

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JANUARY 2021

Volume 47, Number 1

County staff to brief Fairlington on new natural resources plan

Inside this month

Features

Natural resources	1
Annual meeting	5
FCA board	5
Alexandria high school.....	7
Affordable housing	9
Housing discrimination	9
Blood drive	11
Home remodeling seminar	11
Native plants.....	13
Sidewalk project	13
PTA holiday drive	15
Equity and excellence.....	15
FCC Wi-Fi	15
Santa visits Fairlington	18



Fairlington decorates	19
New pet tips	21
Architectural questions.....	23
Pedestrian improvements.....	23

Departments

Neighborhood news	25
Patio gardening.....	27
Mini ads	30

Staff from the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation will brief Fairlington residents on the status of the county's work to create a new Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) for the county at FCA's monthly meeting on January 13. The virtual session will begin at 7 pm and will be streamed over FCA's Facebook page.

An update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and the 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan, the FNRP will collectively address the conservation, planting, and maintenance of trees and unique ecosystems in Arlington.

The plan will cover impacts and opportunities related to Arlington's tree canopy, natural lands, urban development, wildlife, recreation, public education, and stewardship.

The FNRP is a sub-element of the 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan, a component of the County's Comprehensive Plan that identifies the major public space needs of the community. The project launched earlier this fall and calls for visioning and information gathering from November through February.



Contractors for the county prepare to remove an old tree on 31st St. in September. This summer the county removed more than a dozen street trees in Fairlington. Maintaining an adequate tree canopy will likely be one of the priorities in the new Forestry and Natural Resources Plan. Photo by Guy Land.

It will include a series of community engagement opportunities and draft updates. FCA is exploring with the county ways for the Fairlington community to help shape the plan.

The scope of this project includes an analysis of Arlington's existing conditions and planning for a greater future. Research methods in the forms of benchmarking, focus groups, and community engagement will help inform many components of this plan.

"Right now we are doing more visioning with the community and benchmarking in the industry.

Continued on page 13

Coming up ...

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

FCA monthly meeting January 13

Special Presentation: Staff from the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation will discuss the development of a new county Forestry and Natural Resources Plan.

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 Citizens Association.

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

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Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Vacant

Advertising Manager: Katarina Lesandric

Distribution Manager: Noemi Riveira

— DEADLINE —

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

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Email editorial announcements to:

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

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Calendar

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1
FCC closed

Fairlington Knits

Monday, January 4, 6:30 pm
See page 25 for details

FCA monthly meeting

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

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, January 16, 11 am
See page 25 for details

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 18
FCC closed

Book Group

Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 pm
See page 25 for details



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Four new members have joined the FCA board for 2021. They bring a variety of different perspectives to our work and are already talking with me about ways they can help shape FCA's agenda for this coming year. They are going to be great additions.

Our work for the year will likely fall into four main categories. First, we'll stay engaged with local elected officials and staff, so that we are an effective conduit for sharing the views of Fairlington residents on major policy issues. Our briefing this month on the emerging Forestry and Natural Resources Plan is a good example of that.

We will also be talking with the county about the plans for Fire Station 7, which has been shuttered for over two years.

Second, I expect we'll be talking about the redevelopment of Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st. St. This is within FCA's coverage area. The owner of the property has filed a preliminary application with the county to convert the property on the west side of S. 31st St. to market rate units, while preserving units between 31st. St. and I-395 as affordable housing. The county has an option to purchase the property on the east side.

Third, we'll continue to sponsor community activities, while honoring COVID precautions. Unlike some organizations, which shut down their activities because of COVID, we worked with the county and other groups to sponsor socially distanced events like the Fourth of July parade, Family Movie Night, and December's Santa Ride.

Many of you told me how much you appreciated these efforts to provide a few things that approached normal in the life of Fairlington.

Finally, we'll look for ways to boost the arts in Fairlington. More than a hundred of you attended our October outdoor concert by the Alexandria Symphony brass quintet. Many of you encouraged us to do that again in the spring, and other residents have talked to me about opportunities to feature student musicians who live in Fairlington in some sort of outdoor concert. We'll explore options for doing that—making sure we're compliant with COVID rules.

To carry out this agenda, we need your help. FCA's work relies on volunteers. We need more of you to be engaged with us. Please put this on your list of new year's resolutions.

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



Contributors this month: Leslie Cameron, Jennifer Davies, Jeni Hornbeck, Guy Land, Brooke Schmidt, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.

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Annual meeting elects new FCA board members

Residents elected four new members to the FCA board at the organization's annual meeting on December 9. The session was held virtually and streamed over FCA's Facebook page with residents given the opportunity to vote through Survey Monkey.

The new members are Bobby Calise, Jennifer Chalmers, Paulin Leonida, and Lydia Redway.

Returning board members and officers are President Guy Land, Vice President Jennifer Davies, Treasurer Ed Hilz, Secretary Chris Weathers, and board member Julie Butler.

The new board took office at the end of the December meeting and will serve for one year. Board members serve as volunteers and receive no compensation for their service.

The annual meeting also heard a recap of the year's work

by President Guy Land, who said the major activities fell into three broad categories: engaging with local elected officials and staff, monitoring real estate development in the area, and enhancing life in Fairlington.

Noting that these are traditionally the types of activities FCA normally conducts, he called attention to two special initiatives in 2020—coordinating a community-wide response to COVID and establishing a community-focused nonprofit, Fairlington Cares.

Treasurer Ed Hilz reported that through November the association was showing a net income before taxes for the year of roughly \$7600. Most of the organization's revenue comes from advertisements in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

—Guy Land

Meet your new FCA board members:



A resident of the Arbor, **Bobby Calise** is a native New Yorker who relocated to Northern Virginia with his wife, Kimberly, in 2015. When he's not spending time with his wife and young son, he's playing tennis, softball, or basketball in or near Fairlington. Bobby has worked in market research for the last 15 years.



Paulin Leonida moved into Fairlington Villages last year and works for the Arlington County Department of Human Services. Before that, she worked with an international nonprofit organization that supports refugees. For over 10 years, she has been co-chair for bi-annual "feeding the homeless" events.



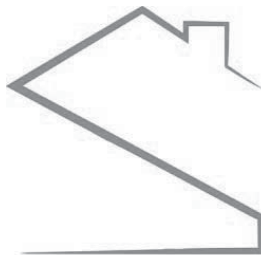
While not quite a native, **Jennifer Clardy Chalmers** has had strong ties to Arlington her entire life and graduated from Washington-Lee High School. Jennifer and her husband have lived in Fairlington Villages since 2009. They have one child, one dog, two cats and can often be found outside, no matter the season. Jennifer works in public diplomacy for the German Embassy.



Lydia Redway and her husband Ethan have lived in Arlington for seven years and in Fairlington Villages since 2019. Lydia is a market research analyst specializing in education research. In her free time Lydia enjoys reading, yoga, and hosting community events for the Lounge by Girls' Night In. She has been a member of FCA's working group on discrimination and inclusion.

Thanks to outgoing board members

On behalf of the community FCA expresses its deep appreciation to the outgoing members of the FCA board: Kent Duffy, Rebeca Sayres, Donald Staren-Doby, and Sam Wolbert. Through their service on the board they have made important contributions to life in Fairlington.



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FCA hears update on Alexandria's The High School Project

Representatives of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) briefed Fairlington residents on the status of The High School Project at FCA's December 11 meeting, noting that the project will result in the redevelopment of the existing Minnie Howard campus on Braddock Rd. This will take into consideration the colocation of city services, as well as the possibility of providing affordable housing on the site.



The fields at the Minnie Howard campus will be out of commission from spring 2022 until summer 2025. Photo by Guy Land.

Driven by the need to accommodate a projected enrollment increase of 1600 students over the next five years, The High School Project affords the opportunity to “reimagine the entire high school experience,” project director Dawud Abdur-Rahman told the group.

He noted that the project included both real estate planning—where to place and design expanded school facilities—and addressing the high school curriculum.

An Educational Design Team is leading the work, augmented by Industrial Advisory Boards that bring expertise from their related industries, businesses, nonprofits, and government institutions to help build programming introduced by the Education Design Team. This will help ensure students are prepared when they graduate.

Last year the Alexandria School Board voted to expand T.C. Williams High School into a Connected High School Network by building a new building at its Minnie Howard campus, integrating Minnie Howard's current ninth-grade students with students in the 10th through 12th grades.

Incorporating ninth graders into the T.C. Williams school will require that courses and programming for the Minnie Howard location be reimaged and redesigned.

Current plans call for a new school building to be constructed on the site of the fields on the east side of the property. Once the building is completed, the fields

would be reconstructed on the west side of site. The new school and curriculum are projected to be in place at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year.

Abdur-Rahman said the fields on the Minnie Howard campus would be out of commission for students and the community from spring 2022 through the summer of 2025. The city has looked at multiple sites that could be used during construction.

Abdur-Rahman pointed out that because of the limited amount of available public space in Alexandria, the city has directed that all city sites be considered for colocation opportunities. He stressed that colocation uses would be secondary to the school use. “The school program is the number one priority,” he said. “Colocation uses must be compatible with that program. The school program will not be compromised.”

He observed that ACPS already has agreements for colocated services at the Minnie Howard and King St. sites with the Alexandria Health Department, the Department of Community and Human Services, and Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

The new item added to the colocation discussion is affordable housing. Abdur-Rahman said the city would look at the uses that could be located there and be favorable to the site. The proposal to locate housing on various Alexandria school sites has drawn opposition from a number of neighborhood groups.

The school board is expected to consider the scope of the design for the new building on the Minnie Howard campus in January, with ACPS and the city agreeing on the scope of the design and the sharing of costs.

The strategy and funding for the displaced fields will be considered as part of the process for determining the larger Capital Improvement Plan.

—Guy Land



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Groundbreaking launches affordable housing development

Fairlington Presbyterian Church leaders, City of Alexandria officials, Wesley Housing, and other project partners broke ground December 9 on The Waypoint at Fairlington, a new affordable housing development that will provide 81 apartments for low- to moderate-income families and individuals in Alexandria.



The December 9 groundbreaking at Fairlington Presbyterian Church marked the beginning of construction on the project. Photo by Kate K. Pannozzo.

The new development will be located on the current parking lot next to Fairlington Presbyterian Church at 3846 King St. Wesley Housing, a leading nonprofit developer of affordable housing in Northern Virginia and D.C., acquired the underutilized parking lot from the church following more than three years of collaborative visioning with city officials, church leaders, and the Alexandria community.

FCA supported the general purpose of providing affordable housing on the site when the city was considering the permit request.

The first residents are expected to arrive in Spring 2022. The building will offer a mix of efficiencies, one bedrooms, two bedrooms, and three bedrooms, including nine fully accessible, ADA compliant apartments.

“The City is pleased to support another affordable housing development made possible through the partnership of a nonprofit housing entity and a local faith community, which has embraced housing neighbors as part of

Continued on page 21

Affordable housing project reverses decades of discrimination

In her remarks at December’s groundbreaking for The Waypoint at Fairlington, an affordable housing development on the current site of the parking lot at Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Pastor Juli Wilson-Black noted that the project formally reverses decades of discrimination and racism that have marked this part of Northern Virginia.

“The Waypoint does not only point the way for us to provide affordable housing. It also points the way for us to redraw those lines that were very carefully designed to be permanent. It points the way for us to dismantle structural racism from the ground up. It points the way for us to right the wrongs of our past.”

According to City of Alexandria architectural staff, in the 1840s Cassius Lee, a slave-holding cousin of Robert E. Lee, acquired several properties in the general area of the present-day church to form a 175-acre plantation he dubbed Menokin, which is reflected in the name of the street that runs by the western side of the church. The main Menokin house stood on the top of a small hill in the approximate location of what is now the west end of Keller Avenue, about 500 feet to the southwest of the church property.

After the civil war, a thriving African-American com-

munity, called The Fort, grew up around the area of Fort Ward, one of the defenses of Washington during the war. Many of those families were displaced when the Fort Ward Park and Museum were created in the 1960s.

When the founders of Fairlington Presbyterian Church acquired the property in 1947, the deed contained a restrictive covenant declaring that the land “shall never be occupied by, sold, leased, devised, conveyed or in any manner alienated to any person not a member of the Caucasian Race.” The next year the U.S. Supreme Court declared these types of restrictions unconstitutional.

“We are still living within the red lines that were drawn in the west end of Alexandria decades ago, now invisible but still powerful drivers of housing patterns,” Pastor Wilson-Black says.

In the conclusion of her remarks at the groundbreaking she commented, “The Waypoint will transform this property, this congregation, and this neighborhood in many ways, but perhaps the most significant transformation is the breaking of that covenant that our founders signed. By that action we are saying, in the clearest way possible, that *never* ends today.”

—Guy Land

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Children's National blood drive is a huge success

The Children's National Bloodmobile arrived to the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) at 9 am on Wednesday, Dec. 9. Volunteers were there to greet and help the staff set up a spacious and welcoming space for neighbors to come donate blood to benefit Children's National Hospital. And donate you did! Over the course



The Children's National Bloodmobile brought all the equipment needed for the drive. Photo by Guy Land.

of two days enough blood units were collected to help 145 children. An incredible result.

There were experienced donors and several first timers and a resounding echo of a pleasant and fulfilling experience for all. FCA and Fairlington Cares provided donors with special jumbo sized cookies to replenish their energy provided by Great Harvest Bread Company.



Brooke Schmidt and Jennifer Davies bring cookies for blood drive donors. Photo by Guy Land.



Jeff Schmidt prepares to give blood during the drive. Photo by Brooke Schmidt.

Because of COVID, the event was limited to 20 donors per day by appointment only. The appointment slots booked up within hours of when the event was posted on Facebook, suggesting the desire of Fairlingtonians to help meet the region's blood supply needs.

A variety of patients need blood at Children's National, including: premature babies, children with sickle cell disease, children who need surgery, trauma victims, children with cancer, and children with blood disorders. These patients will receive what they need because of the kindness and giving spirit of this community.

With the success of the drive, we hope to host more in the near future. Thank you, neighbors, for your generosity and the invaluable gift you provided children in our area. FCA appreciates the willingness of Arlington County to make the FCC available for the drive.

—Brooke Schmidt

FCA examines options for home remodeling seminar

Because of COVID restrictions, FCA is not able to offer its popular home remodeling seminar with contractors at the Fairlington Community Center this spring.

We are examining ways to provide key elements of it virtually or possibly enable residents to ask questions of contractors online.

Additional information will be published in the *Bulletin* and on FCA's facebook page.

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

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

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Birds and other wildlife need insects—we do too

Many of us grew up not paying too much attention to insects, or if we did, we saw them as annoying pests. Getting rid of insects has been our priority.



Bee on native plant butterfly weed (Asclepias tuberosa) in Fairlington Arbor in June 2020. Photo by Ed Colonna.

More recently, as we have learned about the complexities of our ecosystem, we have begun to better understand the critical role insects play. Healthy ecosystems depend on insects. They pollinate a lot of our food, but they do much more.

In 1987, biologist E.O. Wilson talked about what could happen, worst case, if insects disappeared: All flowering plants would disap-

pear, along with all the food webs they support. Reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals, nearly all terrestrial life would disappear. Decomposition of organic matter would stop, and nutrient recycling would end.

But how likely is it for insects to disappear? In fact, insects are disappearing, so many and so quickly that researchers are stunned. One article found that a staggering 41 percent of insect species have declined around the world, mostly in the last 30-40 years. As entomologist Doug Tallamy puts it, “we humans are now in a position to declare victory in our long war on insects.”

Industrial farming, millions of miles of road and road hazards, lights, overuse of pesticides, destruction of habitat, and climate change have all contributed. The tens of

millions of acres of sterile lawn we have installed and all the nonnative plants we have planted in our landscapes contribute too, displacing the native plants that our insects, birds, and other wildlife need to survive.

The complex food webs that we and so much of life on earth depend on are threatened. Fairlington Grounds Committee members and gardeners are working together to learn more about how we can increase our sustainability and help to protect these small but essential animals. Here are some ideas:

- Plant native trees, shrubs, and plants, and avoid invasive plants.
- Eliminate or minimize synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Plant pollinator gardens—it’s the 4,000 species of native bee (not honeybees) that pollinate most of the plants in North America.
- Leave spent flowers and stalks until spring, so insects can overwinter and survive the cold.
- Provide a water source in balconies, patios, and yards.
- Reduce artificial light—replace white bulbs with yellow LEDs, and put motion sensors on security lights.

What about mosquitoes and ticks? They can make life outside miserable and can pose health risks. But spraying pesticides indiscriminately kills many other insects, including pollinators. For more on mosquitoes and ticks, see <https://mgnv.org/reading-room/mosquito-and-tick-control/>. For more on welcoming bugs into our yards see https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/welcome-bugs-into-your-yard-you-might-just-save-the-world/2020/02/20/62b0a12c-4d18-11ea-b721-9f4cd-c90bc1c_story.html.

—Leslie Cameron

Advisory committee recommends sidewalk project

The county’s Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee has recommended that Arlington fund the installation of a sidewalk and other street improvements along S. Abingdon St. between S. 31st St. and S. 31st Rd.

County staff estimate that the project will cost roughly \$395,000. It will be financed out of bond funds.

The project now must go before the county board for final approval. That is expected to occur later in the spring.

County staff from page 1

Based on what we learn we will do a draft plan,” said Susan Kalish, Public Relations Director for the department, “and that’s when we really need people to say what’s a good idea, what’s a bad idea, and what’s missing.” She welcomes the chance to engage Fairlington residents in this process.

A 2017 county tree canopy report showed that Fairlington had lost tree canopy in recent years. The area covered by FCA had a tree canopy of 39 percent, compared with a potential urban tree canopy of 65 percent.

—Guy Land



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PTA and FCA join forces to support the larger community



Abingdon PTA members assembled Thanksgiving dinner meals for 50 Abingdon families. Photo by Guy Land.

Following the success of the Thanksgiving food drive, Abingdon PTA continued its collaboration with FCA in a holiday drive. While the Thanksgiving drive focused on pantry staples and turkeys, including a generous bread donation from Great Harvest Bread, the holiday drive sought household essential items that are not covered under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Items included toiletries, diapers and cleaning supplies. In addition, 91 new winter coats were donated for Abingdon students along with a few small toys and games.

Abingdon's new full time social worker Margarita Zwiser shared the following: "I would like to express my gratitude for all the wonderful support you have provided to the Abingdon community. Your contributions ensure that our school families have their needs met during this challenging time. Our community truly appreciates all the support."

—Jennifer Davies

Gunston Middle School focuses on equity and excellence

At the December Gunston PTA meeting, families took part in a workshop on Equity and Excellence at Gunston by Dr. Shantha Smith, Equity and Excellence Coordinator and Instructional Lead Teacher at Gunston. Dr. Smith was recently awarded the Virginia Department of Education's prestigious 2020 Mary Peak Award for Excellence in Education Equity.

About nine years ago, Gunston shifted to explicitly and

intentionally focus on equity as an educational priority. Equity in education refers to giving all students access to the tools they need individually to achieve excellence. Through the guidance of Dr. Smith, equity is embedded in everything they do at Gunston, including student instruction, providing personal training for staff, dismantling systemic structures that inhibit student academic success, and providing consistent and robust family and community engagement.

This year, Gunston launched two new pilot programs to dismantle systemic structures that hinder student excellence: Bias-resistant Standards Based Grading, which moves away from the traditional A,B, C grading methodology toward a system of evaluating actual mastery of concepts; and a new video presentation program for parent/teacher conferences that allows access by all families to the conference process.

Dr. Smith works closely with Gunston staff on being Culturally Responsive Educators (CREs) and asks them "to be aware that their own life experiences and their group memberships (based on race, ethnicity, social, or gender group), may create biases that can influence their interactions with students, families, and colleagues."

According to Dr. Smith, overall, Gunston hopes "to ensure all students have a high level of success at Gunston regardless of race, parents educational background, or native language."

—Jeni Hornbeck

Free Wi-Fi at the FCC

Fairlington residents can now connect to Arlington County's free wireless network by choosing "Arlington-Wireless" in the patio area behind Fairlington Community Center. Look for the sign to the right. No ID or password are required.

The county reminds users to be careful with their personal data when on a Wi-Fi network. When entering usernames, passwords, or other sensitive data, consider using only secure connections on sites that start with <https://> instead of <http://>.

Arlington's public access Wi-Fi initiative leverages the county's information technology infrastructure by providing no-cost Internet access in places where the community gathers.

Information on locations of other free Wi-Fi sites in the county can be found at <https://my.arlingtonva.us/digitalresources>.





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Santa visits Fairlington on the fire truck

"This is so cool!" That was the most frequently heard comment when Santa made a socially distanced visit with Fairlington kids at the Fairlington Community Center in mid-December. Riding with his elves and the crew of Station 9 of the Arlington County Fire Department, Santa began his visit at Abingdon Elementary and slowly wound his way through

North and South Fairlington, waving at scores of excited young Fairlingtonians along the route.

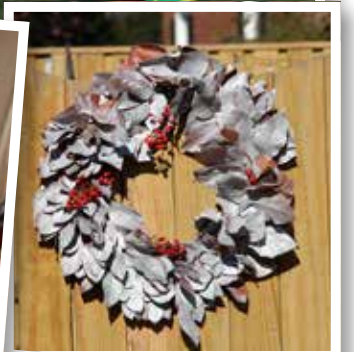
FCA appreciates the assistance of the fire department and the loan of the Santa suit by Fairlington Villages.

Photos by Guy Land.



Fairlington decorates for the holidays

With COVID restrictions severely limiting holiday parties and travel, Fairlington residents put more time and money than usual into decorating for the holidays and visiting with neighbors. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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PAW PRINTS

How to welcome your new holiday pet

The holiday season is a popular time to bring a new pet into your home. If you're one of the many who added a furry companion to your family this holiday season, you may be thinking "now what?" Here are some tips to make that transition as smooth as possible for you and your new pet.

Give your pet time to adjust. Be patient—no matter where they came from, your pet has had a lot of recent changes and will take a few weeks, or more, to settle into a new home.

Develop a routine. Building consistent times for walks, food, or playtime will help your pet adjust to their surroundings. Also, allow for time in your routine for your pet to be alone. You will want them to be comfortable being independent for periods of time without you, especially if (or when...) we start heading back into the office.

Keep your pet mentally engaged. Enrichment is so critical to animals, no matter how young or old. Take this time to learn what they enjoy. For dogs, basics include stuffed Kongs, treat dispensing games, or chew toys. For cats this might be a scratching post, toy mice, or cat nip. Whatever they prefer, keeping your pet mentally stimulated will help to avoid

destructive or inappropriate behaviors.

Practice good veterinary care. It's important to schedule an initial vet visit and make sure your pet is up-to-date on all their vaccines or boosters. Luckily, there are no shortages of excellent vets in our area. If you're on Facebook, check out the "Fairlington Appreciation Society" page for posts with local recommendations.

Rest assured, Fairlington is very pet-friendly and you and your new companion will be right at home in our humane community. Still have questions or concerns? The Animal Welfare League of Arlington, located in Shirlington, is committed to helping make your new family member's transition into your life a success. The shelter offers training, rabies and microchip clinics, and other resources throughout the year. You can visit <https://www.awla.org/services/for-pets/> for more resources and guides or email them at mail@awla.org.

—Sam Wolbert

Sam Wolbert served two-terms on the FCA Board and is the President & CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.

Affordable housing continued from page 9

its mission," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson at the groundbreaking.

The multi-family development will offer households earning between 30 percent and 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) a safe and affordable place to live.

"Our church's mission is to be a transforming force for good in the world in the name of Jesus Christ," said Fairlington Presbyterian Pastor Juli Wilson-Black. "We are especially glad in this moment to be able to turn spaces for cars into spaces for people, as the pandemic has made even more evident the chronic housing insecurity that so many of our neighbors live with."

The financing package for the project includes a \$7.6

million loan from the City of Alexandria, as well as a commitment of nine project-based unit vouchers, and significant funding from the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The project also received 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from Virginia Housing. Capital One Bank is providing a construction loan as well as an equity investment of \$18 million.

—Guy Land



City of Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson praised the Waypoint project at the groundbreaking. Photo by Kate K. Pannozzo.

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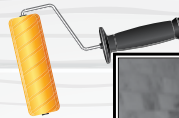
Greetings! My name is Angel Villanueva, and I spent 18 years working full time for the late **Victor Sison** of **FAIRLINGTON MAINTENANCE SERVICE**, learning construction and repair from the ground up. If you knew Victor, then you know me, and it will be my pleasure to serve you! I have worked in hundreds of Fairlington homes. Specializing in bathroom and kitchen remodeling!



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—Mary Thomasson,
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Brick by brick: architectural answers

The history and architecture behind your Fairlington home

“Walking back from taking the dog out I noticed these white spots on the exterior of the house, on the brick, but only in a certain area. I tried to search the attic but didn’t find any leaks. What could this mean?”—Alice C., Fairlington Villages



Efflorescence in Fairlington.

Hi Alice! What you have on the side of your building is called “efflorescence,” which is a powdery or even calcified deposit of salts on a surface that is the result of water evaporating and leaving those salts behind. This is typically something that either occurs over time or immediately after an unsuccessful masonry repair.

When you see efflorescence, it means that water is escaping your structure, and you need to find where that water is coming from. Typically, you want to look at your gutter line/downspouts or any damage in your roof to see if there are any leaks/clogs/backups. Grab an umbrella and check it out during a rain—that’s usually the best time to see a leak in action!

Once the cause of the water intrusion has been addressed,

the efflorescence can be easily removed using water and a stiff brush. High-pressure washing or chemicals can be harmful to masonry, especially historic masonry, so be gentle as you clean. Not addressing this issue will lead to additional water damage and the salts will eventually calcify and be difficult (but not impossible) to remove. Good eye and good luck finding the leak!

Do you have a question about Fairlington’s unique construction and materials?

Fairlington features excellent examples of colonial revival architecture and well-built historic construction; however, due to its historic nature, some of the materials featured and conditions seen are not common and may leave you scratching your head. Please send your questions and queries to HistoricFairlington@gmail.com.

You may also need to check with your condo association about particular problems or remedies.

Brick by brick: architectural answers is written by Julie H. Butler, a Fairlington resident and architectural historian.

County improves pedestrian safety in Fairlington

In mid-December, Arlington’s Department of Environmental Services (DES) focused on two pedestrian crosswalks to help with visibility and safety. The improvements were the result of an FCA effort started 18 months ago to enhance walkability in the neighborhood. The pandemic had delayed the projects.

DES installed reflective bollards and painted an extended island at the cross walk of S. 33rd St. and S. Stafford St.



New bollards and crosswalk marking at S. Stafford and S. 33rd St. Photos by Guy Land.



Narrower turning lane at S. 34th and 36th Sts.

The second, and larger, project involves the construction of new curbs at the corners of 34th St. and 36th St. This work is expected to take several months, but in the interim DES painted a narrower turning lane from 34th onto 36th. The project will shorten the crosswalk by extending both corners, thereby making the turn radius onto S. 36th St. sharper. Residents noted that cars often turn onto 36th St. at a high rate of speed after crossing the Abingdon St. bridge.

—Jennifer Davies



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners had gathered a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. Since social distancing set in, however, we've adapted. We will continue to gather on Zoom monthly, so we can stay in touch. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants.

For January, the following event is planned.

On Saturday, January 16, 11 am, let's have a Zoom brunch! This is one of the most relaxing ways to socialize, so let's try this out. Let's share our favorite places to eat brunch, and favorite foods there. Please RSVP by email to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com, and the Zoom coordinates will be sent to you a few days in advance.

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

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 26, to discuss *Among the Missing*, a collection of short stories by Dan Chaon.

In this collection, "Chaon mines the psychological landscape of his characters to dazzling effect. Each story radiates with sharp humor, mystery, wonder, and startling compassion." —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. Our meeting will be held on Zoom this month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Join Us for Fairlington Knits! and Crochets January 4

Join with fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship on Monday, Jan. 4 from 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom. Knitting/crocheting together, show-

ing off our work, and talking with like-minded people makes us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

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

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

Fairlington Bocce

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

Fairlington Moms' Club

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

Free trees available

Get a beautiful free tree through EcoAction Arlington's Tree Canopy Fund. These canopy trees are generally two inches in trunk width and seven feet high. Apply online by Friday, Jan. 8. Trees will be planted by a contractor in spring 2021.

The goal of the Tree Canopy Fund is to increase Arlington County's tree canopy. Through this program, owners of private property, including townhouses, condos, and places of worship, can apply to get a native tree planted on their property.

For more information or to apply, go to <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/community-programs/trees/>.

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So, how did we do it?? I'm sure you've wondered why some homes sit on the market for months and others sell the first weekend with multiple offers. **I'm here to tell you that it's not luck.**

Visit LaurenKolazas.com where I explain, in detail, what makes a home so attractive to buyers that they are willing to drop everything to submit an offer AND compete with other people to get it! I also discuss how collaborating with a local interior designer enabled me to really bring out the best in my most recent listing - selling it in 5 days, with 4 offers for significantly over asking price!!

Call/text/email me to learn exactly what you need to do to sell your home fast and for the most money (and yes, those two things are connected). I'd love to help you prepare your home when it's time to sell. It's never too early to begin preparing so please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions at all!

I hope you all are safe and healthy!



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Bring some winter color to your patio

As you read this on a cold, January Saturday, thinking “What does patio gardening have to do with my hot mug of coffee, chili simmering in the crock pot, a flickering vanilla candle, and a holiday movie on the Hallmark channel?”

“Plenty,” would be the answer, given I am a landscaper by trade.

A few weeks ago, I did some planting in “my” garden on the corner of S. Utah St. and S. 32nd Rd. in South Fairlington. It’s been filled with donated evergreens for some time but now, I added color. The “all green” look was neutral with little pizzazz. So, we added some camellia, nandina ‘Firepower,’ and mahonia for color.

Camellia blooms in the fall and winter, taking a break from showing from April through August. It has flowers like a rose when the latter is fully open and flat. Camellia flowers in white, pink, or red. Some varieties flower in red and white—making it appear as a colorful topping on a sugary pastry. The eyes (centers) of camellias are yellow.

I value this specimen since it performs when few others do. Even in the blustery cold of winter, a camellia is just beautiful in full bloom. And its shiny evergreen leaves are stout all year. The camellia’s habit is upright and vertical. I like to position it against a fence or brick wall but in some cases, it can stand alone in a separate bed (like mine). There is no fragrance to the camellia flower, but its petals drop (like those

of the crape myrtle tree), dotting the brown mulch with colorful flecks.



*Mahonia at Utah St. and 32nd Rd.
Photo by Guy Land.*

Mahonia used to flower in January and February but the last few years, it’s started to flower in early December. Panicles of yellow, fragrant flowers form in small buds on stiff branches at the top of this specimen. They appear as yellow sparklers (think Fourth of July) in a dark garden devoid of color. The plant prefers deep shade. Its evergreen foliage has six terminal points (similar to a holly’s leaves) that mutate into maroon, orange, and olive with age. It looks very tropical, especially with its fruit that appears in winter. The berries resemble that of the Concord grape vine—slate blue and in clumps.

Speaking of yellow, consider the **aucuba**. It is a six-foot-tall evergreen that bears red fruit (like red jelly beans). Only the female fruits, so a male aucuba needs to be planted

nearby for pollination. Common cultivars of aucuba offer yellow variegation either in patches or speckles. Variegation is important—if your garden is filled only with evergreen plants—since it adds highlights. Aucuba prefers full shade.

Nandina ‘Firepower’ has dense “evergreen” foliage in a vivid rust-red which will grab your eye from yards away. The plant can take sun or shade and grows in an egg shape—two feet tall and 1½ feet wide. Look closely and the leaf has swirls of salmon, red, olive, and ivory. Nandina’s stems are needle-like, so the paper mâché-type leaves easily will wiggle in a breeze. ‘Firepower’ deserves a stage spotlight since it’s the main element in an otherwise all-green garden layout.

Now that we’re “on red,” think about holly winterberry. There are some at a local nursery that are four feet tall. It’s the only deciduous holly and when the green leaves drop, you’ll notice red berries clinging to the barren branches. It’s an unusual but beautiful sight – especially when they are situated along a stark patio fence. There used to be a few at the South Fairlington Community Center. In the snow, the clusters of red berries resemble ornaments.

So, while some plants take winter-long naps, others show their flowers and fruit, unable to tell what season it is.

—Bill Sullivan
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A warm December Saturday was perfect for a football game at the edge of the Fairlington Field. Photo by Guy Land.



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HOME ORGANIZING: FREE consultation. RheaOrganized offers in-person or virtual home organization services. From kitchen pantries to bedroom closets and anything in between. Shelby Mills, shelby@rheaorganized.me, 540-834-7034

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

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Gardening/Landscaping

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

Home Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

HARDTIMES HANDYMAN SERVICES. Home and office repair, rental maintenance, painting, drywall repair, pressure washing, minor electrical and plumbing, to do lists and more. Free estimates, fair pricing and friendly service. Since 2008. Fairlington references available. Tim Miles cell 443-995-3825. timmiles74@gmail.com.

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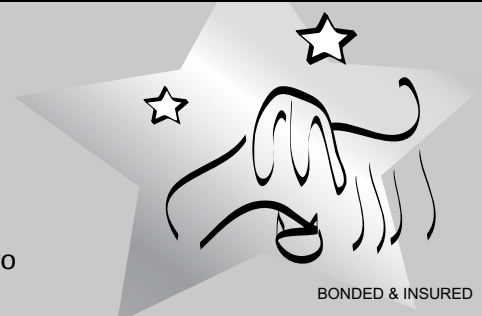


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RUNNING RENOVATOR. 2021?

To say this year was strange, would be a understatement. Let's start this new year by getting to some of those projects around the house. I specialize in painting, plaster/Drywall repair and finishing work. If I can help, reach out to me. I'll run right over. Email me at running.renovator@gmail.com. Robert Tetrault 904-673-2719. Happy new year!

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Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turn around time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

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IS THERE A FIRE HAZARD IN YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM? Dryer vent hoses in Fairlington homes need to be inspected regularly to ensure they are clear from accumulated lint, which can cause fire. Often, the entire system needs to be cleaned out, and in some cases, replaced entirely. Call Juan today for a free inspection 703-307-4022 or angelvillanueva33@gmail.com.

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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



*Enhance your community
by volunteering for FCA
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Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.

For updates on COVID-19 response opportunities, check out FCA's Facebook page, facebook.com/FCAcivic/, check our website, www.fca-fairlington.org, and sign up for our emails.

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