

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JANUARY 2023

Volume 49, Number 1

MLK Day service opportunity offered at Abingdon community garden

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You are cordially invited to join us for a garden service opportunity to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 16 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

FCA is partnering with the Abingdon Elementary PTA to sponsor a MLK Day of Service Garden Workday at the Abingdon Community Garden. Everybody is welcome to lend a helping hand to support our garden goals: planting seeds in mini greenhouses, weeding the area, picking up litter, as well as layering the garden grounds with additional cardboard and donated wood chips.



A volunteer pauses for a pose during November's garden clean up. Photo courtesy Abingdon PTA.

A guest reader will provide a storytime to kids in attendance to honor Dr. King's leadership with the civil rights movement and the importance of building community through volunteer service.

With five major languages spoken by families at Abingdon—English, Spanish, Amharic, Mongolian, and Arabic—our school garden helps break down these language barriers to engage friends and neighbors within our culturally diverse school community.

It is heartwarming to see rising “kindergardeners” pick and enjoy garden fresh tomatoes after their summer popsicle playdate where they meet future classmates, and to see kids impressed with the baby watermelons and pumpkins growing along the garden fence, or watch a teacher release a new butterfly with her students.

The school garden has been a culmination of many kind people and organizations (for example, Friends of Urban Agriculture, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Boy Scouts, and the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia) who volunteer to support our humble garden.

We would love your support to maintain a successful, sustainable community garden. Prior gardening experience is not required. Bring your water bottle, as well as your garden gloves and shovel if you have one. Scope out our garden map here: www.abingdonpta.org/garden. We hope you will join us.

—Sharon Burd

Coming up

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

FCA monthly meeting January 11

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.avatartech-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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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
571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

Board of Directors

Officers	Directors
Guy Land, President	Dianna Bentley
Jennifer Davies, Vice President	Julie Butler
Paulin Leonida, Treasurer	Todd Delp
Jennifer Clardy Chalmers, Secretary	Lydia Redway
	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
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
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

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Calendar

MLK Day of Service Garden Workday

Monday, January 16, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Abingdon Elementary School

MLK Day

Monday, January 16
FCC Closed

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Conversation on Equity

Wednesday, January 18, 7 p.m.
FCC

Fairlington diners

Monday, January 23, 6:30 p.m.
Ramparts
1700 Fern St
Alexandria, VA 22302

Fairlington book group

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.



Contributors this month: Regina Bethencourt, Sharon Burd, Leslie Cameron, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Angela Voyiaziakis McNamara, Terry Placek, Lydia Redway, Thora Stanwood, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month's annual meeting saw the retirement of long-time FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz. A Fairlington resident since 1975, Ed has been a key participant in activities in our neighborhood for over 40 years.

Indeed, Ed had a hand in creating FCA in the late 1970s as Fairlington was getting established as a condo community in place of a rental community. Early on he understood the importance of having an organization that could speak on behalf of the larger Fairlington neighborhood—and not just the individual condo associations—about common issues that affected both North and South Fairlington, particularly when it came to Arlington county decisions.

He likewise saw the value of having the *All Fairlington Bulletin* as a vehicle for disseminating news about activities in Fairlington, using it to help foster a robust sense of community across the condo associations.

FCA has had a variety of strong leaders through years—folks like Paul Ferguson, Nancy Hunt, and the late Sam Anthony—but Ed has been the anchor of consistency and continuity across multiple leadership personalities and styles.

Ed's commitment, energy, and insight are a major reason that FCA is a thriving organization today that enjoys the respect of Arlington county officials and has the financial resources to support activities like last month's Santa Ride or last fall's family movie night.

Ed has also represented Fairlington on several county advisory committees, such as the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), which establishes priorities for the use of county bond funds for small neighborhood improvement projects. He helped shape the 1987 Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan and led the 2012 update of that plan. He expects to continue to serve on the NCAC.

Ed and his wife Adrian (and son Corey) were among the early families that settled into this new condo community as it was being established—you could call them Fairlington's pioneer families—and stayed, invested in making it a real community, and guided it as it reached maturity and experienced demographic change.

Ed's dedication to Fairlington is beyond question. His commitment to the work of FCA has enabled it to survive and flourish. Our community is a better place because of his efforts. Thanks, Ed, for a job well done for Fairlington.

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

Happy New Year

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Save the Date for the Fairlington 5K

The 8th Annual Fairlington 5K & Family Fun Run is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 29. The family-friendly race, which began in 2014, supports research into a cure for 14-year old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn, who was born with a rare brain and spinal cord disease known as LBSL. LBSL slowly robs children of their ability to walk, stand, and coordinate all movements.

To date, the 5K and its accompanying Silent Auction have raised over \$130,000 for research into a cure for



5K runners brave the rain during the 2022 race. Photo by Guy Land.

the genetic condition. A portion of the proceeds also goes to support physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary School.

Over 700 people register for this event annually. Temporary road closures will be announced prior to the race so that residents can plan accordingly. Registration will open in January. To learn more go to www.Fairlington5K.com.

—Beth McGinn

Annual meeting elects new FCA board

Fairlington residents elected a new member to the FCA board and promoted another board member to treasurer at the association's annual meeting on December 14.

North Fairlington resident Todd Delp was approved for a vacant slot on the board, while current board member Paulin Leonida was selected as treasurer, replacing long-time treasurer Ed Hilz, who did not seek re-election.

Fairlingtonians re-elected Guy Land as president, Jennifer Davies as vice president, and Jennifer Clardy Chalmers as secretary. Incumbents Lydia Redway, Donald Staren-Doby, Julie Butler, and Dianna Bentley were re-elected as directors.

Officers and directors serve one-year terms and receive no compensation for their work.

Delp has been a Fairlington resident since 2021. He previously served a term as a member of the board of the Fairlington Villages condo association. He and his wife have two children.

Leonida, a Fairlington resident since 2020, has a diverse background of financial management, including work with international nonprofit organizations. She currently works for the Arlington County Department of Human Services.

During the annual meeting, president Land summarized the major activities of 2022: engaging with county officials and leaders; focusing on safety and security;

addressing development and affordable housing issues; promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion; building relationships with neighborhood organizations.

He also highlighted FCA's role in enhancing community life in Fairlington by sponsoring events like the Fairlington 5K, the July 4th parade (in partnership with Fairlington Villages), family movie night, neighborhood blood drives, and supporting the Fairlington Farmers Market.

For 2023, Land noted FCA's support for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Community Service in conjunction with the Abingdon Elementary PTA; continued conversations on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and sponsorship of the 2023 Fairlington 5K.

A written report from out-going treasurer Hilz showed that for the period January through November FCA had net income of roughly \$4,700. Advertising in the *All Fairlington Bulletin* is the primary source of income for the organization.

—Guy Land



North Fairlington resident Todd Delp was elected in December to fill a vacant board slot. Photo courtesy Todd Delp.



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Santa makes a visit to Fairlington

Dozens of excited young Fairlingtonians welcomed Santa to Fairlington on December 10 as he rode the fire-truck through the neighborhood and stopped to hear children's wish lists and pose for photos.

FCA thanks Capt. William Bennett and the crew of fire station 9 for escorting Santa through the community. FCA also thanks the Fairling-

ton Villages condo association for the donation of the Santa suit. FCA vice president Jennifer Davies coordinated the event, with help from board member Jennifer Clardy Chalmers.

Photos by Guy Land.



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Speeding, inflation, egress windows drive discussion in quarterly Presidents meeting

The following were the main topics discussed at the recent meeting of the Fairlington presidents.

Conversations continue with the City of Alexandria about excessive vehicle exhaust noise and speeding along King St. Fairlington Villages' president spoke with a member of the City's Transportation and Environmental Services office who stated that Alexandria was planning to install speed feedback signs along King St., between Quaker Ln and Beauregard St. Fairlington residents are encouraged to contact the city via the Alex311 app or via the web site at www.alexandriava.gov/Alex311 to report incidents of speeding or excessive vehicle exhaust noise.

Financial reserves—In order to maintain costly aging facilities and common areas, the associations rely on reserve funding. The amount set aside each year is based on the association's reserve study and on its bylaws.

Reserves cover present and anticipated cost increases for contractors, services, materials. All agree that costs are rising due to inflation, Covid circumstances, the war in Ukraine, etc. This will inevitably drive up condo fees to cover the unexpected costs.

County permit issues—Most, if not all, of Fairlington's associations have experienced time lags or problems getting permits approved for time-sensitive projects. For the past two years, applications for permits had to be submitted online. Only recently has the permit office reopened two days per week. Arlington now has a Resident Ombudsman and Director of Constituent Services to facilitate communication between county residents and Arlington County departments. He is Benjamin Aiken and can be reached at baiken@arlingtonva.us and at 703-228-1762.

Electric charging stations—The Commons has two working chargers for their residents and two that will be open to Fairlington residents once installed and live. The Meadows will be installing one dual charging pedestal in 2023. Funding for the project was approved at the Annual Meeting in October. The Glen set up a committee to research the feasibility and location(s) for chargers. Most associations are planning for the future, envision-



Many Fairlington residents with basements have opted to place an egress window to allow for safe exit or entrance in the event of an emergency. Photo courtesy Facebook.

ing more electric vehicles in existence and younger residents moving into Fairlington. The question was raised as to whether it is fair to add the high cost of electric vehicle chargers to the condo fee now when very few residents have an electric vehicle.

Egress windows—Most Presidents agreed that installing egress windows from basements are for safety reasons. It's important that co-owners follow condo rules when installing an egress window and sign an agreement/waiver that, if the window causes damage to the unit/building, the co-owner is responsible. The egress window conveys when the unit sells and

the new owner takes on the liability and responsibility.

Please contact your association's president if you have topics pertaining to Fairlington that the presidents might discuss at a future meeting.

—Thora Stanwood

Board volunteers needed for historical society

The Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) is seeking volunteers to serve on its Board of Trustees. FHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 2000 after historic district status was granted by the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1998 and by the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

FHS maintains a web site, sells the book, *Fairlington at 50: May 1943-May 1993* and a reproduction of the architect's map of the community and, with the Fairlington Citizens Association, sells the Fairlington ornament. It has sponsored and co-sponsored educational, cultural, and community history events, such as home and garden tours, walking tours, and exhibits in both Arlington County's Fairlington Community Center and in the Fairlington Villages' Community Center.

If you are interested in serving on the FHS Board of Trustees, or would like more information, contact us at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. If no one can be found to serve FHS will have to be dissolved.



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For the love of NATURE



Lawn care alternative trials underway in Fairlington Villages

Changing aesthetics and residents' concerns have resulted in lawn-care alternative trials in Fairlington Villages, where an estimated 19 acres is lawn:

- **No treatment site**—Treatments have not been used (beyond aeration and seeding) for close to a decade over safety concerns for young children in the area around the toddler playground, management office, and main tennis courts—these locations are grouped together on S. Abington Street.
- **Organics trial**—The board of directors approved a pilot project to investigate the use of organic products in lieu of man-made (synthetic) products for lawn-care based on resident requests for organics and perception that they are safer. Organics are being applied in the fall as post emergent treatments for weeds and as fertilizer. The goals are twofold: to see if organics are as effective as the current process or effective enough to satisfy residents; and to determine if the results are worth the cost, as these are significantly more expensive than synthetic products. This pilot site is directly across from the management office and is bound by South 29th, Abingdon, and 30th streets, and parking lot 38.
- **No chemicals trial**—Most recently, the Board approved another pilot at the request of residents in the Ward 1 area who are concerned about safety and health of children and pets who frequently play in these open grassy areas. No chemicals of any kind will be applied, including fertilizers, in the area that is east of Abingdon St., south of 31st Street, and near I-395..

The management company, grounds committee, and board will monitor all trial sites and residents' comments/feedback on these locations before deciding to end, continue, or to expand the pilots.

Encouraging all-grass lawns requires quite a bit of care and feeding, time, and money. These methods are

employed currently in Fairlington Villages throughout the property:

	Aerate & Seed	Herbicide	Grass Cuttings	Mulch Leaves	Fertilizer
No treatment area	✓		✓		
Organics trial	✓	✓			
No chemicals trial	✓		✓	✓	
Other property areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- **Keeping weeds from growing in the first place** by limiting bare soil areas in which weeds (anything other than grass) easily grow. This is accomplished by aerating the soil and seeding bare areas with new grass each fall.
- **Herbicides** are used in the spring to prevent weed growth (pre-emergent) as they will grow despite best efforts. Different herbicides are applied in the fall to kill the weeds that do grow (post emergent).
- **Nourishing the grass with several techniques.** Mulching mowers leave grass cuttings on the lawn, adding natural and free nitrogen. The same mowers mulch leaves in the fall; leaves are also a natural and free fertilizer. Additional nutrients, as indicated by soil tests taken throughout the property, are added through chemical fertilizers in the spring and fall.

Please send any questions or comments to forthe love of nature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Angela Voyiazakis McNamara

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SOLD: 4170 36th St. S
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SOLD: 3046 S. Abingdon St. #A1
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SOLD: 4820 28th St. S.
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BOUGHT: 4648 34th St. S.
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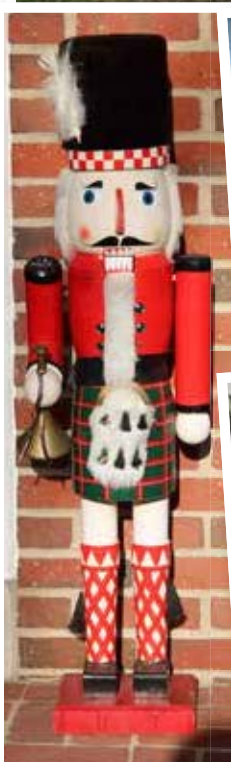
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Fairlington lights up the 2022 holiday season

While Fairlington is always a great place to find a spectacular holiday light show, residents really outdid themselves this year with decor, lights, and other festive arrangements. On the warmer winter evenings (and even some of the cold ones!) neighbors stroll through the brightly lit streets to experience a bit of the season's magic.

Photos by Guy Land.



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

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

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

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ABINGDON *school news*



Looking back on 2022: A season of support

As we reflect back on the past year, I am reminded of the school garden challenges we have encountered (e.g., a wheelbarrow's flat tire, vandalism and theft, and plant diseases) and the strong network of people who care and give their time to help.

Many of our Cardinals are especially thankful for the sweet strawberries and the three types of garden-fresh tomatoes that our friends from Thomas Jefferson Middle School gifted our garden.

To that end, the Abingdon PTA is thrilled to announce that Yorktown High School student Thomas Totten will be building a custom garden shed as a part of his Eagle Scout Service Project Plan for the Abingdon Community Garden.

We greatly admire Thomas' thoughtful input and leadership to execute this much-needed project.

"I am excited to be working with the Abingdon Community on my Eagle Scout Project. I think the shed will be a great addition to the garden. I hope the shed will help the students and gardeners at Abingdon Elementary and the surrounding community," Thomas said.

We owe Abingdon's PTA Reflections Art Contest and Awards Ceremony to Mary Savig for her planning and organizing. As a Kennedy Center "Changing Education through the Arts" school, we are always delighted to see students' artistic talent.

Students were eager to showcase and celebrate their hard work and



We truly appreciate Doug Westby-Gibson, and friends JoJo and Devin for lending a helping hand to move the Abingdon PTA's donated fridge for our new classroom snack pantry.

creativity with friends and family at the Abingdon awards ceremony on November 9. All participants were recognized with a certificate and ribbon before their peers. Additionally, a heartfelt thank you to our judges, too: Anya, Art Curator at the National Museum of the American Indian, and Joshua, Collections Curator at the Archives of American Art.

Lastly, we are extremely thankful to the community members who warmly support our neighborhood school through scholarship donations, supporting 40 Abingdon families in need over the holidays, gifting our educators coffee, and lending a helping hand with Abing-

don's new classroom snack pantry.

We sincerely appreciate Megan and Brad at our neighborhood bakery - Great Harvest Bread Co. - for donating freshly baked rolls to our Thanksgiving Sides Drive.

I hope you will consider staying engaged and connected with us as we continue advocating for our Cardinals: Facebook, Twitter, and www.abingdonpta.org. We truly appreciate everybody who has given their time, energy, and talent to support the Abingdon PTA and our school community.

Thank you for your commitment to elevating our Cardinal flock's elementary experience.

—Sharon Burd

APS School Year Calendar:

Monday, January 2: No School (New Year's Day Observed)

Tuesday, January 10: Abingdon PTA General Membership Meeting (7 pm - 8 pm)

Monday, January 16: No School (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Wednesday, January 18: Gunston's Middle School Spanish Information Session (7 pm, In-person)

Thursday, January 19: Gunston's Middle School English Information Session (7 pm, In-person)



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

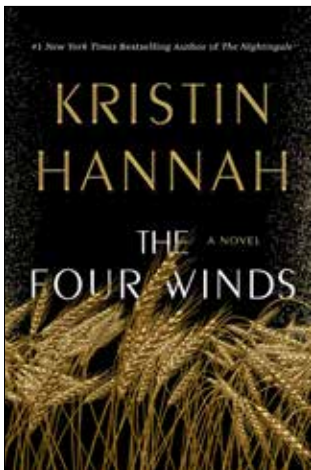
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In December, we made our usual trip to Great Falls for a lovely holiday meal at the Auberge Chez Francois.

Here's what's planned for January:

Monday, January 23 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 Monday, which is Burger Day--all burgers are \$12. The rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her--include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in January to discuss *The Four Winds*, a novel set in the Great Depression, by Kristin Hannah.

"The Four Winds seems eerily prescient . . . Its message is galvanizing and hopeful: We are a nation of scrappy survivors. We've been in dire straits before; we will be again. Hold your people close."—*The New York Times*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Moms' Club

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

Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden

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



Conversation on Equity

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion encourages all residents to join us for the next conversation, on the topic of Equity, on Wednesday, January 18 at 7 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center.

The conversations include short videos and discussion questions to challenge assumptions, interrupt bias, and understand equity vs. equality.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Lydia Redway at lydia.redway@gmail.com.



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Wishing Everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Anne & Bob DeLong

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Climate Corner—Light Pollution

Did you know that in an average year, in the U.S. alone, outdoor lighting uses about 120 terawatt-hours of energy, mostly to illuminate streets and parking lots? That's enough energy to meet New York City's total electricity needs for two years! The International Dark-Sky Association estimates that least 30 percent of all outdoor lighting in the U.S. alone is wasted, mostly by lights that aren't shielded.

That adds up to \$3.3 billion and the release of 21 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Reducing energy demand at night reduces greenhouse gas emissions and energy waste and lessens the impact of this artificial light on humans, birds, insects, and other animals.

We'd love to hear your ideas for mitigating climate change. Please send them along to: fairlington-can@googlegroups.com

—Fairlington CAN January 2023



“Anyone with any platform at all should use it now, to help prevent the collapse of our livable environment.”

...Adam McKay, “Don’t Look Up”

My name is Karen Olson Weaver, and this quote propelled me to run, ***and win*** a seat on the

Fairlington Villages Board of Directors.

If you, too, are concerned about the environment, you can make a real difference, RIGHT NOW, by running for the FV Board. With a small time commitment, you could have a ***big impact.*** We can be leaders in preserving habitat for local bird and pollinators and we can create a model for cities worldwide, all while ***maintaining a financially conservative budget,*** simply by using up-to-date horticultural Best Practices and sound business principles.

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DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



Planting your backyard winter wonderland

A gardener's challenge is having beauty in the winter landscape. Few specimens flower from December into March but there are some with winter pizzazz.

A customer of mine, Joan, never steps outside in winter. There's no need. From her kitchen or dining room, she looks through windows to admire a stand of camellia I planted years ago.

At the back fence are three camellia, each with a different flower color – red, pink and white. Tying them together are yellow eyes, a trademark of camellia. This plant is a vertical grower with scant width. Its branches are sturdy and need no support. The “winter-blooming” camellia shows its flowers from December into April.

Think about planting a few at your back fence so you can enjoy what she does in the colder months.

At the corner of South 36th and South Wakefield Streets is mahonia. This 6-foot-tall evergreen shows yellow flowers from December into March. In a bed to the right of the mailbox, there are three waving to you with sprays of fragrant yellow flowers atop its branches. Foliage is acuminate like a holly. In winter, some leaves mutate to an orange or purple.

Winterberry is a must-have for your winter garden. There used to be a few at the Fairlington Community Center but they disappeared during construction a couple years ago. This



Winter jasmine is an evergreen that is filled with yellow flowers in the winter time. Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

is the only deciduous holly. When it drops its leaves, red drupes cluster on thin branches. If one isn't familiar with this plant, he or she would think someone hung red ornaments.

If you have a raised bed in your Fairlington patio (such as a tiered structure like Wes has in his “Commons” patio) think about planting winter jasmine. It's an evergreen with drooping branches that become filled with nickel-sized, yellow flowers in winter. If you drive down Braddock Rd. you will see it on the left atop an 8-foot-tall stone wall. It's about 200 yards shy of the canon on the median at Russell Rd. I planted winter jasmine atop a raised brick bed for Pat in her “green” patio years ago. Every winter, she's presented with a yellow waterfall.

Another winter-flowering specimen is fragrant daphne. It is 3-foot-tall with a similar width. The flowers are 2-inches wide and pinkish-white. With this in your winter garden, you can enjoy your coffee or tea outside for sweet sniff, quite similar to the gardenia flower.

While gardening at Penny's, I saw a chrysanthemum flowering in December! It had not been pruned (May is the usual time) so it was leggy (4-feet-long) but in full flower. So, when you buy mums next fall, plant them in the soil against a small, wood trellis. Avoid pruning the following May. Tie the branches to the trellis. Then come winter, you'll have a stand of colorful mum.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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—Mary Thomasson,
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- 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.

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REAL ESTATE

January 2023



3201 S Stafford St #A2
Arlington, VA 22006
1BR/2BA *Redesigned Barcroft Model*

For Sale!

Listing Price \$499,000

Listing Agent: Jim McCowan



1830 Jefferson Pl NW #19
Washington, DC 20036
1BR/1BA

For Rent!

Listing Price \$3,150/month

Listing Agent: Anthony Athanason



3237 S Utah St
Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/2BA *Clarendon Model*

For Sale!

Listing Price \$525,000

Listing Agent: Julie Flory



2723 S Buchanan St
Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/2BA *Clarendon II Model*

RENTED!

Rented for \$2,650/month

Listing Agent: Lisa McGee



880 N Pollard St #906
Arlington, VA 22203
1BR/1BA

SOLD!

Sold For \$415,000

Listing Agent: Anthony Athanason



4101 Whispering Ln
Annandale, VA 22003
5BR/2.5BA

SOLD!

Sold For \$770,000

Listing Agent: Patricia Quinlin



4119 Sleepy Hollow Rd
Annandale, VA 22003
4BR/3BA

Under Contract!

Listing Price \$779,900

Listing Agent: Patricia Quinlin



4103 Whispering Ln
Annandale, VA 22003
4BR/3BA

SOLD!

Sold For \$820,000

Listing Agent: Patricia Quinlin



Jim McCowan
703.395.0166



Lisa McGee
571.239.6603



Patricia Quinlin
703.835.7312



Julie Flory
703.599.3111



Joanne Ritchick
571.215.3350



Anthony Athanason
703.999.4990

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