

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JUNE 2019

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www.fca-fairlington.org

Two child care centers proposed for Fairlington area

Inside this month

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The former Long & Foster building is the site of one of two newly proposed child care centers in the neighborhood. Photo by Susan Renehan.

Developers have plans for two early childhood education centers in the Fairlington area, according to presentations made to the May 8 meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA).

One of these, which would see the conversion and expansion of the former Long & Foster building at 4800 S. 31st St. in North Fairlington, is still in the conceptual planning stage, while the other, a proposal for a Guidepost Montessori School in the new West Alex development at King and Beauregard Sts., is slated for consideration by the Alexandria City Council in June.

Representatives of the Avery Thurston companies, which would own and develop the North Fairlington property, said the working plans call for the construction of a two-story addition on the left-hand side of the building. Because of the steep terrain on that lot, only one floor would be visible from 31st St.

The center would serve roughly 150 children from infant to five-years-old and would provide both before- and after-school programs.

Ray Arduini, Avery Thurston Vice President, explained that they would seek a nationally recognized provider to run the center. He said the company has developed a niche as a developer/owner of early childhood centers in the area, developing 50-60 centers over the past 25 years.

Arduini said they have built centers for many of the major providers in the market, such as KinderCare, Kiddie Academy, Chesterbrook Academy, and Goddard Schools.

"These are much-needed services," he said. "There is a shortfall for childcare in the county."

"We've been looking at the market in Arlington for five or six years," said

Continued on page 19

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 12

There will be no presentation at the June 12 meeting. The Board will hold a work session.

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

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www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
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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:

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

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
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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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 pm
The Fish Market
105 King St., Alexandria

Fairlington Knits

Monday, June 10, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Virginia primary elections

Tuesday, June 11, 6 am to 7 pm

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, June 24, 6:30 pm
Clyde's
1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria

Fairlington Knits

Monday, June 24, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Group

Tuesday, June 25, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Local color



Residents took advantage of the native plant sale held in Alexandria in late April. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Kathleen Branch, Jennifer Davies, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Beth McGinn, Susan Renahan, Thora Stanwood, Bill Sullivan, and Robin Weinick.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you been by to see the newly renovated playground next to the community center in South Fairlington? If you have, you've likely been amazed

by how it is always teeming with kids. As the story on page nine conveys, the official ribbon-cutting in early May was very popular, attracting roughly 200 people, notwithstanding the threat of rain.

Several things have struck me in the wake of the ribbon-cutting. The first is how much of a community asset this playground now is. Even before it was officially open, it was drawing dozens of young Fairlingtonians and their parents. It has quickly become a communal gathering place. It's another of those attributes that both make this a great place to live and enhance the value of your investment in your unit.

And on Sundays when the Fairlington Farmers Market is open, the two venues play off of each other, making this area the hot place to be on Sunday mornings.

Second, the ribbon-cutting event underscored the close relationship FCA has with Arlington County officials and staff. The festivities were jointly sponsored by the county and FCA, a fairly rare partnership. Jenn Davies of the FCA Board worked closely with Jessica Vasquez of the county's parks and rec department to coordinate things.

A veritable Who's Who of county leadership turned out for it—county board Chair Christian Dorsey and Vice Chair Libby Garvey, school board Chair Reid Goldstein, County Manager Mark Schwartz, the head of Parks & Recreation, the chair of the parks and recreation citizen advisory commission, and the president of the Shirlington Civic Association.

It's always good for Fairlington to have folks like this in our community, meeting our residents and seeing the good things that are happening here. That's something FCA tries to foster.

Third, the popularity of the playground drives home a quite remarkable fact about Fairlington. While it has undergone profound demographic changes over the past four decades, Fairlington has remained a hotly sought-after, vibrant neighborhood with a strong sense of community.

When Fairlington was converted to condos in the 1970s, one almost never saw any kids or strollers. As a friend of mine commented recently, "I remember Fairlington in the mid-70s being cool singles." What a different place it is today!

From cool singles to a packed playground, Fairlington has changed with the times in a way other communities can only view with envy.

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

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Amazon promises to bring jobs, investment, high-tech office campus to Arlington

Amazon's plans for its new east coast headquarters, dubbed "HQ2," include hiring a new workforce as well as the construction of an innovative office campus to house and support the approximately 25,000 employees who will ultimately be working there.

While the Arlington-based office complex has yet to be built, the plans will draw from the same design ideas and corporate ethos that went into the construction of the company's Seattle headquarters, according to Amazon Senior Manager Brian Moore.

Moore, who works in the Washington, D.C., Amazon policy office, described how the Seattle headquarters has as its main office a bright and colorful building that is functional and attractive. "That should be music to the ears of people living in Crystal City," Moore commented.

Other features of the Seattle headquarters that Amazon hopes to include in Arlington are bike paths and separate bike entrances for employees; a pet-friendly office park with pet exercise areas throughout; public spaces and green spaces incorporated into the office campus; and ground floor spaces leased to retail operations



Amazon Senior Manager Brian Moore talks about the plans for HQ2. Photo by Guy Land.

with an emphasis on local businesses.

When Amazon announced last fall that Arlington had been chosen as the site of its east coast headquarters, there was celebration from state and city officials but also focused attention and concern from residents and activists who were uncertain about the impact that the second headquarters would have on Arlington's affordability and environment.

Moore sought to provide answers to some of the questions that Fairlington residents might have during a briefing sponsored by the FCA in late April.

Amazon has a plan to gradually ramp up its operations over the next 12 years to accommodate the expected 25,000 employees who will be working here. That plan includes hiring approximately 400 employees by the end of 2019.

Starting in the fall of 2019 and continuing into 2020, Amazon will be occupying leased office space at a number of locations throughout Crystal City. Moore indicated that Amazon will occupy those leased spaces, some of which are being refurbished for that purpose, for anywhere from five to ten years before moving into permanent office space.

Moore also encouraged residents to share their concerns both with Amazon and with their local government and to stay engaged in the process.

He expressed optimism that because Amazon knows in advance the target number of employees for the Arlington headquarters, they will have a chance to plan for and mitigate some of the effects of that growth in the region.

In mid-May, Amazon submitted their proposal for the headquarters space, which includes two 22-story buildings, public parks, and 50,000 sq. ft. of retail spaces.

—Susan Renehan

Amazon in Seattle:

- 50,000 employees housed in 40 buildings
- The main headquarters is a bright, colorful building
- Has a dome called "Spheres" which houses over 40,000 varieties of plants for greenspace
- 40% of employees walk, bike, or take public transportation to work
- Provides cafeteria space for less than one-third of the employees because most employees want to be out in the community during meal breaks



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On the move in Fairlington: a look at modes of transportation in the neighborhood

On May 8, Arlington Public Schools observed Bike, Walk & Roll to School Day. The sidewalks of Fairlington were filled with walkers, bikers, and scooters on their way to Abingdon and as far as Claremont Immersion School and Gunston Middle School.



On May 8, children used bikes, scooters, and feet to get to school on time. Photos by Sara Tuke Carr.

Fairlington resident Joe Reed, Abingdon's PE teacher and school coordinator for Bike, Walk & Roll to School Day commented, "This was by far the most walkers and bikers we have had in my 15 years at Abingdon. The bike racks were full of bikes and scooters." DC Bike Ride was also at Abingdon to promote bicycling, and a representative was handing out prizes for students and parents.

In comparison to many neighborhoods, Fairlington boasts well-connected sidewalks and marked crosswalks as well as bike lanes. On any given day, residents can be seen walking their dogs, pushing a stroller to the community center, or enjoying a family bike ride.

Neighbors will walk across the Abingdon bridge from the north side to the south side to visit the Farmer's Market, FCC, or Utah dog park and neighbors from the south side cross the bridge to walk to school or down to Shirlington.

Fairlington also sees a fair degree of vehicular traffic, from cars, to Metrobuses, school buses, service trucks, and more. The use of GPS navigation apps, such as Waze, can draw additional traffic through neighborhood streets when drivers seek to avoid congestion on commercial arteries such as King St. The community is active and in motion throughout the day and night.

Earlier this year, FCA started a conversation with the county's Transportation, Engineering and Operation

(TE&O) Department to identify intersections and locations that could benefit from improved pedestrian safety features. FCA Directors Sara Tuke Carr and Jennifer Davies met with county officials in May to review key areas.

Currently, four such locations are being assessed and evaluated. Potential solutions can include the temporary installation of bollards that are designed to narrow the length of the crosswalk and naturally slow down vehicles making turns, increased prominence of crosswalk signage including beacon or flashing lights, and the installation of new stop signs.

Locations under evaluation based on FCA and resident inquiries include:

- S. Stafford St. around the FCC, both the crosswalk and the turn onto S. 33rd St.
- "T" intersection S. Utah and S. 35th St. near the bus stop
- The crosswalk at S. 34th and S. 36th Sts.

With the pending expansion of the STEM preschool by the fire station and the potential new childcare facility in the old Long & Foster building, FCA is also considering having the sidewalks and intersections of S. 31st St. and Abingdon and Buchanan assessed.



On May 14, APS and transportation consultant Toole Design conducted a study to review the arrival and dismissal procedures at the school and the surrounding streets as well as check and verify that the traffic design assumptions made during the project design are working post-project completion.

FCA Board member Jennifer Davies was present during the study and has requested that Toole share the results to help in the broader scope of assessing pedestrian safety in the neighborhood.

In the coming months, FCA plans to invite representatives from TE&O to speak to the community at a monthly meeting regarding any potential work in the neighborhood.

—Jennifer Davies

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County officials help celebrate new playground

Despite the threat of rain, Fairlington families and Arlington County officials turned out in impressive numbers to officially inaugurate the newly renovated Fairlington Park. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was one of several county-wide events observing Neighborhood Day.

County Board Chair Christian Dorsey and County Board Vice Chair Libby Garvey were in attendance, along with the Director of Arlington Parks and Recreation, Jane Rudolph, County Manager Mark Schwartz, and APS School Board Chair, Reid Goldstein.

Dorsey was enthusiastic in his support for the new playground. "The Fairlington community's input has produced an exceptional park and playground design that will delight families at this beloved gathering spot," he said. "Toddlers through teens will never tire of the playground features and parents and caregivers can comfortably keep watch from any vantage point.

"With the investments in turf, stormwater management and other pervious surfaces, the playground will provide maximum enjoyment for many years to come,"

Dorsey continued. He wryly noted, "I look forward to 'testing out' the ropes structure and big slide!"

The renovation of Fairlington Park started in the spring of 2016 and was spearheaded by Aaron Wohler, the lead designer and project manager with the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR). The county was able to utilize the U.S. Communities Purchasing Cooperative Contract to procure the play and fitness equipment, which made it much more affordable.

The FCA Board coordinated the event with DPR and provided delicious baked goods from Great Harvest, a local bakery that is owned by Fairlington residents. In addition to climbing, jumping, and sliding on the new equipment, children enjoyed a scavenger hunt and balloon art. FCA also

had the opportunity to showcase the new Fairlington baseball tees that proved to be quite popular.

"It was wonderful to see all our Fairlington families enjoying the spectacular new playground with something for everyone. Our Fairlington community has always been great, but it just keeps getting better!" commented Libby Garvey.

—Jennifer Davies

"The Fairlington community's input has produced an exceptional park and playground design that will delight families at this beloved gathering spot."

—Christian Dorsey,
County Board Chair



Children of all ages enjoyed the festivities as the Fairlington playground was officially reopened. Photos by Guy Land and Sara Tuke Carr.



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Primary elections set for June 11

The lively contest between incumbent Theo Stamos and challenger Parisa Tafti for Commonwealth's Attorney highlights the ballot for Arlington Democrats in the June 11 primary, while Alexandria voters will choose between Greg Parks and Ben Ortiz, Jr. to be the party's nominee for Alexandria Clerk of Court to replace retiring Ed Semonian.

Voters in the Fairlington precinct will vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Abingdon St. Abingdon precinct voters will cast their ballots at Abingdon Elementary, 3035 S. Abingdon St. Fairlington's Alexandria residents vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St.

Arlington County Board members Christian Dorsey and Katie Cristol are up for re-election this year, but they have no primary opposition. They will face independent Audrey Clement in the November general election.

To select the candidate for Arlington School Board who will receive the Democratic endorsement, Arlington Democrats are holding three days of caucus voting in June. Voters will choose between incumbent Reid Goldstein and challenger David Priddy.

The schedule for caucus voting is June 4, from 7 pm to 9 pm at Drew Elementary (3500 S. 23rd St.); June 6, from 7 pm to 9 pm at Key Elementary (2300 Key Blvd.); and June 8, from 11 am to 7 pm at Washington-Liberty HS (1301 N. Stafford St.).

Arlington Republicans were scheduled to select their candidates for local offices by a "mass meeting" on May 22.

There are no primary challenges to either state Senator Adam Ebbin or Delegate Mark Levine. They represent Fairlington.

—Guy Land

All Fairlington Bulletin seeks ad manager

The *All Fairlington Bulletin's* long-time ad manager, Beth Andrews, will be leaving at the end of June. Andrews has held the position for 15 years, and her professionalism and effectiveness will be greatly missed. The FCA Board thanks her for her many years of dedicated service.

The *AFB* is looking for a motivated professional to take on this role. This is a paid position with compensation on a commission basis. Responsibilities include coordinating with existing advertisers, identifying new sources of advertising revenue, and working with the editorial team to ensure advertisements are placed correctly.

If interested, please contact Guy Land at president@fca-fairlington.org.

July 4 bake sale to raise money for childhood hunger

After the annual 4th of July parade, join us for the 17th Annual Fairlington No Kid Hungry Bake Sale, presented nationally by Share Our Strength. The bake sale will be held at the conclusion of the parade at the Fairlington Villages Community Center (FVCC) parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Over the years, Fairlington's efforts to end childhood hunger in America have raised more than \$21,000. 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



Volunteers at last summer's bake sale. Photo by Guy Land.

to the tables set up at the FVCC between 9 and 9:30 am, before the parade begins.

If you would like to help set up and/or sell at the No Kid Hungry bake sale on July 4—or if you can't make it that day and would like to make a donation to this worthy cause—please contact coordinator Robin Weinick at rweinick@gmail.com.

Please contribute lots of baked goods, come hungry, and help us make a generous donation

to the No Kid Hungry campaign!

—Robin Weinick



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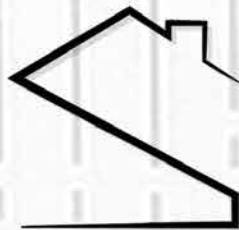


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	Current	End of April 2018	Variance
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Available Homes	155	416	-62.7%
Absorption Rate	0.78	2.04	-37.81 days
Fairfax County			
Available Homes	1556	2398	-35.1%
Absorption Rate	1.10	1.62	-15.53 days
Arlington County			
Available Homes	258	475	-45.7%
Absorption Rate	1.26	2.27	-30.24 days

Source: BrightMLS

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Farmers Market off to a great start

Thanks to everyone who braved the rain to visit the Farmers Market on opening day! Our new and returning vendors were excited and pleased to see so many Fairlington residents kick off the market's 5th season. All vendors are producers who grow and/or make their products within 125 miles of Arlington.



Despite the rain, many residents came out to support the Farmers Market on opening day. Photos by Guy Land.

A warm welcome to new market sponsor Kay Houghton & Associates. Kay lives in Fairlington and is active in many neighborhood events. Our other sponsors include the Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Dental, and Fairlington Presbyterian Church. We appreciate all of our sponsors. Please thank and support them as they have supported us.

Many shoppers have commented on the wide variety of prepared foods available at the market. Several options are available, including ready-to-eat meals and others than can be heated up at home for a quick and delicious dinner or lunch. Visit Ana's Twist for beef, chicken, or

vegetarian empanadas; Ozfeka Catering for kisir or beef or vegetable borek; Kiwi Kuisine for savory meat pies; Sexy Veggie for salads, soups, wraps, and veggie burgers; and Hog Haven for hot breakfast sandwiches. Don't forget the donuts from Mama's Donut bites—a favorite of market visitors of all ages!



Please consider signing up for a short volunteer shift at the market this season. We need people to help set up our signs and information booth, talk with vendors about their products and what they're bringing to the market and then share that information with our market manager, and assist at special events. Visit the market website at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org to learn more and sign up.

The market's composting program is now in its second year. There are two bins available for your food scraps and household organics. Please place loose items or those contained in paper bags in the bins near the market information booth or the entrance on S. Utah St. Plastic bags, including bags or biobags, cannot be accepted. Here's what you can put in the bins:

Food scraps:

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

Household organics:

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

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.

—Lynne Blasi

The Fairlington Farmers Market thanks our 2019 sponsors



Fairlington 5K raises record amount

The Sixth Annual Fairlington 5K & Silent Auction was the biggest yet. Over 750 people registered for the race which took place April 27 under clear, sunny skies. The auction—held two weeks prior—featured close to 100 items and was very well attended. Together, the two events raised over \$35,000 for “A Cure for Ellie” and Abingdon Elementary’s physical education program—the most ever collected. Both were sponsored by the FCA, Abingdon PTA, and “A Cure for Ellie.” First place in the 5K went to Justin Kirk with a time of 18:08. Special thanks go out to Joe Reed, coordinator of the race and

Abingdon physical education teacher, as well as Jennifer Davies of the FCA, for their hard work in making the event such a huge success. To check race results for this and previous years, log onto to www.Fairlington5K.com.

—Beth McGinn



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co-owner Chris Avery, “and this is the first viable property we’ve found.” He said the significant demand and relatively scarce supply of child care would result in higher costs than would be the case in other areas.

The company expects to select the provider over the next three or four months and will come back to FCA to report on their plans once a provider has been chosen.

The proposal for the facility itself would include an entrance driveway off of 31st St., near the intersection with Buchanan St., into the front of the building for dropping off and picking up children.

While this project is still in the concept stage, the plans for a private Guidepost Montessori school in the new West Alex development is much farther advanced.

Duncan Blair, counsel for Higher Ground Education, which will run the school, and Camille Pratt, Director of Marketing for Higher Ground, described the project, which is designed for children from ages 16 months to sixth grade.

Focusing on the specific aspects of the Guidepost Montessori approach, Pratt said they were the “Whole Foods of private pre-school education—premium and holistic.” Higher Ground currently operates 22 Montessori schools nationwide.

Pratt said they plan to begin operations in early 2020.

Audience members asked about how the school would fit in with other components of the West Alex development and what steps would be taken to ensure student safety. Other activities planned for West Alex include a large Harris Teeter grocery store, a Silver Diner, 44 units of affordable housing as well as market rate apartments, and other commercial activities.

“It will be an urban school,” Pratt said, with monitored drop-off and pick-up, PIN codes required for all families and digital access.

She said they planned to offer an inaugural price sheet that would provide reduced tuition rates for the first group of students. They would also offer financial aid packages.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) is one of the few jurisdictions that offers a public Montessori option. A few FCA Board members noted that APS offers a Montessori option from age three through 8th grade, one of the few public school systems to have that option.

FCA unanimously agreed to support the application, which goes before the Alexandria City Council in mid-June.

There is already an early childhood education center in Fairlington, the STEM Preschool on S. Abingdon St. next to the fire station. That school is planning to expand by taking over space that has been vacated by a photography studio, adding roughly 40 students. The county board approved the expansion application in May. FCA supported it as well.

—Guy Land

Get ready for the annual July 4 parade

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. 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.

Local Girl Scouts raise funds



Local Girl Scout Cadettes sold handmade soaps and scarves at the Fairlington Villages spring yard sale. They raised over \$200 to put toward troop activities, including an international trip and service projects. To purchase items or for more information, e-mail troop4594@sflly.com. Photo by Guy Land.

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Fairlington Presidents' quarterly update

Fairlington interacts with Arlington County in a number of areas. The latest is the county's notice of violation that the recycle bins used in South Fairlington lack lids to keep recyclables contained. As usual, David Dunn, President of Capitol Services (Fairlington's trash/recycle contractor) came to our rescue. Based on his communication with the county, the violation was lifted.

The county trees throughout Fairlington are supposed to be maintained by the county. However, each of our condo associations is responsible for mulching and edging the trees if they choose to do so. When we lose one of our aging, but beautiful, oak trees, the county will install a tree, surround it with a water bag, and water it until it is established. It is also important that each

condo association check the trees for rotted areas and dead limbs and report these to the county's arborist.

Have you tripped over a rental scooter lately? They are showing up everywhere and are being left on the county sidewalks for pick up by whatever company owns them. The Arlington County Board approved a nine-month demonstration program, in September 2018, to evaluate dockless bikeshare bikes and electric stand-up scooters, referred to as shared mobility devices. Comments/complaints can be directed to the county at mobility@arlingtonva.us.

You have probably seen Comcast subcontractors laying cable throughout Fairlington in an effort to update its technology. Comcast is seeding those areas but is not leveling or smoothing out the turf before the seeding. You may have also noticed that Verizon FiOS's flat green containers, known as "handholds," fill with water after heavy rains. The lids may float and, when the rain recedes, come down askew of the handholds. Both companies will be asked to send a representative to our quarterly meeting to explain how and when they will correct these situations.

Many other topics were discussed: how to interest residents to volunteer; safety inspection of tot lots/playgrounds; additions to units such as egress windows, French doors, and skylights; aging infrastructure issues; and what is included in the master deed of each association.

—Thora Stanwood

Master Gardeners grounds walk



Fairlington residents gather to learn about native plants and trees during a grounds walk in May. Photo by Guy Land.

Letter to the Editor

May's *Bulletin* alleged that "white supremacist" posters by the "Patriot Front," a supposed "hate group" according to the Southern Poverty Law Center were reported in Fairlington. Given camera phones, where are the photographs? From an email I received the posters read "call DHS to report illegal aliens. America for Americans," no racial group is mentioned. It is alleged that the fasces imprinted on the posters are a neo-Nazi symbol. The fasces is, not a Nazi symbol, but first of all, a symbol of the American Republic found, for example,

behind the podium of the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Code declares illegal aliens law breakers. As every first-year law student learns, "malefactors may not profit from their malfeasance," and illegals certainly have profited. Opposition to immigration is not racist, it has been opposed by Cong. Barbara Jordan, and Caesar Chavez among other non-whites.

—W. Layer
Fairlington Glen

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

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Dear Fairlington Friends and Neighbors,

Theo Stamos has been our outstanding Commonwealth's Attorney for 7 years. I hope you will join me in voting for Theo in the Democratic primary on June 11. Vote at your usual Fairlington polling place at the Community Center for South Fairlington and Abingdon School for North Fairlington, or early absentee.

The safe and secure neighborhood we enjoy in Fairlington and Arlington is due in part to the excellent work that Theo does as our Commonwealth's Attorney. She has long helped remove from our community those who prey on the weak and vulnerable. But she's also helped begin programs like the Second Chance Program and Drug Court that gives young people, especially, the opportunity to join an early intervention program rather than be swept into the criminal justice system inappropriately. I know personally young Fairlingtonians whom Theo has helped and kept from being treated inappropriately by our justice system.

Theo is a good friend and an outstanding public servant. Visit her website at www.theostamos.com for more information, or feel free to talk to me personally about her. Please join me in supporting Theo and casting your vote for her in the Democratic Primary, Tuesday, June 11th.

Sincerely,

Libby Garvey, Arlington County Board Member

Paid for and authorized by Theo Stamos for Commonwealth's Attorney



Abingdon wins grants for 21st century skills

Abingdon Elementary has been selected for two grants to help advance students' 21st century skills, particularly around STEM subjects.

In April, Abingdon was one of 100 schools nationwide, and one of four in Arlington, to be selected for an Amazon Future Engineer grant. The grant funds FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics program registrations to start a robotics club, \$10,000 to expand access to computer science education, and a personal tour of a local Amazon fulfillment center.

Launched in November 2018, Amazon Future Engineer is a four-part childhood-to-career program intended to inspire, educate, and prepare children and young adults from underprivileged, underrepresented, and underserved communities to pursue careers in the fast-growing field of computer science.

In March, Abingdon Gifted Resource Teacher Jackie Firster was awarded a \$500 grant from Emporium Educational Technology to fund MakeDo kits, Snap Circuits kits, KEVA Planks kits, and more. Ms. Firster is using her award to create a mobile makerspace in Abingdon and empower her fellow educators to create enriched project-based learning opportunities for all Abingdon students. Her goals for using her new technology are connecting literature to STEM and encouraging her students to solve real-world problems together.

Second annual Abingdon art show wows



Kindergarten flower sculptures and second grade self-portraits on display at Abingdon Art Night. Photos by Carrie Lewis.

Abingdon's second annual art show featured a school-wide art museum showcasing student works from the entire school year. Each student personally selected two 2-dimensional pieces for display, in addition to a 3-D clay sculpture made possible by the school's new kiln.

Abingdon's art program focuses on the study of famous artists, allowing students to take inspiration from

the varied techniques and lessons to create their own artwork. This year's art show highlighted works from all grades, including:

- Kindergarten watercolors based on the book, *The Dot*, and flower clay sculptures based on Vincent Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Edouard Manet, Claude Monet, and Katsushika Hokusai;
- First grade drawings and patterns inspired by Gustav Klimt's *Cat*;
- Second grade self-portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo;
- Third grade prints inspired by Andy Warhol designs;
- Fourth grade cubist portraits based on works by Pablo Picasso; and
- Fifth grade slab-constructed sweet treat sculptures inspired by Wayne Thiebaud.

Students and parents also had the opportunity to collaborate on community art that will be displayed throughout the school.

—Carrie Lewis





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Wakefield Crew team: state finals, successes, and siblings



Wakefield Crew Girls Freshman 8 celebrate their first-place finish in the state competition. Photo by Musse Yimer.

The Wakefield High School Crew team will be sending the largest group ever to the SRAA National Championship Regatta in Ohio this year. The boats include Girls Junior 8, Girls Freshman 8, and Boys Lightweight 4 and Boys Varsity 2x.

Fairlingtonians Jacqueline and Lily Branch will be among the rowers competing. Jacqueline's junior boat finished second and Lily's freshman boat finished first in the state competition held in Occoquan in May. In addition, the team participated in the nation's largest high school regatta in the country, Stotesbury Cup, in Philadelphia.

Fairlington is home to an impressive cadre of crew members, including siblings Ben and Jessica Spindler. Ben was the coxswain for the Boys Novice 8 boat that placed first in the state last year. Nora Broyles and Francis Montez are also Fairlingtonians who are members of Wakefield Crew.

—Kathleen Branch

Movie night rescheduled

The outdoor movie night was rescheduled due to inclement weather. It will now be held in early September. Details to follow!



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Wakefield Happenings

As we finish out the school year, let's take a moment to congratulate the Class of 2019. This year, Wakefield graduates more than 400 students.

In the fall, Wakefield graduates will attend all major Virginia schools—University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, William and Mary, James Madison, George Mason, Virginia Commonwealth University, Old Dominion University, Mary Washington, and University of Richmond.

In addition to the in-state students, Wakefield will be represented at Clemson, Oregon, Duquesne, Colombia, Dartmouth, Northwestern, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina, Penn State, Bucknell, Howard, Georgetown, and Pitt, as well as other schools and opportunities throughout the country. We wish the students the best of luck as they start the next chapter of their lives.

We also want to thank the community for all the support this year for our music, sports, academics, PTA, and scholarship fund. Wakefield is a neighborhood high school. We are proud to represent Arlington.

The next school year is just around the corner. Fall sports and marching band start in early August. If you have a student in your household that may be interested in participating in sports, please be aware that all students that participate in sports must have a physical completed before tryouts. Check the website for forms or visit the school if you have any questions. In the meantime, enjoy your summer.

—Donna Felipe

Property tax payments due June 15

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Saturday, June 15. The same date applies to both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. When the due date falls on a Saturday, as it does this year, there is no late fee assessed for payments made on the following business day.

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.

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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 Rabieng, a casual Thai restaurant, which hits a home run every visit!

Here's what's planned for June:

Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 pm, The Fish Market, 105 King St., Alexandria, 703-836-5676, fishmarketva.com. We can enjoy the weekly lobster special, or anything else on the menu.

Monday, June 24, 6:30 pm, Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, 703-820-8300. This is a local favorite, nearby with easy parking. We'll go on their Trivia night, which starts at 7 pm in the bar. We had a great time in February on quiz night! The crab cakes are a favorite with many regular diners, as are the hamburgers. Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol (see below) no later than 6 pm on Sunday, June 23.

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 at yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in June to discuss *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts* by Joshua Hammer.

To save ancient Arabic texts from Al Qaeda, a band of librarians pulls off a brazen heist in this "fast-paced narrative that is...part intellectual history, part geopolitical tract, and part out-and-out thriller" (*The Washington Post*).

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Canasta group doubles the fun

Our local Canasta group has multiplied the cards, the luck and the fun. We are now playing "Hand and Foot," a Canasta-type card game played coast to coast. If playing your hand was fun, there may be wild cards waiting in your foot! Join this local group, which plays Tuesday mornings at a church hall near Fairlington. Having card-sense is helpful, but we're happy to teach you the rules of this game. Call Carol Ann 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Knits

Join Fairlington Knits! at the Fairlington Community Center on Monday, June 10, and Monday, June 24, from 6:30-8 pm for a knit/crochet meet-up. Bring what you're working on, share what you know, and learn new skills. Meet new friends, some who might be neighbors, and enjoy an evening of making things with like-minded people. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome. The event is posted on the Fairlington Appreciation Society's Facebook page. For more information, contact: Turner at Turnerwork@aol.com.

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. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Email fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to join.

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' nights out. 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®.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Summertime challenges in your patio garden

With summer here, we're outside on our patios weeknights and on weekends. That gives you time to look around and see what improvements are needed. Following are some common concerns I field. Hopefully, the answers/suggestions are helpful.

Most affordable plants: Think "small." Perennials are no more than one foot tall with a similar spread. Smaller specimens always are cheaper. And these plants fit the small soil spaces in Fairlington patios. Sun-loving perennials are salvia, dianthus, heather, euonymus wintercreeper, sedum, day lily, and rug juniper. Assorted shade-loving perennials are astilbe, coral bells, fern, bleeding heart, mazus, Lenten rose, sweet box, leucothoe, and hosta. Annuals also are a smart purchase. They are smallish and work best when planted in pots.

Patio gate won't close: Wooden gates typically sag, making it difficult to secure the latch. The easiest remedy is to lower the latch (on wooden post) a half-inch or so. Just make a mark with a pen, unscrew this hardware and drill new holes to lower the latch. Then, the gate assembly will latch.

Roses—high maintenance? Not really. One of the prettiest and most fragrant specimens, roses do need pruning since their branches grow (extend) rapidly. And sometimes, the leaves are chewed by pests but this can be controlled with an herbicide spray. Just think about the flower color and scent roses provide.

Since they are fast growers, they will fill out your garden space. Try buying the 'knockout' cultivar. This specimen will flower from April into December. Another attractive trait is its foliating habit. 'Knockouts' have branches filled with leaves from its top to bottom. You won't be looking at brown thorny stalks when buying one of these.

Mosquitos: Mosquitos don't like citronella, which is a plant that flowers in lavender and white. If you can't find the plant, there is a spray as well as candles you can light and place on your patio table. Plus, the citronella oil is fragrant. Standing water attracts mosquitos so maybe forego the bird bath or fountain.

Brick pavers that sink: Most patios were provided with a nine-foot by 12-foot concrete pad during the conversion construction in the early 1970s. In some cases, there isn't a pad (maybe it had been demolished/removed by a homeowner). If brick pavers are laid on bare soil, there is a tendency for pavers to sink. Pick up the sunken pavers, spread some stone dust (not sand) over the soil and re-lay the pavers in place.

Low-maintenance wanted: This means little to no pruning, leaf pick-up or transplanting. Most perennials are easy to care for. Annuals (planted in pots) don't need much attention (aside from watering during summer). Annuals will provide flower color from late April until the second frost in early December.



*Hostas are a shade-loving perennial.
Photo courtesy Pixabay.*

When you plant bulkier shrubs or small trees, there is maintenance involved.

Water in basement: The easiest and most cost-effective measure is to make sure the soil grade is built up at the building. Even four to six inches makes a difference. Start by adding some pea gravel at the building. Then lay some thick plastic over the pea gravel. Finally, spread a couple inches of topsoil before tamping the surface until it is hard. Make sure there is a "ramp," downward away from the building so that during a rainfall, water moves toward the patio, not the building.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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

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