



All Fairlington Newsletter

President's Message

January 2026

As we enter 2026, FCA is busy planning programs, activities, and outreach for this coming year. We appreciate community member survey responses to help guide us. Some key priorities for this year will be tracking Shirlington House's construction project, engaging the Arlington County staff on the future of the old Fire Station 7, coordinating the Fairlington Stumbling Stones unveiling in the spring, and inviting county and APS board members to speak at FCA meetings. That's just to name a few. Looking ahead to the nation's 250th celebration of July 4th, we hope to count on the participation of residents young and old. Happy New Year everyone!



—Jenn Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org



From left to right; Scudder Wagg, Berkeley Teate, Jennifer Clardy Chalmers, Jennifer Davies, Elizabeth Lyons, and Tom Keith. (Absent–Julie Butler)

FCA Elects 2026 Board

FCA elected its 2026 Board of Directors during the December annual meeting. Returning to the board is Jennifer Davies who will continue to serve as President, Julie Butler will move from director to Vice President, Jennifer Clardy Chalmers will return as Secretary, and Scudder Wagg as Treasurer. Berkeley Teate and Elizabeth Lyons return as directors. Tom Keith was elected to the FCA Board as a director for the first time. In 2026, the FCA Board looks forward to engaging residents on relevant issues that impact the neighborhood, as well as providing educational opportunities and community events.

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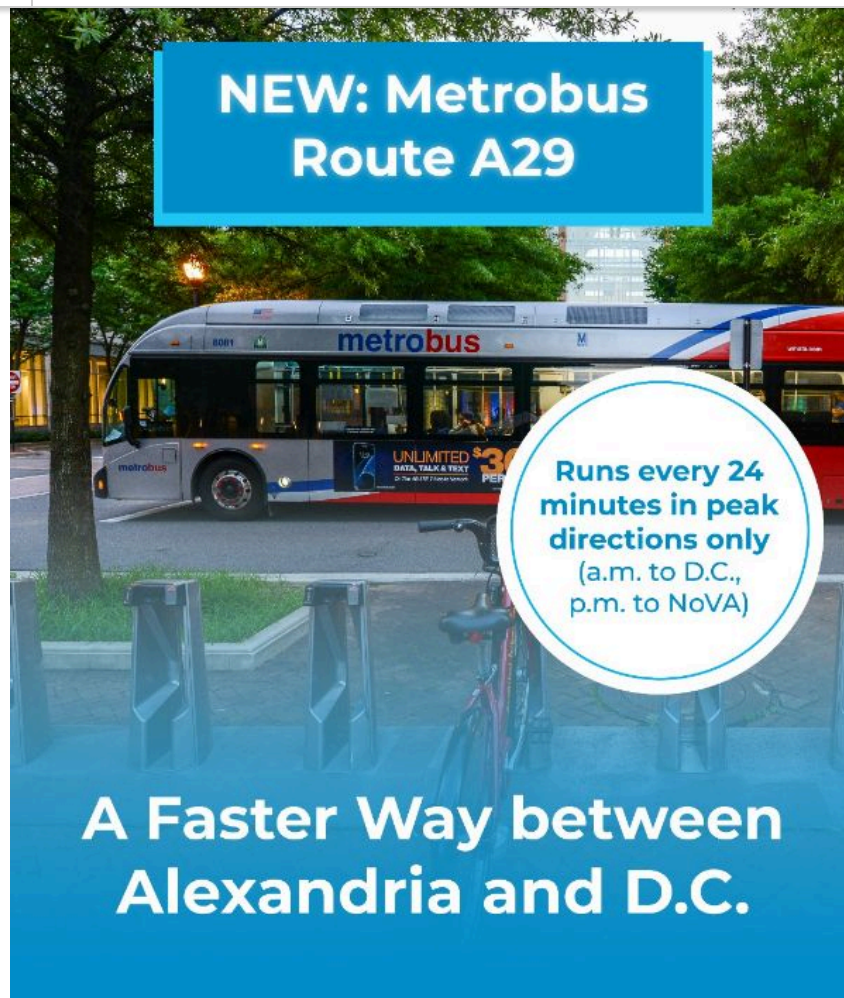
FCA 2025 Year in Review

- Continued to coordinate neighborhood-wide events including the July 4th Parade, Fall Outdoor Movie Night, and Fire Truck Santa, engaging approximately 1,000 Fairlington residents.
- Hosted Farmers Market monthly meet & greets July–November.
- Launched new swag: Fairlington tea towels.

- Transitioned from printed *All Fairlington Bulletin* to digital *All Fairlington Newsletter* (AFN), growing subscribers from a little over 500 to approximately 1,700, signifying a 300% increase.
- FCA's website now sees over 8,000 visits monthly.
- Released our Resident Survey to guide our 2026 communications and engagement efforts.
- Invited VA Delegate Alfonso Lopez and County Board member JD Spain to brief residents at monthly meetings. It was the first time either came to an FCA meeting.
- An FCA first: provided CPR and first response training (free of charge).
- Managed Capital Area Food Banks' monthly distributions at Park Shirlington, distributing over 20,000 lbs. of food to neighbors in need. [Sign up to volunteer here](#) if interested.

Fairlington Resident Survey Responses

Thank you for your overwhelming response to our General Resident Community Survey! We HEARD you! We're prioritizing local and regional issues, as well as invitations to subject matter experts, at our 2026 monthly meetings. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) invites you to take our Community Issues Survey, focusing on Public Safety, Transportation, and Education. [Survey Link](#)



New Year, New Metrobus Options

As you get ready to restart your commute in the new year, Metrobus offers some improvements that may help you get to work, or anywhere, more easily. Last month, Metrobus rolled out two major changes affecting Fairlington.

Metrobus Route A25, which serves South Fairlington during rush hours, now comes more frequently, every 15 minutes. This route is only northbound in the morning to Pentagon station from roughly 6:30 to 9 a.m. and southbound coming back from Pentagon from 4 to 7 p.m.

Metrobus also launched a new Route A29. This route will run only at rush hours, serving western Alexandria, stopping in Shirlington before proceeding directly to Metro Center. It will run every 24 minutes from about 6 to 9 a.m. and then run from Metro Center to Shirlington and western Alexandria in the afternoon from about 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Check the [WMATA website](#) for details and trip planning on the new routes.

—Scudder Wagg, FCA Treasurer



Photo courtesy Guy Land.

Firetruck Santa Returns

On December 13, Fire Station 9 transported Santa and his fire-fighting elves throughout the neighborhood. Crowds gathered at stops in Park Shirlington, Abingdon Elementary, and Fairlington Community Center, with residents cheering on Santa from multiple intersections. Fire fighters distributed candy canes and hats, while Santa took photos with kids, pets, and grown-ups. This beloved holiday tradition would not be possible without the enthusiastic support from ACFD.



Photo courtesy Alyona Smith.

Fairlington Moms

Fairlington Moms' Club Breakfast With Santa

The Beeliner Diner hosted a Breakfast With Santa for the members of the Fairlington Moms' Club. Families enjoyed breakfast and got to chat and take pictures with Santa! Thanks to the Fairlington-owned Beeliner for sponsoring this fun event and bringing joy to our community to kick off the holiday season!

—Molly Haines

January Events Calendar

Interested in having your event included? Email afbeditors@yahoo.com

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, January 10, 12 p.m.

[Ramparts Tavern](#), 700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 998-6616

Please email carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com not later than 48 hours in advance if you plan to attend—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

FCA Monthly Meeting: Work Session

Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 134

Fairlington Book Group

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 103

The next meeting of the Fairlington Book Group will discuss the book, *Cue the Sun!: The Invention of Reality TV*, by Emily Nussbaum. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book. To be added to the email list to receive information about how to nominate books in advance of the meeting, please send an email to carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com.

Fairlington Moms

Are you a Fairlington Mom looking for more support, play opportunities for kids, or a group of friends in the same period of life for some fun? The Fairlington Moms' Club is the place for you. We offer:

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

All moms welcome! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.

RAN AWAY from my service, on the 10th inst. my mulatto house-servant **GEORGE**, between 18 and 19 years of age, about 5 feet 6 inches high, slender made, pug nose, bushy hair, half of one of his upper front teeth broken off—he is very artful and forward, and a capable house-servant—he took with him a variety of clothing. I will give the above reward, if secured in any jail, so that I get him again, and will pay all reasonable charges if brought home. Masters of vessels and others are forewarned from employing or carrying off said servant at their peril. **C. F. WHITING.**
 Morven, near Alexandria, } stuthtf
 september 13.

Photo of ad from the September 20, 1817, edition of the *Alexandria Gazette*.

Fairlington Historical Society

Slavery at Morven

Slavery was widespread in Virginia, and Arlington and Fairlington were no exception.

Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington, a project sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, identified a 1780 list of 43 enslaved persons at the Torthorwald plantation (later renamed Morven), which covered the area that is now Fairlington.

The Fairlington Historical Society has identified several more enslaved individuals using primary documents such as records of sale, estate records, and newspaper ads. Our website displays and explains these records. The newspaper ads are perhaps the most shocking—they seek the return of enslaved persons who escaped captivity at the Morven plantation. One ad writer's detailed familiarity with the whip scars of a sought individual confirm that the grimmest aspects of slavery occurred here, too.

Enslaved persons in this area gained some freedom through the Confiscation Acts of 1861 and 1862. They were definitively freed by the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

We are grateful to the [Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington](#) project for bringing this history to light and for helping us remember these important individuals.

—Dan Burd



Abingdon Elementary News

January School Updates

PTA General Meeting on Monday, January 12, 7 p.m., in the Abingdon Elementary School library. The PTA will provide childcare and a meeting link for those who can't join in person.

Join Abingdon Elementary School to cheer on the Washington Wizards as they take on the Miami Heat on February 8, 2 p.m. Five dollars of every ticket sold goes back to Abingdon. The first 50 people to sign up can arrive early to watch warm ups. [Get your tickets here.](#)



Photo from Gardenia.net of Dwarf Winterberry Holly (Ilex verticillata) 'Red Sprite.'

For the Love of Nature

Natives for an Architectural Garden: Strong Lines, Bold Shapes, and Winter Interest

This plant list is one of a series. Find the full articles on the [Fairlington Gardening Community page on Facebook](#).

Tree*: Yaupon holly (Ilex vomitoria)

Shrub*: Dwarf winterberry (Ilex verticillata—choose a dwarf variety)

*Only females produce berries. Plant a male within 50 feet for best berry production.

Perennial, blooms in:

April: Dutchman's Breeches (Dicentra cucullaria)

May: Large-Flowered Trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)

June: Blue Wild Indigo (Baptisia australis)

July: Purple coneflowers (Echinacea purpurea)

August: Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium fistulosum); Dwarf Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium dubium "little Joe")

September: Aromatic aster (Symphyotrichum oblongifolius)

Grass: Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum); Plantain sedge (Carex plantaginea)

Fern: Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides)

Lily (summer blooms): Turks Cap Lily (Lilium superbum)

Shopping Tips:

- Search by the full Latin name. This ensures you have the right plant.
- Native nurseries have the best selection and information.
- You can also order plants by mail.
- Buying seeds through online seed retailers is the most economical.

—Teresa Cordova

Promote Your Business in the *All Fairlington Newsletter*

Want to reach engaged Fairlington neighbors each month? The *All Fairlington Newsletter* (AFN) offers digital advertising options tailored for local businesses looking to build visibility. With strong open rates and distribution across email, the FCA website, and Facebook, AFN provides multiple touchpoints with the community.

Ad space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Ads and sponsored articles are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication. [View the ad rate sheet.](#)

To learn more or reserve your space, contact fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com



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