# **AFAIRLINGTON**BULLETIN

IANUARY 2019





www.fca-fairlington.org

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# Home Improvement Showcase coming January 26



Last year's event drew a crowd of residents eager to talk to contractors about their home improvement projects. Photo by Guy Land.

The Fairlington Home Improvement Showcase is set to return for its fourth running on Saturday, January 26, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The event will be held from 9 am to 2 pm. Participating contractors will have tables set up in Room 100 for the duration of the event and will also take turns presenting to a seated audience in Room 118.

The event will once again feature contractors who know the intricacies and quirks of our historic buildings. The seminar format will be similar to last year and provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion of home renovation and repair issues and options. Topics could include kitchen remodeling, bathroom makeovers, plumbing challenges, window and door replacement, electrical and lighting

options, flooring upgrades, and effective landscaping.

Space will be limited based on room occupancy codes. Those interested in attending a presentation session in Room 118 will be admitted on a firstcome, first-served basis.

There will be many opportunities to ask questions and learn about unique design options that can enhance the quality of living and value in Fairlington.

Contractors from previous years are currently considering participating. If you have any recommendations for contractors who have done exceptional work in your home, please contact FCA Director Chris Weathers at cweathers@ttrsir.com or 703-402-4648.

Contractors that have committed so far are AKG Design Studio, Custom Design Tile, Frosty's Heating & Cooling, GH Contractors & Handyman Services, and Silva Construction.

A final seminar schedule will be published on the FCA website and Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, and posted outside the FCC's large, multipurpose room on the day of the event. The event is free and open to all residents and visitors.

-Chris Weathers

# Coming up ...

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

# FCA planning meeting January 9

There will be no guest presentation at the January **meeting.** The board will hold a work session to consider the 2019 budget and the schedule of activities and programs for the year.

# Regular board business:

- Approval of December 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 Appreciation Society.

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

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

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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#### **Fairlington Citizens Association**

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182 571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

#### **Board of Directors**

#### Officers **Directors** Guy Land, President Sara Tuke Carr Lindsay Willmann, Vice President Jennifer Davies Ed Hilz. Treasurer Kent Duffy Chris Weathers Rebecca Sayres, Secretary Sam Wolbert

## **Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee**

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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#### – DEADLINE –

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Send material on disk with paper proof to: FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182 Email editorial announcements to: editor@fca-fairlington.org Email commercial and mini ads to: admanager@fca-fairlington.org Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

#### **COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES**

Artwork and check made payable to FCA are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
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For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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# Calendar

**New Year's Day** Tuesday, January 1 FCC closed

## **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, January 7, 6 pm Hank's Oyster Bar 1026 King St., Alexandria

## FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 7 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

## Paint, Build, Create

Saturday, January 12, 11 am FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

#### **Martin Luther King Day**

Monday, January 21 FCC closed

#### **Book Group**

Tuesday, January 22, 7:30 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

## **Fairlington Diners**

Thursday, January 24, 6:30 pm Ramparts Tavern & Grill 1700 Fern St., Alexandria

# **Home Improvement Showcase**

Saturday, January 26, 9 am FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

# Sound wall preparations



Work is underway to clear vegetation and trees from the areas where sound walls will be installed along I-395. The project requires approximately 20' of clearance, with the wall expected to be approximately 30" wide. Photo by Guy Land.

**Contributors this month:** Christine Chirichella, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Andrew Raab, Susan Renehan, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, and Chris Weathers.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Your civic association starts 2019 with two new board members and a strong list of proposed activities. Hugh Baumgardner and Evan Harvey have left

the board, and we thank them for their work. They have been valued members of the community. We welcome Sara Tuke Carr and Sam Wolbert, who bring fresh perspective and new energy to the group.

Reflecting Fairlington's demographic changes, over half of the board members are in their 30s or early 40s, and four of them are parents of young children. This gives our board a strength that many civic associations lack.

We'll be refining our agenda for 2019, but here are some things we'll be focusing on. These advance our goals of keeping our residents informed, providing a community-wide voice on key issues, and enhancing quality of life in Fairlington.

- **Sponsoring community activities.** The popular Home Improvement Showcase returns for a fourth year on January 26. The sixth annual Fairlington 5K Run/Walk is slated for April 27. We'll be scheduling another Family Movie Night (last year's was rained out). And we expect to again support the Fairlington Farmers Market and co-sponsor, with Fairlington Villages, the Fourth of July Parade.
- **Engaging with elected officials.** We've already invited a member of the Arlington School Board to speak to us this spring, and we expect to host at least one county board member and other officials and staff.
- **Linking Fairlington's condo associations.** Last year we launched a quarterly meeting of the condo and homeowner association presidents. This year we'll try to convene their grounds committees. We'll also build ties to other organizations that serve Fairlington.
- **Supporting our neighborhood school.** We'll continue to work with the PTA and Arlington Public Schools to keep Abingdon a strong school that serves all of Fairlington.
- **Monitoring real estate development.** The Amazon headquarters is the big topic here, but we'll also be following other development proposals that could affect our neighborhood.
- **Connecting with our residents.** FCA's success depends on us engaging with you, our members. We are searching for better ways to serve you. We hope to start live-streaming our monthly meetings, and archiving key meetings, to help you keep up with us.

If there are topics or activities that you would like to see us tackle, please let us know. And remember that all of these require volunteers. We encourage you to join us. We need you.

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



# New FCA Board elected at December meeting

A new Executive Board of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) was selected at December's annual meeting. The entire board is elected to a one-year term every year. Fairlington residents returned seven sitting members, and elected two new members to the board.

The FCA is a county-recognized umbrella civic organization for North and South Fairlington, Park Shirlington, and Shirlington House. Its mission is to promote activi-

ties that make Fairlington a better community in which to live, serve as a forum for discussion of residents' concerns, and represent their views to local governments.

Returning to officer slots are President Guy Land and Treasurer Ed Hilz. Lindsay Willmann will serve as Vice President, and Rebecca Sayres will fill the Secretary



2018 FCA Board Directors Rebecca Sayres, Lindsay Willmann, Jennifer Davies, Secretary Evan Harvey, and Treasurer Ed Hilz wrap up the year at the December 12 meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

position. Returning board members are Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, and Chris Weathers. Joining the board are South Fairlington residents Sara Tuke Carr and Samuel Wolbert.

The candidates were elected without opposition. Officers and directors receive no compensation for their service on the board.

President Guy Land reported on 2018's major activities pertaining to engagement with county officials, the

monitoring of development and transportation issues, and enriching life in Fairlington. Specifically, Land highlighted County Manager Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Police Department Captain Adrienne Quigley,

Continued on page 24

# Get to know the two new FCA Board Directors

At the FCA annual meeting and elections, two new board members were elected, Sara Tuke Carr and Sam Wolbert.

Sara Tuke Carr, a 10-year resident, joins the FCA Board on the heels of working on Fairlington United. Photo by Guy Land.

Sara Tuke Carr is a 10-year resident of Fairlington and works as a therapist. She is the mother of two boys, including one who is a student at Abingdon Elementary. Recently, Carr was involved in the efforts of Fairlington United—the volunteer-led campaign to keep all Fairlington students together at Abingdon Elementary School.

Through this work as well as her membership in the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA®, Carr has gotten to know a number of young families in Fairlington. She is interested in representing Fairlington to the wider community and excited about the opportunity to learn

more about issues affecting the neighborhood including traffic, safety, and schools.



Newly elected Sam Wolbert is an avid pet lover. Photo courtesy Sam Wolbert.

Sam Wolbert is a newer Fairlington resident and a first-time condominium owner. A native of Michigan, Wolbert has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the President and CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington located in Shirlington.

In his candidate statement, Wolbert said that he is looking forward to bringing the perspective of newer, younger residents. He is an enthusiastic pet owner of a dog and two cats.

-Susan Renehan



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# Fairlington students remain united at Abingdon

On December 6, the Arlington County School Board voted to adopt an elementary boundary map that kept students in both North and South Fairlington at Abingdon.

Previous versions of the map had recommended that students who live in South Fairlington be zoned for Drew Elementary, which would have removed 140 students from the school. Only one small Abingdon planning unit (across Four Mile Run) will go to Drew next year.



Students and parents demonstrate their love of Abingdon at a Fairlington United table outside the Fairlington Farmers Market in October. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

In last month's *Bulletin*, we chronicled the months-long process involving multiple proposed boundary maps as Arlington Public Schools (APS) worked to revise elementary school boundaries in anticipation of opening the new Alice W. Fleet Elementary School and Drew Elementary as a full neighborhood school in 2019.

Throughout the process, the FCA has supported keeping all of Fairlington within the Abingdon zone, sending a letter to the school board, speaking with various members individually, and presenting at a November school board meeting.

While the December decision brought relief to much of the community, it does not mean that Abingdon is out of the woods. APS projections for enrollment at Abingdon indicate that the school would be at 131 percent of capacity in 2021, so it will be part of a boundary change process in 2020 that involves 15 elementary schools across Arlington. The Abingdon attendance zone extends from South Fairlington to Columbia Pike along Four Mile Run and it is one of the largest in the county.

However, there has been concern among Abingdon parents about data discrepancies and the accuracy of

projections after an APS error was discovered. Jennifer Davies, FCA Board member and former Abingdon PTA co-President, had urged school board members to look at the 2018 school enrollment numbers that show the school being slightly under-capacity and recommended waiting until 2020 to re-zone Abingdon should projections be overestimated.

Davies addressed school board members at the December meeting prior to the vote, "Regardless of which outcome we arrive at, we have two years to take advantage of this next process (2020)—the current eight-week process was very short and compressed, causing us to be reactive instead of proactive. The adoption of the boundary map to keep all Fairlington students at Abingdon will encourage a larger dialogue over the course of the next two years."

At the meeting, many Abingdon supporters spoke on behalf of the school, citing issues of proximity/walk-ability, greater flexibility in the 2020 boundary process, adverse economic impacts on Abingdon, and data discrepancies as primary reasons to keep all of Fairlington at Abingdon.

—Christine Chirichella

# Last call for chairs and volunteers for 2019 Home and Garden Tour

The Fairlington Historical Society is searching for chair(s) and volunteers to begin planning for the biennial Home and Garden Tour scheduled for May 2019. Do you love this event? Please come forward! This year's tour will only happen if a chair(s) is identified—otherwise there will be no 2019 tour.

This very popular event will again open some of Fairlington's most inventively renovated and decorated homes and patios. If you are new to the community, there is no better way than helping with the tour to get ideas for your own home and to learn about the contractors who do this kind of work.

If—and only if—a chair and volunteers can be secured before Friday, January 11, a kick-off reception will be held for anyone willing to open their home for the tour and to help manage the event on Friday, January 18, in the North Fairlington Community Center (7 pm).

Interested? Please contact us at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.



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- Erik, Arlington, VA



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# County board approves long-range plan for Four Mile Run Valley

The Arlington County Board gave final approval in November to a longterm area plan for Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) that would preserve a mix of light industrial and commercial service uses, foster the arts, increase transportation circulation and safety (pedestrians, bikes), improve parking and traffic, and enhance natural areas.



Conceptual drawing of Four Mile Run Dr. Courtesy Arlington County.

staff that currently operate in 4MRV, primarily in the county-owned building at 3700 Four Mile Run Dr. The rehearsal, artist, and recording studios; black box theater; and office spaces located within the building provide users with a unique clustering of arts and creative activities producing a fertile environment for collaboration and innovation.

Concluding a public planning process that lasted almost two-and-a-half years, the board's action articulates a general vision for the area along Four Mile Run (next to Shirlington) and the Nauck community that can guide general development for the next couple of decades. This area is one of the last in Arlington to undergo a major county planning effort.

The board's November action complements their approval in September of a parks plan for the 4MRV area. That plan would maintain the Shirlington Dog Park and, over time, implement improvements to Jennie Dean park. (See the August and November 2018 issues of the *Bulletin* for details.)

Four Mile Run Valley contains some of the last areas of industrially zoned land in Arlington. The approved plan notes a desire in the community to retain existing uses and an industrial aesthetic. There had been considerable concern earlier in the process when options projected the loss of some of these locally owned businesses.

The plan recommends design guidelines that would maintain the industrial character in new and re-used buildings while making the area more inviting for pedestrians and improving safety.

# Arts and Industry district

Throughout the planning process, participants stressed the value of enhancing and expanding the existing arts activities, ultimately leading to a potential Arts and Industry district.

This would take advantage of the variety of visual and performing artists, arts organizations, and cultural affairs

The plan calls for boosting this arts theme by integrating public art within identified parks, public spaces, and other 4MRV locations, as well as by working with Dominion Energy Virginia, the arts community, and area businesses and residents to explore possible artistic screening options for the utility substation located on Four Mile Run Dr.

# **Traffic and parking**

An in-depth study of the Four Mile Run Dr./Shirlington Rd. intersection will help to develop a design that better accommodates east-west bicycle and pedestrian crossings, minimizes vehicular delay, and promotes overall safety for all modes of transportation.

One of the longer-term aspects of the plan calls for significant changes in parking patterns and in Four Mile Run Dr. itself. Conceptual designs for possible improvements to the street include converting the current four lanes to two lanes separated by a turn lane, improved crosswalks and bicycle crossings, permanent parking lanes, and curb extensions.

The plan recommends head-out angled parking on Four Mile Run Dr. fronting Jennie Dean Park.

Declaring that "the existing sidewalks along Four Mile Run Dr. are discontinuous and, where they exist, provide limited comfort for pedestrians," the plan suggests a variety of steps that could make the area more friendly for pedestrians. It also proposes steps to facilitate bicycle traffic through the area, particularly along the W&OD and Four Mile Run Trails.

Continued on page 19

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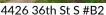
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# Weather and equipment delay FCC playground re-opening



The Fairlington Park playground at the Fairlington Community Center is behind schedule but expected to be wrapped up by early 2019. Photo by Guy Land.

This fall's rainy weather and delays in getting some of the equipment from the vendor have slowed the completion of the Fairlington Park playground renovation project at the Fairlington Community Center. The work was originally to have been completed by the end of December, but county staff now say that the project will likely not wrap up until the first quarter of 2019.

One of the last components of the project will be the resurfacing of the walking track around the field. The contractor will attempt to keep the field open and accessible as much as possible while this work is being done.

Once the renovation of the playground is complete, the county expects to work on restoring the playing field. The surface of the field has deteriorated significantly over time.

County staff hope to celebrate the re-opening of the popular playground with some sort of formal ribbon cutting in the spring.

-Guy Land

Thanks Harry Reem! In the December 2018 *Bulletin*, we inadvertently failed to recognize Fairlington Villages Board Treasurer Reem in the credits for photos taken at Fairlington's 75th anniversary celebration in October.

# Sidewalk improvement project heads towards construction

In 2017, the Arlington County Board approved \$1.7 million for improvements along S. 31st St. from S. Woodrow St. to S. Randolph St. The project is almost through the design phase and is anticipated to start construction in the summer of 2019.

The project will install a sidewalk on the east side of S. 31st St. from the bus shelter across from the Shirlington House apartments to the Shirlington Bus Station. It will also replace the existing cobra style streetlights with LED streetlights along S. 31st St. between S. Woodrow St. and S. Randolph St. Trees will be planted to replace those that have to be removed, in addition to some supplemental trees.

The project is part of a \$5.5 million package of neighborhood conservation improvements recommended by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz and Secretary Rebecca Sayres are Fairlington's representatives to the committee. Funding comes from bonds approved by county voters.

Due to county budget cuts, the Capital Improvement Plan significantly reduced neighborhood conservation funding from \$12 million to \$5 million for 2019–2020. The funding reduction will severely limit the number of projects that can be considered by the NCAC at its semi-annual funding sessions during the next two years.

The only unfunded Fairlington project remaining with the committee is the installation of a sidewalk along the north side of S. Abingdon St. between S. 31st St. and S. 31st Rd. That project is currently at the bottom of the funding queue, and it will take several funding sessions before its consideration. If at that point it is determined to cost more than \$500,000, it would not be considered a viable project under the current funding restraints.

-Rebecca Sayres

# Save the Date: Fairlington 5K coming April 27

Beat the winter blues and break out your running shoes and Fitbit to start training for the sixth annual Fairlington 5K Run/Walk for Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie. More than 600 runners took to the streets of Fairlington last year and a similar crowd is expected this year. Register for the race, or find out more about sponsoring or volunteering at www.fairlington5k.com. See next month's issue of the *Bulletin* for more information.





# LAUREN KOLAZAS

REAL ESTATE

# Hoping for More Space in 2019?

Is your beloved Fairlington home starting to feel a bit cramped? If so, please sign up below for my Life After Fairlington mailing list. You could be writing a testimonial just like this in 2019!



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# Santa rides in the rain

Despite the rainy day, Fairlington residents young and young-at-heart enjoyed Santa's tour through the neighborhood during his traditional ride—but this time from inside the firetruck. Due to the rain, Santa's plans to stop in the Villages were thwarted, but he and his Fire Station 7 elves stopped at the FCC to dry off, give out candy,

The FCA thanks Fairlington Villages for the use of the Santa suit, and Presto Valet for the complimentary cleaning of the suit.

Photos by Guy Land.



# Spring Master Naturalists volunteer training class

Make a difference in our community by becoming a Master Naturalist volunteer! The Virginia Master Naturalist program trains volunteers to provide education, citizen science, and outreach to help conserve and steward natural resources and public lands. Volunteers gain certification through state-approved natural history courses. Recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines provide fun and interactive training. Volunteers must commit to at least 40 hours of service and an additional eight hours of continuing education annually to become certified.

Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) will hold training this spring, beginning February 26 through June 11, on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 10 pm at Long Branch Nature Center. Four Saturday field trips (dates TBD) will be scheduled at parks around the area.

ARMN will hold an open house for prospective trainees on Sunday, January 13, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. For more information and to apply, visit www.armn.org. Applications are due Friday, January 18.

# Coming Soon in the Glen



Coming Next Month - Wonderful Full size Clarendon in Fairlington Glen. Ideal courtyard location with assigned parking. Replacement energy-efficient windows and HVAC with heat pump. Renovated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counters, open shelving, pendant lights with dimmers and subway tile backsplash. Newly renovated lower level bath with new vanity/light/shower with new white subway tile. Newer front loading stackable LG washer & dryer. Pulldown stairs to tall attic - with expansion possibility. Updated upper bath. Pretty hardwood floors. Gorgeous patio. Don't miss it!



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# Stop!



In December, a new stop sign was installed at the intersection of S. 31st and S. Columbus Sts. Previously, there had been a yield sign when turning left from S. Columbus St. onto S. 31st St. Photo by Guy Land.

# Fire Station 7 to remain closed longer than anticipated

In October, the Arlington County Fire Department temporarily closed Fairlington's Fire Station 7 until further notice due to structural and safety concerns.

An engineering investigation was initiated after personnel inquired about noises they heard when Engine 107 pulled in or out of the apparatus bay. Part of the crew's living quarters were located directly below the bay. Non-invasive testing was done and identified some structural concerns.

First, the floor was built many decades ago and was not designed to handle the weight of modern fire engines, which has almost doubled since the station was built. Second, with the additional weight, engineers found that the steel and the concrete structures of the flooring were no longer working in unison to support the load. The noise the crews heard was the concrete and steel in the floor rubbing against one another as they were flexing at different rates.

In November, Station 7's Captain Craig Brightbill reached out to the FCA with an update. The comprehensive engineering study to be conducted at Station 7 will take at least four to six months. The actual repairs will be after that time frame. Based on this information, Engine 107 and its crew will stay located in Clarendon for an extended period.

Capt. Brightbill assured the FCA that the Station 7 crew is still committed to the community and that FCA should reach out at any time with concerns. We will continue to keep Fairlington updated during this process.

—Christine Chirichella

# Landmark Mall Re-Planning Process kicks-off

The Landmark Mall Re-Planning Process officially launched in November with a community meeting, followed by a December 12 Open House.

The project had been delayed due to the mall's partial owner, the Howard Hughes Corporation, acquiring the adjacent property and rethinking its approach to the project.

This re-planning process will build from the existing community vision, established in the 2009 Landmark/ Van Dorn Corridor Plan, for a new Landmark Mall as a mixed-use center with transit and open spaces. The existing mall will be demolished. The community process will consider refinements such as new uses, incorporating flexibility of uses, and incorporating recently adopted city policies to promote traffic safety and multimodal transportation.

On Saturday January 26, a Landmark Mall Re-Planning Process Work Shop will be held at 10 am in the cafeteria of Francis Hammond Middle School, 4646 Seminary Rd.

# Weight restriction on West Glebe Road bridge

Arlington County has imposed a five-ton vehicular weight limit and pedestrian restrictions on the West Glebe Rd. bridge at S. Four Mile Run Dr. after discovering deterioration during a routine inspection.

The county performs maintenance inspections of its bridges every two years; the last routine inspection was in November 2017. A recent interim check on the 62-year-old bridge prompted a more detailed inspection that showed accelerated deterioration in the structural beams, particularly underneath the sidewalks.

The restrictions will stay in place until further notice. The county will continue to monitor the bridge on a routine basis to ensure there is no further deterioration in its condition.

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# Fairlingtonian named local 40 Under 40 honoree

Lucy Beadnell, a leader in the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® and Director of Advocacy for The Arc of Northern Virginia, was recently recognized as one of The Leadership Center for Excellence's 40 Under 40 honorees. A luncheon was held at the Army Navy Country Club in October to honor these community leaders.

"I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be recognized for my work helping people with developmental disabilities and their families. I've been given a lot of room to run with ideas by
The Arc of Northern Virginia.... I've seen doors to inclusive schools, jobs, and housing really open for people with developmental disabilities in a way they never had before," Beadnell says.

Beadnell joined the MOMS Club in February of 2013, shortly after the birth of her first child. Since then, she's run the dinner club, served as Treasurer and President, and co-coordinated 10 consignment sales.



Lucy Beadnell was honored by The Leadership Center for Excellence at its 40 Under 40 event. Photo courtesy Lucy Beadnell.

She says, "I absolutely love the Club and what they have done for our family....It is a pleasure to give back in any way I can. The Club saved me during some of my most stressful parenting times ... I honestly don't know how I would have made it without them."

The Leadership Center for Excellence's 40 Under 40 is presented in collaboration with Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington Economic Development, and InsideNova. Nominees must live or work in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, be under the age of 40 at the time of the lunch event, and demonstrate impact through their leadership.

The center is an outgrowth of Leadership Arlington, a nine-month program that combines an issues-based curriculum with a skill-building component. Two Fairlingtonians, Noemi Riveira and Sam Wolbert, are in this year's class.

—Christine Chirichella

# Letter to the Editor

# Did you know...you may cause "fatbergs"?

A "fatberg" occurs when wet wipes encounter fat that has been put down the drain (another bad idea).

Recently, there was a major sewer backup in Fairlington Glen caused by one or more residents disposing of wipes in the toilet. Unlike toilet paper, wet wipes (even those claimed as "flushable") do not disintegrate. Over 100 wipes were found in the sewer line that connects all the units in that building. One unit suffered serious damage and none of the units in that row were allowed to use water for about 24 hours.

Fairlington's sewer system dates back to the 1940s. Units in each building share a single sewer lateral to the county sewer line. A blockage most frequently, but not always, occurs in the unit that has the low basement (or the unit with the high ceiling).

A sewer backup could cost you a bundle and can be a nightmare for you and your neighbors. The cost of cleanup comes out of your condo dues and countywide clean-ups come out of your taxes. And our water rate increases due to the extensive cleanup required in the Arlington County sewer system. Please think twice about what you are putting down your drains and flushing down your toilets.

—Thora Stanwood

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. The AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity and may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

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# Paint, Build, Create



Last year's Paint, Build, Create event attracted more than 600 participants. Photo by Guy Land.

Join Arlington County for a day of creative exploration on Saturday, January 12, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. This annual event is free and open to the public and will feature STEM-based projects for all ages, including bubble painting, mirror boxes, kaleidoscopes, kinetic sand, cup and string telephones, simple levers, slime, and lots more! Food trucks will be parked along S. Stafford St. Attendees are encouraged to park on-street in the neighborhood on S. Stafford St, S. Utah St., and S. 32nd Rd. Visit https://parks.arlingtonva.us/paint-build-create for more information.

# Verizon Fios update

As 2019 begins, Fairlingtonians have questioned the status of Verizon Fios in the neighborhood. Here is an update on the Verizon Fios project that has been ongoing in North and South Fairlington communities.

In Fairlington Villages (North Fairlington), Wards I, III, IV, V, and VI currently have the Fios infrastructure in place to receive the fiber optic cables, according to Mark Johnson, Fairlington Villages Operations Manager.

Wards III and IV have February installation dates to bring the pathway from the backyard fences up to the buildings and up the buildings in the case of multiunit buildings. Johnson notes that there is currently no scheduled time when the fiber will be brought into the other three wards above, and that might not happen for at least another year or more.

In Ward II, the optic cable work has yet to begin with no scheduled start date announced. Fairlington Villages is in regular contact with Verizon and will continue to provide updates to all residents.

In Fairlington Mews, Fios has been available to residents for several months, according to Ryan Hamel, Mews Vice President. Most of the work was completed in the Spring of 2018, when Verizon offered residents incentives to switch from their current providers.

Work appears to be ongoing on the final stages of installation to deliver Fios to the remaining condo associations in South Fairlington.

—Andrew Raab

4MRV, continued from page 9

# Stream improvements

An important aspect of 4MRV is the stream itself, as residents have developed a greater appreciation for the potential of Four Mile Run to serve as an amenity. The vision is for a vibrant open space network that connects the many public spaces and natural areas that already exist or that are being proposed.

The plan calls for Four Mile Run buffer improvements and expansion, bank stabilization, invasive species management, and in-stream channel improvements to improve habitat and stability.

It also recommends improving public access along both sides of Four Mile Run while providing overlooks and safe, stable water access at key points in order to reconnect with water and nature while accentuating scenic views along the waterway. It also envisions enhanced public access to the stream.

The 4MRV Area Plan will help guide public and private investment, including county operations for the long term, and offer a framework that will provide structure instead of the kind of piecemeal development that the area has previously experienced.

—Guy Land

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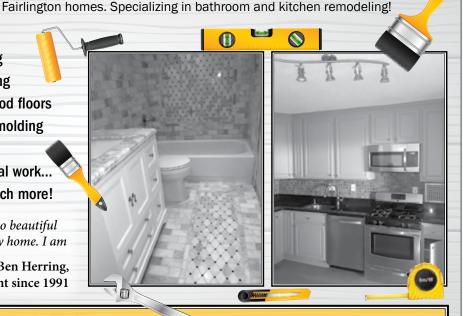
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# neighborhood news

# **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 December, we enjoyed our now-traditional visit to the L'Auberge Chez François for a fabulous French lunch.



The Diners celebrate the holidays in December. Photo courtesy Carol Dabbs.

For January, we'll visit a new restaurant for us and Ramparts for ribs.

Monday, January 7, 6 pm, Hank's Oyster Bar, 1026 King St., Alexandria, 703-739-4265, www.hanksoysterbar. com. This earlier-thanusual start time will enable us to order

oysters at a happy hour price which ends at 6:30 pm. Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 pm on Sunday, January 6. Do 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.

Thursday, January 24, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Tavern & Grill, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampart-stavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Thursday, when they offer a special on ribs. The rest of the menu is also available. Please call Carol at the number above if you plan to attend.

To receive a copy of these notices in the month preceding the event, email carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com.

# **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in January as we finish our discussion of *The World Remade: America in World War I*, by G. J. Meyer.

"A bracing, indispensable account of America's epochdefining involvement in the Great War, rich with fresh insights into the key issues, events, and personalities of the period." —Amazon.com The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, January 22, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

# Canasta Group Doubles the Fun

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

# Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

# Fairlington MOMS Club

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

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# ABING School news



# "Amazing Abingdon" features innovative math strategies





Abingdon students demonstrate math games. Photos by Carrie Lewis.

The December "Amazing Abingdon" showcase provided an opportunity for teachers and students to demonstrate a variety of math games that help students learn important math concepts in fun and engaging ways. The evening featured hands-on examples of math learning in kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms.

Kindergarten teachers presented a "math menu" that included games such as "Gingerbread Count around the Room" and "Racing Bears"—games designed to build students' number sense. Fifth-grade students

taught parents how to play games that reinforced multiplication facts, decimal addition and subtraction, and order of operations.

Teachers took parents through a typical classroom math workshop and taught them games to play at home to reinforce learning.

Abingdon teachers explained that math games allow students to engage in active learning at their individual pace and level. Students collaborate with one another and use mathematical thinking to solve problems and deepen their understanding of skills. Repetition of games helps students increase their fact fluency while having fun.

Abingdon students were enthusiastic in describing their experience with math games. As one student explained, "Math games help me learn something difficult by making it more fun."

# Abingdon girls are "on the run"

On December 1, a group of third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Abingdon girls completed the Northern Virginia Girls on the Run 5k race. The group trained throughout the fall with parent and teacher volunteer coaches.



Abingdon Girls on the Run celebrate a successful 5K! Photo by Kim Mathis.

Girls on the Run is a transformational, physical activity-based, positive youth development program for girls. The program teaches life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons and running games, and culminates with a celebratory 5K running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.

Congratulations to the Abingdon Girls on the Run athletes!

—Carrie Lewis

# Wakefield happenings

Wakefield's STEM for Her team, including Fairlington students, competed in Audi's and STEM for Her's "Drive like a Girl" competition in December. The team worked with mentors from Audi and the STEM for Her organization to design environmental sustainability and marketing materials for Audi to use with their e-tron division.

The Wakefield team competed against other Northern Virginia high

school teams and placed 2nd. But more exciting is that Audi offered the girls summer internships. The team was also asked to present at the STEM for Her annual gala.

On January 17 at 7 pm, Wakefield hosts "Welcome to Wakefield: Intro to High School for Rising 9th-Grade Parents," an orientation for parents of rising 9th-graders about what to expect in high school.

—Donna Felipe

# FCA Board, continued from page 5

as well as Virginia House Delegate Mark Levine, who addressed the FCA this past year. He also noted important issues that the FCA was involved in, including the completion of the Abingdon Elementary School renovation, school boundary issues, I-395 sound walls, and the well-attended Fairlington 75th anniversary celebration.

Additionally, Land previewed items on tap for 2019, including popular annual events such as the January 26 contractor showcase, April 27 Abingdon 5K run/walk, a family movie night, and the annual Fourth of July Parade.

New ideas included live-streaming FCA meetings and the possibility of hosting a speaker to discuss the recent Amazon Crystal City headquarters announcement. Land indicated the FCA would continue to monitor overall development near Fairlington.

Hilz reported that the association's year-to-date finances showed a net loss of roughly \$1,400. He noted additional FCA sponsorships, including the Fairlington 75th anniversary celebration as contributing factors to the loss. However, FCA will continue to sponsor community

events like the annual Fourth of July Parade and Fairlington Farmers Market.

All Fairlington residents and owners are members of the FCA, the only Arlington civic association that doesn't charge dues. The group's main source of revenue is the income from advertising in the *Bulletin*.

—Rebecca Sayres



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



# Let holly brighten the dull winter landscape

January can be the bleakest of months on a patio. While you sip your coffee and look out the kitchen or dining room window, all you'll see are dead leaves cluttered over the mulch—or dead strands from perennials like Peony or Chinese ornamental grass. And then you look at the dieback from the crape myrtle tree and hydrangea.



Large holly on S. 34th St. Photos by Guy Land.

Yes, the scene is dreary.

But one way to decorate your garden for the full 12 months a year is to include evergreens. Actually, some specimens' leaves are ever-blue and ever-maroon or even ever-variegated.

This month, I'll focus on the holly. Its branches were popular last month when seen attached to front-door wreaths and handrails on stair banisters.

Winterberry Holly: This is the only deciduous holly. You should see it in winter when the leaves are off and branches are dotted with vivid, red berries. Think of it—no flowers, no leaves. Just blackish wood with clinging red spheres. With a white backdrop of a snowstorm, the specimen looks lovely, and unique.

**'Burford' Holly:** This seems to have the most pronounced fruiting of any holly cultivar. The leaves are shiny green and curved around the margin. And they are spiny to the touch. The specimen is dense with branching and needs some space.

Japanese Holly: These tend to be erect, even up to 10-feet tall, and are suitable for a corner of your patio. Most have little width (two feet, maybe) and grow in the shape of a triangle or football. The leaves are small (one-inch-long) and oval (resembling a Boxwood). Cultivars readily available at the nursery are 'Centennial,' 'Chesapeake,' and 'Cherokee.' A wider cultivar is 'Steeds,' which grows six- to eightfeet tall with a spread of about five feet. For a thin, vertical space consider the 'Sky Pencil' Holly. It'll grow to six-feet tall but with a width of just 10 inches. It's ideal for hiding the downspout in the corner of your patio.

**Inkberry Holly:** This has black fruit that grows to just ¼ of an inch. The shrub grows to seven-feet tall with a three-foot spread.



Fairlington holly.

Holly 'Compacta': This holly cultivar is smallish and grows like a Boxwood. Its stout but modest size makes it perfect for the narrow patio beds in Fairlington. These can be lined up for symmetry or interspaced with a contrasting-type of specimen, say Barberry, which offers maroon foliage.

Chinese Holly: I see very few of these and there's a reason. It has the most pointed terminal margins of any leaf on any specimen. I've noticed them planted at first-floor windows for security. If a burglar would get pricked by one in haste, their screams would surely give them away or even activate a security alarm. It's like being pricked by a needle without warning.

—Bill Sullivan www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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

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



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



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

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

#### **MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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

# The Area's <u>Best</u> Property Management Company



Family Owned & Operated since 1984

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Family Owned Since 1984 - Serving VA, MD & DC

Contact us today!
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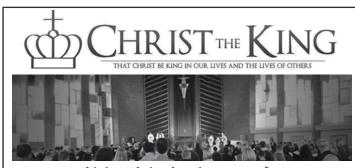
# 30% Discount on Tax Preparation

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



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

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



Worshiping Christ the King Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. 1801 North Quaker Lane • CTKAlexandria.org





# Long & Foster Falls Church/Arlington Sales Office 6299 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, VA 22044

Office: 703.543-9660



# Listed for Rent \$2,400

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

**Sandra Graves 703-577-5633** 



## **Listed for Rent \$4,500/month**

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

Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



# Listed for Sale \$155,900

7376 Lee Unit #204 Falls Church, VA 22046 1BR/1BA

Sarah Wittig 703-314-1661



#### Listed for Rent \$2,400/month

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

Timi Obikoya 571-970-8172



#### Listed for Rent \$1,475

4906 B-2 29th Rd S. Arlington, VA 22206 1BR/ 1BA

Britt Grouby 703-409-0486



#### Listed for Rent \$2,450

3506 Wakefield St. South Unit #1648 Arlington, VA 22206 2BR/ 2BA

Bud Wood 703-599-6482

We are Collecting Canned Goods for AFAC & Gently Used Winter Wear & Coats for A-Span through December 31st!

