

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2023

Volume 49, Number 2

City launches planning process for Alexandria West

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The area of Alexandria west of I-395 is the subject of a new planning initiative launched by the Alexandria City Council. Graphic courtesy of the City of Alexandria.

On November 15, the Alexandria City Council launched an 18-month planning process for Alexandria West. The area covered by the study includes the portion of North Fairlington that is in Alexandria and all of Alexandria that lies west of I-395, as well as a small portion near Seminary Road and Van Dorn Street.

Staff from the City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning will brief Fairlington residents virtually on the planning process at FCA's February 8 monthly meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. The session will be live-streamed over FCA's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FCACivic.

Residents will be encouraged to submit questions and offer comments about priorities and concerns during the meeting.

This planning process seeks to create a vision for the area's long-term future and will explore topics such as housing affordability, equity, culture, land use, mobility, pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility, and connecting existing and future open spaces.

The City Council's FY 2023 Long-Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Program prioritized this community planning process to update the long-term vision for the 1992 Alexandria West Small Area Plan and integrate the 2012 Beauregard Small Area Plan. Those are the two documents that

Continued on page 7

Coming up

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

FCA monthly meeting February 8

Special presentation: Representatives of the City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning will discuss the Alexandria West planning process. The meeting will be held virtually and can be accessed through FCA's Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/FCACivic.

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.

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www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Regina Bethencourt

Advertising Manager: Rita Bubniak

Distribution Manager: Sarah Lloyd

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6 p.m., **8th 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.

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Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 7 p.m.
Virtually,
www.Facebook.com/FCACivic

DEI discussion group meeting

Wednesday February 15, 7 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Presidents Day

Monday, February 20
FCC closed

Fairlington diners

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 p.m.
Carlyle Grand Cafe
4000 S. 28th St.
Arlington, VA 22206

Fairlington book group

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month FCA joined with the Abingdon Elementary School PTA and students in a day of community service to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by cleaning and preparing the school's garden for the spring.

This was the first time that FCA had promoted a specific community activity as a way of honoring Dr. King. I'm hoping this sort of thing will become a tradition, offering our residents a way to both honor King's legacy and contribute to the Fairlington neighborhood.

But it wasn't the first time FCA has been engaged with Abingdon. Indeed, we have a rich history of partnering with our neighborhood elementary school.

We championed the renovation and expansion of the building a number of years ago. We periodically weigh in with the Arlington School Board on policy decisions that could affect Abingdon. We promote school initiatives through this newsletter. And we support activities to boost the work of the school.

In April, for example, we will sponsor the 8th annual Fairlington 5K, some of whose proceeds go to support physical education activities at Abingdon.

And we've had preliminary discussions with the PTA about assisting with the creation of a new outdoor learning space at Fort Reynolds Park adjacent to the school. Abingdon's science teacher has plans for her fifth graders to design the outdoor learning space. She plans to tap the expertise of students in other Arlington schools as well. FCA welcomes the chance to partner in bringing this new educational resource to life.

Abingdon is such an important asset to Fairlington. Fairlington is home to scores of current and former Abingdon students. A number of Abingdon faculty and staff live in Fairlington. It is our neighborhood school in the fullest sense of the term.

Fairlington also often provides key leadership for the PTA. Sharon Burd, the current president, is a North Fairlington resident. FCA vice president Jennifer Davies was previously a PTA president. We work closely with the PTA leadership to ensure our efforts complement theirs.

FCA believes that a strong and vibrant elementary school is important to all of us, not just families whose kids are students there. It is an essential component of our property values. I hope all of you will join us in supporting this great Fairlington asset.

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



Contributors this month: Regina Bethencourt, Barbara Berti, Sharon Burd, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Bill Sullivan, and Anne Wilson.

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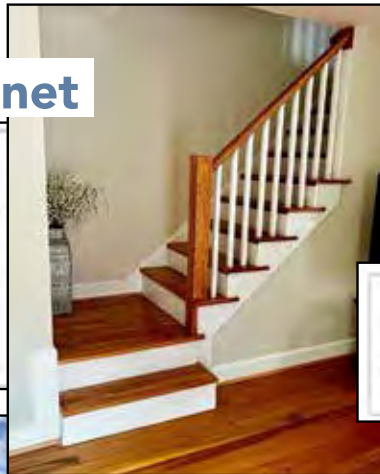
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FCA founder Ed Hilz retires from the board

For Ed Hilz, Fairlington feels like home. He grew up in Howells, Nebraska, the son of the owners of one of only two grocery stores in the small town. When the time came to start his own family, he knew he wanted a place that had the same type of small town community feel that he was so familiar with from his childhood.

“My wife and I considered the suburbs after living in Fairlington for several years, but decided that the tradeoff wasn’t worth it because of the friendships and activities we had here,” he said. “The community involvement kept us here.”

A veteran of the Vietnam War and graduate of the University of Illinois, Hilz moved to Fairlington in 1975 to take a job with the U.S. Department of Labor. He and his wife Adrian rented a townhome in Fairlington Commons before having their son in 1977 and buying their own home in Fairlington Meadows.

They immediately bonded with neighbors, especially through the Fairlington Babysitting Club, a group of parents who would take turns babysitting to give each other a free night out sans children.

In 1979 a group of neighbors, including Hilz, got together to discuss the need for a liaison between the neighborhood and county government, in order to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood and to weigh in on county improvement projects.

As a result, the Fairlington Citizens Association was formed, first including just South Fairlington and later expanding to include North Fairlington as well.



Ed Hilz, left was joined by Reed Franklin and Rosiland Jordan, both former FCA Presidents, at a community event. Photos by Guy Land.

Hilz served in a variety of roles with the newly formed FCA, including a stint as Vice President, but he found his niche in the position of Treasurer. He was part of the initiative to take FCA from a dues-funded organization to being fully self-funded by the revenue earned from offering advertising in *The Fairlington Bulletin*.

He also wrote the Fairlington/Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan, giving Arlington County’s the information required in order to designate funds for capital improvements in the neighborhood. That important process led to the establishment of Fairlington Community Center, formerly a neighborhood school building that was in danger of being torn down.

After more than 40-years of service with FCA he made the decision to retire from the board. He expressed his hope that FCA will maintain its good standing with the county board and county staff and continue to be a voice for the neighborhood. Hilz leaves a legacy of service to be admired.

“Ed’s dedication to Fairlington is beyond question,” wrote current FCA President Guy Land. “His commitment to the work of FCA has enabled it to survive and flourish. Our community is a better place because of his efforts. Thanks, Ed, for a job well done for Fairlington.”

—Regina Bethencourt

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Fairlington 5K registration now open!

A favorite neighborhood event is back for an eighth year. The Fairlington 5K & Fun Run is a family friendly event that draws hundreds of runners and walkers from around Arlington and beyond.

Proceeds support research into a cure for 15-year old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn who was born with a rare brain and spinal condition called LBSL. Since 2014, the 5K has helped raise over \$130,000 to fund gene therapy efforts at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. A portion of the proceeds also support physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary.



Visit www.Fairlington5K.com to register for the 2023 race on April 29. Photo by Guy Land.

The race will take place Saturday, April 29 at 8:30 a.m. It begins and ends at Abingdon Elementary. Road closures will be announced prior to the event.

You must register before March 24 to get your official 5K t-shirt and the early bird discount. Register today at www.Fairlington5K.com.

If you or your business would like to volunteer or be a sponsor for the event and get your logo on the shirt—please reach out to Beth McGinn at bfrigola@gmail.com.

—Beth McGinn

Abingdon Elementary honors MLK with day of service



Arlington County Board Vice Chair Libby Garvey visited with Abingdon PTA President Sharon Burd and FCA President Guy Land at the Abingdon Elementary Garden cleanup activity on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Photo by Jennifer Chalmers.

included breaking down and spreading cardboard boxes to prevent the growth of weeds in the garden, followed by applying a layer of mulch over all the garden area.

FCA thanks PTA President Sharon Burd and FCA Secretary Jennifer Clardy Chalmers for coordinating the event, which enjoyed record turnout.

Arlington County Board Vice Chair Libby Garvey joined roughly 60 Abingdon Elementary students, teachers, parents, and neighbors in preparing the school garden for the spring. Spot-lighted by FCA as a community day of service to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the activity

City from page 1

currently govern development in the area.

In describing the rationale for the planning work and community engagement, city staff have noted the need to plan for the changing future together, to address housing affordability proactively, to plan for local and regional market pressures, and to implement new city policies.

“Creating an updated community vision for the future allows us to proactively plan for change and prepare for challenges and opportunities in the years to come,” the city’s website explains.

Prior to the formal launch, informal outreach to community members had identified several key concerns that are likely to be explored during the planning process: housing affordability and fear of displacement, traffic, public open space and connections, community services and retail, safe access/connectivity, and the timing of development projects.

A city online survey to gather resident views closed at the end of January, but the city will continue community engagement activities throughout the spring.

—Guy Land



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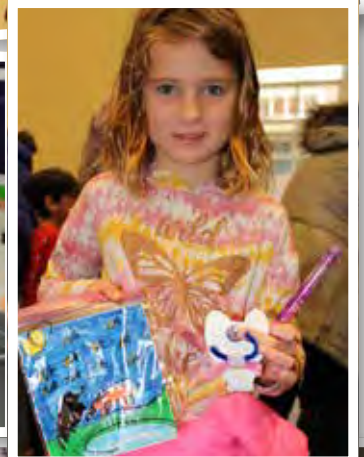
Paint, Build, Create program thrills budding neighborhood artists

An Arlington County initiative, Paint, Build, Create visited Fairlington on Saturday, January 16 providing a free day of art activities for kids and adults.

The program is part of the county's Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (S.T.E.A.M.) events that are designed to inspire creativity in young minds.

Dozens of Fairlington participated in the day, which included cardboard fort building, glitter wand making, robotic fireflies, bead spinners, and more.

Photos by Guy Land.



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Our founding fathers were also founding gardeners

America's founding fathers won a war, established a government, and birthed a nation. Through it all, they also remembered to water their plants. This Presidents' Day, celebrate how George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams created the uniquely American garden as part of their vision for the new America.

In his Oct 24, 1783, note to the troops George Washington recommended that the troops establish regimental gardens for the purpose of raising greens and vegetables for their health and well-being. Washington believed that the soil was the true wealth of the nation. He ardently advocated the use of compost (organic fertilizer) to enrich the soil. He went to great lengths to explain and demonstrate to non-users how composting increased productivity over time.

In numerous diaries, essays, and speeches, Washington encouraged American farmers to organically enrich their soil instead of depleting it.

He also experimented with a 7-year crop rotation plan keeping careful notes along the way. It's fair to say he was one of the first recognized conservationists and soil scientists in the newly formed America. His gardening best practices are pillars of soil health that are still used today. He also insisted that at Mt. Vernon only American native plants should be used in landscaping.

James Madison is not just the father of the Constitution; he's also the forgotten father of American environmentalism. He said that America's survival over the long term, would depend on protecting the environment, managing the forests well, and using the soil wisely. He viewed nature as a "national treasure" that could easily be destroyed without good care. His strong advocacy for



Tulip-Poplar in Fairlington. Tulip-Poplar is native to Virginia and was one of George Washington's favorite species of tree. Photo by Tina Byrd.

"plantations of trees" eventually resulted in the Congressional charter that created the five-acre garden at the foot of Capitol Hill now known as the U.S. Botanic Garden.

Thomas Jefferson's approach to gardening at Monticello included observing, experimenting, and recording, while searching for the most useful plant varieties for American soil and climate. Like the others he emphasized the importance of focusing on plants native to the United States. Always an avid gardener, horticultural research became a key focus in his retirement. In August 1811 after his retirement he wrote, "Tho' an old man, I am but a young gardener." Throughout his writings he describes working in the gardens as sheer joy.

Of all the founding fathers, John Adams most closely reflects what we would recognize today as a die-hard gardener. His journals indicate that whenever he was involved in political battles he longed to be in his garden, "having his hands in the manure, in the soil." Historian Andrea Wulf, in her book *The Founding Gardeners*, adds that Abigail Adams probably welcomed her husband's obsession with his garden, because it helped him work off his famous temper.

Celebrating Presidents' Day is a good time to recognize the ways in which these founding fathers shaped American conservation.

Please send any questions or comments to fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Anne Wilson



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Tip 1: Adjust your thermostat. The Department of Energy estimates savings of about 1 percent for each degree of thermostat adjustment per 8 hours.

Tip 2: Install a Smart thermostat. Smart thermostats are more energy efficient because they turn off the heat and AC more often than regular thermostats, without sacrificing comfort.

Tip 3: Replace your HVAC filter at least every three months, more frequently if you have pets or children.

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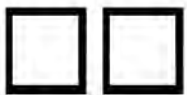
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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

How great is the Great Pyrenees?

The mountain range bordering France and Spain known as the Pyrenees, is home to the Great Pyrenees—a gentle, unassuming dog that has an estimated 11,000 years of working experience serving their human owners. Bred as flock guards, protecting fowl as well as livestock, they are ever vigilant.

North Fairlington has been home to Brody, a Golden Pyrenees (golden retriever/ Great Pyrenees mix) for 7 years. He lives up to his genetics: 100 pounds, slow, aloof and devoted. They are famous for being quick when it counts. Saved from a kill shelter, Brody has lived the best years of his life here lounging at home, watching football games, and relaxing. Pet Profiles was amazed by his calm demeanor, and large paws.



Brody lounges in one of his favorite spots. Photo courtesy of Jason Bryan.

Did you have any New Year's resolutions?

While my human housemates suggested we resolve to follow the vet's guidance that I could stand to lose ten pounds, I find this at odds with my own resolution to enjoy more charcuterie. I am an exceptional sampler of cheeses in particular, and I am resolved not to let their weight loss schemes get in my way of becoming an acclaimed cheesemonger. Another resolution I have for this year is to spend more time in my humans' beds; I just discovered how many of them they have and how comfortable they are in 2023, and I'm not sure why I wasn't informed sooner. I'll be sneaking a nap in one whenever my people aren't looking.

What advice can you give other dogs about exercising?

Avoid it—at all costs. I have multiple strategies to achieve this goal; I'll share a couple with you, but don't tell my people. I find "sniffs" to be a very convenient excuse to take a break from walking. Another favorite strategy is to walk so lethargically that we don't have time to go all the way around the neighborhood before my first Zoom

call. I also know some shortcuts through the greenspaces, and I pretend I'm being adventurous by suggesting we go for a walk through the grass, when really, I'm just minimizing my steps. If you have to exercise, I recommend yoga; I enjoy lying on the squishy mats while my humans lift heavy things in the backyard.

Do you feel a difference between your size and littler dogs?

I avoid most other dogs, regardless of their size, but I do have some friends in the neighborhood who are very little. I think little dogs are funny, and kind of confusing. How can we all be dogs if they are the size of my snout?! And where do they store all of their energy? Being a big dog is hard work; I have to conserve all of mine for when I see my little friends, because they always want to play.

What do you like best about living here?

Watching our neighbors come and go from the front door or the couch in the living room, getting pets from all of my people friends on my slow walks, and discovering all of the sniffs left by other dogs (but not so much the other dogs themselves).

Have you ever thought about going to France to see where your ancestors came from?

As long as I don't have to walk to get there, I wouldn't mind going to my ancestral home, especially if I can get some of those French cheeses. I heard a rumor that there are some mountains, too; I love looking at a nice view, but I'll leave the hiking to my humans.

—Barbara Berti

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WHERE YOU LIVE!

Fairlington to Fort Hunt Edition

There is so much to **LOVE** about Fairlington — there's the charm, the green space, the sense of community, and the amazing location — but sometimes you just need more. My *Life After Fairlington* journey led me to Fort Hunt, and I'm always thrilled to share my neighborhood with my clients!

WETA

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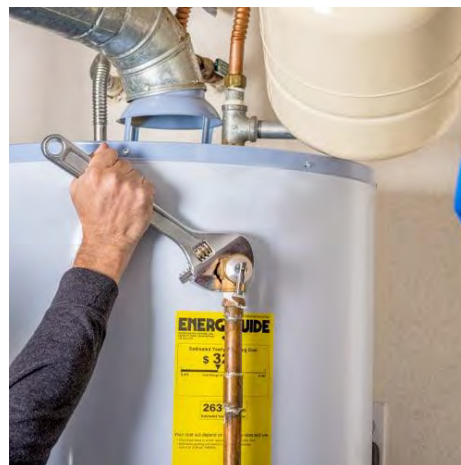
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Cardinals fly into a new year

Cheers to a new year! Building community and enriching the lives—especially the emotional well-being—of our students through our volunteer work is instrumental. We're excited for our achievements and continue to support our school community in challenging times and celebratory milestones. That said, we remain appreciative of the care and kindness that our volunteers, Abingdon staff, donors, and benefactors tirelessly provide to help our children succeed in school.

With over a dozen languages spoken by families at Abingdon, we support engaging friends and neighbors within our culturally and beautifully diverse school community. I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in APS's Family and Community Engagement (FACE) working group to update their Policy and Implementation Plan (PIP) and advocate for multilingual communication to ensure that all families can become effective partners to support their students. I am also appreciative of our district PTA—the County Council of PTAs (CCPTA) of Arlington, VA—to help Abingdon with our collective advocacy efforts.

There are multiple opportunities to support our neighborhood school. I truly hope you will consider staying engaged and connected with us as we continue advocating for our Cardinals: Facebook, Twitter, and www.abingdonpta.org.

How can you support Abingdon?

- **Abingdon Clothing Drive:** We are collecting clean and wearable unwanted clothing to stock our "Extras Closet" for students who may need clothing/personal items during the school day. All children's sizes are needed (4T - 16/adult small). New underwear and new socks are especially needed. Other items in need include pants, shorts, t-shirts, and sweatshirts, which can either be preowned items or new items. Please drop off all donations in the front lobby of Abingdon Elementary or contact Megan Miller for pick-up at meganmiller44@gmail.com.
- **AmazonSmile.** When you sign up here ([tinyurl.com/2wucuf9y](https://www.tinyurl.com/2wucuf9y)) and shop on <https://smile.amazon.com>, Amazon will donate 0.5 percent to Abingdon PTA. Friends, families, and neighbors are also



The Abingdon Cardinal truly enjoyed seeing—and giving high wings to—his Cardinal flock on the last day of school before Winter Break. Photo courtesy of the Abingdon PTA.

- invited to sign up too!
- **Grocery Rebates.** Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Abingdon Elementary (5748). Friends, families, and neighbors are also invited to link their VIC card to Abingdon as well. Sign up here: www.abingdonpta.org/fundraising/#harris-teeter.
- **Abingdon Snack Pantry:** Volunteers are needed every Thursday from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. for Abingdon's new snack pantry. Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/5n7w2w3u](https://www.tinyurl.com/5n7w2w3u).
- **Abingdon Staff Wishlists:** Please visit www.abingdonpta.org/wishlists/ to find ways to support our classroom educators. When sending packages directly to the school, please include "ATTN: [Staff name]" on the 2nd address line and include a free gift note with the teacher's name. This ensures the package is delivered to the correct teacher.

—Sharon Burd

APS School Year Calendar:

Wednesday, February 8: Early Release for Elementary/Middle/High School (Countywide Professional Learning for Staff)

Monday, February 20: Holiday—Presidents Day

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Because your safety, health, and peace of mind is our top priority, you can rest assured we are taking every precaution to ensure your safety and well-being. We have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they do not come in to work if they feel sick or if they have a fever. They have also been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before, during, and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

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

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

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

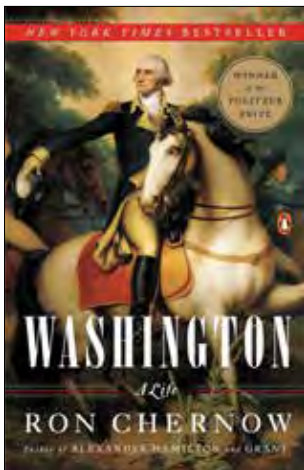
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In January, we returned to home base, Ramparts, for burger night.

Here's what's planned for February:

Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m., Carlyle (in Shirlington), 4000 S 28th St., Shirlington Village, Arlington, VA 22206, 703-931-0777. It's been a while since we visited this perennial favorite in Shirlington. The Carlyle focuses on modern American cuisine in a convenient location with easy parking.

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 at yahoo.com.

Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in February to discuss the first half of *George Washington: A Life*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography by Ron Chernow. We will tackle the second half of the book in March.

"Truly magnificent . . . [a] well-researched, well-written and absolutely definitive biography." —Andrew Roberts, *The Wall Street Journal*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Moms' Club

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

Diversity, equity, and inclusion discussion group

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be hosting monthly article discussion groups beginning in February. The group will meet on the third Wednesday of the month to discuss an article on a DEI topic.

This month we will be discussing *Black History is Your History* by Ijeoma Oluo on Wednesday February 15 at 7 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center. All are welcome to join, even if you don't read the article! For a link to the article, please scan the QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Redway at lydia.redway@gmail.com.

Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden

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





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- ♥ *RED PEPPER SOUP ☐
- ♥ *FRENCH ONION SOUP ☐
- ♥ *CAESAR SALAD ☐

CHOOSE 2 DELICIOUS ENTREE FROM THE FOLLOWING

- ♥ *BEEF TENDERLOIN FILET TOPPED WITH CRISPY ONIONS AND RED WINE SAUCE WITH A DOLLOP OF GOAT CHEESE, ACCOMPANIED WITH BLUE CHEESE SCALLOPED POTATOES AND BROCCOLI FLORETS. ☐
- ♥ *CHICKEN VALENTINO - CHICKEN BREAST STUFFED WITH SUN-DRIED TOMATO BASIL FRESH MOZZARELLA CHEESE AND SERVED WITH ROASTED ASPARAGUS AND RICE PILAF. ☐
- ♥ *GRILLED SALMON FILET WITH ORANGE CHIPOTLE SAUCE ACCOMPANIED WITH PARMESAN RISOTTO AND ROASTED ASPARAGUS. ☐
- ♥ *BROWN BUTTER SCALLOPS ACCOMPANIED WITH PARMESAN RISOTTO AND ROASTED ASPARAGUS. ☐

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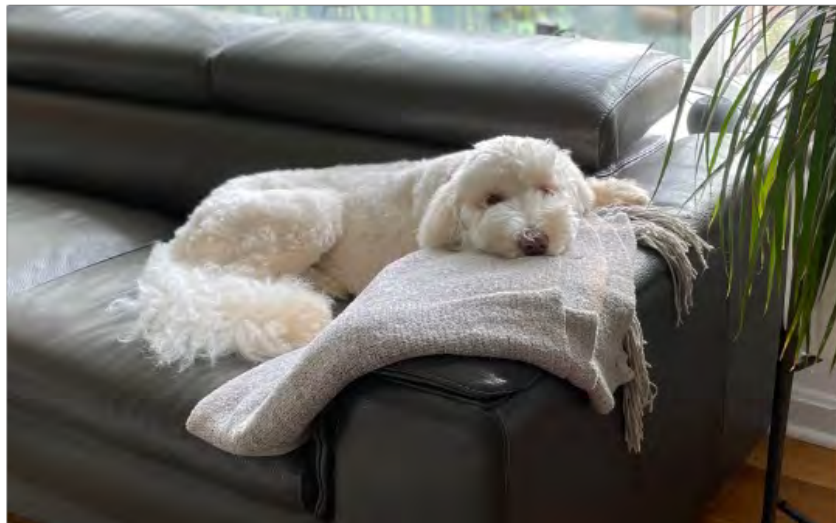
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DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



Liriope: An underappreciated garden must-have

Winter is an ideal time for garden maintenance. Make sure the temperature is at least in the 40s so you'll be able to dig in the soil.

The plant I focus on this time of year is liriope. While a common plant, and many times, underappreciated, liriope is quite a valuable specimen: it offers evergreen foliage, variegated foliage, purple or white, bead-like flowers in late summer/fall and shiny black fruit in colder months. What's more, it costs only \$10–12 and is easy for to transport and plant in your Fairlington patio.

You may situate liriope along the concrete patio perimeter or in an arc shape around larger plantings. As you approach the fence gate, plant liriope on the sides of the gate path. If you have a window well, plant five or six liriope around the concrete curved edge. Where the A/C sits, plant liriope along its edges. The foliage won't grow into the vents. Instead, foliage is upright and fountain-like, spilling over in a curved form toward the ground

Now for the plant's maintenance:

Years ago, on a Fairlington garden tour, I showed 20 or more gardeners how to get the plant for free.

When a liriope ages, it becomes larger at the root ball. If it never is divided, the root ball can be the size of two bowling balls. And it's hard. How hard? You'll have to divide it with a shovel. In some cases, a utility knife will cut the root ball into



Liriope is a non-invasive evergreen plant that spruces up walkways in the winter months. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

two or three plantings.

Dig out the plant from the ground and turn it upside down. There, you'll notice a root system choked with compacted soil or clay clods—both detrimental to a plant's health since water, oxygen, and soil nutrients can't reach the tiny root fibers. Think how hard it would be for an earthworm to crawl underground to till the soil around that compacted root ball.

The minute you divide the ball into transplants, you'll notice how much softer the root system is. Now it can breathe! You'll also notice the foliage isn't bunched but loose and freer flowing which is much more attractive.

Recently, I worked for a customer who had liriope all along her flagstone walkway. The plants had suffered and it was obvious why. The foliage was stunted (stiff and brownish) and when totally spent, it was gray). A healthy liriope will have all green blades (leaves). When I unearthed several of her Liriope plants, I noticed the soil was back-filled from when the nearby flagstone walkway was installed. The soil around her plants was so rocky, I bagged it and threw it away. When I re-dug the initial hole, I mixed in some super fine soil conditioner (loam mixture) before placing the new plant division in the ground.

All year long, even in the chill of February, you'll enjoy liriope. Another habit of the plant is that it never outgrows its space. When mature, it reaches 14-inches tall with a 10-inch spread. Thus, it never encroaches on another plant's space or grows over a walkway/patio. It won't obstruct the pipe of an A/C unit or the iron grate of a window well cover. Simply, it stays where it's planted.

The only drawback of Liriope is when it's planted in bunches. A friend of mine did this in his front yard to curb the flow of water since his home was at the low end of the road. From a design perspective, planting it enmasse makes it look wild and unsightly.

—Bill Sullivan
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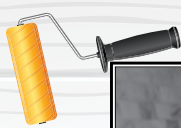


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—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner



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

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. 703-820-1808. Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

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 Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (February 8 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: fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

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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Listing Agent
Jim McCowan



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Listing Agent
Michele Graves



3237 S Utah St

Arlington, VA 22206

*2BR/2BA *Clarendon Model**

SOLD!

SOLD For \$525,000

Listing Agent
Julie Flory



2723 S Buchanan St
Arlington, VA 22206

*2BR/2BA *Clarendon II Model**

RENTED

Rented for \$2,650/month

Listing Agent
Lisa McGee



4119 Sleepy Hollow Rd
Annandale, VA 22003

4BR/3BA

SOLD!

SOLD For \$762,000

Listing Agent
Patricia Quinlin



5639 Langston Blvd
Arlington, VA 22207

3BR/2.5BA

RENTED

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Renting Agent
Lisa McGee



Julie Flory
703.599.3111



Joanne Ritchick
571.215.3350



Lisa McGee
571.239.6603



Jim McCowan
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