

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JUNE 2018

Volume 44, Number 6

www.fca-fairlington.org

The sound wall voting results are in

Some portions of Fairlington along I-395 will get sound walls while other areas will not as a result of voting by eligible residents and owners along the affected areas. Geoff Vetter, Public Information Officer for AECOM, reported the decisions in a late April letter to FCA President Guy Land. FCA had hosted a community briefing on the sound walls in October.



Construction on the I-395 express lanes began in August 2017, with final completion expected in summer 2020. Photo by Guy Land.

There will be no sound walls on the southbound side of I-395 in North Fairlington. The proposed barrier would have run along the King St. exit ramp from south of S. Abingdon St. and then along King St. roughly to 30th St. Residents in that area rejected the proposal for sound walls and Vetter says that the walls will not be built.

Closer to Shirlington, there will be two short walls on the southbound side along the entrance ramp from the Shirlington Circle to I-395 south and then directly across from The Citizen at Shirlington Village and Shirlington House apartments on S. 31st St.

On the northbound side of the highway, eligible voters in Fairlington Mews also rejected the sound barrier proposal, but voters in Fairlington Commons

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Learn about Shirlington circle safety study at June 13 FCA meeting

At the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) meeting on Wednesday, June 13, residents will learn about the Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study being conducted by VDOT. The circle was originally included as part of the I-395 HOT Lanes project, but later removed. The meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

The study will assess safety and operational improvements at the I-395 Shirlington interchange (Exit 6), and surrounding intersections that could be

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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 June 13

Special presentation: Olivia Daniszewski, EIT, Engineer, Preliminary Engineering with VDOT, will present information on the Shirlington Interchange Improvements study and get feedback on alternatives that could be moved forward under further study.

Regular board business:

- Approval of May 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 Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.	
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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
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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 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy.

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 pm
The Fish Market
105 King Street, Alexandria

Primary Elections

Tuesday, June 12, 6 am to 7 pm

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Affordable housing open house

Thursday, June 14, 6 to 8 pm
Fairlington Presbyterian Church
3846 King St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, June 18, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

On the right path



This beautiful new path and entrance to Abingdon Elementary was a joint undertaking between Arlington Public Schools, Fairlington Villages (FV), and Lancaster Landscapes (the FV grounds contractor). Joel Owen of Lancaster generously donated resources toward this project. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Bill Sullivan, Robin Weinick, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few weeks ago, I attended a small retirement celebration for one of the crew at Fire Station 7, and it made me consider what a valued asset to Fairlington that station is. The men and women who serve there are very much a part of our community.

Scores of kids enjoy climbing in the cab of the firetruck at our Fourth of July celebration. The station's October Open House both educates children on fire safety and helps make them comfortable around the firemen. When Santa rides the firetruck through Fairlington in December, youngsters and their parents line the streets to wave at Santa.

And then there are the frequent times when the station door is open, the truck is parked out front, and Fairlingtonians of all ages drop by just to chat. Capt. Justin Tirelli and Capt. Craig Brightbill and their team enjoy getting to know our residents. This truly is a community fire station.

Of course, the station is about more than just participating in community events. It serves an important role as a first responder for both Arlington and Alexandria. Those two jurisdictions have a reciprocal agreement that whichever station is closest and available will respond to an emergency regardless of which jurisdiction the emergency is in.

Capt. Tirelli points out that they don't just focus on fire safety education and fire emergency responses. Rather, they are also trained to respond to the kinds of threats that unfortunately are becoming more common, such as an active shooter situation or a mass casualty occurrence. FCA is considering inviting the station staff to brief the community on how best to prepare for and respond to these sorts of threats.

Station 7 is the smallest fire station in the county and doesn't meet the optimal size for Arlington fire stations. Because of this, in the past Station 7 has shown up on a list of possible cost-cutting measures. Fortunately, that hasn't been the case in several years. The county board and county manager recognize what an integral part the station is to the community and how warmly our residents embrace it.

The next time you're out for a walk around the neighborhood, drop by the station and tell them how important they are to our community.

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



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Sen. Ebbin briefs community about General Assembly activity

The FCA hosted Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin at its May 9 meeting. Sen. Ebbin briefed attendees on the General Assembly's (GA) 2018 legislative session and responded to questions.

There were over 2,700 bills introduced in the GA this session, and only about a third passed. Ebbin was particularly proud of the passage of a bill to raise the felony larceny threshold up to \$500. Virginia previously was one of two states with the felony larceny threshold set at \$200, the lowest in the country.



Sen. Adam Ebbin addressed the FCA's May meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

The GA passed its first-ever legislation requiring sexual harassment training for its members. The governor also signed legislation requiring the approval of the state Board of Corrections for a juvenile offender to be sent to an adult jail or prison.

Ebbin highlighted two of his bills that were signed into law by Governor Ralph Northam. SB605 prohibits public schools from giving job recommendations to employees accused of sexually abus-

ing students. Ebbin was inspired to address this problem because of a teacher who was terminated in Loudon County and went on to sexually abuse students in Florida.

SB918 repeals the provision of state law that allows for the revocation of professional licenses from people who fall behind on their student loans.

Upcoming proposals

The senator noted that he sits on the Privileges and Elections Committee and explained that the 2019 session is the latest the GA can start the two-year process to amend Virginia's constitution to allow for redistricting reform ahead of the 2021 election cycle. "The biggest issues are who draws the districts and what is fair," Ebbin explained.

There is currently a proposal to create competitive districts, where districts aren't clearly Republican or Democrat, though Ebbin noted that in areas like Arlington and Alexandria it would be difficult to do that. Other proposals sug-

gest an independent commission or staff redraws districts.

Ebbin also serves on the interim joint committee of Senate and House of Delegates members that was created to address election issues. The committee is set to review several of his legislative proposals, including allowing for non-excuse in-person absentee voting, simplifying the absentee voting return envelope, as well as proposals to change how Virginia handles tied elections and prohibiting split precincts.

Bill update for 2018

Ebbin, a founding member of American State Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention, noted that in Virginia there is one death caused by a gun every 10 hours. He co-chairs the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus with Delegate Kathleen Murphy.

Sixty-nine gun violence prevention bills failed this session, including Ebbin's legislation to ban bump stocks and to make it a Class 1 misdemeanor to carry a loaded firearm in a public place while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. A bill to guarantee the right to carry guns in churches was pulled from the House floor.

Continued on page 15

Primary elections to be held June 12

Democratic and Republican primaries for statewide offices will take place on Tuesday, June 12, from 6 am to 7 pm.

North Fairlington residents will return to Abingdon Elementary to vote, now that the renovation and expansion project is complete. South Fairlington residents will continue to vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Alexandria residents who live in Fairlington will vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.

Because you do not register to vote by political party in Virginia, any voter may choose to vote in either primary. Voters make that choice when they check in at the polls, and they can only vote in one primary.

For more information, visit the Virginia Department of Elections at www.elections.virginia.gov, Arlington County at <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections>, the City of Alexandria at www.alexandriava.gov/elections.

—Christine Chirichella



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New at the Farmers Market: Food scraps and household organics collection

Excitement was in the air on opening day of the farmers market. May 6 kicked off the season with large crowds of shoppers eager to stock up on fresh, local, and healthy food from our terrific vendors.

The market is open every Sunday through November 18. Join us from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St.

Most of the vendors from last season are back this year, and we're excited to welcome two new vendors: Chase Your Tail Bakery (your pets will thank you) and Number 1 Sons. We may have some new vendors on a regular or "pop up" basis too. We'll take a detailed look at these new vendors in next month's *Bulletin*.

An exciting new feature of the market is food scraps and household organics collection. Many Fairlington residents compost these items for good reasons: Composting reduces disposal emissions produced at landfills and incinerators, and provides a nutrient-enriched soil product that can reduce or eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers.



Fairlington Farmers Market volunteer Eliot DeLaCruz-Kriviski shows the latest feature of the market, a composting collecting receptacle. Photos by Guy Land.

Now, you can bring your compost collections to the farmers market every Sunday for pickup by the Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau. Aisha Salazar, Fairlington Farmers Market Manager, worked with Bureau staff to arrange to have our market designated as a collection site.

Food scraps and household organics collected from the market and other drop-off locations are processed in

an in-vessel composting unit with an automated mixing system. The finished compost product is used as a soil amendment for Arlington County landscaping projects.

Please place loose items or those contained in paper bags in the bins at the market information tent or the entrance on S. Utah St. **Plastic bags, including "biobags" and "compostable bags" will not be accepted.**



The May 6 market opening day attracted large crowds, to the delight of vendors old and new.

Here's what you can put in the bins:

Food scraps:

- fruits
- vegetables
- nuts
- eggs and egg shells
- breads, grains, and pasta
- meat and seafood (including bones)

Household organics:

- coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags (no strings)
- cotton balls
- hair
- soiled paper products (paper towels, napkins, and paper plates)
- house plants

Materials not accepted:

- plastic (including plastic and compostable bags)
- compostable utensils and plastics
- wax-coated paper products

A few more tips: Store your food scraps and household organics in a sealed container in the freezer to avoid unwanted odors and pests. Storage options can include paper bags or cardboard containers, metal or plastic sealed containers, or used coffee cans or jars.

Get the latest market news by signing up for our newsletter at www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org or liking us on Facebook. See you at the market!

—Lynne Blasi

The market is open and all vendors will be here during the renovation of the park at the community center. Part of the parking lot is closed, so you may want to walk or bike to the market, or park on S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., or Quaker Lane.

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Get ready to march in the annual July 4th parade



The ever-popular fifers led last year's July 4 Parade. Photo by Guy Land.

Celebrate Independence Day, Fairlington style, at the annual July 4th Parade! Decorate your strollers, wagons, bikes, scooters, kids, dogs, cats—even yourselves—in red, white, and blue and meet up with your neighbors at the Fairlington firehouse, 3116 S. Abingdon St. by 10 am.

The parade marches along S. Abingdon St., concluding at the Fairlington Villages Community Center (FVCC) parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Take part in the community-wide, post-parade gathering for hot dogs and ice cream.

The festivities are co-sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the FCA. Volunteers are needed. To help with this popular event, please email activities@fairlingtonvillages.com.

No Kid Hungry Bake Sale

Join us after the July 4th parade for the 16th Annual Fairlington No Kid Hungry Bake Sale, presented nationally by Share Our Strength.

Over the years, Fairlington's efforts to end childhood hunger in America have raised more than \$20,000. Contribute to this great cause and join in the fun by purchasing goodies for family and friends.

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 am.

Cathy Malin has generously donated her time and creativity to the bake sale over the last 15 years. She's recently handed over her apron, and we'd like to dedicate this year's bake sale in her honor.

If you would like to help set up and/or sell, please contact coordinator Robin Weinick at rweinick@gmail.com.

—Robin Weinick

Property tax payments due June 15

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Friday, June 15. The same date applies to both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Real estate bills were mailed in early May. Residents will not receive a bill if taxes are paid from an escrow account through your mortgage. If you have a mortgage and receive a bill, please contact your mortgage company as soon as possible.

For customers who are responsible for paying their real estate taxes, Arlington's Customer Assessment and Payment Portal (CAPP) is a convenient way to pay securely online. Even if you do not pay via the internet, CAPP has many other benefits, including reminder emails about upcoming due dates. To learn more about CAPP, visit capp.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3702.

Annual Spring Yard Sale



The annual Fairlington Villages Spring Yard Sale attracted plenty of buyers looking for bargains and allowed sellers to pass along their spring-cleaning treasures. Photos by Guy Land.

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Fairlington Park playground renovation starts

Construction has begun on the eight-month renovation of the Fairlington Park behind the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St. The contractor fenced off the playground construction area in early May, including 19 parking spaces set aside as the staging area.

The playground and the parking spaces will be closed throughout the project, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of December.

Most of the field—except for the exercise area at the south end and a small portion at the northern edge—will be open to the public throughout much of the construction period.

County staff worked with the leaders of the Fairlington Farmers Market to minimize any adverse impact on the market. This included shifting the construction staging area further away from the market. As in previous years, the market will be open every Sunday until mid-November.

The project includes a new playground for both two-to-five and five-to-12 age groups, outdoor fitness equipment, a picnic area, better handicapped accessibility, and drainage and stormwater management improvements.

The county board approved the \$2.1 million project in December. In response to meetings with Fairlington residents, the final design increased the number of swings, something many parents requested.

The Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation is encouraging parents to use the area near the basketball court or nearby playgrounds for activities with small children while the playground is closed.

Several trees will be removed as part of the project, but new trees will be planted, as the county works to avoid any loss in the overall canopy cover.



Left: Workers from Bennett Construction install fencing around the renovation area in early May. Right: Young children enjoyed the playground on the last weekend before the renovation began. Photos by Guy Land.

In a December letter to the county board, FCA indicated its support for the renovation but expressed disappointment that all of the playground would be inaccessible throughout the project.

To view the drawing of the renovated playground and review the scope of work, visit <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/fairlington-park-project>.

—Guy Land

Police Department is restructuring

The Arlington County Police Department is undergoing a restructure to support additional staffing in its patrol division. This has resulted in the consolidation of existing District Teams into one Community Outreach and Engagement Team with a reduction in personnel as well as some other changes.

The Third District Commander, Capt. Adrienne Quigley, who has annually visited the FCA meetings, will be transferred. The FCA thanks her for her years of service and dedication to the community.

Key impacts that residents may notice include:

- Minimized ability to attend community events and meetings
- Reduced investigative efforts for some misdemeanor crimes
- Fewer traffic enforcement details will be conducted

Information regarding the restructure can be found on the police department homepage at <https://police.arlingtonva.us/restructure>, or in a recent video explaining what changes are occurring and why at www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0pB_WF7BYE&feature=youtu.be.

Fairlington 5K and Silent Auction show strong community support

After five successful years, the annual Fairlington 5K and Silent Auction have become important community events. This year showed another incredible outpouring of support, raising over \$28,000 total for A Cure for Ellie and Abingdon Elementary's physical education and reading programs. The events were sponsored by the Fairlington Citizens Association, Abingdon PTA, and A Cure for Ellie.

Over 700 people registered for the April 28 race, enjoying cool temperatures and no rain. Hundreds more came out of their homes to cheer on participants as they ran or walked down the streets of Fairlington. Andrew Whitacre took first place overall with a time of 18:15, Shawn Vettom was second, and Kevin Koerning third.

The Silent Auction held the week prior was also a huge success. Over 80 items were up for bid that evening, raising more than \$11,500. This pre-race event has become very popular over the past five years, gaining visibility among people in the community with no prior connection to the school, but who simply wanted to come out and support the family and the local kids.



A special thanks goes out to Joe Reed, coordinator of the race and Abingdon physical education teacher, and Beth McGinn, who coordinated the Silent Auction. McGinn is mother of Abingdon student Ellie McGinn, who suffers from a rare and degenerative brain disease known as Leukodystrophy-LBSL. The money donated to A Cure for Ellie helps raise funds for the LBSL cure research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

To check race results for this and previous years, log onto to www.Fairlington5K.com.

—Christine Chirichella

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Sen. Ebbin, continued from page 5

A bill to prohibit discrimination in public employment based on sexual orientation was signed into law by Gov. Northam.

The Virginia Code Commission recommended removing language banning same-sex marriage from the Virginia code since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled these bans unconstitutional, but Republicans defeated Ebbin's legislation proposing the removal. His bill repealing Virginia's constitutional prohibition on same-sex marriage was continued to the 2019 legislative session.

A bill allowing anyone with certification from a doctor to legally use oils derived from marijuana unanimously passed both houses.

In the GA's veto session in April, it rejected Northam's proposal to raise funding for Metro capital improvement projects by increasing the real estate tax and hotel tax in Northern Virginia. Instead, the funds will come from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, potentially impacting the ability of localities to take on road and other transportation projects.



Sen. Ebbin (far right) talks with future voter and daughter of FCA Board Director Jennifer Davies, pictured with FCA Board Director Kent Duffy. Photos by Guy Land.

Many local legislators had supported Northam's proposed tax increases as a way to fund the \$154 million Virginia commitment to Metro.

Comments to and from residents

Questions from Fairlingtonians touched on a variety of subjects. Ebbin noted that he has not been involved in the helicopter noise matter because it is tied to the Pentagon. The GA did pass some laws creating a framework for regulating drones, but the state does not otherwise oversee airspace.



Bob Gronenberg, chair of the Parkfairfax Transportation Committee, asks Sen. Ebbin a question during his presentation.

One attendee asked what issues voters should be focused on now. Ebbin suggested Medicaid expansion, which the GA is still working on as part of the state budget. If gun violence is a priority for people, he also noted that there are fairly intractable opponents and it is hard to pass legislation.

He also thinks people in this area should be keeping close tabs on Metro developments. Ebbin sits on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and noted the station closures coming to this area next summer. He said that while these closures will be a pain to riders, it takes 90 percent more time to get the needed repairs done if the stations are left open.

Sen. Ebbin was also asked for his thoughts on the benefits of the I-395 Express Lanes. He had initially opposed the project because he did not think that enough money would come back to the state and localities, and because he did not believe public roads should be privatized. He noted that the lanes produce tens of millions of dollars in revenue per year. Thirty percent of what the state makes from the Express Lanes goes back to localities and funds things like local bus systems and traffic projects. The rest of the money goes to regional transportation projects.

Ebbin also told one attendee asking about how to keep younger people and the electorate from growing cynical, that the last election really showed the power of citizen activism. He also noted that some issues are growing more bi-partisan, and that the governor is working very hard to build bi-partisan support around key issues, like the felony reform legislation and Medicaid expansion.

Ebbin noted that the 2017 elections have encouraged Republican GA members to find more ways to collaborate with the Democratic minority.

—Michelle Woolley

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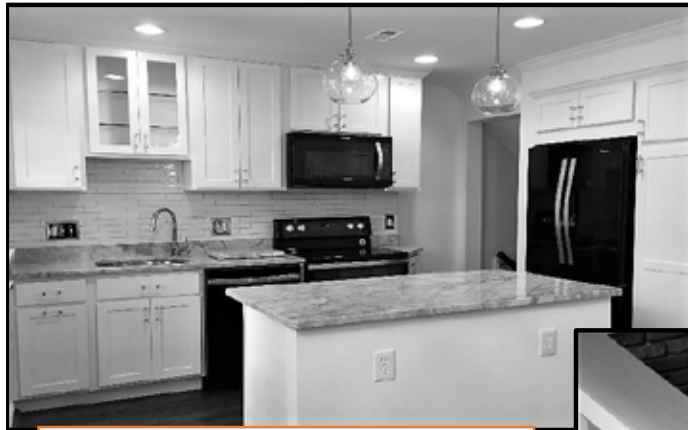
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Fairlington's 75th lookback: Fairlington at play

When Fairlington was built in the 1940s, families faced many challenges of wartime living in a new community. Prominent among them was the lack of recreational and play space. The neighborhood's original architectural drawings showed eight parks. None were built, however, so both children and adults improvised.

With no patio fencing, the common areas behind the buildings provided immediate play space for children, but presented hazards as well. In June 1944, Lt. Col. Douglass Walker wrote to the Defense Homes Corporation, the property owners, requesting protective screening to be installed after his small daughter had fallen into a window well.

Other children's adventures were nothing short of alarming. One resident recalled in an oral history:

"There was a standing rule that [children] were not to cross Buchanan Street ... [and they] all ... abided by it. [One day] my aunt got a call from a neighbor who said, 'You know the rule [about] children crossing the street? ... Well, ... they're going under [it].' These children had figured out a way to ... [climb] down into the sewer system ... [and] they continued to play down there for years ... the farthest they ever got was halfway to Annandale out Columbia Pike."

After World War II, as the Defense Homes Corporation prepared to sell the property, the manager noted the lack of recreational facilities and urged that this be addressed. Fairlingtonians would wait, however, until the property was converted to condominiums, some 30 years later.

The Utah Field Park was created in 1975 on land originally slated for construction of additional homes. Fairlingtonians successfully lobbied Arlington County to purchase the property for use as a park instead. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) was established the following year and participated in the 1979 preservation of the Fairlington School (now the Fairlington Community Center or FCC). The FCC included additional space



In the early days of Fairlington, children enjoyed playing in the open spaces behind the buildings, pictured here before fences were built. Photo courtesy Fairlington Properties, Realtors.

and recreational features, which are currently being renovated and updated as part of the Fairlington Park project.

Condominium conversion brought other recreational amenities, including pools, playgrounds, and tennis and basketball courts throughout the neighborhood. Reflecting the community's current age diversity, Fairlington Villages renovated its pools over the last decade to include a lap pool heated for earlier and later seasonal use, and a family-friendly pool. It also updated a tot lot in

recent years and re-purposed a tennis court for use by an increasing number of pickleball players in 2016.

Continuous improvements help Fairlington remain a vibrant community for residents to engage in play.

—Cindy Kunz

**Historic information from Fairlington at 50: 1943–1993, Fairlington Historical Society, Catherine B. Fellow Memorial Edition, 2012.*

Fairlington commemorative ornament



As part of the Fairlington 75th anniversary, the FCA is partnering with the Fairlington Historical Society to produce commemorative ornaments for sale leading up to the holidays. The FCA will be taking orders at the July 4th event. The price will be \$10.



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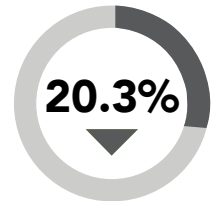
DIRECTION OF THE MARKET:

Market conditions in Northern Virginia reflect two sides of the same coin. Contract activity is down pretty much across the board for the entire first quarter, so on the surface it might appear that the demand side of the coin is weak. However, the flip side shows very low supply, with inventory and the number of listings coming on the market much lower than this time last year. We see nothing that is likely to change this dynamic during the next several months.

AVERAGE AVAILABLE INVENTORY

Month-End January-March 2018
Compared to 2017

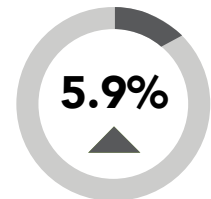
2,495



URGENCY INDEX

Percentage of Contracts in First 30 Days
First Quarter Compared to 2017

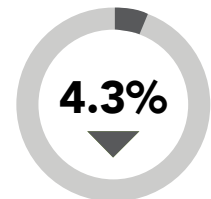
70.0%



NUMBER OF CONTRACTS

January 1–March 31, 2018
Compared to 2017

5,530



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FCA convenes association presidents

To facilitate communication among the eight condo and homeowner associations in Fairlington, FCA convened their presidents in May. Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz recently challenged civic associations to strengthen their ties to the homeowner organizations in their areas.

Fairlington Glen President Thora Stanwood coordinated the meeting at FCA President Guy Land's request. In her invitation to fellow leaders, she wrote, "I am sure that we have a lot in common and could benefit from sharing best practices, issues and challenges, good and not so good contractors, and communications with our co-owners/residents."

"FCA is the logical entity to host this kind of conversation," Land noted. "We routinely talk with the individual presidents on key issues that are affecting the community, but there are potential advantages in having them all talk with each other and with us on common challenges and opportunities, including routine management issues."

FCA is the entity that the county and city recognize to represent the interests of Fairlington residents on neighborhood issues and policies that come before the localities, such as adjacent real estate development proposals, neighborhood parking policies, public improvements in the area, police and fire protection, and parks and recreation facilities.

Fairlington has seven condo associations—Fairlington Arbor, Fairlington Commons, Fairlington Glen, Fairlington Green, Fairlington Meadows, Fairlington Mews, and Fairlington Villages—and one homeowner association—Fairlington Court.

Arlington County Civic Federation banquet



Leaders of the Fairlington and Shirlington Civic Associations visited with Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey at the annual banquet of the Arlington County Civic Federation. From left: Guy Land, FCA President; Edie Wilson, Shirlington Civic Association (SCA) President; Libby Garvey, Arlington County Board Member; Rich Cinquegrana, Ginny Farris, and Ellie McCann, also from SCA. Photo courtesy SCA.

In Memoriam: Victor Sison

Long-time Fairlington resident Victor Sison, owner of Fairlington Maintenance Service, passed away peacefully on January 3 after a decade-long battle with cancer. Out of respect for his family, many of whom are Fairlington residents and requested privacy, the *Bulletin* postponed this remembrance.

For more than 30 years, Victor and his company handled everything from simple repair jobs to complete gutting and remodeling of Fairlington units. Previous to that, Victor worked for CBI-Fairmac as a Certified Public Accountant. CBI-Fairmac is the company that developed/managed Fairlington Villages in its early days.

Born in the Philippines, Victor fell in love with Fairlington and called it home. He was a family man of strong faith and an avid D.C. sports fan. Abe Pollin was his hero and politics were a lifelong passion.

His daughter Arantxa Sison says, "I am trying to think of what dad would want to tell the community. The

first thing that comes to mind is 'Thank you.' He was always big on giving thanks and he was devoted to Fairlington. The second thing would be 'Peace be with you.' He loved offering peace in church and getting to know people. The last thing would be to remind us all to laugh."

Victor had a big impact on Fairlington, and his memory and legacy will live on in the fabric of this community and in the building structures themselves. Hundreds, if not thousands, of residents, including this Editor, used his services at one time or another. The FCA thanks him for his years of service.

Victor is buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria. If you visit, in lieu of leaving flowers, he would wish you to spend the money instead to pay it forward somewhere. He will be remembered fondly and very much missed by this community.

—Christine Chirichella

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endorsed the sound wall, so that area will see sound wall construction. The wall will run from the S. Abingdon St. bridge up to the exit ramp for Quaker Ln.

According to Vetter, the aesthetic finish for the community-facing side of the wall will be “grey fuzzy rake.”

Because of the comments from residents stressing the importance of trees, the final plan for the walls will include planting additional trees once the sound wall construction is complete.



Fairlington's sound walls will look similar to this fuzzy rake-style wall. Photo courtesy AECOM.

Voters in Parkfairfax likewise produced a split outcome on the sound walls. A proposed sound wall stretching along Quaker Ln. to Gunston Rd. was rejected by the community vote and will not be constructed. The proposed sound wall stretching from near Gunston Rd. along northbound I-395 to the Glebe Rd. exit ramp from northbound I-395 was approved by the community vote and has been recommended for construction.

According to Vetter, most of the approved sound wall nearest to Parkfairfax will be installed on existing structures (e.g., the retaining wall adjacent to northbound I-395 and the bridge over Four Mile Run), which will require panels made of lighter weight material. These do not offer the grey fuzzy rake aesthetic option.

Construction of the sound walls is not expected until 2019.

Work continues on the express lanes themselves, with construction crews working day and night. Much of the recent focus has been on installing the electronics that will coordinate the dynamic tolling. Additional work has concentrated on new traffic patterns at the Pentagon.

As the peak summer driving period approaches, Transurban, operator of the express lanes, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and AAA Mid-Atlantic have launched “Orange Cones, No Phones”—a campaign to improve safety by reducing distracted driving within the I-395 Express Lanes work zone.

—Guy Land

Presbyterian Church affordable housing open house June 14

Join the project management team and officials from the City of Alexandria on Thursday, June 14, from 6 to 8 pm to learn more about the housing development being planned at the Fairlington Presbyterian Church. The open house will be held at the property, located at 3846 King St., just across King St. from Fairlington Mews.

The church and its development partner, Wesley Housing Development Corporation, plan to convert part of the church's parking lot to 81 affordable housing units.

Wesley and the church will formally arrange further meetings with the community in consultation and at the direction of city staff.

The project is designed to address the shortage of affordable worker housing in 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.

For more information about the process and proposed development schedule, visit www.wesleyhousing.org/fairlington-presbyterian-church.html.

—Christine Chirichella

City of Alexandria to consider Park Center office conversion

The City of Alexandria will consider a proposal in June to convert up to two office buildings in Park Center to a 400-unit residential development. In January, Los Angeles-based developer Lowe purchased the property with the plan to transform at least part of the current office complex once the leases end.

A community meeting was scheduled for May 23. FCA will continue to monitor and keep the community updated on this new development.



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Station 7 firefighter retires

On April 28, Floyd Lee Walters retired from the Arlington County Fire Department after a 32-year firefighting career in Northern Virginia, the last six at Fairlington Station 7. He was on duty on 9/11, and his unit was the second to arrive on the scene at the Pentagon. The station honored him with an open house on his retirement date, and a party at Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub in Shirlington.

According to Walters, the best thing about working in Fairlington was that, "The residents make the fire department feel like part of the community. Fairlington has that small-town, close-knit feel.... One of the greatest things is being appreciated and respected...." He fondly remembers participating in Santa on the firetruck—getting to see the kids' joy and give out candy.



Station 7 honors firefighter Floyd Lee Walters at an April 28 retirement open house. Pictured: Capt. Justin Tirelli, Walters, and FCA President Guy Land. Photo by Casey Raffensberger.

For years, Walters has made his own salsa, which everyone has been telling him is good enough to sell. Now that he's retired, that's what he spends his time doing. He makes traditional salsa, spicy and mild, as well as a beet version that is purple. He's working with someone in a commercial kitchen and selling the salsa at farmers markets. He's trying to get approval to make things for retail and wholesale as he expands the business.

Of his retirement, Walters says, "I thought I would be less busy, but I'm barely able to keep up. I'm so busy now I don't know how I ever found time to work." Check out his website at www.smokystache.com.

—Christine Chirichella

Shirlington Interchange, continued from page 1

affected by changes to the circle, including:

- The ramp from S. Glebe Rd. (Route 120) to southbound I-395
- The traffic signal at S. Shirlington Rd. and S. Arlington Mill Dr.
- The four-way stop controlled intersection of Gunston Rd. and Martha Custis Dr.

Olivia Daniszewski, EIT, Engineer, Preliminary Engineering with VDOT, will present information that was also offered during a May 21 public information meeting held to present and get feedback on alternatives that could be moved forward under further study. She says, "There are eight or so scenarios/alternatives that we will present at the meeting and walk residents through the details of each one."

Daniszewski started full-time with VDOT in August 2015 as an Engineering Associate in the Core Development Program. She spent two years rotating through the different divisions of VDOT's Northern Virginia office before starting her current role as an Engineer in the Preliminary Engineering for Arlington and Fairfax Counties section in August 2017.

The Shirlington interchange study, being financed with federal funds, includes data collection and identifying safety and operational issues. Potential improvements will be identified to reduce congestion and crashes, and boost the interchange's overall performance.

A detailed analysis of selected alternatives will occur this summer, with a final public information meeting planned for fall. A final report detailing the preferred alternative is expected to be issued late fall. Learn more about the project at www.virginia.gov/projects/northernvirginia/i-395_shirlington.asp.

—Christine Chirichella



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neighborhood news

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 May, we re-visited Athena Pallas in Crystal City for hearty Greek food.

Here's what's planned for June:

Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 pm, The Fish Market, 105 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703.836.5676, <http://fishmarketva.com>, where we can enjoy the weekly lobster special or anything else on the menu.

Monday, June 18, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer a special price on hamburgers (and turkey burgers, and the occasional fish burger) with the purchase of any beverage. 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, email carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in June to begin discussing *Theodore Rex*, a biography of Theodore Roosevelt by Edmund Morris. Because of the length of the book, we will tackle it over the course of two months.

"Roosevelt is a biographer's dream, an epic character not out of place in an adventure novel. Edmund Morris captures perfectly the frenetic atmosphere that surrounded a President of boundless energy, imagination, and ambition.... Theodore Rex is a massive achievement and hugely entertaining."—*The Christian Science Monitor*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 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 to request more information and an application.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® 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' night outs. We have a great list-serve for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.

Donate produce to AFAC

The Arlington Food Assistance Center's (AFAC) Plot against Hunger program seeks local vegetable gardeners willing to grow and donate fresh produce to AFAC. It will provide free vegetable seeds to those who pledge to donate from community or personal gardens. Seeds are available now at AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson St., during regular business hours. Produce can be donated mid-June. For details, visit <https://afac.org/plot-against-hunger/donate-fresh-produce>.

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EXECUTING THE CONTRACT

Once you've agreed on a purchase price, you'll execute a purchase contract. The executed contract should be sent to your mortgage team to complete the preparation of your loan file. Submitting the following in a timely manner will ensure a smoother process:

- Executed contract
- Earnest money
- Updated income and asset documents
- Other relevant documents your mortgage team will request

Your mortgage team will order your appraisal, property title, tax transcripts and many other verification reports.

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So what's a conditional approval? This is an approval subject to items an underwriter needs to clear your loan to close. Documentation requests can range from an updated pay stub to a letter from your CPA explaining your self-employed earnings. Every loan scenario is different, so requested documents will vary from loan to loan.

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Abingdon student artists shine at Art Show



Fifth-grade Keith Haring murals adorned the Abingdon stairwell. Photo by Carrie Lewis.

Abingdon Elementary held its first annual Art Show on May 2, as the culmination of a year-long innovative and expansive art education program. During the 2017–18 school year, students from pre-K to fifth-grade studied a variety of modern and classical artists and used the diverse techniques learned to create their own unique artwork. While younger students learned the elements of art texture and lines, older students studied self-portraits, optical illusions, perspective in drawing, and many other art techniques.

The gallery show featured two pieces of art by every student at Abingdon, hung along the walls and in stairwells to create a vibrant museum. Art displayed included pre-kindergarten pipe cleaner sculptures and texture rubbings, kindergarten Cezanne-inspired portraits of apples using vertical and horizontal patterns, first-grade Van Gogh-inspired starry night artwork and colorful pattern cat drawings in the style of Gustav Klimt, second-grade animal sculptures and habitats inspired by the life and works of painter Henri Rousseau, third-grade aboriginal art and woven dinner collages, fourth-grade mobiles inspired by “A Wrinkle in Time,” and fifth-grade colorful life-sized murals in the style of Keith Haring.

Students also had the opportunity during the art show to create new masterpieces in the style of Morris Louis by painting colorful stripes onto shared canvasses, and Wassily Kandinsky by tracing shapes in interesting patterns.

Abingdon Art Teacher Lauren Muscarella explained, “This first Art Show, which will become an annual event, is so exciting. The museum format allows students to showcase

their amazing hard work and creativity.” Students and parents were heard admiring the artwork of all students and expressing amazement at the level of talent displayed.

Abingdon celebrates Super Hero staff



Abingdon staff show off their superpowers during teacher appreciating week. Photo from Abingdon twitter feed @AbingdonGIFT.

Abingdon celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week from May 7 to 11 to thank the incredible Abingdon staff for their hard work and dedication to their students. The theme of the week was “Abingdon Teachers are Super Heroes,” with theme-related decorations hung around the school. Students were asked to write personal messages explaining how their teachers are super heroes. Throughout the week, the Abingdon PTA, with the help of many Abingdon families, thanked staff in a variety of ways. Staff enjoyed a taco bar lunch and a popcorn bar, were offered free massages, had daily treats left in their mailboxes, and had the opportunity to win exciting raffle prizes.

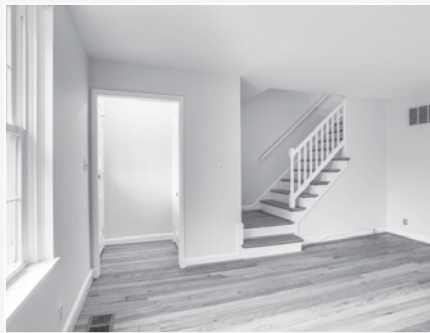
—Carrie Lewis



Third-grade self-portraits used realistic facial proportions. Photo by Carrie Lewis.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Spring gardening FAQ

I field a lot of questions from my customers. This month, I'll share some frequently asked questions along with answers. If you have a question, email it to me at billsullivan41@gmail.com.

How can I have year-round flowering? This is the mission of every landscape designer. Start with winter-blooming Camellia. Its fist-sized flowers (red, pink, and white) last until the beginning of April. Winter Jasmine is a pendulous specimen whose yellow flowers open in January and last until early March. Forsythia decorates a bleak March with vibrant branches covered in yellow. Don't forget bulbs (Tulip, Daffodil, Crocus, and Grape Hyacinth) which will show from March into early May. Of course, there are Azaleas and Rhododendrons from April through May. Come summer, it's show time for the Crape Myrtle tree. Cone-shaped blooms begin in mid-June and last until about October 10. In the fall, there is Oakleaf Hydrangea, whose ivory flowers turn salmon in color in colder weather.

Why don't my Azaleas bloom? There are many reasons. For those in the country or wilderness, Azaleas are appetizers for deer. Flower buds of Azaleas set soon after bloom period in the spring. If and when you prune, do so after bloom time. If you prune in summer or fall, this compromises next spring's flowering. Late frosts (March into April) also are detrimental to Azalea buds. This usually occurs in far-western suburbs toward the mountains.



Crape myrtle. Photos courtesy Pixabay.

Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizer encourages leaf growth at the expense of flower buds. It's said insufficient sun compromises Azalea flowering, but I've seen Azaleas in full flower while situated in deep shade.

How much should I water my plants? Normally, you should water minimally from October through April unless we get surprise heat waves. Remember, it was in the low 90s each day last month (May 2-3-4). Once the heat kicks in (second

week of May through early October), plant roots and leaves rapidly lose water. On overcast days or days when it rains, watering is unnecessary. Established plants need less water than new plantings since their root systems are more widespread.

What plants are invasive? It all depends. Ivy is a ground or wall covering that, when maintained, is handsome and orderly. But left to wander, it'll become invasive. Lily of the Valley is another wanderer. Its leaves are a pale green, and the inverted, white bell flowers hang beautifully. But its root system is strong and thick. Once established, it takes a shovel, not a trowel, to dig it up. All flowering ground covers (Periwinkle, Lamium, Ajuga, and Pachysandra) will roam. The plus side is, it covers the mulch. The negative side is that it'll take over garden space and crowd the root zones of your shrubs.

Should I have my soil pH checked? It's not imperative. Just know which plants prefer an acidic versus an alkaline soil. There are additives you can put into the soil for either purpose. I don't use amendments when planting. Soil Conditioner (a non-fertilizing loam soil) is all I ever use. But if you want to know soil pH, take a sample to the Virginia (Soil) Extension Office in the Fairlington Community Center.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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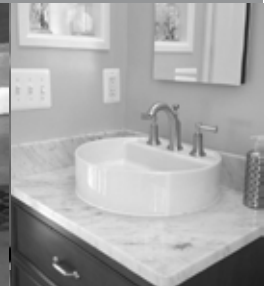


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