

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JUNE 2021

Volume 47, Number 6

Fairlington makes strides toward increased inclusion and diversity

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Samia Byrd, the chief race and equity officer for Arlington county, will present at the FCA meeting on June 9. Photo courtesy arlingtonva.us.

Last summer, amid nationwide protests against racism and police violence, FCA began conversations about the role we play in fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion in Fairlington.

FCA directors and Fairlington residents formed a committee to discuss how to convene neighbors for conversations and education about race and how to make Fairlington more inclusive, just, and equitable.

The meeting will be streamed over FCA's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FCAcivic.

The next step in that effort will take place at the FCA meeting on Wednesday, June 9, at 7 pm, when Samia Byrd, Arlington's chief race and equity officer, will join the board for a special presentation on the county's work to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.

As an organization, FCA has made it a priority to learn more about Arlington history to better understand how systemic racism affects Fairlington's history and its present. You may have seen past articles in the AFB about the desegregation of the Shirlington Woolworth lunch counter in 1960, or neighboring Jennie Dean Park, named after the founder of the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, or the affordable housing development on the site of Fairlington Presbyterian Church, whose deed contained a restrictive covenant declaring that the land "shall never be occupied by, sold, leased, devised, conveyed or in any manner alienated to any person not a member of the Caucasian Race."

We will continue to share information about the effects of discrimination on Arlington's housing, policing, education, and other topics.

"This builds on FCA's commitment last summer to help make Fairlington a safe and inclusive space for everyone and provide support for people of color," said FCA President Guy Land. "Fairlington can be a model for the larger society."

FCA has also joined Arlington county's Dialogues on Race and Equity (DRE) initiative as a DRE Together partner. DRE Together partners are a group of more than fifty Arlington civic associations, nonprofits, faith partners, and businesses that host interactive conversations about race and equity.

Continued on page 23

Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

FCA monthly meeting June 3

Special presentation: Samia Byrd, Arlington County's Chief Race and Equity Officer, will discuss the county's efforts to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion.


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 Citizens Association.

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

Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, www.avatartech-llc.com.

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Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Regina Bethencourt

Advertising Manager: Katarina Lesandric

Distribution Manager: Noemi Riveira

— DEADLINE —

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

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

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

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1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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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 Knits!

Monday, June 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

See page 21 for details

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 7 p.m.

Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Wakefield jazz concert

Friday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

FCC Field

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, June 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

See page 21 for details

Fairlington diners

Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.

See page 21 for details

Book group

Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.

See page 21 for details

Cupcakes for sale!



Young Fairlington entrepreneurs take advantage of warm spring days to hone their marketing skills. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Bobby Calise, Jennifer Davies, Sue Davis, Jenifer Hornback, Guy Land, Lydia Redway, Bill Sullivan, and Sam Wolbert.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last summer's Black Lives Matter demonstrations sparked a vibrant conversation about racism and inclusion in Fairlington. On several neighborhood-focused forums, members of our community mentioned that they did not feel welcome in Fairlington. Young Fairlingtonians led a candlelight vigil on the Abingdon St. bridge. Other residents pressed FCA to lead the community on an important path toward greater inclusivity.

The FCA board declared that "FCA stands with Black members and all persons of color in our community who choose this neighborhood to call home, who choose this neighborhood to work, and who choose this neighborhood to send their children to school."

The board committed to an ongoing process of engagement with our residents, to foster greater inclusivity, to increase awareness of the racism and discrimination that many Fairlington residents experience in our own community—from racially tinged taunts of Fairlington kids at school, to calls to police about "suspicious intruders" who are in fact residents who just happen to be Black.

A special committee on diversity and inclusion, led by North Fairlington resident Lydia Redway, has been examining ways that FCA could advance this process. Others members of the group include Shelly-Ann Sinclair, Rebecca Leet, Julie Butler, Chris Weathers, and Jennifer Davies. They have pushed the FCA board to examine a range of options for increasing our collective understanding of issues surrounding equity, diversity, and inclusion in Fairlington.

FCA has joined as a partner in Arlington county's Dialogues on Race and Equity, which hosts interactive conversations about race and equity.

FCA has also examined "Challenging Racism," a program embraced by Arlington to educate people "about the prevalence and inequities of institutional and systemic racism, giving them knowledge and tools they need to challenge racism where they encounter it." (You may have seen signs around the county for their Running Against Racism Virtual 5K last month.)

This month's FCA meeting will feature Samia Byrd, Arlington's first chief race and equity officer, talking about steps the county has been taking to address these issues. Her office seeks to advance racial equity in Arlington both in county government and in the larger community. We invite you to join us for this important discussion.

More importantly, we hope you will become an active participant in a community-wide conversation about how Fairlington can be more inclusive and welcoming. We would like your ideas.

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

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June 8 primary to select Democratic candidates for state, local offices

Only a few days of early voting remain for Fairlington residents to vote in the June 8 Democratic primary. Early voting closes in both Arlington and Alexandria on Saturday, June 5.

The deadline has passed for requesting a mail ballot, but if you already have one, it must be postmarked on or before election day and received by the Saturday after election day. All voters are eligible to vote by mail.

Democratic voters will be choosing their nominee for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General, along with members of the House of Delegates in Richmond. Arlington voters are also voting to fill a slot on the county board, while Alexandria voters are choosing a candidate for mayor and for members of the city council.

Republicans selected their nominees for statewide office through a modified convention in May.

Under Virginia law, voters do not register by political party and can vote in any primary.

Arlington has three locations for early voting, which can be found at <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/Early-Voting>. Early voting in Alexandria occurs at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 North Royal St., Suite 100.

While much of the attention, and advertising, has centered on the statewide races, there is a vigorous race for the House of Delegates 45th District between incumbent Mark Levine, who is also running for Lt. Governor (state law permits that), and Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker. The Arlington part of Fairlington is in the 45th District.

The Alexandria part is in the 46th District. In that race, incumbent Charniele Herring is unopposed. She chairs the House Democratic Caucus in Richmond.

In Arlington, incumbent county board member Takis Karantonis faces a challenge from civic leader Chanda Choun. Karantonis was elected in a special election last summer to fill the unexpired term of the late Erik Gutshall.



Campaign signs dotted the landscape in front of the Fairlington Community Center for last November's election. Photo by Guy Land.

Fairlington residents who live in Alexandria have a vigorous rematch between current mayor Justin Wilson and former mayor Allison Silberberg. Wilson ousted Silberberg three years ago.

Thirteen Democratic candidates are vying for six slots on the Alexandria City Council.

North Fairlington residents who live in Arlington vote at Abingdon Elementary, while South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St. North Fairlington residents who live in Alexandria vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive.

—Guy Land

Reminder: Property taxes due June 15

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Tuesday, 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.

If you are having difficulty paying your real estate taxes, the Arlington County Treasurer's office is offering assistance through its Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP). More information can be found on their website. arlingtonva.us/treas.



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Farmers market opening heralds start of summer



The Fairlington Farmers Market opening day arrived like a big family reunion on Sunday, May 2. Residents and vendors reconnected across the tables and many Fairlington newcomers and other locals visited the market for the first time.

The farmers market committee is especially thankful for their new volunteers who are generously giving an hour or two on Sundays to help set up signs and hand-sanitizing stations, staff our information table to answer questions from shoppers, and monitor lines to ensure proper social distancing.

Please consider signing up for a short volunteer shift this season to help keep the market running safely and smoothly. Visit the market website at fairlingtonfarmers-market.org to sign up.

At press time, the Governor's Executive Order regarding farmers markets has been updated to align with guidance from the CDC. Under the guidelines, an outdoor farmers market is classified as a larger, crowded outdoor event. Shoppers and vendors should continue wearing a face covering and social distance, regardless of their individual vaccination status.

Market operations will be modified as restrictions change. Updated information will be posted on the market's website and social media channels, and in the weekly email newsletter.

Please note a few other market reminders:

- Dogs are not permitted, with the exception of service dogs.
- The composting collection site is temporarily suspended. Arlington residents can take food scraps to Earth Products Recycling Yard. For more information, visit recycling.arlingtonva.us.
- Due to COVID-19 protocols, eating in the market is not currently allowed.

Our newest market vendor this year is Old Blue BBQ, more fondly known as Old Blue. The popular company was established in 2012 by Kelly Lloyd and Stephen DiCicco, both Arlington natives. As a hobby they competed in BBQ competitions and decided to build a business around their passion.

"We pride ourselves on excellent craft BBQ and traditional southern food with our own flair," said Rachel Kuldell, operations manager for Old Blue. "We have enjoyed the opportunity to offer our food to local households and individuals."



Old Blue BBQ is the newest vendor at the Fairlington Farmers Market selling a variety of ready-to-eat brisket, pulled pork, and other Southern fare. Photo by Guy Land.

Historically a catering company, they pivoted during the pandemic to offer new options including family meals, delivery, and bringing their foods to farmers markets. Old Blue's usual weekly offerings include breakfast burritos, brisket sandwiches, pulled pork sandwiches, brisket and pork by the half pound, baby back ribs, a variety of side dishes, corn bread, and sauces and marinades.

"I personally enjoy farmers markets because it gives us an opportunity to engage with the community that we've never had before," explained Kuldell. "We get to make recommendations, talk with shoppers about our business, and receive feedback that we don't get at weddings and corporate events."

For more information about Old Blue BBQ's menu, delivery, or catering, visit oldbluebbq.com. Delivery orders can be made through their website with 24 hours advance notice, as they smoke everything to order.

—Lynne Blasi



Fairlingtonians enjoy market opening day





Photos by Guy Land.



Jennifir Birtwhistle

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2

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3

Buyer Demand Is Up

After spending so much time at home, many buyers are ready to safely dive back into the market for houses that better fit the needs of their new normal. Data suggests that pending home sales activity has been sharply climbing since April.³

4

Prices Are Increasing

Because inventory's been tight, this led to significant price increases during⁴ — and even before⁵ — the pandemic. This means that if you list now, you're more likely to get top dollar for your home.

In today's current market, sellers are getting top dollar for their homes while record-low interest rates are helping others lower their mortgage payment. Here's why it's time to get your home on the market.

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SOURCE:
1. Housing Market Sales (HLS) as of March 2020, <https://www.nationalrealtorsassociation.org/REALTORS>
2. Months Inventory (MI) as of March 2020, <https://www.nationalrealtorsassociation.org/REALTORS>
3. Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) as of April 2020, <https://www.fhfa.gov/data/indices/pending-home-sales>
4. Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) as of April 2020, <https://www.fhfa.gov/data/indices/pending-home-sales>
5. Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) as of April 2020, <https://www.fhfa.gov/data/indices/pending-home-sales>



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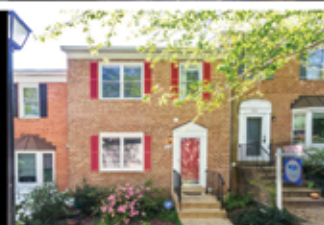
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For the love of NATURE



How a conservation garden works to manage stormwater

Last spring the Mews Landscape Committee was touring the grounds with Nate Erwin, a landscape contractor and entomologist, looking at problem areas and hoping for suggestions. Our single tennis court had an issue with rain run-off and erosion. The court is graded so that water drains from one corner. During rain events the run-off was significant. He suggested creating a conservation landscape.

Sue Davis (Mews Landscape Committee): So Nate, can you explain what a conservation garden is?

Nate Erwin: Simply put, a conservation landscape is a garden that slows and soaks up rain using native plants. These help stem the flow of excess nutrients and pollutants into streams and rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

SD: This project required soil amendment. How and why did you amend the soil?

NE: The soil at the corner of the tennis court and throughout Fairlington is primarily clay and that does not readily absorb water. Soil that holds water is composed of organic material such as leaf mulch, minerals like silt, clay, and sand, and air spaces. All of these components allow for water absorption and retention, plus they allow for needed bacteria, fungi, and other soil organisms to grow, helping plants thrive.

To make this, I dug down about two feet, turning over the clay and gravel. I then added decomposed leaf and twig humus, as well as sand. This increased the soil volume, where before it had eroded away. It also made for a great substrate into which roots could grow wide and deep and help hold the soil.

SD: Why is it important to use native plants for this garden?



Fairlington Mews conservation garden with native plants. Photo by Sue Davis.

NE: Plants native to the mid-Atlantic region are adapted to the prevailing climate, native pathogens, and native insects. These native perennials, shrubs and trees evolved to deal with hot/dry as well as wet summers. Once established, native plants rarely need watering. Many of the species I chose, such as bottlebrush grass, have deep root systems that help hold soil in place and support insects that birds feed on. When it rains there is a steady flow of water from the tennis court into this garden.

SD: I understand you had a chance to study with Douglas Tallamy, a Professor at the University of Delaware in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology. How did that experience influence what you are doing now?

NE: I met Doug in 1981 during my last year at the University of Delaware as he was starting his first year. Doug and other professors nurtured my already keen interest in the natural world. They helped me better understand the importance of insects in natural and agroecosystems. Having kept in touch with Doug all these years, it was gratifying to see his research and writings turn to quantifying what so many of us understood, but had no hard data: that insects are crucial components in natural and man-made ecosystems. Now we do.

For more on conservations landscapes visit <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwater-watersheds/stormwater-at-home/conservation-landscapes/>.

—Sue Davis

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

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Because your safety, health, and peace of mind is our top priority, you can rest assured we are taking every precaution to ensure your safety and well-being. We have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they do not come in to work if they feel sick or if they have a fever. They have also been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before, during, and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

Until this crisis is over, we will continue to monitor the developments set by the CDC and our local governments and will make any necessary adjustments to our practices to keep you safe.

We support our community and feel that it is everybody's job to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and in that light, we encourage you to take advantage of telephone, Facetime, and video consultations for all your home improvement needs.

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FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

North Fairlington rescue shares summer plans

Meet Katie. She is a yellow lab mix, 3 and a half years old and is a very sturdy dog weighing in at 52 pounds. Her outgoing personality mirrors her parents, Jamie and Chris, whom she adopted over a year and a half ago. She lives in North Fairlington where she has made many friends, both canine and human. Katie has a busy summer planned already, including a wedding and a trip to the beach. Fairlington Pet Profiles is delighted to share her story.

How did you get to Fairlington? Where did you come from?

I was born in Florence, SC and lived there for a few years. Life was pretty scary, until I was picked up by Lucky Dog Animal Rescue and moved to Northern Virginia. It was a long ride but I am so happy to be here.

How did you train your Mom and Dad? Were they good learners? What did you teach them?

I trained my Mom and Dad by showing them my puppy dog eyes and rolling over a lot for belly rubs. They were very quick learners and I easily got whatever I wanted. I taught them how to give me treats and let me sniff every inch of grass in Fairlington.

It's June and summer vacations are starting up. Do you have



Katie, a yellow lab, poses with her parents Jamie and Chris ahead of their June wedding. Photo courtesy Jamie and Chris.

any plans? Are you a beach dog?

My parents are getting married so I will be spending a week in Bethany Beach, DE with my grandparents. I love the beach and I can't wait. Running around in the sand and jumping in the water is my favorite. I love to swim in the ocean. I was hoping I could go on the honeymoon too, but I do love visiting my grandparents. I've got them trained up just like my parents.

What advice would you give dogs who are new to the neighborhood? Anything they should know?

I would tell new dogs to have fun at the dog parks and enjoy all of the sniffs around the neighborhood. There are a lot of nice dogs and kind humans here and it is a great place to live!

What do you like best about living here?

My favorite part about living here is being able to run around with all of my neighborhood friends. We are very social. I also love all of the belly rubs I get from my neighbors.

—Barbara Berti

FCA needs your timely response!

The FCA is currently surveying respondents about local activities, events, and areas of interest to better understand how the FCA can continue to serve the Fairlington community. The survey will offer residents an opportunity to tell the FCA what they'd like to see more or less of in the near future.

The survey went live on May 1 on the FCA Facebook

page and website. (The survey link will also be shared in the next edition of the newsletter.) The FCA looks forward to learning more about what's important to Fairlington and, as a thank you for their time (less than 5 minutes), respondents will be entered for a chance to win a gift card to a Shirlington restaurant.

—Bobby Calise

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County board OKs Abingdon sidewalk project

At its April meeting the Arlington County board approved funding for sidewalk and street improvements along Abingdon St. between 31st Rd. and 31st St. The project was part of a package of four Neighborhood Conservation program improvements that won unanimous board approval.



The county board has approved the installation of a street-level sidewalk along this part of Abingdon St. Photo by Guy Land.

FCA, the Fairlington Villages condo association, and the Fairlington Court homeowners association supported the project, which will install a sidewalk, curb, and gutter along the north side of Abingdon St., diagonally across the street from old Fire Station 7 and the STEM Preschool.

The proposed sidewalk will be six feet wide and will be installed in the existing parking lane, with the two parking spaces being removed. One new pedestrian ramp will be installed at the corner of 31st St. and one new pedestrian ramp would be installed at the corner of 31st Rd.

The plan calls for the bus stop to be relocated to the corner of 31st St. and Abingdon St. The existing bike lane will remain in place. The plan does not envision the removal of the existing landscaping along that part of the street, which is maintained by Fairlington Villages.

Funding for the project, which has an estimated cost of \$394,694, comes from bond issues that Arlington voters have previously approved.

The Neighborhood Conservation program funds small projects that are recommended by neighborhoods across Arlington. The county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee rates and ranks projects submitted for funding using a points system. The Fairlington

project was among 34 submissions that the committee reviewed last fall.

One of last year's projects saw the installation of a sidewalk and trees along the I-395 side of 31st St. from Park Shirlington to the Shirlington Transit Center.

FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz and then-Secretary Rebecca Sayres were members of the committee during last year's deliberations.

—Guy Land

Exterior improvements planned for Shirlington

Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT), the owner of most of the Village at Shirlington, has announced plans for major improvements to the public spaces and infrastructure in Shirlington.

A few of the goals include installing fiberoptic cable for merchants and businesses, showcasing more public art, and creating some more kid-friendly areas.

Plans call for narrowing part of Campbell Ave., expanding pedestrian areas, and providing additional outdoor dining space.



Artist's conception of the proposed family area. Graphic courtesy FRIT.

Another component would create a family gathering area in front of the library and Signature Theatre, with a water feature for kids and a stage for small performances.

Other improvements would include new facades for the businesses on the north side that face Arlington Mill Dr.

FRIT expects to invest \$12-15 million in these improvements.

According to a presentation made to the Shirlington Civic Association in May, the proposal is likely to be submitted to the Arlington county board this fall, with the goal of securing board approval in December.

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Prepping your pet for a post-pandemic world

For many of us, a post-COVID world means we can visit family again or hug our friends...but for some of our pets, it will mean they're suddenly spending more time alone. As we begin to return to a pre-pandemic routine, it's vital that we think about how we can help our pets adjust to spending their days by themselves again.

Dogs



Weebay. Photos courtesy Barbara Berti.

For dogs, the most common separation-related problems are separation anxiety* and separation stress. Separation stress manifests in behaviors like panting, pacing, and barking or whining, while separation anxiety can be more severe. Going slowly is integral to successfully preparing your dog for being home alone for long periods of time. The goal is to

desensitize your dog to both the process of your leaving home as well as your absence.

Step 1 – Desensitization:

Pick up your keys, walk around the house, put them back. Put on your shoes, sit down on the couch, and take them off. Do this a few times in a row, until your dog starts to relax.

Step 2 – Introduce short departures:

Leave the house for very short amounts of time and increase the time incrementally. If your dog starts to whine, that's ok. Wait for them to be quiet, then come back inside. Make sure you leave your dog something to do, like a food puzzle or a stuffed Kong. If your pet is unable to relax when you are away, try to identify the duration of alone time in which your pet is comfortable and work from there.

Step 3 – Practice independence:

Use fun games and activities to get your dog comfortable with doing things independently. Try these in everyday life, like during dinner or while you are on a Zoom call. You may even want to use a barrier like a pet gate to encourage your dog to be in her own space during an activity.

Cats



Florence the cat.

There is a misconception that all cats are confident, independent creatures, but the reality is many cats are attached to their people and will need help adjusting to their new normal as well.

Separation-related problems in cats will exhibit themselves differently than in dogs. You may see scratching, destructive behavior, or inappropriate urination.* Cats display-

ing these behaviors are not trying to spite you—they are scared and stressed.

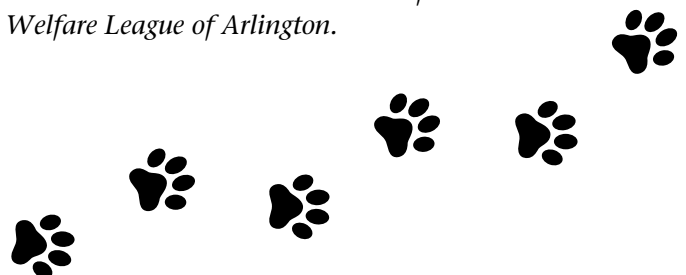
The steps to adjust a cat to a new daily routine are very similar to those for a dog—go slowly, adjust them to longer and longer periods of time alone, and use enrichment tools like food puzzles to keep them busy and build their confidence. Adding or increasing daily interactive play can also be a cat confidence booster.

There is no better time than today to start prepping your pet for post-COVID success. We hope these tips will help you and your pet adjust to a new routine, but if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Behavior Team at training@awla.org.

*Note—Please consult your veterinarian before implementing these suggestions if your dog exhibits severe separation anxiety or your cat is expressing fear or stress through inappropriate urination.

—Sam Wolbert

Sam Wolbert served two-terms on the Fairlington Citizens Board and is the President & CEO of the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners focus on having an opportunity to chat with neighbors and maintain connections. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit.

For June, the following event is planned:

Thursday, June 24, at 6:30 p.m., picnic on FCC grounds. As we did last fall, let's take advantage of the summer weather for a picnic together. If we each bring our own food and drink, we can have supper together but have a chance to visit, still socially distanced. And we can discuss whether and when to return to restaurant outings.

Please RSVP by email to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com, and directions for the specific location will be sent about a week in advance.

If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list.

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Cannery Row*, a novel by John Steinbeck.

"Steinbeck has compounded a bitter and uproariously funny commentary on the futility of human aspiration and the barrenness of existence...an extraordinary mixture of wild laughter and searing pain." —*The New York Herald Tribune*

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. Our meeting will be held on Zoom this month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

Join Us for Two Virtual Fairlington Knits! and Crochets Meet-ups in June

Tune in online to join two Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meetings in June: Monday, June 7 and Monday, June 21, from 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship. Knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people helps us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

We meet virtually, at the same time, on the first and third Monday of each month until we can meet in person again. Log on to see what everyone is working on, ask for help/advice, or for inspiration for a project. All levels of crafters are welcome—beginner to expert.

Email Turner for the log-on information to join the calls: Turnerwork@aol.com.

Fairlington Bocce

Interested in a fun outdoor activity with neighbors and friends? Then you are interested in playing bocce! To express interest or get more information, shoot an email to marcyakel@gmail.com.

Fairlington Moms' Club

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

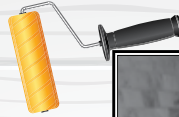
A recruitment flyer for Premieraquatics. The top left features the Premieraquatics logo with a blue circular icon. The main text is in white and yellow on a dark blue background. It lists benefits: FREE AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD TRAINING, FLEXIBLE HOURS, COMPETITIVE PAY, and HOLIDAYS WEEKEND BONUS: UP TO \$150. It also mentions a REFERRAL BONUS: \$75 and an EARLY SIGN-ON BONUS: \$75. At the bottom, it says 'APPLY NOW: WWW.PREMIERAQUATICS.COM OR CONTACT US AT 703.375.0350' and includes social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. To the right of the text is a large red circle with a white cross and the word 'LIFEGUARD' in white capital letters.

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Former Fairlington owner



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Gunston PTA seeks support for food pantry efforts



Volunteers from Gunston middle school hand out food essentials to local families in need. Photo courtesy Jenifer Hornback.

For the past several months, the Gunston PTA has been hosting a monthly food pantry to help families in need. Each month, the PTA distributes groceries to about 80 Gunston families. The bags include canned goods, pantry staples, fresh produce, chicken, and eggs. The PTA's goal is to host the pantry for the next four months. The Shirlington Animal Hospital and the Alexandria Great Harvest have generously donated snack bags and hundreds of loaves of bread.

It costs the PTA about \$800 per month to purchase all of the groceries. They are currently looking to raise about \$3,500 to cover the costs of the food pantry through the summer. If you would like to make a donation to support this effort, just send your donation via PayPal to GunstonPTATreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

—Jenifer Hornback

High School concert planned for early June

In response to a very positive crowd at last fall's concert at Utah Field, FCA is planning to welcome band students from Wakefield High School to perform a jazz set on Friday evening, June 11, at 7:30 p.m. This time, the concert will take place on the FCC field, with the terrace serving as an elevated stage and music aficionados seated on the field.

The evening concert will provide Fairlington residents with live entertainment while students get the opportu-

nity to perform in person after a long difficult year for the performing arts. Fingers crossed the only insects to contend with will be fireflies and not cicadas. At time of print, a special event permit is pending approval from the county. Please check FCA's website and Facebook page to confirm the event is on.

Memorial honors Victor Slabinski



A sundial was erected in Fairlington Meadows this past fall in honor of Victor Slabinski. Photo by Guy Land

A new flower garden and sundial graces the Fairlington Meadows basketball court in memory of Victor Slabinski, a longtime buildings and grounds committee member. Slabinski died in June of 2020. The committee dedicated the sundial this past November. The funding for the memorial was donated. The committee will be adding more flowers to the garden as planting conditions permit.

Fairlington from page 1

The FCA committee on diversity and inclusion will be discussing ways to center equity in our organization. In the coming weeks, FCA will be hosting conversations with Fairlingtonians about bias, equity, and privilege using resources provided by the DRE Partnership and Challenging Racism.

Appointed Arlington's chief race and equity officer in July 2020, Byrd previously served as Deputy County Manager, focusing particularly on the work of the county's Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development. She has a long history of working with land use policy to help disadvantaged populations.

Byrd says her office's mission "ultimately is focusing on racial equity and closing the gap so that race is no longer a predictor of one's outcomes or success in any area of life. Race should not be the defining factor in whether someone is successful."

If any Fairlington residents are interested in participating in this initiative, please contact Lydia Redway at lydia.redway@gmail.com.

—Lydia Redway

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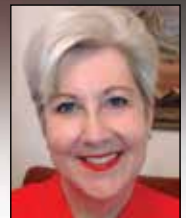
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The great outdoors: a design staple in American culture

Given we're in the teeth of high heat indexes and sweltering humidity, let's go inside, cool off, and look at how plants are referenced in society. Plant origins reveal cultural history. Let's look at some.



Iconic university logos show a deep cultural connection to the outdoors. Photos courtesy osu.edu and stanford.edu.

Stanford University's Palo Alto:

A red, capital S with a green tree down its center is the official seal of the California school. The tree, El Palo Alto ("a tall stick" in Spanish) is a Coast or California Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). This tree grows along the coasts of California and Oregon and reaches 300 feet tall. In our area, Dawn Redwoods reach 80 feet high and have a distinct triangular branching shape while bearing pinkish-red, exfoliating bark. One grows in Fairlington Green, in a court just off the intersection of South 33rd and South Stafford Streets.

Ohio State University's Buckeye

tree: A sticker with the fruit of the Buckeye (*Aesculus*) tree is depicted on the football team's helmets to recognize accomplishment. Consider them trophies. A hybrid—the

Horse Chestnut tree—has panicles of red flowers and can be seen on South 31st Street as you leave Fairlington and head to Shirlington. Look on the left and you'll notice some on the median.

Winter Garden Theater: Located on Broadway in Midtown Manhattan (NY), it was established in 1896 as a horse exchange. Its first theatrical production in 1911—*La Belle Paire* (the beautiful Paris)—starred Al Jolson. The theater's longest-running show is *Cats*, which has played over 7,000 times over 18 years. It's on the city's walking tour of Manhattan if you are interested. Cost for a tour ticket is \$50.

Tupelo, Ms.: Known for its arts festivals and being the birthplace of Elvis Presley, the city is named for the Tupelo or black gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*). A tree of the same genus (sweet gum) has the 1-inch-diameter green fruit that turns brown and hard in the fall. It can be hazardous if you step on one. Many are growing in our area.

Sweet Briar College: The private school near Lynchburg, Va. took its name from a plant (*Rosa rubiginosa*). Sweet Briar bears a soft pink rose with yellow center that grows on spiny branches in thickets. Its lime-green leaves smell like an apple. Deciduous, it bears fruit ("hips") in autumn and into winter. Its naming is explained on the school's website, www.sbc.edu. Indiana Fletcher Williams left her sprawling estate for the sole purpose of founding an

educational institution in memory of her daughter, Daisy, who died as a teenager.

Baton Rouge, La.: Meaning "red stick" in French, historians can't agree on why the Louisiana state capital got its name from a wooden pole topped with a red mark inserted into a riverbank. Most probably, that wooden pole came from a Red Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) tree, which naturally occurs in the southeastern United States. Another species—bald cypress—prefers swampy soil and grows in standing water. Speaking of water, the Mississippi River flows through Baton Rouge before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

Flower Power logo: Reminiscent of the 1960s, the daisy was a popular symbol of the hippie generation. So was the peace sign, headbands, peasant dresses, and tie-dye T-shirts. Remember the daisy-like stickers on Volkswagen minibuses? How about the movable partition (with daisies) on the show *The Dating Game*? In the 1967 song, "San Francisco" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZcyRLtwUVY>) sung by Scott McKenzie and written by (former Alexandria resident) John Phillips, a line in the refrain is "be sure to wear some flowers in your hair."

So, stay "cool" this month! June highs range from 80–86 degrees.

—Bill Sullivan
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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."
- Pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.
- Send mini-ad copy via email, 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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