7 pounds of vegetation a day, as high as they can reach. This deer browse begins to degrade the understory, and without its understory, a forest cannot regenerate. Birds that build nests near the ground, like the brown thrasher and wood thrush, have no protection from predators and they decline. Insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that rely on all the layers of the understory for food and habitat also decline. Deer who are hungry will eat anything, including non-native and deer-resistant plants. But they prefer the native plants they evolved with, so they reduce the diversity of native plant species, changing the make-up of plant communities. Invasive plants multiply. In the fall,

*Continued on page 19*



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Fort Ward Park features aspects of Black history in nearby Alexandria

In a virtual community briefing in late January, the City of Alexandria outlined potential improvements to Fort Ward Park on Braddock Road. One of a ring of forts constructed by the Union army as part of the Defenses of Washington during the Civil War, Fort Ward became home to a significant Black community once the war was over.

It suggests the rich Black heritage of a part of Alexandria close to Fairlington.

Projects in Fort Ward Park under consideration by Alexandria include an accessible route to the picnic shelter, accessible parking areas, playground relocation, and the protection and commemoration of cemeteries and interpretive elements.



*Oakland Baptist Church was founded by families living in The Fort and Seminary communities. The church moved to the present location at King St. and Braddock Road in the 1890s.*



*The park contains the gravesite of Clara Shorts Adams, the daughter of one of the first Black landowners to settle The Fort. Ms. Adams helped found Oakland Baptist Church and donated land to establish a school for students from The Fort. Photos by Guy Land.*

Respecting the history of Black families in the park area is one of the key components of the city's plans for the park.

The land near union forts such as Fort Ward represented freedom for African-Americans, and many settled near the forts once the war ended. A Black community quickly sprang up at Fort Ward and became known as "The Fort."

Some of the families likely came from the nearby Menokin plantation (source of the name for the street that runs between Fairlington Methodist

and Fairlington Presbyterian Churches).

Before the war, a number of enslaved Blacks served as laborers and domestics at the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School. Their numbers grew after the war as other families settled in the area to

provide a wider variety of services. The Fort joined with this larger "Seminary" neighborhood to create a vibrant Black community, where many Black families purchased land and established homes.

Black families and leaders created their own churches and schools and acquired land for burial sites. Black-owned houses dotted the area. Fort Ward Park features aspects of this history, protecting graves of some of The Fort's leading families.



*Tall cedars in the park mark the location of a path to a school for residents of The Fort.*

A one-room "Colored School Building at Seminary"—located adjacent to the abandoned fort—was the first public school for African Americans living in this community. Remnants of the tree-lined path that led to the school are visible in the park. After the school closed, the community raised funds to equip a new school on the site of what is now Alexandria City High School.

Several residents of



*A historical marker by the City of Alexandria in the park describes the history of Oakland Baptist Church and displays photos of early leaders of Oakland Baptist Church who are buried in the cemetery.*

The Fort established Oakland Baptist Church near the grounds of the old fort. The church cemetery, which is technically not part of the park, is privately owned and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The park surrounds it.

In the 1890s the church moved to its current location at the intersection of Braddock Road and King Street. The original building was destroyed by fire in the 1930s and a new one was built on the same site. The current building underwent major renovation in the late 1990s.

Oakland Baptist Church reflects the continuous role of Black leadership in this part of Alexandria going back to the years right after the Civil War.



*The reconstructed entrance to Fort Ward.*

Another Black burial ground, the Jackson Cemetery, lies within the park and is the burial site for a number of The Fort residents. The land for the cemetery was purchased in 1884 by a resident of The Fort who was a driver at the Episcopal High School and whose wife was a laundress. Studies have identified graves, but no headstones or grave markers survive.

In the 1950s, the City of Alexandria began purchasing land from owners in The Fort as part of a plan to restore the civil war fort and make the area a park. Some owners willingly sold their property and relocated. Others resisted, and the city condemned their property, displacing the residents and demolishing their homes.

That effectively ended The Fort as a dynamic neighborhood.



*Oakland cemetery is surrounded by the park.*

In recent years Alexandria has undertaken a number of archeological studies of the park area, discovering the foundations of buildings, grave sites, and artifacts.

The city's current plan seeks to improve accessibility to the park, while protecting and respecting the gravesites of the families who once made this area an important site of Black life in Alexandria.

"Fort Ward Park is home to significant historic and cultural resources, including sacred burial grounds of the families that lived there," declares a statement by the city. "The City of Alexandria recognizes that these sacred places and any other burial sites identified in the future must be protected from disturbance and treated with respect and dignity."

—Guy Land





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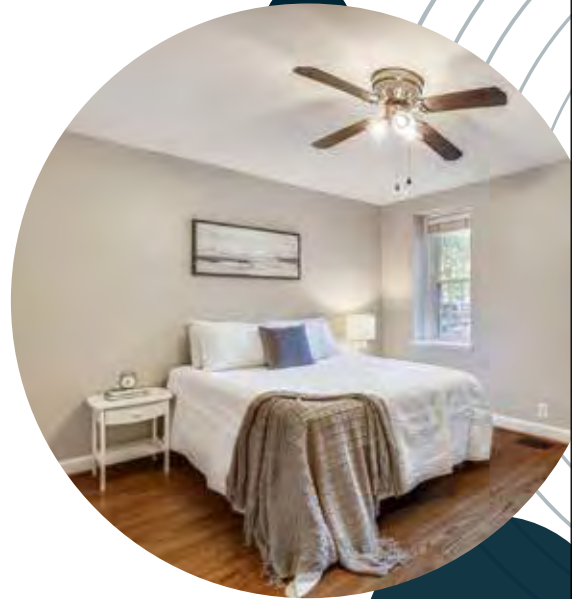
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# For the love of NATURE



## What is companion gardening?

Companion gardening may be a new term for you. It is an old, well-established gardening method that is becoming new again. Today, especially in large, industrially managed agriculture, you will find only one crop grown in a field, usually corn. Corn strips nitrogen from the soil so each year fields need larger amounts of fertilizers and pesticides to grow the same crops. What would happen if you grew several types of vegetables together instead of just one?

Native American farmers did just that. Planting multiple crops together made sense to Native people. A quick look at any environment, even a lawn, reveals several kinds of grasses and other green plants. They found that companion gardening minimizes the need for fertilizers or pesticides.

Companion gardening is practiced among the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-o-show-knee), the Hidatsa (He-dat-sa) and Mandan, and the Cherokee. Corn, beans, and squash are grown together in a field. This method is sometimes called a Three Sisters Garden, because just like sisters, the plants support one another.

Soil is never plowed or tilled. Instead it is pulled together into a mound. Corn is the tallest sister and is always planted first. When the corn is as tall as your finger, the second sister, beans, is planted around the corn. The corn supports the beans as they climb the stalk. The beans fix nitrogen in the soil that the corn removes. The last sister, squash, is planted in smaller mounds on either side of the corn. The squash spreads around the corn and bean roots and helps to reduce evaporation.



*Mixed vegetable planting in Fairlington Mews (from left): radishes, Forellenschluss romaine lettuce, Red Russian kale, Parris Cos Romaine lettuce, and snow peas. Photo by Sue Davis.*

Tiny, prickly, hairs on the squash stems also keep pests out of the garden. The squash and beans have flowers that attract pollinators.

But wait, there's more. When explorers and others reported on their travels to the New World, one constant was how healthy and well-fed everyone was. This was due to a high protein diet. Meat, be it fish, deer, bison, or turkey, was always on the menu if available. There were lean years, however, when game was hard to

find. Luckily, corn, beans, and squash provide a nutritionally balanced diet without meat.

Besides sustainable farming practices, Native people celebrate a reciprocal relationship with the earth through ceremonies, songs, and dance. These are times to acknowledge what the earth has given and what must be done to maintain this relationship.

How does this apply to your Fairlington garden? Don't be afraid to plant multiple kinds of plants together. Look for smaller or dwarf kinds of vegetables. Plant things that can be grown vertically to utilize as much space as possible. Plants like carrots, radishes, and beets that grow downward shouldn't be forgotten. Don't worry if one crop fails while another thrives. That is one of the reasons to plant a variety. Happy growing.

Feel free to send us questions or comments at [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Sue Davis



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# Major development projects advance near Fairlington

Fairlington residents have likely observed major real estate development projects that are underway only blocks from Fairlington. At least three are currently in progress, with three more on the drawing board.

This month's *Bulletin* looks at those where construction work is occurring, while next month's issue will look at other projects that are being planned. FCA had previously endorsed the general outline of the three that are now under construction when they came before county and city governing bodies for permitting.

## Waypoint at Fairlington



*With construction well underway, Waypoint expects to welcome residents this summer. Photos by Guy Land.*

Rising just behind Fairlington Presbyterian Church on King Street, the Waypoint at Fairlington will offer 81 units of affordable apartment housing targeted to working families in Alexandria.

The project is a partnership between the church and Wesley Housing, a leading developer and manager of affordable housing in Northern Virginia.

The 4-story building will offer a mix of efficiencies, and one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. It will serve families with incomes of no more than 60 percent of area median income.

Construction is slated to be completed later this spring, with the first tenants moving in during the summer.

The Waypoint is the result of a desire by Fairlington Presbyterian to redevelop their underutilized parking lot in a way that extends their social justice mission and provides operational and financial benefits.

During construction neighboring Fairlington Methodist Church is allowing its parking lot to be use for construction vehicles.

Leaders of Fairlington Presbyterian and Wesley Housing met with FCA as the project was being planned.

## WETA Expansion



*This fall WETA phased road closures to minimize the impact on traffic and pedestrians near the headquarters building.*

Public television station WETA is consolidating all of its operations at its headquarters building on Campbell Avenue in Shirlington. This includes relocating its production studio, which originates PBS NewsHour each weeknight, from its long-time location on S. 27th St. near Jennie Dean Park.

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

The bulk of the building addition is expected to be completed by August of this year, with the internal renovation being completed by January 2023.

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

During construction drivers and pedestrians going through Shirlington may occasionally experience street and sidewalk closures.

*Continued on page 17*





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## FCA to host community conversations on race

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be hosting community conversations to learn about and address the ways in which Arlington can be a more equitable and inclusive place. We encourage all residents to join us for an hour-long virtual conversation.

Arlington county has partnered with Challenging Racism, a local non-profit dedicated to empowering people to disrupt racism wherever they find it, to develop the Dialogues on Racism and Equity (DRE) program. DRE includes a series of virtual community conversations with individuals, local faith groups, civic organizations, and community leaders as part of the county's broader commitment to racial equity.

The DRE program includes toolkits for conversations on race and equity used to spark conversations between



*The Arlington non-profit Challenging Racism has been hosting educational workshops since 2004.*

community members. Three unique chapters are designed to be used in the following order: privilege, bias, equity. Each conversational unit will take about an hour and be hosted in an informal setting. The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will begin by hosting a conversation on privilege.

If you are interested in participating in a community conversation or have any questions, please contact Lydia Redway at [lydia.redway@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.redway@gmail.com). We will host the conversations on Zoom in small groups of 6-8 residents at a time that is convenient for the group.

For additional information on Arlington County's Dialogues on Race and Equity, please visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Equity/DRE>.

—Lydia Redway

---

### Major developments from page 15

When construction is complete, all WETA employees will be located at the building on Campbell Ave. WETA leaders project that roughly 350 employees will work in the Shirlington building.

FCA supported WETA's request to Arlington County for additional density to accommodate the consolidation.

### Lindsay Automotive



*The Fairlington Medical Center office building was demolished in the fall of 2021. Photo by Guy Land.*

This fall the contractor demolished the Fairlington Medical Center office building at Quaker Lane and Osage St. to make way for a new Lindsay Automotive Volvo sales and service dealership, part of a larger plan to update and expand Lindsay Automotive's properties across from Fairlington.

Construction is currently underway on basic infrastructure on the vacant lot, which is adjacent to the Fairlington Centre. Parking at the shopping center is not affected by the construction.

Plans also call for renovating the Cadillac dealership across Kenwood Street and converting it to Lexus Sales and Service. The Cadillac business will be relocated to the site of the existing Lexus dealership at King Street and Quaker Lane.

The project will include undergrounding utilities along the perimeter streets and installing new streetscapes, with street trees and larger sidewalks.

The work is being phased and is expected to take three years to complete.

The Lindsay president briefed FCA on the project in August 2020. FCA supported the company's permitting request to the City of Alexandria.

—Guy Land



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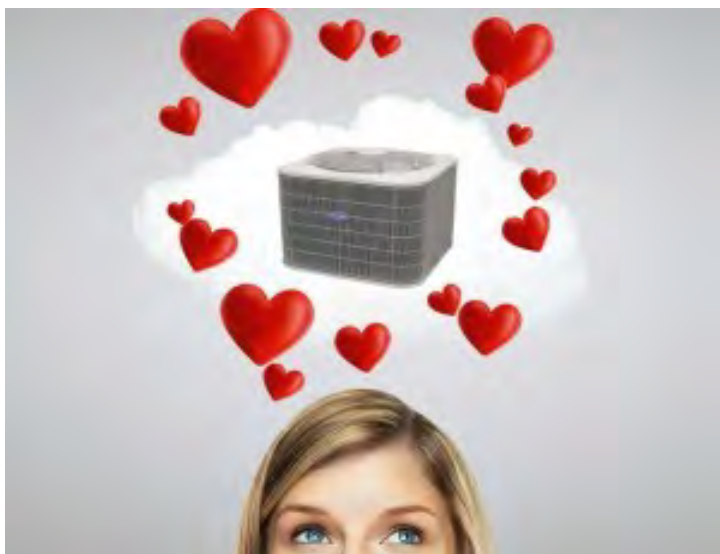
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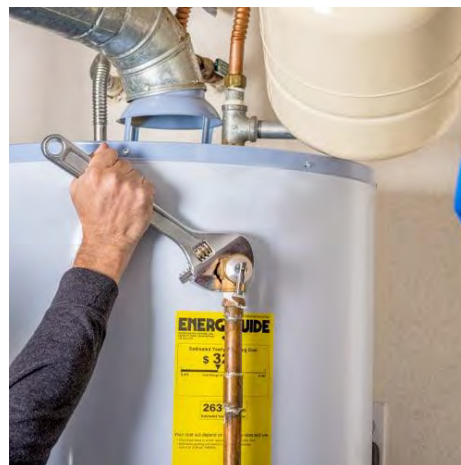
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male deer rub their antlers against small trees, which can injure the trees. Hungry deer will seek food where they can find it, including in residents' yards and gardens, where they can damage landscapes. There are also more frequent deer-vehicle collisions and more transmission of tick-borne diseases. Where they are highly concentrated, deer can more easily transmit disease to other deer, and as food supply diminishes, they can starve.

### Deer population over time

Deer are beautiful and an important part of the forest ecosystem. How did we end up today with so many? The white-tailed deer population in North America began to decline after European settlement. By the 1930s, deer had almost disappeared from Virginia. Many eastern states put strict regulations in place to protect deer and habitat, and they began restocking programs. The population began to rebound.

Development continued to fragment forest, creating more of the open edge habitat deer prefer. Since deer can reach sexual maturity at 6 months and give birth to 1-3 young each year, their population multiplied quickly. At the same time, large predators of deer, like the gray wolf and eastern cougar, were effectively extirpated from Virginia.

### Assessing Arlington's deer population and next steps

In response to concerns about the impact of deer in Arlington's forests and other natural areas, Arlington county hired an independent contractor to conduct a drone survey of the population in spring 2021. Limitations of the survey included that federal property owners (National Park Service, Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, Reagan National Airport) did not grant permission so these areas were excluded, and the drones could not fly at night when heat signatures are more detectable.

However, the survey did find sections of Arlington where deer were too heavily concentrated, including the Military Rd. and Glencarlyn neighborhood areas. The contractor recommended aggressive deer management in these areas. Arlington is in the process of hiring a consultant to determine if a deer management strategy is needed and if so, to develop an implementation plan.

Some jurisdictions have considered immunocontraceptive vaccines, but the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources will not approve of these methods for deer management. Indeed, the DWR and most other wildlife experts say medical intervention is ineffective and point to a lack



*Lacey Woods Park in Arlington has a healthy understory (top). Long Branch Nature Center Park has been heavily deer browsed (bottom). Without a healthy understory, forests cannot regenerate. Photos taken on the same day in November 2021 by Steve Young.*

of peer-reviewed scientific articles showing otherwise.

Neighboring jurisdictions have implemented managed hunting, using professional sharpshooters or volunteers with rifles or archery tackle. Fairfax County has had a deer management program in place since 1998. Montgomery County established a deer management program in 1996. Both counties use all three hunting methods.

The National Park Service established a deer management plant in 2012, which uses professional sharpshooters who hunt at night in collaboration with police authorities. All three jurisdictions have had no safety incidents since their programs' inceptions. Rates of nonlethal wounding are very low due to a high level of supervisory oversight.

Where they are highly concentrated, deer are damaging forests in Arlington. Other species that rely on the forest ecosystem pay the price. Without its large predators, the deer population is out of balance. As Arlington is considering next steps, residents are invited to learn more at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Recreation-News/Deer-in-Arlington>

—Leslie Cameron



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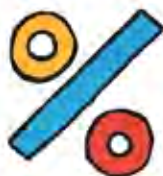
## 2022 REAL ESTATE MARKET OUTLOOK

Here's a look at what's happening in the market right now and what to keep an eye on over the coming months.



### Housing Inventory Poised to Recover

After the tight inventory of 2021, this year shows signs of meaningful recovery. New real estate listings rose by around 5% in 2021. If this trend continues, expect more properties to hit the market in 2022.



### Historically Low Interest Rates

With mortgage rates near all-time lows, buying now may mean locking in a very low interest rate. While home prices are high, the low interest rates make it a much more affordable time to buy a higher-priced home.



### Expect Smaller Home Price Gains

Home values are expected to rise slower in 2022, which might make the market a little better for buyers than the previous year. However, despite these smaller price gains, the market in most cities will still continue to favor sellers.\*



### Cities Are Making a Comeback

The 2021 rise in remote work led to many Americans moving to the suburbs, however, many homebuyers are looking to live in the city again. Housing industry data reveals online searches for urban properties has surged. Additional data shows that the urban exodus has slowed considerably, and cities are growing again.\*



### Growth in Starter Home Listings

Housing inventory is shifting toward smaller homes as the share of homes having between 750 and 1,750 square feet has increased about 7% from 2020.\* This could be good news for millennials looking to purchase a starter home.

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SOURCES: 1. Brandon Cornett, "Why the U.S. Housing Market Might Be Better for Buyers in 2022," HomeBuyingInstitute.com. 2. Alisa Wolfson, "Here's exactly how much economists think home prices will rise in 2022 — and whether you should buy now," MarketWatch.com. 3. Brandon Cornett, "Housing Forecasts for 2022 Predict Another Year of Steady Price Growth," HomeBuyingInstitute.com. 4. Sanjiv Das, "Homebuyers fled cities as COVID spread but many are heading downtown again," MarketWatch.com.



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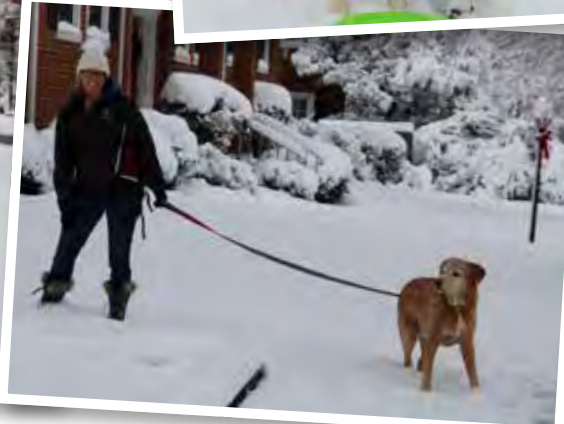
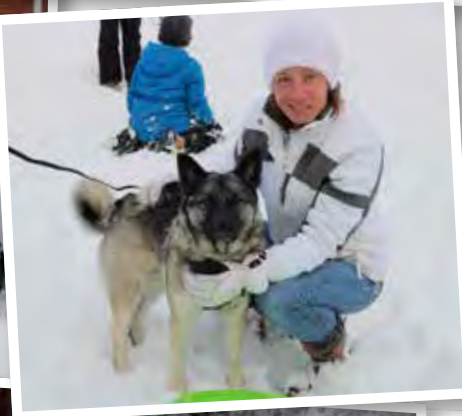
## Let it snow! January comes in like a lion

Despite a very warm Christmas, Arlington experienced two impressive snowstorms just weeks into the new year. The first swept through the greater Washington, DC metro area on January 3, dumping more than 8 inches of snow across the region leading to power outages, grounded flights, traffic jams, and at least three days of missed school. The county was better prepared for the second snowstorm, which blew in on the eve of Martin Luther King day and brought another 2-4 inches of snow and freezing rain.

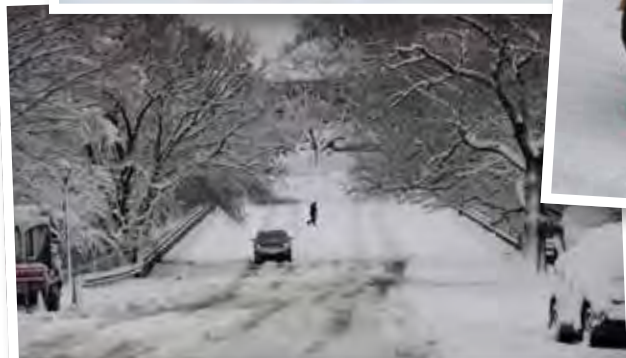
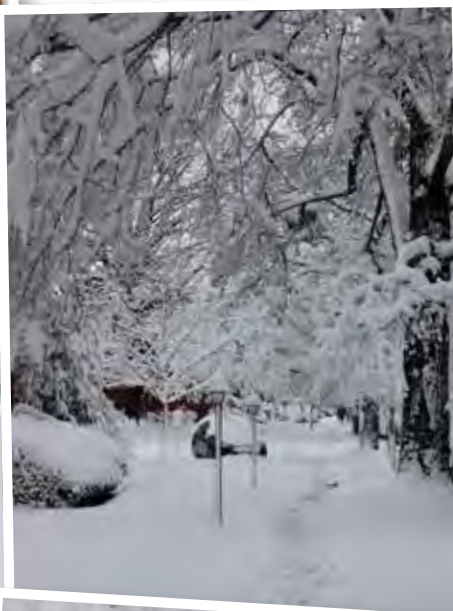
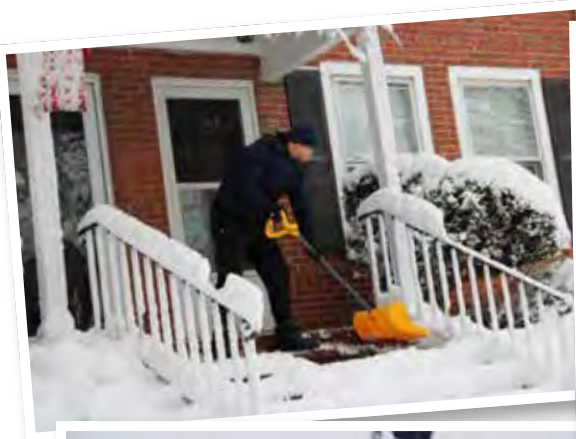
While the adults may have been inconvenienced, children took to the sledding hills behind the Fairlington Villages Community Center to enjoy their extra days of freedom.

Between the two snowstorms, Arlington is well on its way to having an above average year for snow. The average snowfall in the county is 14.9 inches per year.

*Photos by Guy Land.*







#### *School Board from page 1*

“When I was elected Chair of the School Board last summer, I stated that I believed I had the most important job in Arlington,” she told FCA. “I get up every day focused on doing everything possible to support our students’ well-being and academic progress.”

In addition to her work on the school board, Kanninen is a Ph.D. environmental economist, children’s book author, and co-founder of the Youth Ultimate League of Arlington. She and her husband Kevin have lived in Arlington for more than 25 years and have two sons, Fred and Markus, who were both K-12 Arlington Public Schools students.

—Regina Bethencourt





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# FAIRLINGTON

## *pet profiles*

### *And then there were three*

Tom and Geri (brother/sister Agouti Tabby cats) came to Fairlington four years ago when they were very young kittens. They are bonded siblings with opposite personalities. Tom is outgoing and Geri is shy and cautious.

This past October things at home changed. A new kitten joined the Dawson household in North Fairlington. Her name is Boo and she offers some helpful advice for both pets and pet owners.

*How did you get to Fairlington? And is it true, Boo the black cat came over Halloween? Is there any meaning in that?*

Tom and Geri: We were foster kittens, and we are brother and sister. Some people have a hard time telling us apart. We were raised from 3 days old by a very nice woman who bottle-fed us. The nice lady took us to a big pet store for adoption day and this young girl (I think about 8 years old...which was a coincidence since we were 8 months old) kept looking at us and talking to her grandma. We told them that they had to adopt us both...because we wanted to stay together. They took us out of our cage, and we played with them. Finally, after three long hours we both went home with the little girl and her grandma.

Boo: I first saw my mom and dad after a nice woman found me in her barn on Halloween night. I was very sick. I didn't feel good at all. The nice woman took me to the doctor, and I had to take lots of medicine. My mom and dad came to visit her farm while on vacation. The nice woman asked them if they would adopt me because she already had five cats and couldn't take care of another one. They decided they wanted to take care of me even though they already had Tom and Geri. I am all black and I was found on Halloween. That is how I got the name Boo.



*Tom and Geri (top) have gotten used to having Boo (bottom) around. Photos courtesy Jack Dawson.*

*What advice can you give to households that are thinking of introducing a new cat or kitten to the family? Boo, you were the newcomer. How did it go for you?*

Boo: When we got to my mom and dad's house in Fairlington, they put me in a room all by myself. The room was warm and had a nice soft bed, and food and water and toys, and a litter box. It made me feel safe even if it was a little lonely.

After a couple of days, I was carried to the living room and mom and dad watched me carefully as I got to get to know Tom and Geri. They were a little shy and suspicious, and so was I. I hid under the couch. In a little while they put me back in my room and I was glad,

because it was a little scary to be around those big cats. Every day they brought me out and stayed in the room with us while we got to know each other. It took about a week but then Tom started to play with me, and Geri quit hissing when she saw me. Now we are best friends. Geri lets me sleep next to her and Tom calls me his "little shadow" because I follow him everywhere.

*This looks like a lot of love here....for each other and your cat Mommy and cat Daddy. Do you have a Valentine's Day message?*

Tom: Take a chance, and don't be scared to get to know someone new. They can turn out to be a lot of fun! You may just fall in love. But most important, always make time to snuggle.

—Barbara Berti



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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, we returned to our home base at Ramparts off Quaker Lane. Here's what's planned for February:



Wednesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m., T.H.A.I. in Shirlington, 4029 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, VA 22206, Phone 703-931-3203, [www.thaiinshirlington.com](http://www.thaiinshirlington.com)

This is a long-term favorite of the group, with imaginative Thai dishes prepared with fresh local ingredients.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, February 22, to discuss *The Last Garden in England*, a novel by Julia Kelly.



The book is “a compelling read... about five women living across three different times whose lives are all connected by one very special garden.” —Amazon.com

We will meet either on Zoom or in the FCC (3308 S. Stafford St.) at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required at all times inside the FCC. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to

receive details about our meeting location a few days in advance.

## Fairlington Moms' Club

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

## Extension Master Gardener Help Desk

The VCE Master Gardener help desk is open for your emails, phone or walk in questions! All garden-related questions welcome, including those related to plant and insect identification. If emailing, please include photos to assist with identification. The Help Desk is open weekdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (noon). Contact at [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com), phone us at 703-228-6414, or stop by 3308 South Stafford St, Arlington 22206

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# DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



## *Birds in the snow: a look at popular neighborhood species*

As I write this column, the ground is covered by at least six inches of snow. Typically, the second month of the year is the most dormant in terms of plants and flowers. Evergreens are prominent and a few specimens flower, but that's it.

Fruited and variegated specimens show in winter but there isn't much else. Given that, I'll focus on birds we commonly see in our neighborhood, even in the cold months of winter.



*A female cardinal. Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons.*

**Cardinal:** This bird is frequently seen in its vivid, red plumage. Plus, it doesn't migrate south in winter. Usually, the female is on the move with a male in her wake. Rarely are two males seen together, which is why the St. Louis Cardinals' baseball uniform (two males perched on a bat) is faulty. The male and female both sing in "cheer-cheer-cheer" lyrics. A friend once told me that seeing a cardinal is good luck since the bird is a messenger of hope and love. It's also called the "visitor from

Heaven." No wonder it's depicted on Christmas cards. The desert cardinal (Arizona and New Mexico) male only has red on its vest and the female is all gray.

**Mockingbird:** This one loves to mimic and may be the tamest of all. Oftentimes, I've approached one in Fairlington and it freezes and stares. It easily perches on a twig or branch since it is a passerine, meaning it has three toes facing forward and another facing backward. There used to be a young male that mimicked vehicle alarms on South 36th Street in the Glen. It did so in the middle of the night. The mockingbird has a grayish coat with white flecks in its wings. The male and female each has a courting dance where they walk, stop, spread their wings. The juvenile mockingbird resembles a thrush, sporting speckles on its underside. The mockingbird's Greek nomenclature is *Mimus polyglottos*. *Polyglottos*, the species name, is Greek for "multiple languages." In Harper Lee's 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the title symbolizes sinfulness since the mockingbird signifies innocence. In the book, a black man is wrongly convicted of sexually assaulting a white woman.

**Catbird:** The quickest way to spot one is to thoroughly weed your garden so nothing is left but virgin soil. Soon, you'll see a catbird singing and hopping over the tilled dirt in search of earthworms. Males and females are alike with gray plumage and black on their crowns, tail and

wings. It is so named due to its cat-like cry. The catbird is in the same family (*Mimidae*) as the mockingbird and thus, will mimic the calls of other birds but in a raspy tone.



*Cooper's Hawk. Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons.*

**Cooper's Hawk:** A 14–20-inch-long bird of prey which calls Virginia home all year long, it's commonly seen gliding from one tall tree limb to another. Daily, I notice one perched atop a utility pole on the side of the highway where it watches for dead rodents. The hawk is stealthy, hiding in dense brush while waiting for a vulnerable bird feeding on the ground. The hawk's underbelly is a mottled ivory and buff. It has a grayish back, short wings (allowing for turns and maneuvers) and a long tail with black and gray bands on top and on the underside. Its legs are meaty as are its toes. When the hawk is in flight, an observer on the ground will notice a pattern of brown and white on underside of the bird's wings.

—Bill Sullivan  
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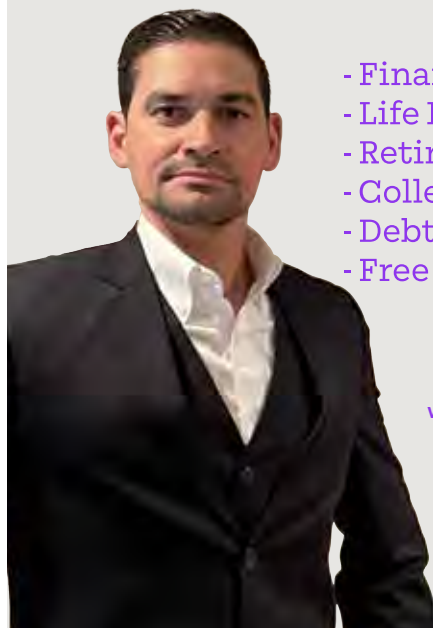
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