

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JULY 2022

Volume 48, Number 7

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Show your patriotic colors on July 4



The annual 4th of July Fairlington parade is one of the most festive days of the year. Photo by Guy Land.

After a two-year COVID hiatus, the Fairlington Fourth of July parade returns in person this month. A true neighborhood celebration, the parade is made up of individuals and families on bikes and scooters, in wagons, and on foot. The parade is also dog-friendly, and many people bring their four-legged friends to join in the festivities.

Jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association, the parade lines up at 9:45 a.m. next to the old fire station at 3116 S. Abingdon St. and steps off at 10 a.m. It marches up Abingdon to the parking lot of the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St., where “breakfast sausages” (also known as hot dogs) and cold drinks await.

The parade is open to anyone who wants to march, but there is also plenty of room for spectators along the route, waving flags and cheering the marchers on. While not a requirement, wearing red, white, and blue is definitely encouraged. And you can show your creativity in outfitting kids, bikes, and pets in patriotic attire.

A police escort will lead the marchers along the parade route (and the intersection at Abingdon and 31st St. will be closed temporarily while the parade passes through).

Fire Station 9, which now serves Fairlington, plans to send a fire truck to join the celebration, unless it is called away to respond to an emergency.

The post-parade refreshments offer a great chance to meet neighbors. There will also be water tattoos for kids.

The parade and post-parade celebration are only possible through the work of many dedicated volunteers in the Fairlington community. More volunteers are needed to help with the July 4 activities. Please e-mail activities@fairlingtonvillages.com if you can help out.

—Guy Land

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 July 13

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


Regular board business:

- Approval of June 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.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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

4th of July parade

Tuesday, July 4, 10 a.m.
3116 S. Abingdon St..

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Fairlington diners

Tuesday, July 19, 6:30 p.m.
Ramparts Tavern
1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302

Book group

Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

It's Pool Time!



Fairlington kids cool off at the Mews pool party in June. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Jenn Davies, Bill Gillespie, Guy Land, Rita Leffers, Thora Stanwood, Donald Staren-Doby, Carrie Street, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The community is the heart of the library," says Miguel Ruiz, the director of the Shirlington Library, a branch of the Arlington Public Library. Ruiz and his colleague Vicky McCaffrey made a visit to the Fairlington Farmers Market last month and received a warm welcome from market customers.

Their appearance built on a conversation the FCA Board had with Ruiz and McCaffrey in December, when they expressed an interest in more closely connecting with Fairlington. We started thinking about ways to accomplish that, to the benefit of both of our organizations. We quickly connected them with the volunteer committee that runs the market, which seized on the opportunity to have them as a market guest.

Last month's visit to the market, the first of at least three planned for this season, also offered an opportunity for Ruiz to meet the new Abingdon Elementary PTA President Sharon Burd, a North Fairlington resident, and her husband Dan, who is the PTA Secretary. They immediately began talking about stronger collaboration between the PTA and the library.

"The real work and joy is in the community," Ruiz explains. "For those of us who work in public libraries—yes, we work for the county, but we also have kids, we have pets, we go to the same grocery stores and parks like everyone else. We are part of the community."

Shirlington Library is a valuable asset to Fairlington that we should take better advantage of. It can be a great resource for so many of our families.

This illustrates another of FCA's roles—connecting Fairlington residents and organizations with county resources and opportunities.

Ruiz is also interested in serving diverse populations. An immigrant himself, he has a particular desire to address the challenges facing immigrant families. All of that fits nicely with the diverse student population at Abingdon Elementary and the needs of the residents of Park Shirlington, which is part of FCA's service area. It also can complement the diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations that FCA has been fostering in Fairlington.

In the coming months, we will be exploring additional ways we can partner with the Shirlington Library to enhance life in Fairlington. We welcome your suggestions. In the meantime, I encourage you to check out the library yourself. It has a lot to offer.

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

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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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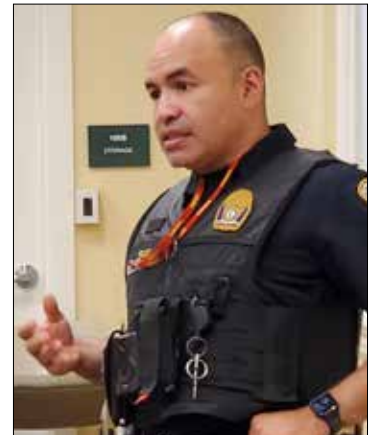
Arlington county police brief community about local crime, staffing shortages

The Arlington county police department (ACPD) is experiencing a considerable staffing shortage, as officers assigned to the Fairlington area have reduced from five to two over the past three years, according to a briefing by ACPD during the monthly FCA meeting in June. Cor. Mark Francis and Lt. Eliseo Pilco presented.

Occurred Incident Type	Fairlington		Shirlington	
	2021 YTD	2022 YTD	2021 YTD	2022 YTD
Arson	1			
Assault and Battery	6	3	2	
Burglary		2	1	2
Destruction of Prop (vehicle)	2	2	2	
Destruction of Property	4	2	2	1
Domestic Assault & Battery	3	7	1	2
Driving Under the Influence			3	2
Drunk in Public				2
Eluding		1		
Fraud	4	8	4	5
Graffiti			1	
Harassment	1	4		1
Identity Theft	6	3	4	10
Indecent Exposure		1		1
Larceny	5	5	11	7
Larceny from Auto	6	9	13	9
Malicious Wounding				1
Narcotics Violation	1	3	2	3
Other*	19	35	21	28
Rape		1		
Recovered Stolen Vehicle	1			
Sex Offense	3	1		1
Shots Fired	1			1
Stalking			1	
Stolen Vehicle	3	4	3	
Suspicious Circumstances	12	9	5	9
Threats	3		1	3
Trespass		1		
Vehicle Tampering	4	3	3	1
Weapons Violation		1		
Total	85	105	80	89

Source: Arlington County Police Department. Note: Numbers refer to calls for service, not crimes committed.

“It’s a recruitment and retention issue,” said Lt. Pilco, “Officers only have just now been approved for a raise that was long overdue. We are authorized to have 375 officers in the county but we are barely at 300.”



Lt. Eliseo Pilco explains challenges facing the ACPD. Photo by Guy Land.

The presentation, which included a summary of 2022 crime statistics in the Fairlington and Shirlington area, showed that calls for service have increased 25 percent over 2021. This number does not necessarily reflect an increase in crimes committed, since many calls for service do not end in arrest or a crime report.

Fairlington also experiences spillover from crime in other jurisdictions because of its close proximity to I-395, Alexandria, and Arlandria. The recent vehicle chase which ended in North Fairlington is an example of this kind of incident, although the crime itself was committed elsewhere.

The county has seen specific increases in crimes including domestic assault and larceny from vehicles.

Of particular interest to Fairlington residents has been the recent thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in the neighborhood. Criminals can sell these converters from anywhere between \$200 and \$5000 due to the valuable metals they contain. The Toyota Prius is currently the most frequently targeted vehicle.

Col. Francis said that while there is no way to guarantee that you will not become a victim of crime, you can make it less likely.

“I hate talking about prevention, because there are no guarantees, anyone can become a victim of crime,” said Francis, adding that he was a victim of a break-in to his personal car a few months back. “The goal is to make it as hard for these criminals as possible.”

The vast majority of the vehicle tampering and theft is

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Debut novelist and Fairlington resident signs books at weekly market

Sunday, May 15 was a special day at the farmers market as Fairlingtonians came to support one of their own, Fairlington resident and debut novelist of *Freewater*, Amina Luqman-Dawson.

Her eloquent, powerful, and vibrant storytelling chronicles the journey of two children who find a maroon community after escaping slavery.

If you aren't familiar with the story of maroons, you're not alone.

"I was inspired by the amazing history of maroons in the Americas," Luqman-Dawson said. "Maroons are people who escaped enslavement and managed to live free and clandestine lives in the American wilderness. I hadn't learned about maroons when I was young and it felt like a fresh way to spark a new conversation around the topic of slavery. It creates a wonderful narrative about resistance, hope, and courage."

Luqman-Dawson was also inspired by her son and the opportunity to write for other children, so the presence



Author Amina Luqman-Dawson chats with eager fans about her new young adult fiction novel, Freewater. Photo by Guy Land.

of young readers at the book signing was especially fun to see.

When asked why she tailored the book to a young audience, Amina said, "The best reading in my life took place during my middle school years. It's when I first learned to lose myself in a book. I also learned that I had the power to read whatever I wanted, and that's what I did. The idea of writing for other kids at that same stage in their lives feels like a privilege."

The book was a 20-year labor of love for Amina and she shared advice for aspiring novelists.

"Writing is hard work, but as long as the process feels gratifying and moves you, don't give up," she said.

Her dedication to the project has earned her an appearance on NPR's program, *Here & Now*, selection by *Entertainment Weekly* as a Black History Month pick, and a fan club of Fairlington supporters.

—Carrie Street

Shirlington Library: a rich resource for Fairlington community

A steady stream of potential patrons stopped by the Shirlington Library table in June when Librarian Supervisor Miguel Ruiz and his colleague Vicky McCaffrey visited the Fairlington Farmers Market.

Residents were renewing their library cards or signing up for new ones, while Ruiz captivated an audience of young Fairlingtonians with a bilingual story hour at the market.

The June activity marked the library's first visit to the market, but at least two other appearances have been scheduled—July 10 and August 28—and the farmers



Shirlington Librarian Supervisor Miguel Ruiz led a bilingual story hour at a Fairlington Farmers Market in June. Photo by Guy Land.

market committee is exploring the option of adding another visit later in the fall.

The appearance at the farmers market is part of the library's larger effort to connect with the surrounding neighborhood.

"Our role is to facilitate the use of library and community resources using an equity lens that is representative of the communities we serve and are a part of," said Ruiz.

The library is located at 4200 Campbell Ave. in the heart of Shirlington. It is part of the Arlington Public Library

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Summer fun at the market



A summer Sunday isn't complete without a visit to the Fairlington Farmers Market. Catch up with your friends and neighbors while enjoying special events and stocking up on delicious offerings for quick summer meals and cookouts.

It's the season for apples, beets, blackberries, blueberries, cabbage, cantaloupes, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, herbs, nectarines, peaches, potatoes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelons. Ask our vendors for recipe ideas or cooking tips.

The market is open every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center. Please note that service dogs are the only dogs permitted in the market.

You've probably noticed the line of shoppers waiting patiently for a biscuit or breakfast sandwich from District Biscuit Company, one of our new vendors.

Like many people in March 2020, chef Mike Vidal found himself in a time of great uncertainty amid

the global COVID-19 outbreak. As a seasoned restaurant manager and graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, he was determined the pandemic wouldn't hinder his culinary creativity.

Passionate about food (from his first taste of sushi as a baby to his love of French fries) and experimenting, he came up with a buttery, flaky, melt-in-your-mouth creation and knew these biscuits needed to be shared with the world. Over a biscuit tasting with his friend and future co-founder, Alex Rosenberg, District Biscuit Company was born. Since then, their biscuits have been winning over those who try them layer by layer, bite by bite.

"All week we work to prepare our handcrafted biscuits and sides for your enjoyment," said Rosenberg. "While our focus is our biscuit, we're always excited to find great ways to feature it. That may be biscuits prepared as a breakfast sandwich, or accompanied by our honey butter and clotted cream."



Each week you'll find fresh baked biscuits, sweet sides, and hot, made-to-order sandwiches. Chef specials will also be available some weeks, such as biscuit pudding or a southern style chicken biscuit.

"My favorite part about joining the Fairlington market is sharing our biscuits with the community I live in," said Rosenberg. "I've been an Arlington resident for about 10 years and have lived in Fairlington."

He added that they work toward zero food waste, and use "scraps" to create specials. Vidal and Rosenberg hope to open a local store front soon.

Mark your calendar for this month's events:

July 3: Demonstration and workshop by The Petaled Porch, owned by a Fairlington resident. Learn how to build a container garden for balconies and patios.

July 10: Shirlington branch of the Arlington Library—check the market's Facebook page for more details.

July 24: The Arlington Art Truck presents Interconnected Roots by Edgar Reyes. Make your mark on a new community mural and learn about the diversity and interconnectivity of our communities and the native plants that grow within them, as well as the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan.

July 31: Free ice cream from sponsor Kay Houghton & Associates, always a popular and much-appreciated treat!

—Lynne Blasi





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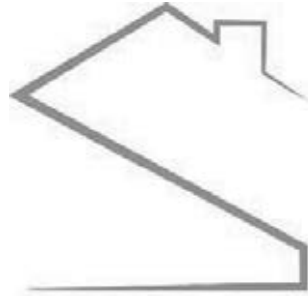
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Fairlington



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For the love of NATURE



Trees: one of our neighborhood's most valuable assets

This is the time of year one can really appreciate a tree—the shade, the cool air under the tree, and of course, the shape and form that adds beauty to the landscape. The green space and mature trees of Fairlington are hallmarks of the community. While enormous credit goes to those who planted our trees that are majestic giants today, credit is also due to Fairlington gardening committees and boards that have supported new tree plantings over the years.



This majestic white oak is in Fairlington Green. Photo by Bill Gillespie.

Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund

In recent years, Fairlington has taken advantage of a wonderful program called the Tree Canopy Fund (TCF) offered by Arlington County. The goal of the fund is to increase Arlington County's tree canopy.

Through this program, private property owners, including condo associations, can apply to have native trees planted on their property free of charge.

Most of Fairlington's trees are native species, which is a good thing. They evolved together with other plants, insects, and wildlife and so are adapted to the soil and climate. Our trees are a critical part of our ecosystem.

Some tips on tree care

Planting a tree is an investment in the future since it takes decades for a tree to grow and mature. Here are some tips to protect your investment.

- Water a new tree regularly, especially during the first two to three years after planting.
- To water, place a hose a foot from the trunk and turn the water on at a trickle. Let it run for about an hour. Do this every three to four days during periods without significant rainfall. Watering gators or bags also work well. Fill them once a week.
- Critical nutrients flow in a layer immediately under the bark of a tree from the roots to the leafy crown and vice versa. It is important to protect the bark from damage. Staking a new tree and a providing a wide circle of mulch will help keep mowers and weed-whackers away from the trunk.

For more information see the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria at <https://treestewards.org/about/> Feel free to send us questions or comments at fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Bill Gillespie and Rita Leffers

Fun tree facts

- Imagine something that takes carbon dioxide out of the air, puts oxygen into the air, runs entirely by solar energy, and needs minimal care. You got it. It's a tree!
- The shade of mature trees may reduce air temperatures 9 to 13 degrees F on a hot summer day.
- Trees play an important role in slowing down and absorbing rainwater, which helps improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff.
- A common misconception is that root growth mirrors the growth of a tree's crown. A tree's root system can extend horizontally up to three times wider than the canopy.
- About 90 percent of the water and mineral absorption of a tree takes place within a foot of the ground surface.



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Fairlington presidents welcome non-profit supporting independence for seniors

The Fairlington Presidents met for their quarterly meeting and discussed the following topics:

Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV)—Jeanne Radday, the Member Services Manager of ANV, presented a comprehensive summary of the mission and goals of this non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

ANV provides the “extra help” older adults need to continue living in their own homes as they age—safely, independently, and with an enhanced quality of life. As we age, simple tasks (driving, shopping, changing a light bulb) become tricky, or even hazardous. ANV volunteers provide that extra help; a ride to a medical appointment, the grocery store or bank; running an errand to pick up a prescription; helping with technology; or being a friendly visitor, walking buddy, or phone contact.

Since 2014, ANV has grown from an idea between friends to a thriving village with over 355 members, one third of which are lower-income seniors. More than 200 active volunteers directly serve members ranging in age from 58 to 100. When Covid-19 struck, ANV quickly retooled to help support Arlington seniors, operating continuously through the pandemic.

In 2021, ANV volunteers fulfilled 2,680 requests, almost half of which were round trip rides to medical appointments or the grocery store; drove 30,000 miles at their own expense; and donated 8,611 hours. In January of 2022, ANV volunteers received a COVID Heroes award from the Arlington County Board for their steadfast commitment to helping seniors get through the pandemic safely.

ANV’s long-term vision is to become an “essential” service for Arlington seniors aging in place in all parts of the county and at all income levels. ANV welcomes your



Little libraries like this one in Fairlington Arbor can be found throughout the neighborhood. Photo by Guy Land.

interest as a member, a volunteer or a supporter. ANV can be reached at www.arlnvil.org, at 703-509-8057, or emailing info@arlnvil.org.

Condo fees—Given inflation and aging infrastructure, the likelihood of condo fee increases is on all Fairlington residents’ minds. Condo fees ensure the associations can perform required maintenance and services to keep the communities safe and beautiful. The master deed of each association stipulates how the condo fee is to be assessed. In most cases, the fee is based on the percentage of ownership of each condo model. The presidents discussed how best to manage the impact of increases and engaging with residents.

Vehicle exhaust noise—Vehicle exhaust noise along King Street and Quaker Lane has become a nuisance. The Virginia legislature passed legislation HB 632 that allows local authorities to pass ordinances making excessive exhaust noise a primary offense and permitting law enforcement to ticket drivers. The law goes into effect on July 1, 2022.

Board meetings still virtual—Most association board meetings are still virtual. It was noted that many associations have seen an increase in positive participation in board meetings thanks to the virtual format. The few rude interruptions during some meetings has led to measures being taken to curtail the disturbances.

Little libraries—It was suggested that it might be useful to all Fairlington residents if a “little library” be set up at the South Fairlington community center. As most of the associations already have a little library in their common area, it was deemed unnecessary to pursue the idea.

The Presidents will meet again in the fall.

—Thora Stanwood

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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

When two cats are better than one

Ferris and Speedy are gray American Shorthair cats who came to live with their family in North Fairlington as kittens. They are brother and sister. Now, three and a half years old, they have life at home all figured out and enjoy lots of treats, toys, designated sleeping arrangements, and that special bond that exists between litter mates.

Ferris is a bit shy, which is often the case when you're such a handsome cat. Speedy is just that—she is quick to mew 'hello!' and seek attention. Sometimes it's tough living with your sibling. These two shared their insights and experiences with Pet Profiles on how to make a two-cat household work.

Ferris, Speedy—where did you come from and how did you get your names?

Ferris: We came from AWLA in Shirlington and joined our family in November 2018, when we were just three months old. Speedy: Our names came from our parents: they both love the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off, and they both really like an indie band called Speedy Ortiz.

Are there times when the two of you disagree with your parents? and how do you resolve that? and what about the times you disagree with each other?

Speedy: We agree with our parents on most things, but one area where we don't see eye to eye is mealtimes. While they are inclined to feed us morning and evening, they don't seem to understand that we also need lunch, and several snacks throughout the day. Occasionally, we can get around this by acting like we're hungry with one parent after the other parent has already fed us.

What do you talk about?



Ferris and Speedy are full of mischief but best of friends. Photo courtesy of Diana Funk.

Ferris: There is a lot going on in the world right now, so Speedy and I always have many conversation topics to discuss. One of our favorite subjects is fashion, and we enjoyed chewing on the issue of 'People' that covered the Met Gala. All those beautiful outfits! However, we have made it very clear to our mom that we don't want to wear any costumes, despite what she might see in Tik Tok videos. Speedy and I have opposing political views, though, so we make sure to avoid that topic.

How has COVID affected your life?

Speedy: COVID has been very sad and scary, but it has kept our people home with us more, and we love that! In the mornings, I like to make sure my dad gets his work started. I jump on

his desk and chew on the wires and cords to make sure everything is working properly. After that, if I'm lucky, I can sometimes get him to feed me some lunch. And in the afternoons, I like to join my mom's Zoom calls to make sure her colleagues remember how cute I am.

What should other cats who move to Fairlington know? What advice would you give them?

Ferris: New cats in Fairlington are going to love it here. Window-watching is the best. So many people and cars! So many animals—birds, squirrels, and even foxes and raccoons (I think people call them trash pandas?). Oh, and dogs. Dogs are ok, but they are not my favorite. A little too slobbery for my taste, very unhygienic. I'm happy there's a window between us.



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Arlington Art Truck exhibit highlights clothing consciousness



Arlington Art Truck offers a look into the harmful consequences of fast fashion. Photo by Donald Staren-Doby.

The Arlington Art Truck visited Fairlington on a farmer's market Sunday in June to highlight the fact our fashion choices matter more than we think.

Did you know that since the advent of petroleum-based textiles many clothing items will live longer lives than the original wearers? That's right, some textiles can take over 200 years to decompose.

Laure Drogoul, a Baltimore-based artist and Professor at Maryland Institute College of Art, knows this and her exhibit on the Arlington Art Truck takes the viewer on a textile journey that spans about 170,000 years!

The exhibit, called From Our Waist to Waste: Is Fashion Sustainable (?), shows the evolution of clothing and how the switch from natural fibers like cotton to synthetic materials like polyester and spandex have made clothing part of the global non-biodegradable, landfill problem.

This wasn't another first-world, feel-bad, admonishment though. The artist's intent is very clear throughout the exhibit; shop carefully and mindfully, donate with intent, reuse, recycle, and repurpose.

Environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility and Arlington County and the greater Fairlington community takes this responsibility seriously. We recycle everything that we can in our neighborhood recycling program and many of us still take glass items to the Arlington Trades Center for a more earth-friendly footprint.

The partnership of Drogoul and the Textile Studio of Arlington Cultural Affairs/Arlington Arts has taken another strong step in ensuring that our community can make mindful decisions about things that matter. This type of social responsibility has been a hallmark of Arlington County and the local communities.

—Donald Staren-Doby



Tips for Acting Now

From time-to-time, Fairlington CAN will offer tips on actions you can take now to make a difference—little actions add up. Watch for quizzes in upcoming editions.

Tip 1: Calculate your household's greenhouse gas footprint. The average greenhouse gas footprint for each American is 8–16 tons per year, one of the highest rates in the world. How does your own footprint compare? Get a sense of which of your daily activities contribute to greenhouse gas emissions to understand new behaviors you can adopt to fight climate change. Visit: <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>.

Tip 2: Reduce energy consumption using “smart” power strips. Generating electricity and heat by burning fossil fuels produces a significant percentage of greenhouse gasses. About a quarter of all residential electricity consumption comes from devices in sleep power mode; this is known as vampire energy consumption and costs an estimated \$19 billion per year. A simple and inexpensive way to save energy is to use smart power strips. A smart power strip automatically shuts off power to a device—such as your printer, computer, or television—when it detects the device has gone into sleep mode. This could reduce your household energy consumption by as much as 10 percent.

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Abingdon welcomes new PTA leadership



Students travel around the world at Abingdon's International Night to get their passports stamped. Photos by Sharon Burd.

Abingdon Elementary School elected a new PTA Executive Board for the 2022-2023 school year. The new team includes the following officers: Laura Chadwick, Clare Rosenberger, Ken Venable, Megan Miller, Meredith Greene, Ashley McCarthy, Christian Lindstrom, Dan Burd, and Sharon Burd.

In other recent news, Abingdon hosted its annual International Night for students, families, and staff. Sponsored by the PTA, this evening is a symbolic celebration of Abingdon's multicultural community that represents well over 35 countries.

Families showcased their heritage by wearing their traditional regalia and sharing foods representing their culture. Many families volunteered to host tables representing their country and/or region; students could "travel the world" with their Abingdon passport to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Peru, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, the Middle East, or Central America.

"International night was fantastic," said Abingdon parent Gulnora Ashurova. "There were so many different foods from all over the world, and the musicians made the event unforgettable. I was delighted to share traditional Tajik cuisine - samsa and pilaf - to acquaint everybody with the special traditional dishes we cook during holidays and special events in Central Asia."

During their travels, guests enjoyed performances from Abingdon's choir, Irish dancers from the O'Neill James School of Irish Dance, and music from the salsa band, Movimiento. The food trucks, henna station, and souvenir tables were also popular destinations.



Abingdon Art Show.jpg Caption 2: The Art Museum welcomes the Abingdon community to make art and explore the galleries.

Abingdon hosted its annual Art Show in late May to showcase students' fine artworks. Student docents greeted families arriving at the "Art Museum" evening as they entered a bright and colorful



Abingdon parents and staff celebrate International Night.

art classroom, which led to various school hallways that were transformed into stunning art galleries displaying students' creative artwork.

"Ms. Barnes, Ms. Snorgrass, and I were very happy that we could bring back the Abingdon Art Show this year," said Art teacher Ms. Muscarella. "Every student chose their two favorite artworks from this school year to be on display, and we also had clay sculptures on display. The Art Show is a wonderful way for the community to get together and celebrate Abingdon's artists and their masterpieces."

Many of these events relied heavily on volunteers, whose dedication make our children's school experience at Abingdon a truly memorable one. Please reach out to abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com, if you would like to give an hour to support our neighborhood school's Cardinals.

—Sharon Burd

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The library has a rich slate of activities for all ages on tap for July. These range from building with LEGOS and KEVA planks for kids from kindergarten through 5th grade to a weekly Tween Maker Club (including a Sharpie tie dye T-shirt event and a cupcake decoration challenge) to a family Zumba class.

A few upcoming events of note at the library include:

July 14, 10:30–11:30 a.m.—*Sea, Show, and Tell with a Naturalist*. Park Naturalist Isabel Ruff will take a dive deep into the salty waters of the ocean. Participants can discover the creatures who make their homes beneath the waves, learn about the adaptations that help them survive, and explore the connections between saltwater and freshwater ecosystems. The program is offered in partnership with the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation.

July 20, 4:30–5:30 p.m.—*Into the Little Blue House*. As teaching artists, Wendy and DB know the importance of learning new skills and developing motor skills in young audiences while having fun, building friend-

ships, and keeping curiosity alive. With four award winning albums and special projects that include community and schools, this diverse and inclusive duo is empowering youth and building community.

For more information on library activities and hours, please visit library.arlingtonva.us.

—Guy Land

Police from page 5

juveniles, high school students, many of them repeat offenders because the standard for making arrests and detention for juveniles is much higher.

This makes initiatives like ACPD's youth outreach program all the more important, as the key to preventing this type of crime is early intervention with at-risk teens. Another key topic of discussion centered on the new muffler noise law that will go in to effect in July of this year.

Francis says the county does not yet have a plan for exercising this new authority, but there is one under development.

Enforcing this law is difficult given that noisy cars are often long gone by the time police could arrive at the scene. Given current police staffing challenges, Francis said he did not envision this being a top priority for law enforcement in the near future.

The police representatives closed the presentation by reminding all Fairlington residents to reach out with any ideas or concerns.

"Many great ideas about how to solve policing problems come from community suggestions, not from the police themselves," said Francis.

—Regina Bethencourt



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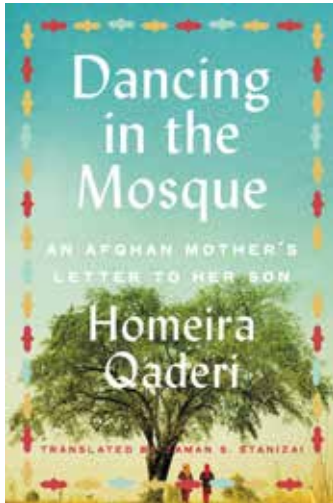
Fairlington Diners

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 June, we dined at Tempo—for many of us, a return visit! Here's what's planned:

Tuesday, July 19 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 Tuesday, which is Tacos and Tequila night. 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



Please join the Fairlington Book Group in July to discuss *Dancing in the Mosque: An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son*, by Homeira Qaderi.

"An exquisite and inspiring memoir about one mother's unimaginable choice in the face of oppression and abuse in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan."—Amazon.com

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m., at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Masks are optional! 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 fairlington-momsclub@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>.



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DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



What the eyes cannot see: the feels and smells of the garden

In any garden, there is much to savor besides seeing a red rose in full bloom. If you know someone who cannot see, invite him or her to your Fairlington garden after you've planted some of the following specimens. These plants appeal more to the senses of touch and smell than sight.

Lamb's Ear is a ground cover with a velvety leaf. Fine hair covers the entire leaf's surface. Once you feel it, you'll know why the plant received its nickname.

Sedum comes in many cultivars but 'Autumn Rose' has a rubbery leaf. Pinch the succulent and it feels like you're touching the sole of your sneaker.

Juniper has bristly foliage. It feels like you're rubbing your hand along a hairbrush or pet comb. Brush your hand against the leaves and feel its unique texture.

Red-Hot Poker has a flower in the shape of a mini football. Ever squeeze a Nerf ball? Well, softly grabbing the flower of this perennial feels the same way.

Daphne odora's fragrant flower will make your day, even on a rainy Monday. Daphne blooms in winter and resembles the magnolia and gardenia flower with its potent fragrance. Nudge your nose onto the dome-shaped flower and you'll inhale pure sweetness.

Fern has lace-like fronds. Open your hand near the base of the plant.



Much of the beauty of a fern plant is experienced by touching, not by seeing. Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons.

Make a fist around a frond and move your fist to the end of the stem. It will feel like handling a lace scarf or doily.

Pyracantha has it all. The 2-3-inch-long appendages (what I call 'prickers') are sharp but interesting. Touch them carefully. Then there are the berries, which form in autumn. Close your fist gently against a clump of fruit and it'll feel like you have a handful of grapes.

Columbine has a unique flower. How so? The stamens protrude from the center like a giraffe's eyelashes. The flower petals open wide like the end of a trumpet. Run your thumb over the flower and feel its delicate parts.

Clematis is a vine with a 5-inch-wide flower. What's more gorgeous is the bud. Turn your pinky finger sideways and pinch it. It's

'mushy' like the Clematis bud. It even has very fine hair covering its almond-shape.

Yucca has the sharpest leaf tip of any plant. Gently touch it with the tip of your index finger and it'll feel like you're touching the point of a sword.

River birch is a tree with exfoliating bark along its trunks. Take your open hand and then close it over a trunk. It'll feel like you're making a fist over a pile of potato chips.

Catalpa is a tree with elongated fruit pods. They are on the median strips at the corner of South Utah Street and South 32nd Road. These pods are 14-inches long, smooth with a sharp point at the tip. No other fruit is as long or as pointed.

—Bill Sullivan
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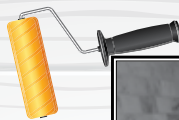


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