

*All Fairlington Newsletter*

## President's Message

February 2026

As we continue to work through the aftermath of our snow, ice, and sleet storm, here are a few friendly reminders. Please keep your porch and entryway clear of snow. If you are able, or if you have an able-bodied child who can help, consider offering to shovel a neighbor's walkway or brush snow from a parked car. If you know of older neighbors or those with mobility challenges, a quick check-in or an offer to walk a pet can make a meaningful difference.

February is Black History Month, and the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) will host the [Arlington Historical Society](#) and [Memorializing Enslaved](#) in Arlington as they share plans to commemorate the enslaved people who once lived in Fairlington. The presentation will include a preview of the [Stumbling Stones](#) memorial, scheduled for unveiling later this spring. Please join us on Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center. The [Fairlington Historical Society](#) will also post weekly throughout the month in observance of Black History Month.

Looking ahead at spring FCA meetings, in March the City of Alexandria's Transportation Services will brief the community on King Street improvement projects, including the Bradlee Center area. In April, APS School Board Chair Bethany Sutton will speak with residents. We also have several new and exciting events planned for 2026. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on all Fairlington news and activities.



—Jenn Davies, [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

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## Fairlington Plans for Stumbling Stones Memorial This Spring

Did you know that John Carlyle once owned the Morven plantation house, located approximately where Fairlington Dental stands today? Historical records indicate that as many as 43 enslaved people lived and worked on what is now Fairlington property.

As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, the FCA is recognizing the individuals who were enslaved in our own community during the 18th and 19th centuries. The [Arlington Historical Society](#) will join us on Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center to discuss Fairlington's role in the [Memorializing Enslaved](#) in Arlington project. The [Fairlington Historical Society](#) has also conducted extensive research on this history.

We look forward to learning more about the Stumbling Stones that will be installed in Fairlington in spring 2026 to honor and remember those who were enslaved here.

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Sponsored Content

## When Pain or Poor Sleep Starts Affecting Everyday Life

Many patients arrive at [Fairlington Dental](#) after dealing with jaw pain, chronic headaches, poor sleep, or discomfort that hasn't been clearly explained elsewhere. What tends to feel different is how those concerns are handled. Appointments aren't rushed. Rather than jumping straight to treatment, the team takes time to understand how pain, bite, and breathing may be connected, then suggests practical solutions for symptom relief.

Some patients come in worn down from years of tension or disrupted sleep. Others simply want to understand why something doesn't feel quite right and be offered options for feeling better.

That steady approach brings clarity around what's causing the pain or poor sleep, and meaningful relief. It gives people confidence that their symptoms can ease and daily life can feel better again.

*More about the practice at [www.fairlenton dental.com](http://www.fairlenton dental.com)*



## Survey Says...

You responded. We listened. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Community Issues Survey featured in our January newsletter. Your feedback is helping shape the 2026 FCA speaker series to reflect the topics that matter most to our community.

- Parks and recreation, including the Utah Park
- Transportation impacts, including the King St.–Bradlee Center improvements
- Multimodal transit, including biking and EV charging stations

We are now in conversation with Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to bring these topics to future programs. Follow us on [Facebook](#) for upcoming speaker announcements.

If you did not have a chance to participate, you can still share your input for our monthly speaker lineup [here](#).

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## Fairlington Resident Survey Responses

Are you looking forward to warmer weather, outdoor activities, and more opportunities to connect with neighbors? We are, too. We are building the 2026 FCA engagement calendar, guided by your interests.

Trivia night. Open mic night. Yappy hour. What would you like to see? Share your ideas by taking our [Community Engagement Survey](#).

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## February Events Calendar

*Interested in having your event included? Email [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com)*

### **FCA Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Room 118  
Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 118

### **Fairlington Diners**

Saturday, Feb. 14, 12 p.m.  
[Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub](#), 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22206, (703) 379-0122  
Join us for a casual lunch at this Shirlington restaurant and bar, known for its delicious soups and popular chicken curry. Please email carol\_dabbs at yahoo dot com if you plan to attend, and include your name and a way to reach you on the day of the event in case plans change. To receive these notices early each month, also send your email address to the same contact.

### **Fairlington Book Group**

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 103  
The Fairlington Book Group will meet to discuss a work of fiction selected at the Jan. 27 meeting. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book. To be added to the Book Group email list and receive details about the February selection, email carol\_dabbs at yahoo dot com.

### **Fairlington Moms**

Are you a Fairlington Mom looking for more support, play opportunities for kids,

- Playgroups for different age groups, accommodating all moms & schedules
- Family holiday-themed events
- Moms' nights out
- Meal trains and support for when you need it most
- Our very own classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group

All moms welcome! Please email [fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com) for further information.



**Sponsored by Kay Houghton & Associates**

#### Sponsored Content

## Fairlington Small Business Expo

Join us for the **Fairlington Small Business Expo** on Saturday, March 14, proudly **sponsored by Kay Houghton & Associates!** This community-focused event brings together small business owners who live right here in Fairlington, giving you the chance to meet your neighbors, learn about their services, and discover amazing local offerings - all in one place.

Each participating business will feature **exclusive specials, raffles, giveaways, and limited-time deals**, making this the perfect opportunity to shop local, try something new, and support the people who make our community so special.

Kay Houghton & Associates is a locally rooted real estate team with unmatched Fairlington expertise, having sold & leased over 560 homes in the community. Known for their personalized service and deep neighborhood knowledge, they're passionate about building real connections - not just closing transactions.

Come mingle, browse, and support your local businesses. We can't wait to see you there!



*Photo courtesy of Angela Church.*

Fairlington Historical Society

## Desegregation of Abingdon and Fairlington Elementary Schools

Both Fairlington Elementary School, built in 1943, which today is the Fairlington Community Center, and Abingdon Elementary School, built in 1950, were segregated in their early years. At the time, Virginia's state constitution required all public schools to be racially segregated. Black students living in South Arlington attended Drew Elementary School.

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered public schools to integrate. In response, Virginia's government adopted a policy known as "Massive Resistance" to oppose desegregation.

This effort ended in 1959 with the court-ordered integration of Stratford Junior High School, now Dorothy Hamm Middle School. However, many Arlington schools remained segregated for several more years, including Abingdon and Fairlington elementary schools. Both schools drew students primarily, and in some cases exclusively, from nearby rental communities that practiced racial discrimination, including the Fairlington Apartments. As a result, no Black students attended either school for several years. (This history will be explored in greater detail in a future article.)

Fairlington Elementary School admitted its first Black students in 1965. Abingdon Elementary School followed in 1968. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 imposed financial penalties on apartment complexes that discriminated based on race, which may have accelerated Abingdon's integration.

For more information on local school desegregation, visit the [Fairlington](#)

—Dan Burd



The advertisement features a 3x4 grid of color swatches in shades of purple, blue, and green. Below the grid, the text "CHELSEA PAINT & PAPER" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the grid, the services offered are listed: "Painting", "Interior / Exterior", and "Wallpapering". Contact information for Steve Chute is provided, including his name, email address "chute285@aol.com", and two phone numbers: "Home: 703.912.1450" and "Cell: 571.216.9338". At the bottom, it states "Licensed, Bonded & Insured" and "References Available".



*Spent stalks with dead seed heads in a Fairlington patio provide a winter supply of food for the birds. Photo by Tina Byrd.*

For the Love of Nature

## Winter Interest in Fairlington Gardens and Landscapes

Winters can be long and gray, but your patio garden can help diminish that dreariness and be transformed into a place of natural beauty. Winter interest does not have to come only from evergreens. Spent flowers and grasses can

left standing, dried flower stalks and stems can be as striking as bare trees in winter.

On a dreary day, there is little more engaging than watching songbirds enjoy the seeds in your garden. Small birds such as chickadees and goldfinches often perch directly on seed heads, while larger birds forage on the ground. Native perennials provide a rich supply of seeds for wintering songbirds, along with architectural interest in the landscape.

Plants with [winter interest](#) are valued for their ability to brighten and add flair to gardens during the coldest months. Some are known for their berries, others for their bark, and still others for unique forms or textures, but all contribute beauty during an otherwise stark season.

—Tina Byrd



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Government Happenings

## Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker Wins Firehouse Primary

On Jan. 13, with 70.6% of the vote, Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker won the Democratic nomination for Virginia's 39th Senate District. The seat is being vacated by Sen. Adam Ebbin, who has been nominated to serve in Governor Abigail Spanberger's administration.

Delegate Bennett-Parker will face Republican candidate Julie Robin Lineberry in a special election scheduled for Feb. 10, 2026.

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the community located within the City of Alexandria remains in District 39 and will participate in this election. More information is [available online](#).

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