

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JUNE 2022

Volume 48, Number 6

www.fca-fairlington.org

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Arlington police to brief FCA on June 8

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will give an update on crime and safety in the Fairlington area on Wednesday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the monthly FCA meeting. The meeting will be held in-person at the Fairlington Community Center and all Fairlington residents and homeowners are invited to attend.



A stolen car crashes into parked vehicles near the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and 30th St. S. on April 22. Photo by Barbara Berti.

Crime in Fairlington has been a recent hot topic for the local community after a number of alarming incidents. In late April, police swarmed the neighborhood chasing a stolen vehicle which crashed at the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and 30th St. S. Three suspects then fled on foot. The suspects remain at large.

Several residents have also been recent victims of catalytic converter theft. According to Captain Scott Linder of the Community Engagement Division of ACPD, larcenies of these items, air bags and thefts from unlocked vehicles seem to be an overall constant throughout the year and county.

“Unlocked vehicles are typically crimes of opportunity, while the catalytic converters and air bags are specific and targeted by individuals,” he said. “We see more consistent unlocked vehicle thefts, while the targeted thefts may happen in different waves due to the fact that this is a smaller group of individuals committing them.”

At the June meeting, an ACPD officer will present specific crime statistics and trends throughout the neighborhood and local area and provide an overview of upcoming safety programs and initiatives. These include a Teen Police Academy this summer, the Public Safety Block Party is on August 27th at Kenmore Middle School and increased opportunities for safety training, especially for children.

Residents will be invited to participate in the discussion with constructive feedback, comments and questions.

—Regina Bethencourt

Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community.

FCA monthly meeting June 8

Special presentation: A representative from the Arlington County Police Department will discuss crime and safety in Fairlington.


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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

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

Helicopter Noise Complaints Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.)
202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Conversations on Race & Equity

Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S. Stafford St.

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington diners

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.
Tempo
4231 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22304

Book group

Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S. Stafford St.

The bargain hunt is on!



The return of the North Fairlington Spring Yard Sale in late April brought out scores of savvy shoppers. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Jenn Davies, Carol Hamblin, Beth McGinn, Christine Philip, Lydia Redway, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New vendors, a record crowd, and widespread enthusiasm marked opening day at the Fairlington Farmers Market.

It was sometimes hard to tell where the line for one vendor ended and the line for another one began, as patrons reconnected with favorite vendors from last year and checked out four new ones. People just generally seemed so happy to be back at the market.

Last year the market's weekly foot traffic often approached a thousand customers. The crowd on opening day surpassed last year's record.

Building a solid customer base for a vibrant farmers market normally takes several years. It's clear that our market has now become an important established asset in our community.

The market offers a venue for other engaging activities for Fairlingtonians, such as the popular Arlington Art Truck. New partnerships are planned for later in the summer.

The market is also occasionally where you can purchase Fairlington SWAG, particularly Fairlington T-shirts for kids and adults.

FCA launched the process for creating a farmers market in 2013, soliciting the views of residents and exploring options with county staff. We established an exploratory committee to examine how other community markets operate and craft a plan for one in Fairlington.

FCA never intended to be the operator of the market. Instead, we essentially spun it off to Field To Table, a non-profit created by a former Fairlington resident that operates several markets in the area.

But the decisions and the real work of running the market rest with an intrepid group of Fairlington volunteers. They vet the vendors, set the rules, coordinate the special activities, and monitor each week's operation.

Kudos to Melissa Beene, Tracey McGovern, Jeff Kost, Lynne Blasi, Cheryl Goodman, and Robin Habberley. I'm sure they would welcome some help if you can give a few hours each month. Thanks as well to market manager Aisha Salazar and assistant managers Esmeralda Matthews and Liz Mortimer.

The market has also enjoyed the annual support of FCA, Fairlington Dental, Kay Houghton Associates, and Fairlington Presbyterian Church.

The Fairlington Farmers Market is a compelling example of how FCA's leadership helps enhance life in Fairlington. Hope to see you at the market.

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



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2022 election cycle begins in June

The 2022 election cycle begins this month as Arlington voters begin the process of electing a member of Congress, one member of the county board, and one school board member.

Eighth District Cong. Don Beyer is facing a Democratic primary challenge from political newcomer Victoria Viras-ingh, his first Democratic opponent since being elected eight years ago.

County Board member Matt de Ferranti is unopposed for re-election in the Democratic primary. He is expected to face independents Adam Theo and Audrey Clement in the November general election.

The Democratic primary is June 21. The congressional race is the only thing on the ballot. Republicans had scheduled a convention for May 21.

North Fairlington residents vote at Abingdon Elementary, while South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center. Fairlington residents who live in Alexandria vote at the NOVA Arts Center. The polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The eighth congressional district covers all of Fairlington,

In-person voting runs through June 18. Voters may also request a mail ballot through the Virginia Department of Elections website, <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>. Voters can request a mail ballot until June 10. Ballots must be mailed or delivered in person by June 21 or mailed with a postmark of June 21 and received by noon on June 24.

In Virginia, school board elections are non-partisan. Candidates run as independents, but they often seek endorsements from the local political parties. The Democrats had planned to hold an in-person caucus over four days in June to determine who gets their endorsement for the school board position currently held by Board President Barbara Kanninen. She is not running for re-election.

Bethany Sutton and Brandon Clark initially sought the Democratic endorsement, but in early May Clark withdrew from the Democratic endorsement process.



Arlington School Board candidates Brandon Clark and James Vell Rives are both Fairlington residents and will be on the ballot this November along with Bethany Sutton. Photos courtesy patch.com and yahoo.com.

Sutton is now the only candidate seeking the Democratic endorsement and the party has cancelled plans for a caucus.

Clark remains a candidate in the November general election. James Vell Rives is also a candidate in November. He likewise chose not to seek the Democratic endorsement.

Sutton is a former president of the Randolph Elementary PTA. Clark and Rives are both Fairlington residents. Clark is a teacher at Gunston Middle

School, while Rives is co-chair of Arlington Public Schools' School Health Advisory Board.

—Guy Land

May's blood drive to help dozens of hospitalized children

More than 15 Fairlington residents gave blood during the May 2 blood drive benefiting more than 60 children at Children's National Hospital (CNH) in Washington, D.C.

One out of 20 people will need a blood donation at some point in their lives and many of those are children. CNH often gives blood to premature babies, patients with sickle cell disease, patients in need of emergency surgery, patients with cancer or blood disorders, or patients with rare diseases.

Giving blood is a simple, non-invasive way to offer a great deal of help to those who need it most.

Due to complications and safety restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation is experiencing one of the worst blood shortages in more than a decade. Blood donors, especially those with type O+ and O- blood, are desperately needed in order to provide hospitals with enough stores to adequately respond to emergencies.

FCA will continue to host blood drives regularly and plans to announce the next opportunity soon.

—Regina Bethencourt

Kay Houghton & Associates reviews



Kay is "in the know" and very responsive. If you are buying or selling in Fairlington, she's a "go to" realtor. 10/10 recommend.



Will S.

Kay and her team are spectacular! I have purchased and sold with the KH&A team and both times, they made the process smooth and straight-forward and went above and beyond to deliver outstanding results. I'm very grateful to the team and highly, highly recommend them.



JD H.

The whole team has been an absolute pleasure to work with! Their attention to detail, timely responses, and professional advice have made the home selling and buying process seamless. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with such a supportive team and will continue to recommend them to friends and family. As well as use them again in the future!

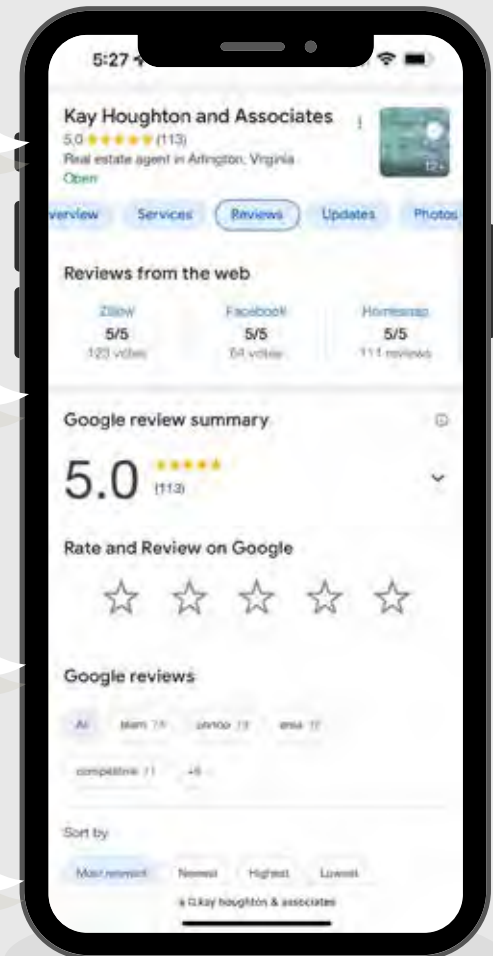


Jarred J.

I loved working with Kay. This was my first time selling a home, and she made it so easy! She was spot on in pricing it and her marketing is supreme. I'd definitely use her services again.



Michelle T.



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County board chair discusses budget, missing middle housing, fire station 7, and EV charging stations

The FCA board welcomed Katie Cristol to the monthly May meeting, the first in-person meeting in more than two years. Cristol has been on the county board since 2015 and is currently serving her second term as chair.



Arlington County board chair Katie Cristol presents in-person at the monthly FCA meeting. Photos by Guy Land.

She regularly visited Fairlington pre-pandemic, including attending the neighborhood's July 4th parade and candidly admitted that the cherished Fairlington tradition is "the best game in town," among competing July 4 activities across the county.

Cristol's remarks focused on the top county board priorities following the budget, which was adopted in April. She

highlighted two main issues: investing in the county employee workforce and housing.

"We need to invest in people. We want to show the staff we appreciate them," Cristol explained, noting that several positions were hard to fill and experienced continued vacancies. The adopted budget includes merit increases of 5.25 percent for general employees.

The Arlington County Police Department also received recognition for their work and the need to make salaries more competitive. Cristol noted that it is a "scary time for our police department," while also underscoring the importance of community connections and better coordination with the County's Department of Human Services' mental health professionals.

The budget includes a 13.5 percent salary increase to retain and recruit police.

"We don't want a department that can only answer certain calls. We want enough personnel to build relationships," she said.

The budget also calls for an 8.5 percent salary increase for the Arlington County Fire Department.

Housing was the second priority outlined. Cristol acknowledged that the affordability crisis is, in part, the

county's own making by preventing sufficient housing growth.

The budget commits funding for eviction prevention and increasing housing support, with \$14.3 million in housing grant support and \$3.4 million for permanent supportive housing. The budget also includes \$23 million in federal funding for housing choice vouchers and \$18.7 million for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF).

Cristol understands that single family homes (SFH) are out of reach for most residents, yet three-quarters of the county is zoned exclusively for SFH. The 18-month study referred to as "Missing Middle," looks at how to strategically create more multi-family units or dwellings on SFH lots with a mix of units.



Cristol and Fairlington Meadows board member Joseph Spytek pose for a photo after the meeting.

In essence Cristol commented, "It is trying to bring more Fairlington-type housing to Arlington."

The question is where to build, the environmental impact on sewers, trees, and impervious surfaces, as well as stresses on current county services, including schools. Ultimately, the goal will include "middle class affordable" newly constructed units that are within reach for more Arlington workers including police and teachers.

Director Julie Butler inquired if certain zoning qualifications in Fairlington could be reviewed that would recognize units for additional bedrooms as a creative approach to increasing housing inventory.

She asked if there would be tax credits or grants to make these renovations zoning compliant.

Continued on page 21

Despite rain, Fairlington 5K raises record funds

The cold rain couldn't keep hundreds of Fairlington residents from participating in the 7th Annual Fairlington 5K on May 7.

Despite the soggy conditions, the event raised an incredible \$23,000 to help find a cure for 14-year-old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn who lives with a rare brain and spinal cord condition called LBSL.

A portion of funds raised will also support physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary School.

The first place finisher in the men's category was Greg Piepmeier, who finished in 17 minutes and six seconds. First place in the women's category went to Chelsea Hassett, who also finished strong in 22 minutes and 27 seconds.

A highlight of this year's race was the tribute to long-time Fairlington resident and 5K volunteer Andrew Vitolis, who passed away in 2020. A picture of Andrew, who was famous for wearing a banana costume to each race, was featured on the front of the official 5K t-shirts.

—Beth McGinn



Andrew Vitolis, who passed away in 2020, was famous for running the Fairlington 5K in a banana costume. Photo from the 2018 race. Photo by Guy Land.

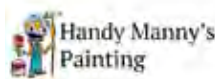
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Guy Land



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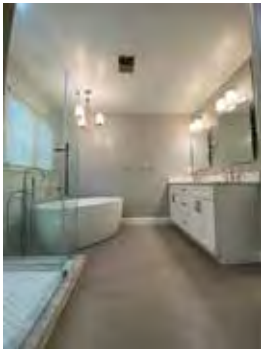




Photos by Guy Land and Gretchen Fallon.



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For the love of NATURE



What do Mosquitoes have to do with Pollinator Week?

June 20-26 is Pollinator Week and we love pollinators. But we're not actually going to talk about pollinators. We're going to talk about mosquitoes, even though most of us wouldn't miss them if they all disappeared.

If we spray pesticide into the environment or use bug zappers, we don't target just mosquitoes. We harm pollinators and many other insects. Pesticides, plus destruction of habitat, landscapes full of non-native plants that insects can't eat, light pollution, and climate change are decimating insect populations. An estimated 40 percent (nearly half!) of insect species worldwide are in decline and in danger of extinction.

This spells disaster for humans. Plants convert the sun's energy into a sugar that feeds the plant. It's overwhelmingly insects that then convert that plant into energy usable by other members of the food web – such as insects, birds, amphibians and reptiles, animals, and ultimately people.

Insects also pollinate our food, and insects “clean up”—as decomposer insects return nutrients to the soil and the cycle begins again. Insects are the foundation of the ecosystem.

Without insects, what happens? Because of staggering insect declines in China, people are going through orchards to hand pollinate fruit. The food web begins to topple—the other insects and animals that eat insects begin to decline, and the animals that eat them begin to decline, on up the food web—to people.

Close to 96 percent of our birds feed only insects, mostly caterpillars, to their young. There are three billion fewer



Reduce mosquito populations around us by dumping standing water every 7 days. Photos of a few mosquito breeding sites in Fairlington by Tina Byrd and Leslie Cameron.

birds in North America now than in 1970, a mere 50 years ago.

Entomologist and wildlife biologist Doug Tallamy puts it this way, “You have total ecosystem collapse if you lose your insects. How much worse can it get than that?”

That's the very bad news. But we can take steps to change the grim reality that is unfolding. And that takes us back to mosquitoes.

Our (understandable) efforts to kill mosquitoes also kill pollinators and many other insects. Many pesticides are engineered to stay in the environment to keep killing mosquitoes, so they keep killing other insects.

Instead, we can take actions to target only mosquitoes instead of all insects. Dump the standing water every 7 days (bird baths, buckets, wheelbarrows, pet dishes, plant pot saucers, watering cans, kiddie pools, toys, wagons, tarps), use Bti where we can't dump the water, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, and use a repellent.

Fans are another great protection against mosquitoes, who are weak flyers. It doesn't take much of a breeze to keep them away. Get a couple fans on your patio or balcony to keep them at bay.

More here: <https://mgnv.org/resources/mosquito-control/> Protecting pollinators really means protecting insects, all insects, including those who prey on mosquitoes, and there is a lot we can do to make that happen.

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

—Leslie Cameron

New farmers market vendors offer something for everyone



The Fairlington Farmers Market kicked off its eighth season on a beautiful spring day with huge opening day crowds. Shoppers and vendors were happy to see each other after a long winter, and new Fairlington residents were delighted to check out their neighborhood market for the first time.

The market is known for offering terrific seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh herbs, meat, poultry, eggs, cheese, breads, desserts, salads, soup, coffee, donuts, and numerous delicious ready-to-eat meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Now you can find even more at the market with the addition of four new vendors. Look for interviews with them in future issues of the Bulletin, but here's a quick look at their products.

Bradshaw Sauce Company: Virginia-based, globally inspired sauces, ranging from sweet barbecue to Thai chili.

Cold Country Salmon: Wild, sustainably caught Alaskan and local seafood, including from the Chesapeake Bay.

District Biscuit Company: Biscuits for breakfast, or anytime! A variety of biscuits, egg sandwiches, biscuits with sausage gravy, and more.

Little Austria: Enjoy everything from traditional strudels to cheese, spinach, and potato strudels every other Sunday.

Sign up for the weekly market e-newsletter at <https://signup.com/go/PaTwpec> to learn more about what the vendors will bring to the market, pre-order deadlines, and special events.

We know you've missed events and children's activities at the market and we're excited to bring them back. Next up, the Shirlington branch of the Arlington Public Library visits the market on June 5.

Special thanks to our volunteers who generously give an hour or two on Sundays to help set up our tent and signs, staff our information table, and answer questions. Please consider signing up for a short volunteer shift this season to help keep the market running smoothly. Visit <https://signup.com/go/PaTwpec> to sign up.

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through November 20 on the back patio of the community center. Please be a good neighbor and avoid parking



directly in front of residences across from the community center.

Parking is available along S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., in the community center lot, or on Quaker Ln. Dogs are not permitted at the market, with the exception of service dogs.

—Lynne Blasi



A record crowd checked out the market on opening day in May. Photos by Guy Land.

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County closes all lanes on Glebe bridge

On May 9 Arlington County closed all the lanes of the West Glebe bridge between Arlington and Alexandria to motor vehicle traffic because of continued degradation of structural beams. The lanes will remain closed while construction of a planned replacement superstructure (road deck and beams) proceeds.



The bridge on Glebe Rd. will be closed to traffic in both directions until mid-year 2023. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.

Two motor vehicle lanes on the renovated bridge are expected to reopen in early 2023 along with one of two widened sidewalks. A contract for construction has already been awarded. Arlington County and the City of Alexandria are sharing design and reconstruction costs for the new bridge.

According to the county, pedestrian and bike access on the bridge will stay open through June. A temporary crossing, independent of the superstructure, is expected to open in July 2022 for pedestrian/bike detours.

In addition to the lane closure, the Four Mile Run trail underpass will be closed during construction; a quarter-mile detour is available on South Glebe Rd. and South Four Mile Run Dr.

A routine inspection of the bridge in November 2018 found structural deterioration, leading Arlington and Alexandria to impose weight restrictions and close the sidewalks on both sides. One southbound lane across

the bridge was converted for the exclusive use of people walking and biking.

A similar inspection in fall 2021 found further deterioration, prompting the county to again shift lanes and the temporary walking path. In March the county closed the southbound lane but kept a northbound lane open. Engineers continued to monitor the bridge's structure weekly. That monitoring led to last month's closure.

Traffic is now detoured to the bridge connecting Arlington Ridge Rd. with Mt. Vernon Ave. in Alexandria or along I-395.

The design for the new bridge includes wider sidewalks and separate bicycle facilities on each side of the bridge, in response to community feedback received in January and February 2020.

—Guy Land

Reminder: Property taxes due June 15

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Wednesday, 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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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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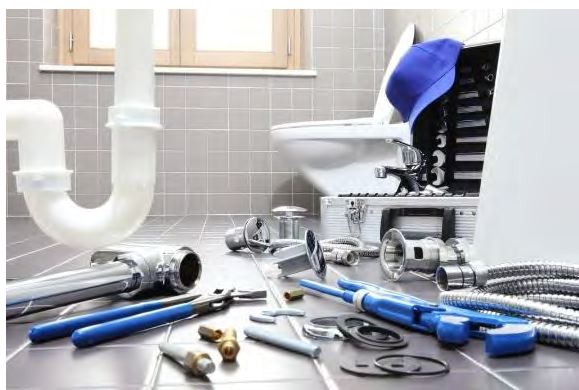
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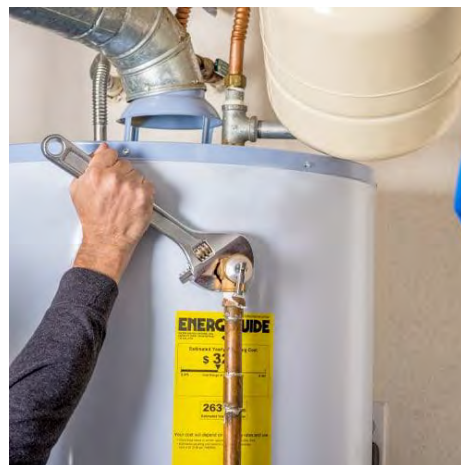
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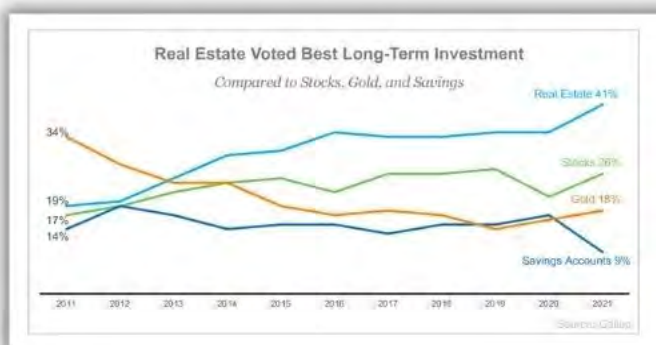
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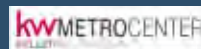
Mark P. Cussen, Financial Writer at *Investopedia*, notes:

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From left to right: FCA President Guy Land, Vice President Jenn Davies, County board chair Katie Cristol, FCA board member Julie Butler, FCA board member Lydia Redway, Fairlington Meadows officer Joe Spytek, FCA board member Diana Bentley, and long-timer Fairlington resident Jane Bergen.

Cristol responded that many zoning regulations are state-mandated rather than imposed by the county. Director Diana Bentley pointed out that identical units in the Alexandria part of Fairlington are classified differently than those in Arlington.

Cristol did say the County was looking to change the current zoning law that allows for only 4 unrelated people to share a residence while an unlimited number of related residents can share a unit. Changing the law would allow for more flexibility and reflect the changing concept of what consists of a family unit.

A Fairlington Meadows resident inquired about county plans to support and/or facilitate the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. “What are the chances that EV stations are coming here?”

The Commons has one EV station and is contemplating more and Fairlington Villages has had two stations for several years.

Cristol responded that the county board is waiting on a study to be released based on two pilot programs. She indicated there should be funds allocated in the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Priorities have yet to be determined, but she recognized that having EV stations would be desirable for a community.

“We would want to look at how the county would coordinate with HOA’s in terms of incentives,” she said.

Cristol indicated that further discussion will be needed to determine how payment for charging vehicles would work. She urged the community to follow the CIP work sessions on this issue. The CIP is expected to be adopted in July.

FCA President Guy Land asked about the status of the former Station 7, which has been shuttered since 2018 because it was no longer structurally sound for modern fire trucks. In terms of public safety, Ms. Cristol responded that emergency response times have remained stable.

She indicated that there is funding in the CIP for planning on the site’s future which would include community engagement. Considerations like the building’s age and usability and zoning type need to be reviewed.

Cristol indicated that there may be options for a type of “fast track” planning process that would still include neighborhood input.

—Jenn Davies



Did you know that kitchen scraps put in the trash decompose in the landfill and emit methane—a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide—into the environment? Did you know that composting your food scraps using the free Arlington and City of Alexandria composting services reduces your greenhouse gas footprint by removing your food scraps from the landfill?

Also, from the composted material, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria derive organic mulch and soil enhancers used to fertilize soil in our parks and community gardens. In Arlington, the compost, in the form of free mulch, also is available; you can pick it up at the Trades Center or order mulch for delivery from the county.

You can start making a difference at zero cost today.

For more details about how to compost, read Fairlington C.A.N. Climate Action Info Sheet available at:



We invite you to join Fairlington C.A.N. (Fairlington Climate Action Now) to investigate more ways we each can make a positive impact on climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas footprint.

Contact: fairlington-can@googlegroups.com

—Carol Hamblin



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Community diversity & race conversations to be held June 1

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion continues to host community conversations to learn about and address the ways in which Arlington can be a more equitable and inclusive place. We encourage all residents to join us for these 90-minute discussions.

Arlington County has partnered with Challenging Racism, a local non-profit dedicated to empowering people to disrupt racism wherever they find it, to develop the Dialogues on Racism and Equity (DRE) program. DRE includes a series of community conversations with individuals, local faith groups, civic organizations, and community leaders as part of the county's broader commitment to racial equity.

The DRE program provides toolkits for Conversations on Race & Equity used to spark dialogue between community members. This spring, the FCA committee hosted the first two conversations in the series. These conversations focused on Privilege and Bias, including the history of discrimination and segregation in housing in Arlington, how to challenge our bias, and discussions of residents' experiences in Fairlington.

The next conversation about Equity will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at 7 p.m. outside of the Fairlington Community Center. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Lydia Redway at lydia.redway@gmail.com.

For additional information on Arlington County's Dialogues on Race and Equity, please visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Equity/DRE>.

—Lydia Redway

Facebook Group offers easy opportunities for community gifting

Fairlington Shares is a Facebook gift group for residents of Fairlington and our immediate neighborhoods to post free items they no longer want or to ask for items they need. These "gifts" come in all shapes and sizes.

The group rules are simple: You must be a resident of Fairlington, Fairlington Towne, Shirlington, or Park Fairfax, and items must be free. The group keeps items out of landfills, supports our neighbors, and creates stronger connections within the community.



A Fairlington resident offers up extra school supplies on the Fairlington Shares gifting group. Photo courtesy of Facebook.com.

Join Fairlington Shares by answering the membership question at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/61403411645511>

—Christine Philip

Wakefield High School rowers win big at championships



Photo courtesy The Washington Post.

Both the men's and women's rowing teams from Wakefield High School placed first at the Virginia State Championships on Saturday, May 14.

Several of the rowers live in Fairlington. They will go on to represent Wakefield in the national championships in late May.

—Jenn Davies

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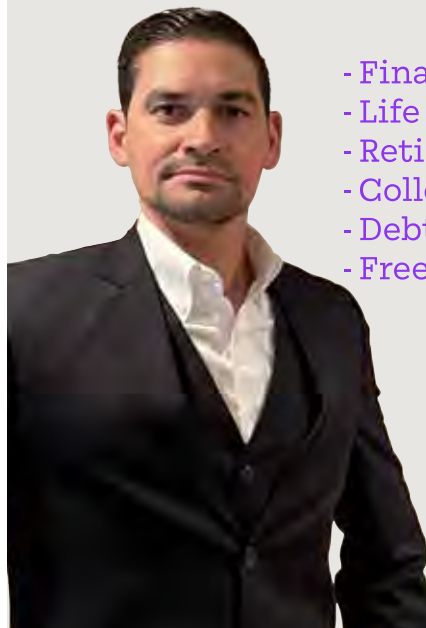
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Abingdon showers teachers and staff with May appreciation

The Abingdon school calendar has been packed with several community events. Abingdon parent Maureen Harlow organized the Abingdon Book Fair, which took place in the school library for students to come shop during their class visit.



Abingdon teachers wearing their new spirit gear! Photo by Ashley McCarthy.

"We were so excited to raise money for the Abingdon library, whose collection was significantly damaged by the pandemic and hybrid school periods, when students did not have regular library times and relied on curbside checkout services," said Maureen. "Most importantly, it was wonderful to see the students so excited about reading and connecting with the community during the book fair."

Ashley McCarthy arranged for Abingdon Staff Appreciation Week. Staff were showered with love and appreciation throughout the week with treats, daily raffles, new spiritwear, smoothies, and a Cinco de Mayo lunch.

As we inch towards the end of the school year, we would like to extend our gratitude to our students, staff, and volunteer team who help build and strengthen our community. A huge thank you to a local Boy Scout Troop leader who repaired Abingdon's school garden wheelbarrow and generously donated many garden tools for the Abingdon Community Garden.

The Abingdon family would like to especially thank fellow parent Jackie Winkelvoss for her hard work and leadership at Abingdon Elementary. It is her fourth year

serving as an officer on the PTA's executive board, and her third year serving as Abingdon's PTA President.

Under her leadership, she has helped plan several terrific social events for students including Winter Wonderland, Trunk or Treat, and the Free Book Swap.

She recognized Abingdon's outstanding employees through many staff appreciation activities, provided after school enrichment programming to students, and promoted fundraisers such as Read-a-Thon and Boon Supply to support our school.

We are incredibly appreciative for her dedication, commitment, and countless hours of service to our school community.

To that end, we are always looking for volunteers with skills such as translating (Spanish, Mongolian, Amharic, and Arabic), gardening, woodworking, and graphic design.



Parent volunteers pause for a quick photo before assisting the next class with their visit to the book fair. Photo by Sharon Burd.

Please reach out to abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com if you would like to help out. Thank you for supporting our flock of cardinals.

—Sharon Burd

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Fairlington Fourth parade returns

The popular Fairlington Fourth of July parade returns in person this year, jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association.

The details are still being worked out, but the parade is expected to again form mid-morning in front of the STEM Preschool (near former Fire Station 7) and march along Abingdon St. to the Fairlington Villages community center parking lot, where participants can enjoy hotdogs (“breakfast sausages”) and other refreshments.



Fairlingtonians are encouraged to decorate their bikes, pets, and children in patriotic attire. And if you don’t want to march in the parade, you can stand along the sidewalk and cheer the marchers on. Pre-COVID, this event drew 600-700 people annually.

The past two years the crew of Fire Station 9 assembled a team of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to drive through North and South Fairlington, ensuring the Fairlington continued to have a community celebration on the Fourth.

Additional information will be available in the July issue of the *Bulletin* and on FCA’s website and Facebook page.



The July 4th Parade in Fairlington is one of the most popular events of the year. Photo by Guy Land.




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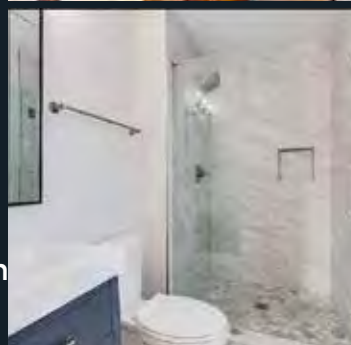


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neighborhood news

Fairlington diners

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for informal dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In May, we returned to Beckett's in Shirlington, a perennial favorite.

For June, here's what's planned:

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Tempo, 4231 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22304, 703.370.7900, www.tempo-restaurant.com.

Nestled in the West End, Tempo is one of Alexandria's best-kept secrets. This elegant, but unpretentious, neighborhood restaurant serves a blend of northern Italian and French cuisine, featuring fresh seafood. There is sufficient parking reserved in the surrounding parking lot.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, so she can make a reservation. Leave a voicemail if you don't reach her including your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group in June to discuss *The Nickel Boys*, winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, by Colson Whitehead.



"This is a powerful book by one of America's great writers....Without sentimentality, in as intense and finely crafted a book as you'll ever read, Whitehead tells a story of American history that won't allow you to see the country in the same way again." — *Toronto Star*

The Book Group welcomes

first-time visitors and drop-ins. Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Masks are optional! We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Moms' club

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

Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden


Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.

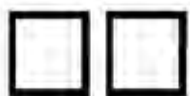
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DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



Hiding common Fairlington garden eyesores



Patio garden.jpg Caption: Pretty plants and small landscaping fixes hide common Fairlington patio eyesores. Photo by Bailey Roberts.

In any design—interior, exterior or even in a book—eyesores are the first elements that stand out and grab one’s attention. I haven’t figured out why but they do. There are fixes and this month, I’ll advise on a few in your Fairlington patios.

A/C compressor: In about 90 percent of Fairlington patios, this monstrosity is parked outside the kitchen window. And if the unit is modern, it’s large, gray, and screams “industrial.” Surrounding the unit is a narrow square area of soil usually strewn with weeds. I suggest removing the weeds and applying two solutions: One would be to fill the area with decorative rocks. The other would be to plant ground cover which takes your eye off the compressor without shielding it. Ground cover is smallish, flowers, and is evergreen, which provides a living skirt to the unsightly component.

Tree roots: Lots of patios have the standard “tree in the corner.” With the vertical beauty comes root arms that crawl along the soil. Think again about ground cover, which has fibrous roots and easily can be planted between the tree’s root arms. Pachysandra (shade), alyssum, ajuga work. The root arms still have a presence but will be accented with flowers and foliage. Another idea is to add reptile figurines. Decorative salamanders or turtles will “crawl” over the tree’s root arms. Frogs can “perch” on them. And all will look natural.

Water pooling at gate: Water gathers at any low point and often-times it’s at the fence gate. This is because the area just outside the gate is higher (in elevation) than the area inside the gate. A solution is to dig a modest drainage bed at the gate exterior. Think about an area 10 inches wide by 4 feet long.

Dig out the soil and spread it inside your patio along the fence line. In the new cavity, pour pea gravel. The water should flow beneath the gate into this drainage bed. Check with your condo association.

Fiber-optic tube (Fios): In some villages, it lies on the ground along the side fence. They are gray and 2 inches in diameter. Although they are functional, they are unsightly. Either build up the mulch to hide the tube or plant smallish plants to mask it. Plant suggestions are tiarella, liriope, mazus, brunnera, coral bells, periwinkle or lenten rose.

The fence: Fences are sturdy, functional, and provide privacy. But left alone, they can be stark and boring. Situate specimens that will grow 4–5-foot tall to accent this swath of wood. Or install an iron trellis at the fence and on the trellis, train a flowering vine such as clematis, honeysuckle, star jasmine, Carolina jessamine, wisteria or pyracantha. The last two need monitoring since they have woody branches and grow rapidly.

Cement stoop: It’s there and not going away! But it’s large enough (usually 4-feet by 4-feet or a few inches bigger) to house one or two pots with flowers. Add in trailing specimens (creeping jenny, vinca vine, ivy, asparagus fern) for a fountainous look. These are so much prettier than the welcome mat which collects moisture and doesn’t “weather” well in terms of beauty.

—Bill Sullivan
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