

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JANUARY 2022

Volume 48, Number 1

www.fca-fairlington.org

On your mark, get set, go! Fairlington 5K returns April 23

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Competitors burst from the starting line at the 2019 Fairlington 5K. Photo by Guy Land.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the beloved Fairlington 5K & Family Fun Run is back. First launched in 2014 by Abingdon Elementary School physical education teacher and Fairlington resident Joe Reed, the race began as a way to support physical education activities at the school, as well one of his students at the time, Ellie McGinn. Ellie had just been diagnosed with a rare and degenerative brain and spinal cord disease known as LBSL, which slowly robs children of their ability to walk.

Today, 13-year-old Ellie attends Gunston Middle School. Thanks to the Fairlington 5K, which has raised more than \$100,000 in 6 years, there is now research underway to find a cure for this progressive and debilitating disease.

Sponsored by FCA, the 7th Annual Fairlington 5K will take place Saturday, April 23 at 8:30 a.m. As always, it will start near Abingdon Elementary School, cross the I-395 overpass, wind past the South Fairlington Community Center, and then end back at the school. There is also an optional 1K Walk & Fun Run for families with small children. Dogs and strollers are always welcome.

Temporary road closures will be announced prior to the race so that residents can plan accordingly. Register today at www.Fairlington5K.com, or for more information and volunteer opportunities, please email race organizer Beth McGinn at bfrigola@gmail.com.

—Beth McGinn

Coming up

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

FCA monthly meeting January 12

The FCA board will hold a work session. There will be no special presentation.


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.

Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, www.avartech-llc.com.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
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Board of Directors

Officers	Directors
Guy Land, President	Julie Butler
Jennifer Davies, Vice President	Paulin Leonida
Ed Hilz, Treasurer	Lydia Redway
Jennifer Clardy Chalmers, Secretary	Donald Staren-Doby

Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

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

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and checks 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.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7 p.m.
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Fairlington diners

Thursday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.
See page 27 for details

Paint, Build, Create!

Saturday, January 15, 10 a.m.
FCC
Pre-registration required
See page 15 for details

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 17
FCC Closed

Book group

Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.
See page 23 for details



Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Sue Davis, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Renee Powlette, Sara Rasmussen, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January affords an opportunity to reflect on the year just ended and plan for the year to come. That is as true for organizations like FCA as it is for individuals and families.

The past year saw important accomplishments affecting our community. Probably the most significant was the work of Arlington County and the owners of the Park Shirlington apartments to produce an agreement that will maintain those apartments as affordable housing for 75 years.

Park Shirlington is an important part of FCA's service area. Its residents contribute to the diversity and vitality of our community. FCA supported the county's efforts to maintain those apartments instead of seeing substantial new development on that site. That was a win-win for the residents and the neighborhood.

FCA built on our excellent relationship with local elected officials, particularly the Arlington County Board. Maintaining those ties is an important part of what we do.

The past year saw the return of something approaching pre-COVID normal, and FCA continued its sponsorship of activities that foster a vibrant sense of community, from the Fourth of July parade (jointly sponsored with Fairlington Villages) to Family Movie Night to last month's Santa Ride.

As we map out our plans for 2022, we expect to continue events like these, bring back the Fairlington 5K, and establish some new partnerships with neighborhood organizations such as the Shirlington Branch Library.

Guiding us will be a veteran board, as seven of the nine members from last year's board are returning and former board member Donald Staren-Doby rejoins the team.

Chris Weathers is leaving the board after seven years, the last year as secretary. Chris is best known as the creator of our popular Home Renovation Showcase, featuring contractors that do major work in Fairlington. COVID has prevented us from presenting this seminar the past couple of years, but Chris has committed to bringing it back when conditions permit. We thank Chris for his dedication to Fairlington.

The key to a successful year depends on you, our residents. We would love to connect with you this year. Tell us how we can help improve life in Fairlington. And let us know if you have a few minutes to help us with some of our activities. We need you. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

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Annual meeting elects FCA board for 2022

In FCA's first in-person session since the arrival of COVID-19, the annual meeting December 8 elected FCA officers and directors for the coming year. One director position remains unfilled, and anyone who would like to serve on the board should contact an FCA officer.

Board President Guy Land, Vice President Jennifer Davies, and Treasurer Ed Hilz were elected to another year in their positions. Jennifer Clardy Chalmers was elected Secretary, replacing Chris Weathers, who chose not to run again after serving seven years on the board.

Former FCA board member Donald Staren-Doby was elected to fill one of the two vacancies. Returning board members are Julie Butler, Lydia Redway, and Paulin Leonida. Bobby Calise had previously moved from Fairlington and resigned from the board in the fall.

Staren-Doby lives in Fairlington Court, the homeowner association on 31st St. He served on the board in 2020.

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



Representatives from Shirlington library presented at the FCA 2021 annual meeting to share programs and services. Photo by Guy Land.

The annual meeting also heard a recap of the year's work by President Guy Land. He highlighted activities in four broad areas: engaging with county officials and staff, monitoring real estate development near the neighborhood, enhancing community life in Fairlington, and connecting with Abingdon Elementary, Gunston Middle School, and Wakefield High School.

Land also noted the board's interest in fostering a neighborhood conversation on

diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Treasurer Ed Hilz reported that through November the association was showing a net income before taxes of \$7,785. Most of the organization's revenue comes from advertisements in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

The December meeting began with a presentation by staff from the Shirlington Branch Library. FCA members expressed interest in establishing a closer relationship with the library and identifying potential opportunities to partner on events in Fairlington. The February issue of the *All Fairlington Bulletin* will provide an overview of the library's services and hours.

—Guy Land

Blood drive supports 150 CNH children

This year, the Fairlington community successfully donated 30 units of blood to Children's National Hospital (CNH). These donations will help up to 150 children.

It has been a difficult time for blood banks due to the pandemic, with donations 70 percent below normal for CNH while the need for blood has remained steady.

Those that participated in the blood drive, sponsored by FCA and Fairlington Cares, were treated to cookies from out neighborhood Great Harvest Bakery, and received a mask, a hat, and or a long-sleeved t-shirt.

We asked donors why they were participating in the Fairlington community blood drive and got a variety of responses. Some said they wanted to "give back" and

knew that blood was particularly needed during the holiday time. Some said they appreciated the ease of having a blood drive in the neighborhood. Others said they had a connection with a sick child or a relative at CNH.

We even managed to snag one of the local firemen who was teaching CPR down the hall, who said he tried to give blood whenever he could. Amazingly, a parent recognized him as one of the emergency response personnel who had helped with her sick child the year before. She had been trying to find him to say "thank you" and there he was.

Again, thank you to all who participated. Hopefully we can continue this community effort next year.

—Sara Rasmussen



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County manager visits with civic association leaders, discusses vaccines, budget

Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz recently met virtually with about 40 presidents of Arlington civic and condo associations to discuss general county issues, with a particular focus on the response to COVID-19, the choices in the upcoming budget year, and the county's commitment to equity and inclusion. FCA president Guy Land participated in the conversation.

Schwartz described the session as a “check-in in a time of COVID,” as part of a larger county emphasis on neighbors helping neighbors. He reported that close to 80 percent of Arlingtonians age 5 or over have had at least one vaccination. He noted that all county staff are required to be vaccinated by February 1.



County Manager Mark Schwartz speaking to FCA in 2018. Photo by Guy Land.

The uncertainties in the commercial market caused by COVID-related changes in work and business patterns have complicated the county's efforts to reduce vacancy rates.

Schwartz told the group that his proposed budget will focus on core services—roads, water, and safety. “We will not be able to add new things,” he warned.

Participants were asked to choose their top budget priorities from among a large list. Small business support and attraction topped the list, with one person commenting that that affects every other thing in the budget. Other top choices included safety and housing.

In response to a comment from Yorktown Civic Association President Mike Caldwell that the county vaccination goal was behind schedule, Schwartz stated that the county had “moved as expeditiously as possible” and was ahead of its sister jurisdictions in the area.

Turning to budget issues, Schwartz cautioned that the county will have a funding gap to address next year. “We’re coming out of the fog” on the revenue side, he said, but the county still confronts high office vacancy rates, which adversely affect commercial real estate taxes. On the other hand, residential values have been increasing.

Shirlington Civic Association President Edie Wilson stressed the importance of pedestrian safety, a recent topic of conversation in Fairlington as well.

Schwartz restated the county's commitment to diversity and equity, encouraging civic associations to foster broader participation in decision-making. This includes engagement with younger residents and creating stronger connections between civic associations and condo associations.

—Guy Land

Police Warn Against Leaving Vehicles Running Unattended

The Arlington County Police Department is warning against leaving vehicles running unattended and is sharing crime prevention tips to help combat auto thefts. During the month of December, the police department has investigated five reports of idling vehicles being stolen. In all reported

cases, the victims were running short errands—such as picking up food or making a purchase at a convenience store—at the time of the motor vehicle thefts.

Motor vehicle thefts are often crimes of opportunity with thieves taking advantage of unattended vehicles left running or with the keys inside. The police department recommends following safety tips to keep your vehicles and property safe.

- Remain aware of your surroundings and park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Do not leave your keys, key fobs, or valet keys in your vehicle. This includes keys to a secondary vehicle.
- Ensure that your vehicle is turned OFF when leaving it unattended. Vehicles with keyless ignition systems can be driven for extended periods of time even if the key fob is not inside the car.
- Keep information, such as the make, model, model year, license plate and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) easily accessible in the event your vehicle is stolen.

Santa makes an early stop in Fairlington

Special thanks to the Arlington County Fire Department, Fairlington Villages, and Presto Valet for their help with the parade. Photos by Guy Land and Jennifer Davies.







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Growing an Earth-friendly winter garden

Wouldn't it be wonderful to walk outside and pick a head of lettuce, or peas, or radishes, or whatever is growing. No fertilizers, no pesticides, just Earth-friendly gardening. How hard could this be? The good news is that it is not hard, especially if you want a winter garden.

I realize that readers of this column are probably shaking their heads and muttering that this writer is nuts. I would have thought the same several years ago, but it can be done. With milder winters, it's even easier.

One of the trends in farming right now is to have something growing all the time. Granted, you are not farming, but this applies to your Fairlington garden too. This method keeps carbon in the ground where it should be rather than in the atmosphere. This isn't always done, especially on gigantic industrial-style farms.

It's January, so there's no time to waste. Get some leaf mulch and rake it into the soil. Pull your soil together to create hill and valley mounds for planting.

Look online for the seeds; some companies have special fall or spring seed packages. Believe it or not, there are plenty of lettuces that do well during the winter. Rouge d'hiver (winter red) is one of my favorites. Don't forget cabbage, spinach, and kale - they too are winter thrivers. Those should be planted in the hills. Then, plant the valleys. Radishes, carrots, and garlic do well during the winter, too.



Rouge d'Hiver and Parris Island Cos Romaine lettuce growing under a garden hoop and cloth. Photo by Sue Davis.

The next thing you'll need are garden hoops and garden cloth. I realize a hoop sounds like a circle, but they are flat and can be bent into a half circle. Improvise! A hula hoop cut in half would work, but so would some sticks. What you want to do is to cover the hoops/sticks with the garden cloth or muslin to keep the plants warm. When and if it gets really cold, such as below freezing, or snows, cover the cloth with something heavier like a painting canvas. The plants do not mind the dark as long as they are warm.

Fertilizers? Wait, you say, I thought we weren't using fertilizers? Nitrogen comes

in many forms. Come February, add snow peas to the mix as they fix nitrogen in the soil.

Pesticides? None needed. Remember it is still pretty cold outside, so there are not many insects around. If the crop is covered most of the time, few will have access. The other bonus is that the cold keeps the lettuce from bolting. Instead, the plants get bigger and bigger.

Experiment! It is winter after all so not everything planted will survive. What survives will be hardy. Do not be afraid to move the plants around to fill in garden gaps, or to replant. Some crops may do better if planted later.

Feel free to send us questions or comments at forthe love of nature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Sue Davis



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your home this
spring? The time to
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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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Paint, Build, Create is back in 2022



After a year of pandemic hiatus, Paint, Build, Create will be held in person on Saturday, January 15 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) in South Fairlington.

The annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (S.T.E.A.M) event offers activities for children and their caregivers in a variety of crafts, games, and building. Some of the activities featured in 2019 included making silk-screen designs, building catapults, making lava lamps, and coloring activity pages that could be brought to life using computer animation.



Fairlington residents of all ages enjoy arts and crafts at the 2019 Paint, Build, Create event. Photo by Guy Land.

Due to lingering pandemic restrictions at the FCC, the event will require pre-registration for a 1.5 hour time slot. Paint, Build, Create is open to children of all ages and ability levels and is sponsored by the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation. Registration information will be announced soon.

—Regina Bethencourt

Fairlington Presidents discuss neighborhood noise complaints, tree health

The Fairlington Presidents meet every few months for the benefit of the seven condo and the one homeowners' associations to discuss topics of mutual interest.

At the most recent meeting we discussed noise issues between neighbors and noise complaints near playgrounds. We all agreed a certain amount of noise on or near the playgrounds was acceptable but not after dark.



Community playgrounds, like this one in Fairlington Meadows, have been the subject of recent noise complaints. Photo by Guy Land.

The Commons gave an update on their electric charging station progress. Their first station is currently being used by several Commons residents and a second one will be installed soon near the Fairlington Community Center. This second station will be available for use by the public for a fee.

We are all concerned about the health of the Arlington County owned trees that are parallel to the streets throughout our community. The county says it has a backlog of work in removing dead trees, pruning diseased trees, and installing replacement trees. We discussed helping out, if possible, by watering new trees to ensure their survival. We need to keep reporting dead/dying trees on the county's website because the county cannot proactively check on all the trees in the county. County sidewalks that are warped, usually caused by roots of a tree, and pose a tripping hazard should also be reported on the county website.

Lastly, we discussed rising condo fees and how they impact our property values. Most people factor in the cost when determining their ability to pay a mortgage.

—Renee Powlette



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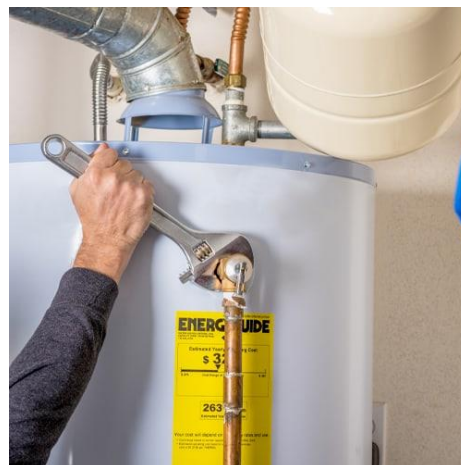
Many appliances in your home rely on steady, clean sources of water, and your plumbing system is interconnected in many ways. In addition, your home's plumbing connection to the outside world must be in good condition as well. Sewer backups can spell disaster.



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- ★ Resolve to change your air filter regularly. This is a very important task, which will help keep your HVAC system in good shape. Change your air filter every month to prevent future problems and keep your HVAC system running effectively.
- ★ Schedule a maintenance tune-up for your HVAC system, aiming for twice per year in the spring and fall. Regular maintenance checks will increase the efficiency of your HVAC system and help avoid mechanical problems and breakdowns.



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Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmastime in Fairlington!

In true Fairlingtonian-style, neighbors show their holiday spirit with festive decorations, fun inflatables, and twinkling lights. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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FCA president outlines agenda for coming year

FCA President Guy Land outlined key components of FCA's work plan for 2022 at December's annual meeting. These include activities to strengthen the group's ties with local elected officials and to foster a spirit of community in Fairlington.

He noted that he had already contacted newly elected Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker about providing a report on this year's session of the General Assembly in Richmond. While most of Bennett-parker's district is in Alexandria, she represents most of North and South Fairlington.

FCA also expects to continue its practice of inviting at least one member of the Arlington County Board to speak to the group.



Former Fire Station 7 on Abingdon St. Photo by Guy Land.

After a two-year COVID hiatus, the Fairlington 5K will return on April 23. Sponsored by FCA, the race benefits Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie, a foundation that supports research on finding a cure for a rare and degenerative brain and spinal cord disease known as LBSL.

The popularity of last fall's Family Movie Night ensures that FCA will again sponsor at least one movie on the Fairlington field. Other community activities are likely to include the annual Fourth of July parade, sponsored in partnership with the Fairlington Villages condo association.

FCA is also an annual sponsor of the Fairlington Farmers Market, which has become an established community institution that encourages residents to visit with neighbors while stocking up on fresh produce and pastries. The market runs from May till November.



To save time, here's a caption for the page 19 photo: Site preparation work is underway for Lindsay Automotive's new building on Quaker Lane. Photo by Guy Land.

This spring the Arlington county demographer will visit FCA to present an overview of the demographic details in the 2020 census. This presentation will include broader county-wide trends, as well as specific information on Fairlington. South Fairlington constitutes one census tract, while North Fairlington is part of a larger census tract that includes neighboring communities.

Fairlington residents are always interested in crime and safety issues, and FCA plans to invite the Arlington County Police Department to visit with the community at an upcoming FCA Board meeting.

Land also reported that FCA expects to have conversations with Arlington county over the status and future of former Fire Station 7 on Abingdon St. FCA plans to partner with the county on a survey this spring to gauge the uses that Fairlington residents would like to see the property used for.

Sparked by a presentation from the staff of the Shirlington Branch Library, Land asked the community to think about potential partnerships with the library on activities and events for Fairlington. "A year from now I want to be able to describe some things we did together with the library," Land told the group.

FCA will continue to monitor real estate development in the area. Ongoing projects include site development work for a new building for Lindsay Automotive on Quaker Lane, construction of 81 affordable housing units adjacent to Fairlington Presbyterian Church on King St., and expansion of WETA's building in Shirlington.

—Guy Land



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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

Clover brings Irish charm to Fairlington and New Year news

Clover is a 75-pound Irish Setter who lives in South Fairlington with her Mom. She is the quintessential setter with long legs that provide a graceful gait, a chiseled muzzle, and a warm, welcoming smile. She enjoys frozen vegetables (a favorite doggie treat), musical songs, and has several admirers (both human and canine) in her neighborhood.

Clover came to Fairlington 3 years ago from Winchester, Va. and has fine manners in addition to her outgoing personality. The day of her interview, she greeted Pet Profiles with a bouncy, playful bark and lots of Southern hospitality.

How did you get to Fairlington? Do you like living here?

I moved to Fairlington when my mom Sara adopted me from a family who breeds Irish doodles. I had adorable puppies coming out of my ears, and I was a wonderful mama to them, but now I get to just be a dog. I love living here! My favorite sniffing pleasure is babies, because they smell like pure love, and sometimes, toddlers. For some reason, they like to throw their snacks on the ground when their moms aren't looking, so that I can find something to eat under their strollers. It really is the best thing.

You have a regal disposition and such elegant manners. Where does that come from? Do you have royal blood lines?

Why, thank you. I find it is a good way to receive treats and belly rubs and face the world. I suppose elegance can come from having parents with names like Sir Connor and Lady Ginger of Emerald. And some of my other family members were AKC champions. That isn't why Sara picked me, though. I was running around and around and finally locked eyes with her, and she decided to love me. Besides, being a champion means having a funny name, like my great great grandma Saxony South-



Clover shows-off her glowing coat while sunning on her patio in the spring. Photo by Sara Allen.

ern Sunrise or her hubby Chantilly Glory Times. I much prefer Clover.

This is your birthday month! Any tips for other dogs on aging gracefully?

Yes! Sara and I share a birthday month, which is great fun. My best tip is fish oil, which keeps my coat nice and healthy, as well as frozen broccoli or carrots. Oh, and lots of time chasing balls or my own tail.

What advice would you give to humans on how to get along with each other like dogs do?

Chase balls with each other, but don't sniff each other's tails. Make eye contact and cuddle. And give each other treats.

What were your New Year's resolutions for 2022?

Well, I am so glad you interviewed me, because we are moving away from Fairlington for Sara's new job. We are both a little bit sad about it, because I will miss all of my favorite doggie friends - fluffy Pem, Riley (who I like to flirt with), and all the others, especially those doodle puppies that like to bounce around and play with me. Anyway, my New Year's resolution is to be very good during the move—I can't wait for the car ride, which I always love—and to use my charm to help Sara make new friends in Vermont, even in the middle of winter. Brrr! We will miss everyone, and we definitely will be back to visit. Until then, we want to share a loving farewell, full of hugs and kisses.



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~2022~

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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 annual outing to the Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls. Here's what's planned:

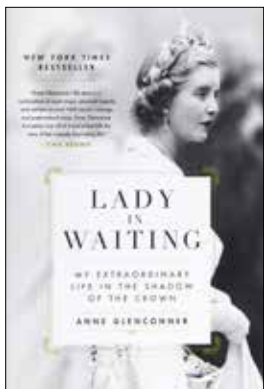


Thursday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m., Ramparts, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 998-6616, <http://www.rampartstavern.com>.

We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Thursday, when they feature their smokehouse dinners (ribs, and/or pulled pork, and/or salmon filet). The rest of the menu is also available.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group



Please join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, January 25, to discuss *Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown*, by Anne Glenconner.

"Lady Glenconner provides an open and honest look into the private lives of England's royal family and the most elite members of society. The author's sense of humor shines through in her writing, bringing

levity to some of the difficult times that peppered her life."—
Library Journal

We will meet either on Zoom or in the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) (3308 S. Stafford St.) at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required at all times inside the FCC. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive details about our meeting location a few days in advance.

Fairlington Moms' Club

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

Community day of service

FCA is hoping to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 17 by sponsoring a community service activity. Check FCA's Facebook page or website for more details.

Extension Master Gardener Help Desk

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

Would you like your neighborhood club or group featured in the bulletin? Send us a note at afbeditors@yahoo.com.

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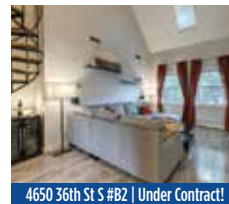
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The Evergreen: A top low-maintenance choice

My most frequent customer request is for a low-maintenance garden. It seems that most homeowners don't care to pull weeds or prune specimens. Dragging heavy bags of mulch from the nursery is another of their dreaded tasks.

The easiest path to a low maintenance garden is having evergreens. This doesn't necessarily mean living without color—plenty of evergreens come with colorful flowers. Let's take a look at a few:

The other day (mid-December), I noticed delicate white flowers blooming on an English holly. Then I noticed the miniature, soft pink flowers that resemble bugles on a variegated abelia. Of course, I always see winter jasmine with its 5-petaled, yellow flowers attached to long green vines this time of year. Juniper, in some cultivars, has purplish foliage in colder months. The Wedgewood blue berries are apparent on its branches.

If you want *Euonymus* winter creeper, you'll notice its oval leaves turn pink in winter. Lavender or rosemary has bluish-green evergreen foliage (in needle form) that bear lavender flowers which sometimes show in winter. The most dynamic winter bloomer (in terms of color) is camellia with its 4-inch-wide flowers in pink, white, or red. Winter-blooming camellia shows from early December into April.

Just about any holly offers red drupes that dot the dark green foliage most of the year. Winterberry—the only deciduous holly—bears red drupes



Pyracantha graces a parking lot in Shirlington. Photo by Guy Land.

on leafless branches in winter. You will think someone hung little red spheres on its leafless branches. And if this happens to be planted where snow has fallen, the light show (in red) is striking.

Evergreens are easy to prune and if you buy the right cultivar (meaning dwarf), the need to prune is minimal. Let the specimen keep its natural shape but cut branches that drag the ground. This enhances air flow at its base which mitigates mildew, fungus, and mold.

For splashes of color, buy pots and fill them with pansy or ornamental cabbage, the latter coming in white, purple, or ivory. The bloom on the cabbage is 6 to 8 inches wide. Remember, pansy is a misnomer since this is one of the toughest flowering specimens. I once planted a row of pansy for a customer in Burke, Va. Days later, a 2-foot snow storm covered them all. Two weeks later after the snow had melted, all the

pansy flowers stood erect and were in full flower. Talk about strong. Pansy comes in apricot, purple, lavender, yellow, and white. As you know, the faces, or markings, on the petals are brown.

Lenten rose is another plant you can insert into pots. This one has large leaves and will grow 10 inches tall by 14 inches wide so it needs a larger pot. Lenten rose typically flowers in summer and fall but the ivory-mauve flowers also show in cold weather. You have to look for the blooms since they nod inside the foliage. If you'd like a vine, think about pyracantha. You will find one on the median strip at the gas station in Shirlington. Its clustered pomes are vivid orange and show in autumn and winter. Pyracantha is an evergreen but there is so much orange fruit on the branches, it's hard to notice any foliage.

—Bill Sullivan
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SULLIVAN's LANDSCAPING will give your patio a makeover. We'll install a flagstone patio over the existing concrete pad & stoop before designing & installing a new perimeter garden planting. This is our 31st year serving homeowners in Fairlington and surrounding region. Email Bill at billsullivan41@gmail.com or call 571-213-9567.

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JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS: 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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PET SERVICES

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

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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).

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Listing Agent
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1300 S Crystal Dr S #1705S
Arlington, VA 22202
2BR/2.5BA
For Sale!
Listing price \$799,000
Listing Agent
Julie Flory



Joanne Ritchick
571.215.3350
Joanne@LNF.com



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Listing Agent
Sandra Graves



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Listing price \$335,000
Listing Agent
Kathy Koerner



Julie Flory
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Juliet.Flory@LNF.com



Kathy Koerner
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Kathy.Koerner@LNF.com



Barbara Kirkland
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