

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

AUGUST 2017

Volume 43, Number 8

## Construction to begin on I-395 express lanes project

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Work has begun on the I-395 express lanes project that will convert the existing HOV lanes to toll express lanes for eight miles, from Turkeycock Run near Edsall Rd. to the vicinity of S. Eads St. in Arlington.

The HOV lanes were completely shut down overnight for several days in July for geotechnical investigations to facilitate the major construction work,



*South Fairlington residents Molly and FCA director Hugh Baumgardner examine maps of the project at last fall's public hearing by VDOT. Photo by Guy Land.*

which will begin in earnest in late summer. In addition, late June brought daytime shoulder closures along Quaker Ln. from Preston Rd. to Gunston Rd. for geotechnical boring, which is needed for the design of sound wall foundations. A sound wall is proposed for that area.

Under the express lanes project, the two existing HOV lanes will be converted to express lanes and a third lane will be added, providing three reversible express lanes.

The improvements primarily will be built within the existing footprint of the I-395 HOV lanes and will not require the acquisition of major property adjacent to the highway.

Vehicles with three or more people can use the express lanes for free, while vehicles with fewer than three people can choose to pay a variable toll to use the express lanes. Toll pricing would depend on traffic congestion on the road. A transponder will be required for all users.

A major component of the project is the improvement of the S. Eads St. interchange and access to the Pentagon. This will facilitate the flow of buses from the express lanes around the Pentagon parking lot the transit station.

An engineering assessment last summer concluded that sound walls along the highway were "feasible and reasonable." The study identified the homes along the corridor that would be affected by the possible increase in noise. Those residents will vote on whether they want sound walls. FCA will hold

*Continued on page 31*

## Coming up ...

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

### FCA monthly meeting, August 9

**Special presentation:** There will be no special presentation at the August 9 meeting. The Board will hold a general business work session.

#### Regular board business:

- Approval of July 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](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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#### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
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#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Assistant Editor:** Christine Chirichella

**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

#### — DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Email editorial announcements to:

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Email commercial and mini ads to:

[admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

#### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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## Calendar

### **Abingdon listening session**

Monday, July 31, 7 pm  
Fairlington Villages  
Community Center  
3005 S. Abingdon St.

### **Signature Theater Open House**

Sunday, August 6, noon – 8:30 pm  
Signature Theater, Shirlington

### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, August 7, 6:30 pm  
Ramparts Tavern & Grill  
1700 Fern St. Alexandria

### **FCA monthly meeting**

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

### **Book Group**

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

### **Fairlington Diners**

Thursday, August 24, 6:30 pm  
PING by Charlie Chang  
4060 Campbell Ave.

### **Arlington County Police, Fire, and Sheriff Block Party**

Saturday, August 26, 9 am – 4 pm  
Kenmore Middle School  
200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.

## Assist for a kill



*The summer heat couldn't stop a volleyball match on the court at the end of S. Stafford St. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Kent Duffy, Jeni Hornback, Guy Land, Cathy Malin, Bill Sullivan, Lindsay Willmann.

*Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fostering a vibrant sense of community and providing you with information about key matters near our neighborhood are two of FCA's important responsibilities. July saw notable activities for both.

The Fourth of July parade, which we sponsor jointly with the Fairlington Villages condo association, drew an estimated 750 people from across North and South Fairlington. It is truly an awesome community-wide event.

When you watch hundreds of people—accompanied by decorated pets, bikes, and strollers—march down S. Abingdon St. to the sound of patriotic tunes from a duo of fifers, you can't help but reflect on what a warm and diverse neighborhood we have.

Two county board members—Katie Cristol and John Vihstadt—again dropped by to visit informally with residents. They've made this a standard part of their normal Fourth routine, a tribute to the vitality of Fairlington's celebration.

We're planning another event that will bring neighbors together and add value to life in Fairlington—our first-ever free family movie night on the field behind the Fairlington Community Center. When we went to press we were still tallying online votes for your favorite movie titles and working out the licensing details. It's set for Friday, September 8, starting around dusk. We'll lay out all the details in next month's issue of this newsletter.

But we don't just focus on social activities. We take seriously our charge to keep you informed on major proposals in our general area. FCA is uniquely positioned to be a neutral convener for the dissemination of information about real estate developments or other proposals that could affect our neighborhood.

Over 40 people turned out for our July meeting to get a briefing on the plans for affordable housing on the parking lot behind the Fairlington Presbyterian Church on King St. We worked with the church's pastor, the developer, and City of Alexandria staff to make sure Fairlington residents had the basics about the plans and the timeline.

That lively session featured thoughtful, and civil, questions from an engaged audience. One attendee reportedly commented afterward that the tone and substance of the meeting made her proud to live in Fairlington.

We'll continue our information-sharing role this fall when we host representatives of VDOT (and the private partners) to outline the plans for sound barriers along I-395 as part of the express lanes project.

We believe activities like these help make Fairlington a neighborhood that people are pleased to call home.

Guy Land, FCA President  
[president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)



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# Church and developer lay out affordable housing plans

Up to 81 affordable housing rental units could be built by 2021 on the site of the Fairlington Presbyterian Church parking lot under a plan the church's pastor and representatives of the developer presented to Fairlington residents at FCA's July 12 meeting.

"The shortage of affordable housing is the number one driver of real human need in the City of Alexandria," Fairlington Presbyterian Pastor Juli Wilson-Black told the



*Sara Brandt-Vorel, Juli Wilson-Black, Judith Cabelli, and Paul Brown prepare to brief the Fairlington community at FCA's July 12 meeting. Photos by Guy Land.*

audience of about 50 people. She said that the church was looking at the best ways to steward its resources while fulfilling its larger mission of being a transformative force for good in the neighborhood.

As outlined, the plan calls for the construction of the rental units at the back of the current parking lot at 3846 King St. in Alexandria, with underground parking for the units. The project is in its early design stage, with additional consultation with the church and the neighborhood anticipated before a final proposal goes to the City of Alexandria.

All of the units would be reserved for low-income households, with the maximum household tenant income not to exceed roughly \$66,000 per year for a family of four.

Paul Brown, Vice President for Real Estate Development for Wesley Housing Development Corp., which will develop the project, noted that this would be housing for people who receive a "true working wage."

He noted a City of Alexandria study that had reported a "stunning" loss of affordable housing between 2000 and

2010, with the city continuing to lose substantial numbers of units each year. The city's goal is to create or preserve 200 affordable apartments per year.

Judith Cabelli, Project Manager for Wesley, stated that the project would be anchored in four site priorities: protecting the playground and greenspace, improving circulation (drop-off and pick-up) at the site, providing sufficient parking for the users of the site, and mitigating traffic impacts in the neighborhood.

She reported that the comments they've heard so far

indicate a concern about privacy from nearby neighbors and their proximity to the new building, capacity issues at Alexandria City Public Schools, traffic and parking management challenges, increased density in an area that

already has considerable density, and general support for providing affordable housing for the area's workforce.

Sara Brandt-Vorel, Urban Planner with the City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, underscored that the project is at the very beginning of the city's review process, with the current proposal being "very preliminary."

She added that the city will

want to see "how the project works with the site and the surrounding community."

The timeline calls for the submission of a revised

*Continued on page 17*



*North Fairlington residents Gary Hughes (left) and Cheryl Ramp (right) visit with Paul Brown and Judith Cabelli after the presentation.*



*Sara Brandt-Vorel.*



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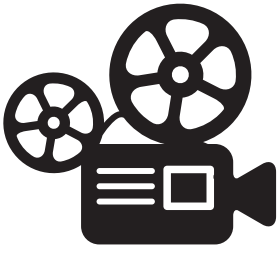
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## Fairlington's outdoor movie night, September 8

This September, FCA will host the first-ever family outdoor movie night in Fairlington!

Join your neighbors Friday, September 8, on the field behind the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., for a free family-oriented film beginning after sunset. An FCA online poll of Fairlington residents in July helped narrow the choices, with films like *Finding Nemo*, *Princess Bride*, *Sandlot*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and *The Goonies* generating lots of support. FCA will announce the title in next month's *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

Those interested in attending should plan to bring a blanket or low chairs and snacks if desired. Make sure the flashlight on your smartphone is working. Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted. A limited number of refreshments will be distributed at the start of the event, thanks to The Reef Team from TTR Sotheby's International Realty-Arlington. Subtitles will be displayed throughout the film.

In the event of cancellation due to inclement weather, an announcement will be made on the FCA website and Facebook page. If a cancellation occurs, a make-up date will be scheduled and announced.

—Lindsay Willmann

## FCA monitors proposed bus route changes

A number of Fairlington residents expressed concern over a July 7 *Arlnow* article where the Arlington County staff recommended consolidation of some major bus routes, including the Metrobus Route 22 that serves Fairlington, as part of the county's Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Last year, county staff discussed with FCA the possibility of a new ART 88 route as an alternative to the Metrobus 22. The ART 88 could run during peak periods, connecting Fairlington to Shirlington and, via the HOV lane, to the Pentagon Metro. However, the route design has not been finalized amid concerns over its attractiveness versus current service levels.

The FCA continues to talk with county staff on an ART replacement for the 22 route; we expect further meetings on the issue in 2018 ahead of any possible changes in 2019.

—Kent Duffy

## County board members visit Fairlington

Arlington County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol and Board member John Vihstadt, along with their spouses (and Katie's dog Bear), dropped by the Fairlington Fourth of July celebration to visit with residents. This is the second year in a row that both of them have attended. Vihstadt had visited in previous

years as well. Board members typically get multiple invitations to July Fourth events, so FCA was pleased that they chose to include Fairlington on their lineup of the day's activities. *Photos by Guy Land and Chris Weathers.*





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# Abingdon construction moves at full speed

With the September beginning of the school year now just weeks away, construction and renovation work at Abingdon Elementary is in high gear to get all the major work completed before classes resume after Labor Day.

The entire school area was closed to the public once school ended in June, enabling the contractor to have



*Bricklayers work on the new three-story classroom addition. Photos by Guy Land.*

full access to the property throughout the work day. This included closing off the pathway to the school from S. Abingdon St., blocking off the bus loop, converting the school's temporary parking lot to a parking lot for construction workers, and shutting down the trail from S. 31st St. to the school.

Aji Robinson, the project coordinator for Arlington Public Schools (APS), cautioned residents that until



*Workers pour concrete for the new bus entrance route.*

school begins, the entire property is a construction site, and encouraged them to avoid walking in the area. "If a fence is open for whatever reasons, it might be closed a short time later, and we do not want any residents trapped within the site."

There were no school activities scheduled at Abingdon over the summer, and school offices were shifted to Wakefield High School during this time.

The classroom trailers ("relocatables") were removed from the area near the playground earlier in the summer and those still on the field will gradually be removed prior to the start of school.

The field itself will not be available in September, even though the relocatables may have all been removed by then. Additional restoration work will need to be com-



*The walkway from S. Abingdon St. to the school was closed for the summer construction work.*

pleted before the field is again open for public use. The goal is to have the work completed before the weather becomes too cold for the construction of the new track around the field.

In July, work continued on the new three-story classroom building on the north side of the school, the contours of the new bus loop and parking lot started taking shape, and additional classrooms were renovated.

Work on the new crosswalk on S. Abingdon St. is slated for mid- to late-summer.

—Guy Land



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# Celebrate Farmers Market Week at the Fairlington Market

August 6 marks the start of National Farmers Market Week—stop by the information table for fun activities for all ages! Kids can pick up a Fruit and Veggie Passport, match stickers with pictures of fruits and vegetables from our vendors, and then bring their passport back for a prize! We'll also have tattoos, giveaways, and a photo booth—pose for photos and then post them on social media.

Farmers markets are known for carrying a variety of fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, and the Fairlington Farmers Market is no exception. But our market has something extra—delicious goat cheese and fudge from award-winning Spriggs Delight Farm!

The farm, described as a labor of love by the owner, is located in the rural countryside of Sharpsburg, MD. They began producing cheese in 2008, and have been selling at farmers markets ever since.



A big thank you to our new and returning volunteers—we couldn't do it without you! Each week, volunteers set up and take down the information booth, put out signs and traffic cones, and greet shoppers. The vendors do their own set up, selling, and take down.

Have questions about volunteering or want to sign up for a shift this summer or fall? Visit [fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org) and click "Get Involved."

Now in their second year at our market, Spriggs Delight takes great pride in making their all-natural cheeses. Selections include fresh chevre (French for cheese made from goat's milk), cranberry and walnut, garlic and herb, jalapeno and chive, feta, and camembert and valencay.

Stop by for a sample and you'll find it's hard to resist!



The most popular flavors this year are camembert and valencay and garlic and herb. For dessert, pick up some fudge—there's chocolate and peanut butter or chocolate and mint. Stop by and try a sample.

—Lynne Blasi



Kate of Spriggs Delight Farm completes a sale of a goat cheese specialty. Photos by Guy Land.



Mama's Donuts are popular with these young Fairlingtonians.

## Another fabulous Fairlington Fourth!



It was red, white, and blue all over, as strollers, wagons, kids, and canines wore the country's colors amid waving flags at this year's Fairlington Fourth of July celebration. An estimated crowd of 750 packed S. Abingdon St. and the Fairlington Villages parking lot.

The event was jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condominium association. Thanks to the Fairlington Villages Activities Committee (co-chaired by Elizabeth Greczek and Warene Sheridan) and John Williams of the condo staff for coordinating the details.

Thanks also to other partners who made the event so successful. Purofirst distributed free ice cream for everyone, Kay Houghton of Keller Williams Realty provided bottles of water, and Cathy Malin organized the bake sale. The Arlington County Police Department opened up the squad car for visits, and the fire truck from Fire Station 7 was a big hit. The fifer duo of John and Melissa DeWitt set the tone with patriotic music, while hot dogs from the Swizzler food truck satisfied people's hunger after the parade. *Photos by Guy Land.*









# Attention Fairlington!

## SUMMER Check-Up

## Time Is Here!



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# Thank you!

We've received several awards this year and we are so grateful! However, the most rewarding part of our work is helping our Fairlington friends and neighbors to achieve their housing goals. Whether you are buying, selling, renting, or renovating; we are here to help! *-Kay*



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# ACPD free family event, August 26

Do your kids love the vehicles, uniforms, and equipment worn and used by police officers and fire fighters? Would they enjoy a fun, free local event showcasing the cool gear and work done by these professionals who protect and serve? Then the Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) annual Police, Fire, and Sheriff Block Party is the place to be on Saturday, August 26, from 9 am to 4 pm at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.

Each year the event has grown. Now in its third year, the event is expected to attract over 3,000 people over the course of the day. After last year's success, ACPD is gearing up to make this year better than ever. The ACPD has always been a strong supporter of Fairlington, so be sure to thank them and let them know you're representing Fairlington when you go.

This year's highlights include some amazing activities, free food and drinks, raffle prizes, music, and more:



*Officer Ben Manning distributes information about the ACPD Block Party at the Fairlington Fourth Parade. "We want this to be bigger than the county fair," he said. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Behind the Badge:** Participants will receive a brief training from police instructors on police tactics, attend a simulated roll call to gather information, and play the role of a police officer in live scenarios. The police are planning more of these simulations this year based on last year's popularity.

**KidZone:** After over 1,000 children visited the KidZone last year, ACPD is expanding the area inside the school that features kid-friendly activities like trying on police and firefighters' gear and equipment, making customized buttons, learning about fingerprints, exercising, and playing video games. There will be a new attraction called

Go Racers that kids can race through an inflatable course.

**Vehicle VIN-etching:** This free service is offered by the Virginia State Police, which etches the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle's windows as a deterrent to auto theft.

**Distracted driving simulator:** In this activity led by Virginia State Police, participants will drive a golf cart through a cone course while being distracted by various methods including the use of special goggles. This has been another popular activity that will be expanded this year.

**Vehicle expo:** Police and specialty vehicles will be on display, including a motorcycle, the Mobile Command Vehicle, the Chooser Cruiser, and a SWAT Armored Personnel Carrier, Sheriff's Office vehicles, a fire truck, U.S. Park Police helicopter, and a U.S. Coast Guard boat.

**Police K-9 demonstrations:** K-9 handlers will discuss and demonstrate some of the capabilities of their canine partners.

**Police motorcycle demonstrations:** Motorcycle officers will demonstrate some of the riding skills needed to perform their work.

**Bicycle registration:** This free service registers bicycles with the county to help identify and recover them if they are stolen.

**Child safety seat inspection:** A certified child safety seat inspector will verify that child safety seats are properly installed to best protect children.

**Inflatable attractions:** A moon bounce and similar activities will be available for kids.

**Informational tables:** There will be a variety of county departments and private organizations distributing information and free giveaway items. These tables will be located inside this year.

**Free food, drinks, and music:** Many restaurants and companies will be providing free food and drinks at the event. There will also be a live DJ providing entertainment.

**Raffles:** Prizes donated by local businesses will be raffled off.

Possible new attractions this year include demonstrations and displays by the U.S. Park Police Mounted Police and a bike rodeo in coordination with area bike organizations.

Don't miss out on the fun!

—Christine Chirichella

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proposal in late September or early October, followed by additional discussions with city staff and the surrounding community. A public hearing would likely occur in fall of 2018, with construction expected to begin in the summer of 2020 and be completed by the end of 2021.

The project would be financed by a combination of a loan from a private lender, a subordinated loan from the City of Alexandria, and the allocation of federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. According to Brown, the tax credits are a key part of the package. The state allocates the credits annually on a competitive basis. This project would be considered for the allocation that will occur in March 2019. Construction on the project would not begin until the tax credits have been secured.

Brown said that Wesley will be involved with the project long-term. He said the company will have three roles: developing the apartments on the site, managing the units once they are constructed, and providing services to residents, such as adult literacy, camps and after-school programs for children, and housing stability guidance for residents.

The mix of apartments is likely to be 60 percent two-bedrooms, and 20 percent each of one-bedroom and three-bedroom units.

FCA will likely hold another informational briefing next year when there is a revised and refined proposal.

—Guy Land



*Long-time friends Les Bergen of South Fairlington and Judith Cabelli visit at the FCA meeting.*



*North Fairlington resident Anne Wilson discusses the housing plan with Pastor Juli Wilson-Black.*

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## ***Arlington Master Naturalist classes slated for fall***

Join a number of your Fairlington neighbors in becoming a Master Naturalist volunteer. The Virginia Master Naturalist program prepares volunteers to provide education, citizen science, and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands.

Master Naturalist volunteers gain certification through state-approved natural history courses with a local focus.

Recognized experts provide fun and interactive training in a wide range of disciplines such as ecology, botany, herpetology, ornithology, forest and aquatic ecosystems, and much more. Volunteers must commit to at least 40 hours of service annually to become certified.

Arlington Regional Master Naturalists will be holding training this fall, beginning September 5 through December 12, on Tuesdays from 7 to 10 pm at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Four Saturday field trips will be scheduled at parks around the area. Applications are due Tuesday, August 15.

For more information and to complete an application, visit [www.armn.org](http://www.armn.org).

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## ***No Kid Hungry Bake Sale: message from the organizer***

A huge “thank you” to all the generous Fairlington families and friends who baked and purchased home-made treats and raffle tickets at the July 4th No Kid Hungry Bake Sale. We will proudly send \$1,400 to Share



*Arnie and Cathy Malin, Nan and Greg Lukmire, Judi Garth, and Adrian Hilz prepare to sell baked goods to the hungry crowd at last month's July 4th celebration. Photo by Guy Land.*

Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Bake Sale, bringing our 15-year donation total to \$20,850.

Thank you to Arnie, Adrian, Judi, Nan, and Greg who have supported my efforts by setting up and selling each summer. Thank you to the Commons Council of Co-Owners for its yearly sponsorship. Thank you to Giant Food, Harris Teeter, Trader Joe's, Safeway, BJ's, Panera Bread, and the Capital Wheel for raffle gifts, and thank you to Great Harvest Bread Company for the generous cookie donations.

I also appreciate the FCA and Fairlington Villages' Condo Association/Activities Committee for incorporating the bake sale into the annual July 4th neighborhood celebration.

However, after 15 consecutive summers, I am hanging up my apron and looking for someone to take over organizing this worthwhile and fun event. There are countless ways to create a fun bake sale. It just takes energy, imagination, ideas, and the desire to support the No Kid Hungry campaign.

I am grateful for all the years of support. We have all “baked a difference”!

Please email me for information on how to get started.

—Cathy Malin, [cmalin10.cm@gmail.com](mailto:cmalin10.cm@gmail.com)

## ***Fire Station 7 gets new commander***

Capt. Craig Brightbill is the new station commander at Fire Station 7. He replaces Capt. Thomas Shamblin, who has moved to station 9.

Brightbill, who took over in July, is beginning his 22nd year in the Arlington County Fire Department and has worked at five of Arlington's ten fire houses. He was an initial first responder on 9/11 as a firefighter at station 9.

“I look forward to helping the community through education, prevention, and emergency services,” Brightbill said in reaching out to FCA President Guy Land.

Capt. Justin Tirelli is the other captain at station 7.

Station 7 has been an important component of many Fairlington community events, including the July 4th parade, and Santa on the firetruck in December.

## ***Something buzzing in Nauck***

As part of the larger Four Mile Run Valley planning effort, Arlington County has been working on improvements to the Nauck Town Center, just across Four Mile Run from Shirlington. This includes demolition of the building at 2400 Shirlington Rd.

County staff discovered that the building was infested with honeybees, which are critical pollinators. Local beekeeper David Mueller and his partner Emily Ferguson, who formerly lived in Fairlington and now live in the Nauck neigh-



*David Mueller wraps up the removal of bees from 2400 Shirlington Rd. Photo by Guy Land.*

*Continued on page 31*

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## Creative Arts Camp@ Fairlington

Do you have a child between the ages of eight and 11 who loves to paint and draw? If so, consider Arlington County's Creative Arts Camp at the Fairlington Community Center! Each two-week session has its own themes and activities and includes up to two field trips for a well-rounded experience.

Campers spend their days experimenting with various materials and techniques, building foundation skills to bring artwork to a whole new level ... think drawing, painting, sculpture, print making, book making, mask making, and multi-cultural arts.

Participants must bring lunch, a snack, and clothes they can get messy. Two-week sessions run through August 19, from 8 am to 3 pm daily. The cost is \$520, and an extended day from 3 to 6 pm is available for an additional \$92. For camp details, call 703-228-7634 or email [jhalloran@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jhalloran@arlingtonva.us). Visit <https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/art/> for full details.



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## Summer is in full swim!



*The Fairlington FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming) program was in high gear during July. The three-week program consisted of four 30-minute lessons Monday through Thursday, and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The program rotates weekly between three condo association pools in South Fairlington. The lessons are designed to supplement formal swimming instruction programs. Photos by Maureen McMorrow.*

*This totally trumps their morning walk...*

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# neighborhood news

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## ***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 July, we enjoyed ribs at Ramparts Tavern & Grill.

Here's what's planned for August:

Monday, August 7, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, [www.rampartstavern.com](http://www.rampartstavern.com). We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer a special price on hamburgers with the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu is also available.

Thursday, August 24, 6:30 pm, PING by Charlie Chang, 4060 Campbell Ave., Arlington, VA 22206, 703-671-4900, <http://www.charliechiangs.com/ccping.asp>. This modern Chinese restaurant also has sushi and other Japanese dishes, and a daily half-price special.

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](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## ***Book Group***

Join the Fairlington Book Group in August to discuss *The Good Lord Bird*, a novel by James McBride.

The book, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction, tells the story of a young boy born a slave who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade—and who must pass as a girl to survive.

"You may know the story of John Brown's unsuccessful raid on Harpers Ferry, but author James McBride's retelling of the events leading up to it is so imaginative, you'll race to the finish." —NPR

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, August 22, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

## ***Card Players Welcome***

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

## ***Fairlington Babysitting Co-op***

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

## ***Fairlington MOMS Club®***

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

## ***Signature Theater Open House, August 6***

Join Signature Theater, 4200 Campbell Ave., for this free event on Sunday, August 6, from noon to 8:30 pm, to kick off the upcoming season. Enjoy free performances every 15 minutes, with special ticket offers, raffles, and a grand finale concert.

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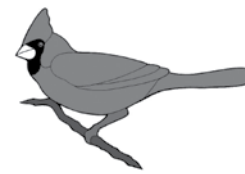
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## *Abingdon teachers love Fairlington*

Abingdon's teachers love the surrounding community so much, many of them have decided to call Fairlington home, including first grade teacher, Kimberlee Gorecki. Mrs. Gorecki, who has been teaching for 13 years, will start her fifth year at Abingdon this fall.

Ever since she can remember, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. Mrs. Gorecki was even a part of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, which awarded scholarships to high school students who wanted to become teachers.

The daughter of an Army family, Mrs. Gorecki was born in South Korea and has lived in Germany, Kentucky, and North Carolina. Her teaching position at Abingdon brought her to the D.C. metropolitan area and after living on Capitol Hill for three years, she and her husband decided to purchase a home in Arlington.

They chose Fairlington for a variety of reasons, including the friendly community and the various neighborhood events, such as the Fairlington Farmers Market. They also like the walkability of Fairlington, especially



*Abingdon teacher Kimberlee Gorecki outside her Fairlington condo. Photo by Doug Gorecki.*

the close proximity to grocery stores and restaurants. Mrs. Gorecki enjoys seeing Abingdon students playing in their front yards and at the Fairlington Glen pool.

When asked what her favorite part of being a teacher is, Mrs. Gorecki cites "seeing how excited students are when coming to school, and hearing all the stories they want to share." The friendly and welcoming staff, students, and the community members are among her favorite things about Abingdon. She also loves that the students are engaged in a variety of enriching activities and are provided with lots of choice.

Mrs. Gorecki enjoys being outdoors as much as possible, so you may see her walking around Fairlington. She welcomes recommendations for new restaurants, so if you see her out for a stroll, let her know if you have a favorite one she should try.

It always brings such joy to the kids when they see one of their teachers in the neighborhood, and this is just one more example of the amazing sense of community found in Fairlington.

—Jeni Hornback

### ***Mark your calendars!***

The Annual Abingdon Back to School Picnic and Potluck, is scheduled for Monday, September 4, from 12 to 2 pm. All Abingdon families, staff, and alumni are invited back for our annual picnic on the Abingdon grounds. This is a great opportunity for students to see old friends and welcome new ones. For more information, visit the PTA website at [AbingdonPTA.org](http://AbingdonPTA.org).

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Summer brings garden challenges*

Like July, August is hot but it's also a time of neglect in the garden due to vacation, back-to-school shopping, and taking your kids to college. Ideally, it's not the time to plant due to continuing humidity. So, let's look at typical problems in the garden and how to solve them.

**Weeds in the soil:** Weeds are part of nature so the battle never ceases. There are networks of weeds beneath the soil and thanks to birds and wind, weed seeds will germinate. One method to stop them is to spread landscape fabric over the bare soil before spreading mulch. Still, weeds will emerge along the fabric edges. Over time, strong weeds—like Dandelion—pierce through fabric and “ta-dah,” you’ll see the leafy plant with yellow flowers and puffy flower heads. Laying multiple layers of fabric poses a stronger barrier to weeds.

The more shrubs or ground cover plants in your soil, the less chance of weeds. Each specimen has its root ball or root system which crowds out invasive growth. Decorative rocks, big ones, work in the same fashion. There's no way a weed can overtake a large mineral. Such rocks look attractive and can be placed in open areas of the garden. Faux rocks have bulk but are light and easy to lift, carry, and place on the soil.

**Leaves in window wells:** The black iron grate is pretty but ineffec-



*Vines and other plants surround a South Fairlington A/C compressor unit. Photo by Bill Sullivan.*

tive in keeping leaves out of the well. I've even seen birds and frogs trapped down there as well. A piece of Lucite (half-inch thick in a half-moon shape) to cover it is ideal if you can locate it on the web. Local hardware stores sell flimsy plastic covers but they never stay in place and crack over time. Another idea is to place two or three flower pots on the grate, which will reduce the amount of leaves in the well.

**Wood gates that won't close:** Some are cedar and others, pine. This soft wood loses its form in the elements and sometimes the gate bottom drags the ground or hardscape. Contact your condo association to cut off an inch along the gate bottom or remove the hardware on the gate (four Phillips screws) and raise it half an inch so it latches easily to the hardware on the post.

**Soil erosion onto the patio:** This will occur unless some measure is taken along the patio perimeter. The simplest way to stop erosion is to dig a trench in the soil (four inches deep) to serve as a conduit that accommodates eroding mulch in a heavy rainstorm. Another idea is to build a wood border (with four-inch by four-inch or six-inch by six-inch pine boards). They are sturdy and can be stacked (with galvanized spikes or nails) to remain in place in the ground. The latter option provides an outline for your garden beds and is

the most effective way to combat erosion.

**Weeds in the A/C compressor:** Invasive growth occurs almost everywhere and will twine its way into the open slats of this unit. Around the compressor, spread landscape stone or pea gravel. The heaviness of this material will retard weed growth—both laterally and vertically.

**Water drainage:** To ensure water doesn't collect along the building (and run down to the foundation), attach a plastic tube (four-inch diameter) with a coupling at the base of the downspout. Then run the tube either along the ground or below the soil line away from the building. At the tube end, dig a small hole and fill it with gravel.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)

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**STAPLES REMODELING.** For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at [www.staplesremodeling.com](http://www.staplesremodeling.com).

**ELECTRICAL SERVICE.** Master electrician. Lights, fans, panel replacements. Licensed, insured credit cards Allegro LLC 703-314-1287 [info@allegroLLC.net](mailto:info@allegroLLC.net)

**INTERIOR PAINTING.** Chelsea Paint and Paper, Inc. Painting, wallpapering, and plastering. 25 years experience. Professional, clean, neat, reliable. Licensed, bonded, insured. References

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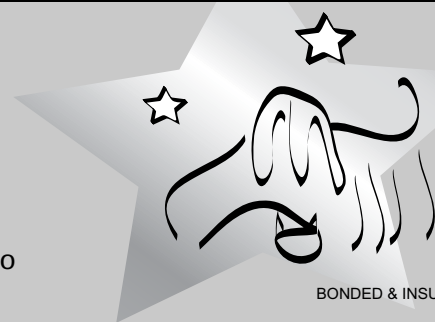
Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel  
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703.629.1970  
SINCE 1999





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

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**PET LOVERS.** Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving and responsible care for your dogs and cats. Reasonable rates, bonded and insured. Excellent references. Call 703-941-6113.

### For sale: Fairlington T-shirts

Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington T-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available. To place your order: email president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member.

## MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

**Email:** admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

**Cost:** 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

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

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**UNDER CONTRACT**

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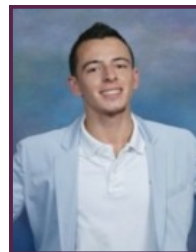
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a briefing on the sound wall options this fall, likely in September. See next month's *Bulletin* for additional information.

The new express lanes are projected to be operational in late 2019.

—Guy Land

Something buzzing, continued from page 19

borhood, offered to remove the bees and take them to Mueller's apiary for a nominal fee (\$1), harvest the honey, and donate it to Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). The hive may have weighed up to 20 pounds and contained at least that much honey.

Mueller offered the hive to Drew Model School to see if they would be interested in starting a small bee garden.

Ferguson has coordinated several of FCA's tree and plant walks.

—Guy Land

TESTIMONIAL

*"I was a first time seller in Fairlington and wanted to work with someone who not only was savvy with the market trends, but who was also highly knowledgeable about our community. Rita was the perfect choice! I enjoyed working with her & highly recommend her for your buying & selling needs" -Christina Mills*



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