

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Celebrate July 4 in festive Fairlington style

As in years past, July 4 means it is time for the annual Fairlington Independence Day parade. One of Fairlington's most popular events, the parade is jointly sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA).

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.



The annual Fourth of July parade is a highlight of the year in Fairlington. Photo by Guy Land.

The parade itself is open to anyone who wants to march. If you want to participate, be sure to meet at the old Fairlington fire station at 3116 S. Abingdon St. by 9:45 a.m. so there is adequate time to line up. The parade will step off at 10 a.m. sharp! While not a requirement, wearing red, white, and blue is definitely encouraged.

As they are waiting for the parade to start, neighbors may pass the time by admiring one another's efforts to festoon their bikes, scooters, and strollers with patriotic streamers, garlands, and pennants. Don't forget to bring American flags to wave as you stroll. And if you don't want to march, you can certainly stand along the sidewalk and cheer the marchers on.

This year we anticipate the return of the popular fifer duo, dressed in traditional colonial garb. Fire Station 9 has agreed to provide a fire truck if it's not required to respond to an emergency. Arlington County Police Department officers on motorcycles will lead off the parade.

The parade marches along Abingdon St. from the old fire station to the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St. There are lots of spots along Abingdon St. between 30th Rd. and 31st St. for spectators to watch, wave, and cheer as the parade passes by.

Following the parade, there is a community-wide celebration at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot with free hot dogs ("breakfast sandwiches") and cold drinks. A bake sale benefitting the Arlington Food Assistance Center will be available to satisfy your sweet tooth.

Continued on page 5

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 12

The July 12 meeting will discuss Arlington County's zoning rules for exterior and interior structural changes in Fairlington units. The virtual meeting will be streamed over FCA's Facebook page, www.Facebook/FCAcivic.com/.


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/Environmental Services/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 fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Calendar

Independence Day parade

Tuesday, July 4
Fairlington Villages Community Center

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, July 12
Virtually, [www.Facebook/FCAcivic.com/](https://www.facebook.com/FCAcivic.com/)

Fairlington diners

Monday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.
Ramparts
1700 Fern St.
Alexandria, VA 22302

Fairlington book group

Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.
Ramparts Tavern
1700 Fern St.
Alexandria, VA 22302

Goooooooooooooooooal!!



*Young soccer stars take to the field at the Fairlington Community Center to see if they can score a win for their team.
Photo by Guy Land.*

Contributors this month: Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Tina Byrd, Teresa Cordova, Todd Delp, Guy Land, Renee Powlette, Thora Stanwood, and Robin Weinick.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Arlington County Board will lose two strong and skilled members this year with the retirements of Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey. Both have been good friends of Fairlington throughout their service on the board.

July 4 will mark Katie's last day on the board. She will become CEO of the Tysons Community Alliance, a new nonprofit public-private partnership created to boost the continued residential and economic growth of the Fairfax County community. She's particularly well-suited for that.

But it will feel a bit strange for Katie not to be at the Fairlington Fourth of July parade. Both before COVID and after, she and her family—initially just Katie and her husband and Bear (their dog) but subsequently including her son—were regulars at this community celebration.

Often she didn't formally speak; she just showed up and quietly mingled with the crowd. That's the kind of unpretentious, but engaged, leadership that has made her such an effective voice on the board.

But she was more formally engaged with Fairlington as well, speaking at several of FCA's monthly meetings, attending events at the Fairlington Community Center, and helping us with things like the Fairlington Farmers Market. She was always thoughtful and knowledgeable. Quite simply, she was a valuable advocate for our neighborhood.

Christian also was readily available in Fairlington. He was always quick to accept our invitation to speak at FCA meetings, and he focused on the details of activities around our neighborhood, such as improvements in Shirlington and the preservation of affordable housing at Park Shirlington.

Sometimes during county board meetings where the topic was some other county issue, I have heard Christian talk with personal knowledge about things in Fairlington. It's that kind of familiarity with our community that made him such a thoughtful leader.

Finally, it has been a personal pleasure to work with both of them, knowing that they would respectfully hear our concerns and carefully consider them, even if they occasionally might come out differently on the merits. You can't ask for more from elected officials.

In November Arlington voters will select their successors. I hope the new members will be as engaged and committed to Fairlington as their predecessors have been. Thank you, Katie and Christian.

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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Police brief neighborhood leaders on increasing violence at Bradlee Center

Representatives of Alexandria and Arlington County Police met with the Fairlington Council of Presidents in late May to brief the community on updates regarding the uptick in violence at Bradlee Center, the closest shopping center to Fairlington.

In the past year, Bradlee Center has experienced a fatal stabbing of a high school student, a shooting that damaged property, and numerous reports of fighting and vandalism.

Cpt. Courtney Ballantine, the head of the Alexandria community engagement division, was joined by Arlington's Cpl. Malone and Lt. Proud, the latter of whom lives in Fairlington Villages.

"This is not a police department only fix, not an ACPS only fix," he said. The solution needs to come from the entire community, he suggested, including an increase in after-school programs for students and mentoring opportunities.

Currently there are two off-duty Alexandria police officers monitoring Bradlee Center during weekday school hours. They are paid for by the owner of the shopping center and do have the power to make arrests.

Alexandria High School has also changed its procedures from releasing all students at once for lunch, to now releasing them for staggered lunch breaks. Students are no longer permitted to go off-site for lunch.

These changes do not eliminate all opportunities for loitering and crime, as many students utilize the DASH bus stop across the street from McDonalds. This is one of the major arteries for students traveling to Alexandria High School or Minne Howard, and would cause too much disruption to be moved, according to DASH.

Ballantine also said that much of the problem stems from the aftermath of pandemic policies that left many children without structure or supervision.

"Kids forgot how to be students. Parents aren't where they need to be and kids are on their own," he said.



The McDonalds in Bradlee Center has been the focus of much of the violence perpetrated by local teens. Photo courtesy First Washington Realty.

It is also a commonly-known phenomenon that businesses tend not to want to press charges against students for shoplifting. In some cases, that's not a local decision; it's a company-wide decision. The costs of staff time in showing up in court to press charges lead companies to decline to press charges for small incidents and this opens the door to would-be thieves.

Alexandria city has set up an informal working group involving the school, the police department, and the business property owner.

Later in June, Cpl. Malone also addressed the Fairlington community about crime and safety in the neighborhood - including incidents of larceny from autos in Fairlington (5 stolen airbags from Hondas), bitcoin scams, and the use of cameras, particularly models that could fit Fairlington's architecture.

—Regina Bethencourt

Celebrate from page 1

There will also be activities for kids, including temporary tattoos. In years past, the fifers have put on an impromptu concert for anyone gathered nearby. FCA plans to sell new FCA t-shirts, assuming the order arrives in time.

If possible, the fire truck from Station 9 will stay for the post-parade celebration so that children of all ages can meet the firefighters and explore the fire truck. Don't forget your camera—there will be lots of photo opportunities.

The parade and post-parade celebration are only possible through the work of the many dedicated volunteers in the Fairlington community. More volunteers are needed; to help with the July 4 activities, e-mail activities@fairlingtonvillages.com or call the Fairlington Villages Management Office at 703-379-1440.

—Guy Land



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Pedestrian safety at the forefront of recent county talks

Fairlingtonians are fortunate to live in a pedestrian friendly community. It is one of the many reasons that some people choose to call Fairlington home. At the same time, Fairlington has a lot of vehicular traffic including resident's coming and going, Metrobus routes, school buses, and non-residential traffic transiting the roads within our community.

Sometimes, especially when both vehicle and pedestrian traffic are at peak levels, this can present challenges and safety concerns.

One such concern that was recently brought to the Fairlington Citizen Association's (FCA) attention, is regarding safety at the pedestrian crossing on S. Abingdon Street (next to the Fairlington Villages Community Center and tennis courts), specifically when parents and children are walking to and from Abingdon Elementary School.

As residents may recall, this crossing has had a School



The crosswalk in Fairlington Villages leading to Abingdon Elementary School has been the subject of many complaints regarding pedestrian safety. Photo by Guy Land.

Crossing Guard assigned to this location in the past, but does not currently. Also, the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services conducted a review of this crossing in 2021 and made subsequent safety enhancements.

In response to the recent concern that was brought to the FCA's attention, the FCA has initiated outreach to Arlington County to inquire about potential safety measures for the S. Abingdon Street crosswalk.

Through these conversations, the FCA has learned of several key points regarding the S. Abingdon Street crosswalk. Some of these findings include:

In 2021, Arlington County enhanced the crosswalk with an in-street pedestrian crossing bollard and relocated the school crossing signs to within the curb extension

Continued on page 21

Car accidently plows through Robcyns storefront

Last month a driver pulled up to a parking space in front of Robcyns at Bradlee Shopping Center, and hit the gas pedal instead of the brake.

Her car crashed through the front window of the store.

"There were no injuries," said Meghan Herzing, the store owner and South Fairlington resident. "Everyone was ok."

Herzing said this was the eighth time a similar incident has happened at Bradlee. Other businesses including the Hallmark store and Starbucks have endured similar accidents.

The shopping center management- First Washington Realty - will have the window replaced in a few weeks. "They've been really good about getting things repaired," she said.

—Barbara Berti



The accident shattered the front window of Robcyns store in early June. Photo by Barbara Berti.

Summer events at the farmers market



It's hot and July is busy at the Fairlington Farmers Market! The market has everything you need for breakfast, lunch, and dinner so you can spend less time in the kitchen and more time with your family and friends.

The market offers a large variety of colorful summer produce for healthy salads and snacks, chicken, fish, and meat for the grill, and delicious desserts for anytime!

Pick up some coffee or juice, a hot breakfast empanada or quiche, fresh fruit with bread and goat cheese, or choose from a variety of mouth-watering croissants, muffins, or scones and enjoy a leisurely picnic on the community center grounds.

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center.



Pickles are back! Help us welcome new vendor Pickle Factory to our market family and choose from a variety of favorite flavors.

This month brings a unique opportunity to help people and pets in Arlington. Mark your calendar for July 23 for our first combined food and pet food and supplies drive to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA). AFAC distributes groceries to families in need every week in Arlington, and one-third of the people they serve are children.

AWLA is committed to keeping pets with their families by providing pet care essentials, including food and pet supplies, to pet owners in need. AWLA collects food and supplies and joins AFAC at their distribution locations so people can pick up needed food items for their families and pets at the same time.

You can help by purchasing fresh produce for AFAC and donating pet food and supplies for AWLA during market hours. Thank you! You can learn more about the AWLA's mission and community outreach by visiting their table at the market on July 16.

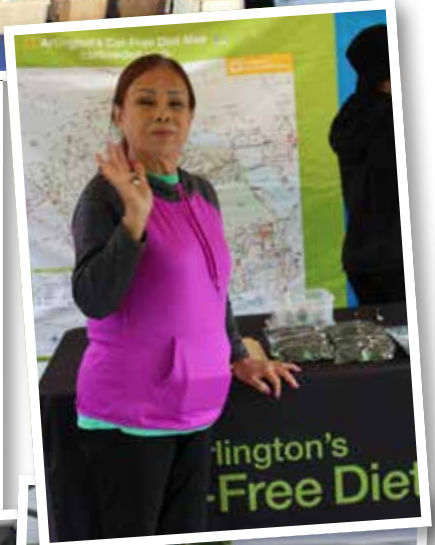


The always-popular Arlington Art Truck returns on July 9 with Reinvention Garage. Meet artist Chris Combs and see his showcase of once-obsolete household electronics from Arlington that have been reimaged as newly useful devices.

Get an artist-designed Risograph flyer with inspiration for reimagining your own e-waste. You can also donate or trade unneeded cords, such as HDMI or USB cables.

We greatly appreciate our volunteers! Learn more about volunteering and sign up for a short shift by contacting fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

What Do You Know About OFF-MARKET SALES?



RLAH's President, Justin Levitch, recently spoke with @wbjnewsroom about DMV listings that are sold off the MLS and their impact across the market. Here's what he had to say:

"I don't think traditional buyers care if they get an on- or off-market property; they just want a home that fits their needs. Investors, on the other hand, prefer off-market properties because they do not want to compete with the open-market and possibly go head-to-head with an emotional buyer." As members of the MLS, all Realtors® agree to put their listings into its database, but some are never marketed to the public. RLAH @properties, for example, currently has a database of approximately 150 unlisted properties for its agents to get a head start on.

An off-market property sale can benefit both sellers and buyers alike, making it a smooth transaction for everyone involved!

Benefits for Buyers:

- Real estate agents have exclusive access to properties that aren't being marketed to the public.
- Off-market listings typically avoid bidding wars and offer more clear-cut contract negotiations.
- Sellers are frequently in less of a rush to get their off-market property sold, allowing buyers more time to find the "perfect match."

Benefits for Sellers:

- No need to spend money on pre-listing updates, which typically include painting, refinishing floors, cosmetic repairs, and landscaping.
- No need to pay someone to stage your home or make it "just right" for showings.
- No chance of being inconvenienced by agents bringing buyers through or having an Open House.

Thinking about buying or selling? Contact me today, and we will explore this ever-changing market together!

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For the love of NATURE



Everyone loves fireflies

Fireflies (which are actually beetles) are fascinating creatures that light up our nights and bring a sense of magic and mystery to our environment. There are over 2,000 different firefly species around the world, and they are found on every continent except Antarctica.

Over the years, there has been a decrease in the number of fireflies. Scientists attribute the firefly population decline to artificial light pollution, pesticides, and habitat loss. The good news is that each of us can take steps to protect the firefly at each stage of their life cycle in our patios and common grounds by improving and increasing their natural habitat.



This Fairlington patio has been transformed into the perfect habitat for fireflies, pollinators, other insects, and birds. The leaves are used as mulch year round, no chemicals are applied, no lights are left on at night, and the invasive plants have been replaced by native plants, including purple coneflowers, eastern orange coneflowers, ostrich ferns, eastern red columbine, and coral honeysuckle. Photo by Tina Byrd.

Firefly life cycle

The firefly life cycle begins with an egg deposited in the soil or near the soil surface. Fireflies prefer moist soils and will often choose to place their eggs under leaf litter, where the soil is less likely to dry out.

After about three or four weeks the firefly eggs hatch and the larva look somewhat wormlike. The firefly larvae usually live in the soil and hunt slugs, snails, worms and other

insects. Larvae emerge from their eggs in late summer and live through the winter before pupation in the spring. Some species may spend two winters before pupating.

During the pupal stage, the larva undergoes a remarkable transformation where its body is broken down, and special groups of transformative cells are activated to change the insect from a larva into its adult form.

When the adult firefly emerges, its only real purpose is to reproduce. Not all fireflies feed as adults - some simply mate, produce offspring, and die. But when adults do feed, they are usually predacious and hunt other insects. Fireflies flash to find a mate, using a species-specific pattern to locate compatible individuals of the opposite sex.

The complete life cycle can take anywhere from a couple of months to two or three years, with the majority of the life cycle spent as larvae in the ground.

Improve and increase firefly natural habitat

Leave the leaves in your patio and use them like Mother Nature would, as mulch, and give the fireflies a place to lay their eggs. Lobby to have your association leave the leaves in the foundation beds instead of removing them in fall and spring.

Do not apply lawn chemicals and broad-spectrum pesticides, which kill the fireflies in all stages. Firefly larvae eat other undesirable insects, so they are one of nature's pest controls. If mosquitos are the problem, use a fan outside as mosquitos can't fly in the wind. Mosquitos do not venture far from home and cannot reproduce without standing water. Remove all sources of standing water in your area.

Keep nighttime lighting to a minimum to help the fireflies find each other to mate. Turn lights off if you are not on your patio. Use motion-sensor lights to reduce light pollution.

Please send questions and comments to fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Tina Byrd



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FAIRLINGTON

pet profiles

The belle of the ball and the neighborhood

Belle is Italian for beautiful. And Belle the cat, who lives in North Fairlington, is still a beauty at 13. Belle is an American short hair that was adopted from the Arlington Animal Welfare League.

She may not be able to jump up on things as easily as she used to, but she's an active cat that enjoys her life. Pet Profiles got an inside look at how to age with grace and still be the cat's meow.

What tips would you give to other cats on aging gracefully?

Relax. Eat your meals every day. Have a bathroom run everyday or every other day. Be nice and loving to your owner. You shouldn't scratch the furniture, but I know from experience that's practically impossible. Also, be nice to or at least tolerate your owner's friends who come over. They mean well when they talk to you in baby talk and try to be affectionate.

What is your favorite thing to do now and why?

Well, of course, I love to laze and sleep a lot—day and night. I also love to sit in the windows, especially when the weather is nice, and the windows are open. I love watching the birds, squirrels, and chipmunks, who come by daily. There is a downstairs floor in the condo where I live, and the window ledge in the bedroom is level with the outside ground. That puts me on the same level as the animals, which makes it even more fun.



Belle the cat. Photo courtesy of Sharon Bisdee.

Do you like cat sitters? How do you cope with them?

Yes. I miss my owner lots when she travels, but she has a wonderful, long-time friend who comes and house sits and takes care of me. She's very loving like my owner and makes sure I have food and fresh water daily and cleans out the litter boxes. When she is not able to come, another wonderful woman who lives down the street comes to take care of me. I like her too.

Do you have any plans for the Fourth of July?

I said I like to sit in the windows, and I'm especially looking forward to seeing the community families and residents come by for the Fourth of July parade. The children are adorable with red, white, and blue clothes on, and Fourth of July hats and trinkets. They usually

travel in a small wagon, with Mom, Dad or other friends or relatives with them. I've seen a family dog who has a Fourth of July bandana around its neck. I can't see the parade because it doesn't go down my street, but I know when it's starting because I hear the music.

Do you have advice for someone thinking about getting a cat?

Please adopt a cat from one of the animal shelters. There are so many cats and dogs who are not as lucky as I am to have a nice place to live and lots of love.

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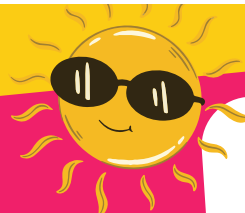
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Abingdon Cardinals fly off to summer break

The Abingdon PTA helped the fifth grade teaching team with celebrating our Cardinal graduates before they soar off to middle school. The school cafeteria was recently transformed so fifth graders could enjoy a Glow Dance right after school with their friends, classmates, and educators. They had a blast.

A late bus was provided for the event to ensure that all fifth grade students could participate in the celebration. An Abingdon teacher shared her student's comment about the evening, "This was the best night of my life!"

It has been a joy and delight to see how much our school community enjoys the many PTA programs, activities, events, and partnerships that our organization has helped sponsor or facilitated this school year.



Fifth grade students boogie at their end-of-year Glow Dance celebration before they soar off to middle school. Photos by Sharon Burd.

In retrospect, so many terrific volunteers and community members have helped with the classroom snack pantry, a staff grants program, funding field trips for all grade levels, facilitating afterschool enrichment and introducing new programs such as the Cardinal Coding Club, tending to our revitalized school garden, bringing back the Reflections art program, funding book fair vouchers for students in need, and showing appreciation to the phenomenal Abingdon staff.

To that end, I am also excited for the several forthcoming initiatives that are underway. We have two fellow



The Abingdon Chorus—composed of 4th and 5th grade students—presented the Jazz Evolution concert. Abingdon educators Dr. William Heim and Ms. Janet Kingsley directed the program.

scouts who are pursuing service projects at Abingdon. Paul is stenciling a USA map on our black top and Faris will be updating our school hallways with multilingual signs.

Over the summer, the PTA will sponsor popsicle playdates for rising kindergarten families at the school playground from 10-11 a.m. on July 15, July 29, and August 12. We look forward to meeting new Cardinal students. Lastly, we are excited to announce that a sail shade will be installed on the back playground this summer after much advocacy from the Abingdon PTA.

We always remain thankful for the community's support as we elevate our Cardinal flock. Together, you have helped make a monumental difference with the Abingdon PTA by strengthening our home-school connection. Stay engaged and connected with us as we continue advocating for our Cardinals: Facebook, Twitter, and www.abingdonpta.org.

—Sharon Burd

APS School Year Calendar:

Tuesday, July 4—Holiday - Independence Day

Wednesday, July 5—First Day of Summer School



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areas on both sides of the street.

The crosswalk does not currently qualify for the deployment of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), primarily because RRFB resources are limited and placement is prioritized at existing crossing locations along multi-lane arterial roadways.

Requests for an assigned School Crossing Guard can be submitted to the Arlington County Police Department. However, there may be current staffing shortages that could impact the ACPD's ability to assign a crossing guard to this location.

In addition to these findings, the FCA consulted with the Arlington County Vision Zero Program to learn about possible safety solutions. Through this outreach, the FCA learned that Abington Elementary School and the surrounding community is slated for a school zone retrofit that will take place sometime in 2024. The retrofit process is as follows:

1) Review the street segments to confirm candidates for

dynamic (flashing beacon) or static (permanent 20 mph signs) school zones—this includes coordination with any ongoing projects or investigations.

2) Meet with staff at Abington Elementary School to confirm the segments and identify other safety needs/locations within their school zone.

3) Create an engineering plan with new signage, pavement markings, and other identified tools or features.

4) Install the improvements.

In an effort to keep the Fairlington community informed regarding the school zone retrofit, the FCA has invited a Vision Zero Program representative to present to the FCA board sometime in late 2023. The meeting and presentation date remains TBD, but will be open to all Fairlington residents. Please stay tuned as the FCA will provide more information regarding this meeting/presentation once the details are confirmed.

—Todd Delp



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FCA to examine county permitting process

A number of Fairlington residents and their contractors have discovered that they now need to get a zoning waiver from Arlington County for structural changes within their units, ranging from installing egress windows to relocating interior walls.

Recent meetings of the county's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) have considered waiver requests from Fairlington residents. Many Fairlington units do not satisfy the setback requirement under the county zoning ordinance, though the ordinance was adopted subsequent to the completion of Fairlington as a housing development.

In a May meeting of the BZA a couple of BZA members expressed irritation that they were having to consider these waiver requests and warned that they may start voting against approving them as a way to encourage the county to change the rule as it applies to Fairlington.

At its July virtual meeting FCA will consider this matter and discuss what steps FCA should take to address this problem.

—Guy Land

Fairlington Presidents meet for a quarterly update

The neighborhood association presidents met with Arlington and Alexandria executives and police regarding incidents and deteriorating safety at Bradlee Shopping Center. In attendance were Libby Garvey, Vice Chair, Arlington County Board; Guy Land, President, FCA; Lt. Steven Proud and Corporal Patrice Malone, Arlington County Police; and Captain Courtney Ballantine, Alexandria Police Department.

The Fairlington presidents meet every quarter to discuss pressing issues related to the neighborhood in order to ensure healthy communication between the different associations.

Capt. Ballantine offered the following updates regarding the Bradlee Center incidents:

- It was requested that Alexandria City High School stagger the end of school day to decrease the number of kids at Bradlee at any given time. Open lunch is no longer allowed because once the kids leave the campus they don't return.
- The kids mostly spend their money at the Bradlee McDonald's. Thus, McDonald's originally hired a private security guard during the school day to keep the peace but now have hired an off-duty police officer.

Fairlington Mews pool party draws a crowd



Fairlington Mews neighbors catch some rays at the kickoff pool party in June. Photo courtesy of Renee Powlette.

- Alexandria students ride the Dash bus between school and Bradlee...for free. The police department has suggested that the Dash bus not stop at Bradlee during school opening and closing times.
- Most of the problems have occurred in a 'post-pandemic' world in which parents have multiple jobs and kids are left unsupervised.
- Safeway, Walgreens, and other stores are seeing brazen shoplifting but not prosecuting under certain dollar amounts due to corporate policies.

Lt. Steven Proud and Corporal Patrice Malone discussed crime statistics and safety in Fairlington. They noted that the County is down almost 100 officers. They recommended that residents be alert and do the following to deter crime in the area:

- If you see something, say something.
- Keep car doors locked; don't leave keys or items visible in car; park in lighted area when possible.
- Keep your outside house lights on at night.
- Install security cameras as permitted by association rules.
- Police can come and do a security assessment.

—Renee Powlette and Thora Stanwood

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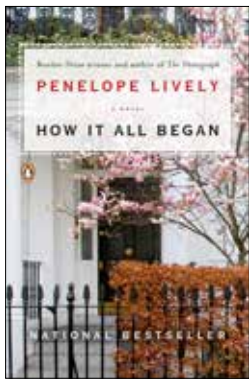
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In June, we tried Saturday brunch again and enjoyed outdoor eating on the screened-in porch at the Del Ray Cafe.

Here's what's planned for July:

Monday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m., Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 998-6616, <http://www.rampartstavern.com>. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, which is Burger Day. A special menu of burgers is available for \$12, including a side. The rest of the menu is also available.

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

Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, July 25, to discuss *How it All Began*, a novel by Penelope Lively. Please note we will meet this month at a special time and place: Ramparts Tavern, 1700 Fern St. in Alexandria, at 7 p.m. (rather than our usual 7:30). Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 no later than Monday, July 24, at 6 p.m. if you plan to attend so she can reserve a spot for you. Be sure to provide your name and contact information for the day of the meeting in case our plans change at the last minute.

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Fairlington Moms' Club

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

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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>.



July 4th Bake Sale

After the annual 4th of July parade, join us for the Fairlington Bake Sale, with all proceeds to be donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

The bake sale will be held at the end of the parade at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot.

If you'd like to donate your favorite baked goods (please, no frostings or fillings to melt in the heat), deliver them to the tables set up at the FVCC between 9 and 9:30 a.m., before the parade begins.

If you can volunteer, please contact Robin Weinick at rweinick@gmail.com.

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