# FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN





www.fca-fairlington.org

JUNE 2023

Volume 49, Number 6

# Arlington police to hold neighborhood presentation in June

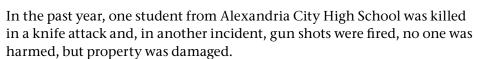
Representatives of the Arlington county police department will hold a presentation at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, on June 14 at 7 p.m. during the FCA monthly meeting.

Corporal Patrice Malone plans to lead the presentation to brief the neighborhood on recent crime data, tips for safety and crime prevention, and resources available through the county.

Part of the presentation will include a breakdown of all crime reports in the Fairlington area as well as a comparison to previous years.

Crime has been on the minds of many Fairlingtonians in recent months due to increased violence at

the Bradlee Shopping Center, located just across King St.



Arlington county police declined to comment on the situation regarding Bradlee center since it falls under the jurisdiction of Alexandria police.

Given the proximity to Fairlington, FCA requested the presence of a representative from Alexandria police to join Arlington in this presentation.

The FCA monthly meeting is open to all Fairlington residents, both owners and renters. Interested community members are encouraged to attend this session to ask their own questions and meet the officers assigned to the Fairlington area.

—Regina Bethencourt

## Features

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An Arlington county police officer addresses neighborhood questions at an FCA monthly meeting in 2022. Photo by Guy Land.

**Reminder:** The June FCA meeting is at the Fairlington Villages Community Center in North Fairlington.

### 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 14

The June 14 meeting will have a presentation by Arlington County police and it will be held at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

### 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 703-558-2222 Police, Arlington (non-emergency) Animal Warden 703-931-9241 Dominion (power outages) 888-667-3000 Fairlington Community Center 703-228-6588 703-228-7929 Metrobus Complaints Miss Utility 811 Pothole Patrol Hotline 703-228-6485 Shirlington Library 703-228-6545 Street Light Hotline 703-228-6511 www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental

www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm

Helicopter Noise Complaints Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.)

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PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182 571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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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.

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## Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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### Calendar

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 7 p.m. Fairlington Villages Community Center 3005 S. Abingdon St.

### **Fairlington diners**

Saturday, June 17, 12:00 p.m. Del Ray Cafe 205 E Howell Ave Alexandria, VA 22301

### **Fairlington book group**

Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. FCC 3308 S. Stafford St

# A new era for the Fairlington Historical Society





The new FHS team from left to right: Patty Clark; Lisa Sabol, Secretary; Beth Hoffman, President; Martha Herrmann, Vice President; Linda Del Bene. Not pictured is Dan Burd, Treasurer. Photos by Guy Land.

**Contributors this month:** Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Teresa Cordova, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan, Lorin Venable, F.E. Scudder Wagg, and Robin Weinick.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) is one of Fairlington's most valued community organizations. Fairlingtonians love to learn about the rich history of their neighborhood, and FHS is committed to

preserving that history and helping expand residents' knowledge of it.

There's so much to focus on, from the boundary stone at the edge of the Mews (that marked the original survey for the national capital) to the photos of Fairlington under construction in the early 1940s to protests over fair housing in the 1960s.

FHS grew out of the successful effort in the 1990s to get Fairlington listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Over the years it has hosted conversations about Fairlington's history, collected historic items—including the famous Playboy ad from the 1970s—and facilitated oral history interviews with earlier residents.

One of its most popular activities has been the biennial Fairlington Home and Garden Tour in which over a dozen residents open their homes or patios to their neighbors to show off improvements and interior design ideas. Covid made owners far less willing to let people into their homes, so the tour has taken a break since 2019.

One of the early leaders in creating the society was Ron Patterson, who passed away last month. His energy and vision brought the organization to life and set it on a firm foundation. The continued work of FHS is part of his legacy.

For the past decade or more, FHS has been guided by a board of trustees ably led by Terry Placek as president and Cindy Kunz and Patty Clark as fellow trustees.

But now that leadership is changing. Cindy sold her Fairlington unit before Covid—though she continues to help out—and Terry recently moved to Minnesota to be near family. Patty is wanting to shift some of the work to others.

Responding to a plea in the *Bulletin*, a new group of volunteer leaders and members has accepted the challenge of guiding FHS, essentially bringing a new generation to the task of building awareness of Fairlington's history.

That new team includes Beth Hoffman, President; Martha Herrmann, Vice President; Lisa Sabol, Secretary; and Dan Burd, Treasurer.

But they can't do it by themselves. Why not join them and increase your own Fairlington knowledge.

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



### **SAVE THE DATE!**



our friends, neighbors, clients, & community.



# JUNE 25 9AM - 1PM









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This is not intended to solicit property already listed. If you are currently represented by another brokerage or firm, please disregard.



### Tribute to Ron Patterson

Long-time Fairlington leader Ron Patterson passed away in May. Committed to Fairlington's history and to facilitating communication within the neighborhood, Ron was a major contributor to life in Fairlington for almost 30 years.

If you ever checked out www. fairlington.org, you were looking at Ron's handiwork. For a number of years, that website served as the principal online presence for most of the condo associations in South Fairlington.

He provided pro bono work to the Arbor, Green, Mews, and Meadows for their electronic dissemination of association info and established a "News Alerts" system that was subsequently adopted by most condo associations. He managed the alerts until each association took individual control.

Ron was instrumental in founding the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), serving as its first president, as well as its first webmaster, and helping lead the effort to obtain federal and state historic designation for Fairlington. He coordinated the republication of Fairlington at 50, the go-to source for information on Fairlington's



Ron Patterson, second from right, joined other Fairlington and county leaders in celebration Fairlington's federal and state historic designation. Photo by Harry Reem.

history. He received the Society's Award for Public Service in 2003.

Working with others, particularly realtor Bonnie Blaszczyk, he organized the first Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, sponsored biennially by FHS until Covid disrupted the pattern.

Active in Mews leadership, Ron served as Treasurer, as well as assisting with the grounds and

newsletter committees.

In addition to his Fairlington work, Ron pioneered LGBTQ awareness in the federal workplace and received the Frank Kameny Award for service to the LGBTQ community in 1993.

Ron and his partner Tom Corbin could often be seen tending the spectacular flower garden outside their unit on 34th St. When you pass by it, take a few minutes to reflect on the ways Ron enriched life in Fairlington.

—Guy Land

### Fairlington FINS program seeks new swimmers!

Build your child's confidence and comfort in the water while reviewing some basic water safety and stroke skills with FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming).

The FINS program is a regular summer fixture in Fairlington and is a fun way for kids to strengthen swim skills. It also encourages camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

FINS runs for three weeks from July 10 to July 28, and consists of four 30-minute lessons Monday through Thursday and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The program rotates weekly between three different condominium association pools in South Fairlington.

Lessons are meant to supplement, not replace, swimming instruction programs. Instructors encourage young kids to enjoy swimming, take turns in lap lanes, and play water games safely.



Last year's FINS pose for a picture at the end of the season. Photo courtesy of Lorin Venable.

Important pool safety and capability concepts, like treading water, front and back floating, lap lane protocols, straight-leg kicking, and swimming with faces sub-

Continued on page 21

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### FAA OK's higher helicopter altitudes

In an April event featuring Cong. Don Beyer, Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey, and Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, representatives of the Department of Defense (DOD), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Helicopter Association International (HAI) announced new measures to raise helicopter altitudes and alter flight paths to reduce the impact of noise over residential areas.

Helicopter noise has been a perennial source of complaints by Fairlington residents and has been an item that FCA has monitored over the years. FCA jointly hosted a com-

munity forum on helicopter noise with Beyer in 2018.

The announcement at the Fairlington Community Center followed FAA analysis of data from a pilot program to track helicopter noise complaints by residents using a system developed on recommendations made in a 2021 General Accounting Office (GAO) report which Beyer requested. FCA participated in the GAO study.

At the event, local elected officials announced an agreement between their Northern Virginia jurisdictions to fund that helicopter complaint system going forward, extending its life beyond the pilot program.



Rep. Don Beyer announces new measures to reduce helicopter noise over residential areas. Photo by Guy Land.

That system includes a phone line, website, and mobile app for reporting helicopter noise.

"The actions we announced today with partners at the federal and local level and our friends at HAI include FAA changes to helicopter flight paths and regional jurisdiction funding to continue the valuable complaint tracking system which helped inform those changes," Beyer said.

"These actions are a direct response to community input, and I thank the many people whose efforts

helped inform the actions we are announcing today, as well as our partners across levels of government who are acting to reduce helicopter noise in Northern Virginia," he noted.

"Working with U.S. Congressman Beyer and Northern Virginia and Maryland local governments, we were able to reduce helicopter noise and maintain safe operations for these communities," said Peter Hearding, deputy assistant administrator for the FAA's Office of Policy, International Affairs and Environment.

-Guy Land

### Big bus changes coming soon

Since last fall, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has been working on the Better Bus Network, a plan to revise the entire Metrobus system. WMATA heard last fall that reliable service and shorter wait times were customers' highest priorities for improving service. Using that feedback, WMATA created a draft new bus network — a vision for faster, more frequent, and reliable bus service for the entire region.

The visionary network would have 35 percent more service, and much of that service would be concentrated

in places where people are most likely to use transit: areas with high density and areas with high needs. The visionary network also makes lots of changes to services



A graphic depicting the goals for WMATA's better bus network plan. Photo courtesy wmata.com.

around the region to try and make more trips easier and faster.

Changes include the route numbers on all the maps and materials, which have been changed to a two-letter state designation and a three digit number. These are just for planning purposes. For North Fairlington, route VA289 is basically the same as today's 7A. A new route VA181 would run from Pentagon via Shirlington, Arlington Mill, Walter Reed and Beauregard to Van Dorn Station every 12 minutes most days. This route would fulfill the plans for the West

End Transitway that Alexandria has been working on for years.

Continued on page 25

### Farmers market kicked-off in May

Thanks to everyone for visiting the Fairlington Farmers Market on opening day! It was a beautiful spring morning with big crowds from start to finish; more than 350 people shopped in the first hour alone. Vendors were thrilled to see so many familiar and new

faces, and many sold out of items early in the day.

New vendors Baguette Republic, Pasta Ilgatto, and Qualia Coffee were excited about meeting residents from Fairlington and nearby neighborhoods and loved being part of our beloved community.

Our neighborhood market is known for offering terrific seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh herbs, meat, poultry, eggs, cheese, breads, desserts, salads, soup, coffee, donuts, and delicious ready-to-eat meals. Several vendors offer fresh and frozen breakfast options, including Kiwi Kuisine, Baguette Republic, and Ana's Twist, and we're working on adding another breakfast options.

Be sure to stop by the information tent and say hello to Elizabeth Mortimer, market manager, and assistant managers Esmeralda Mathews and Rosemary Hill. Pick up some free giveaways including bottled water and bright orange shopping bags from our sponsor Kay Houghton & Associates, along with market logo cups, while they last!

Volunteers are needed to help keep the market running smoothly each week. Come for an hour to assist with setup and breakdown (vendors handle this on their own), greet shoppers, and answer questions at the information tent. It's fun and is a great way to meet your neighbors! Contact fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail. com to learn more and sign up. Thank you!

Sign up for the weekly market e-newsletter at www. failingtonfarmersmarket.org/to learn more about items vendors are bringing to the market, pre-order deadlines, and special events.



Mark your calendar for this month's events:

June 11: Face painting with Creatives by Cristina, LLC.

June 25: Free ice cream courtesy of Kay Houghton &



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# Some Extra Love for the MOMS!

I started my solo real estate business when I was pregnant with my first baby, and I joined the *Fairlington Moms' Club* for support — which included meals, babysitting, and play groups. I ended up making lifelong friends, and many of those moms became my first clients! Now, 12 years later, I was thrilled to be able to say **THANK YOU!** to these fabulous women and this life-saving club.





On Saturday, May 6, I invited members of the Club, as well as some of my clients, to join me for an afternoon of pampering at Meraki, my favorite nail salon in Old Town Alexandria. Kathleen and her staff welcomed us with open arms, offering manicures and pedicures to those who attended. We had drinks, snacks, and treats; 35 moms with kids of all ages turned up to enjoy some personal attention, lots of good conversation, and a little time off from real life!

I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me build a thriving business out of nothing with a baby on my hip!

If you're interested in learning more about my journey into **Life After Fairlington** and how it could be your journey as well, sign up for my newsletter at <a href="https://www.LifeAfterFairlington.com">www.LifeAfterFairlington.com</a>!







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# For the love of

# NATURE



### Help keep Fairlington beautiful: adopt a tree

What attracts people to Fairlington and keeps people here is its natural beauty. We have a well-planned community with tree-lined streets, walking paths and green space. You can walk around our neighborhood, even in summer, and still stay cool in the shade.

Our mature trees are not only lovely to admire and keep us cool, but clean our air and are home to lovely local birds.

Many of our most impressive trees date from around Fairlington's founding, and so are beginning to reach the end of their lifespan. We will need to regularly replace them to retain the character of our neighborhood.

You can help. Simply choose a tree and location and volunteer to water it once it is planted. Here is the process, step by step.

Think of a place that could use a tree. Maybe it's a hotspot on a street or a walking path, or maybe it's a bare area that could use some greening.

Decide what sized tree you think would be right for the area. Remember that some trees only grow to 12-15 feet, and some grow medium-sized, and some grow large.

Next, look up the Arlington County EcoAction Tree Canopy Fund. The county has many kinds and sizes of native trees -- chosen to improve the quality of the neighborhood and to be good for wildlife -- that they will give and plant for free.

Ask your grounds committee or board about approving the tree and ordering it from the Tree Canopy Fund. Your grounds committee will be happy to hear from you, and they will appreciate your involvement and collaboration -- these committees are usually just a small group of your neighbors.



Sunset in Fairlington. Photo by Jillian Oberfield.

Then comes the commitment from you to raise the tree. For the first three years after transplanting, the tree will need weekly watering during spring, summer and fall. After three years it will reach independence and be able to grow on its own. (I have heard from one committed tree-waterer that during a drought she gives the four and five year old trees an occasional long drink.)

What is the timeline? This summer or fall, the county will release a new list of trees available for spring 2024 planting. There's another deadline every six months.

Remember that it will take decades for the young trees that we plant now to reach the

admirable size of the ones that define Fairlington. Your children and grandchildren will appreciate the fruits of your labor.

Finally, enjoy watching the birds who make Fairlington trees their home. In our neighborhood, you can see and hear robins, cardinals, bluejays, catbirds, mockingjays, hummingbirds, mourning doves, house finches, gold-finches, downy woodpeckers, red bellied woodpeckers, thrushes, wrens, nuthatches, chickadees, tufted titmice, sparrows, grackles, starlings, crows, juncos, cowbirds, northern flickers, cedar waxwings, and more.

Cheers to celebrating family, community and nature by adopting a tree in your neighborhood!

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

—Teresa Cordova

### Early voting launches 2023 election season

Voting is now underway for the June 20 Democratic primary in Arlington. Offices on the primary ballot include two positions on the Arlington County Board, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, and State Senate for district 40. There are no contested races for Treasurer, Commissioner of the Revenue, Clerk of Court, or State Delegate from Fairlingon.



A volunteer for the Democratic party stands outside the Fairlington Community Center during the 2021 election. Photo by Guy Land.

There will not be a primary election for those Fairlington residents who live in the City of Alexandria.

The Republicans are not holding a primary for Arlington offices.

All voters are eligible to vote by mail. There are five ways to apply for a mail ballot: online, mail, email, phone, and in person. Ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by 12 p.m. (noon) the Friday after the Election. The last day to apply for a mail ballot is 5 p.m., June 9.

Ballots may be returned by mail, in person, or at a 24-hour drop box. There are eight drop box locations. The one closest to Fairlington is the Shirlington Library (4200 Campbell Ave.).

Residents may also vote early in person at three locations: Courthouse Plaza (2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320), Madison Community Center (3829 N. Stafford St.), and Walter Reed Community Center (2909 S. 16th St.). Voters may vote at any of the locations.

They may also return mail ballots to those locations

during the hours when they are open for voting. The hours of operation vary, so check the county's website for specific hours for early voting. https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Early-Voting.

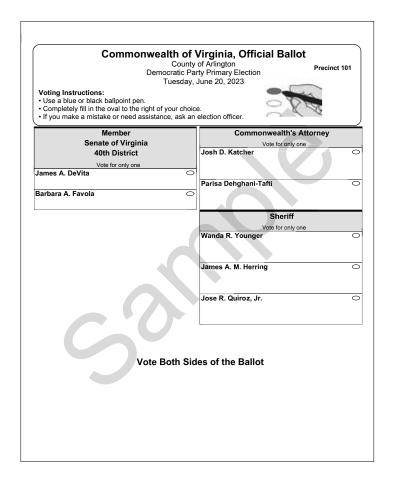
For in-person early voting, voters must present an accepted ID.

### Lots of candidates

Two vacancies on the county board have attracted an unusually large field of six candidates. Incumbents Katie Cristol and Christian Dorsey chose not to seek re-election. Cristol announced in May that she would resign from the board on July 4 to accept a position with the Tyson's Partnership.

The six candidates bring a variety of perspectives and experiences to the race. Much of the debate has centered on the issues of housing affordability and density, driven in part by the county board's vote earlier this year on a "missing middle" housing zoning change. That change does not directly affect Fairlington.

The decision by long-time Sheriff Beth Arthur not to seek re-election prompted three candidates to enter the race.



Fairlington has been affected by redistricting of seats in the State Senate and House of Delegates. Sen. Adam Ebbin has previously represented all of Fairlington, but his new district covers only the Alexandria part of Fairlington. He faces no opposition. Incumbent Sen. Barbara Favola faces a challenge from James DaVita to represent the Arlington part of Fairlington in Richmond.

In the House of Delegates neither Alfonso Lopez (whose district will now include the Arlington part of Fairlington) nor Charnelle Herring (whose district covers Alexandria's Fairlington residents) faces primary opposition.

Incumbent Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti faces a vigorous challenge from Josh Katcher.

School board elections are non-partisan, but Miranda Turner received the endorsement of Arlington Democrats in May caucus voting. She will face independent Vell Rives in November.

### Voters to use ranked choice voting

For the first time, Arlington will be using ranked choice voting for the county board race. Voters can rank up to three candidates. All 1st choice votes are counted in the initial round of tabulation. Only if your 1st choice vote gets eliminated will your 2nd or 3rd choice vote come into play.

You do not need to rank all candidates. You should rank at least one candidate as your 1st choice. If you do not rank any other candidates and your 1st choice candidate gets eliminated, your ballot will not count in any later rounds.

Ranked choice voting is currently only being used for the County Board race (2 seats) in the June 20 Democratic Primary election. The offices for State Senate, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff will not be using ranked choice voting.

### **Arlington Democratic candidates**

**County Board:** Maureen Coffey, Jonathan Dromgoole, Natalie Roy, Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., G. O. "Tony" Weaver, Susan R. Cunningham

**Commonwealth's Attorney:** Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Josh Katcher

**Sheriff:** James Herring, Jose R. Quiroz, Jr., Wanda R. Younger

**State Senate District 40:** Barbara Favola, James DeVita

In 2020 the Virginia General Assembly voted to allow localities to implement ranked choice voting in elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council. In December 2022, the Arlington County Board adopted the use of ranked choice voting for the June 20 County Board primary election, making Arlington the first locality in Virginia to implement ranked choice voting.

### Q&A

The *Bulletin* caught up with the six democratic primary candidates for the two open Arlington County Board seats.

We asked them important questions that are frequent points of concern for Fairlington residents.

Check out their answers to the first question in our Q&A printed here, and visit fca-fairlington.org to view the entire Q&A.

**Question 1:** How do you address the perception that Arlington is becoming too bureaucratic to timely respond to regular requests; from traffic safety inquiries, to permit processes for special events and building renovations to water and sewer concerns. Eg., permitting process for renovations?

### **Maureen Coffey**



Maureen Coffey is a public policy expert, a proud union member, and lifelong Northern Virginian who is proud to call Arlington her home. She is running for County Board to fight for progressive policies that unify our community, address institutional bias and discrimination, and ensure that all Arlingtonians are able to thrive.

There should always be a balance between fair processes that protect health, safety, and the community's needs and good customer service. Sometimes well-intentioned efforts can miss that balance. As an example, Arlington's building permitting process takes too long, is too burdensome on residents, and creates confusion.

Our other permitting processes, such as those for on street events should be reviewed to ensure that the County has reasonable safety measures in place while still supporting our community.

A number of these permitting issues impact the Fairlington community directly, particularly with the

Continued on page 24

### Despite Most Economist Calling For More Pain Ahead In The Economy,

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### **Climate Friendly Diet Tips**

If you're interested in lowering your environmental footprint through the foods on your plate, you may be curious about a sustainable diet. Among the things individuals and households can do for the climate includes small changes in the food we buy and eat. Below are tips that can lead to a more climate friendly diet:

### Top climate-friendly foods to add to your diet

- Nutritional yeast
- Fruits & vegetables
- Seasonal and local foods
- Lentils and beans
- Peas
- Nuts
- Tofu

Small changes to consider:

1. Reduce your consumption of meat and cheese:

Each year, a single cow will belch about 220 pounds of methane, a greenhouse gas that while shorter lived than carbon dioxide but 28 times more potent in warming the atmosphere.

The sustainable diet outlined by Healthline doesn't call for a complete elimination of animal products. Instead, limit your intake to the following amounts per week: Red meat: 3.5 ounces, Poultry: 7.1 oz, Fish: 6.9 oz, Dairy: 1.8 liters.

- 2. Be a "locavore", a person who tries to buy locally grown or locally produced food. Local consumption can really help reduce your greenhouse gas emissions. Buying fresh products from our Fairlington Farmers Market has MANY benefits and for the climate it is incredibly less energy intensive.
- 3. When it's time to eat out, look for farm-to-table restaurants like Copperwood Tavern and when possible, walk! We are spoiled by all the restaurant options in walking distance.

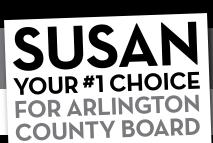
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### **SAVE 10%**

First-time customers receive 10% off on any plumbing service (maximum of \$500).

Limit one per customer. Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount. Only one coupon may be applied per transaction. Coupons must be surrendered at the time of service.

### **SAVE 10%**

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### Art truck says "Count Your Joys"



Kids place fun magnets signifying their joys on the art installation. Photos by Guy Land.

Arlington artist Heloisa Escudero invited young Fairlington residents to count everything that makes their lives joyful when the Arlington Art Truck visited the season opening of the Fairlington Farmers Market.

While seated in a color artist installation, dozens of kids used clickers to count their joys and then picked magnets signifying their number of joys. The magnets were



ultimately placed on the art truck, creating a collage of all the joys we have in Arlington.

The community partner for this project is the Arlington Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS is the lead agency in ensuring residents of all ages have access to important health, behavioral health, social services, and safety net services and programs. By focusing on children's joys, the project seeks for foster a positive mindset.

Originally from Brazil, in the beginning of 2013 Heloisa set up her studio in Arlington. When she is not

in her studio making art she is working at the Hirshhorn Museum as an Exhibit Specialist and is a Curator at the Lobby Project Gallery for he NoMa Business Improvement District, in D.C.

The Arlington Art Truck is a curated mobile tool box for artists-in-residence to engage the public from April to October in interactive art projects designed to blur the line between participant and



presenter, citizen and government. The truck is slated to make two more visits to the Fairlington Farmers Market this summer.

—Guy Land

# 4th of July bake sale to help end local hunger

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

The bake sale will be held at the end of the parade at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Over the years, Fairlington's efforts to end hunger 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 to the tables set up at the FVCC between 9 and 9:30 am, before the parade begins.

We're in need of people to help set up and sell at the bake sale on the Fourth, and need to borrow two market-style tents to keep our baked goods in the shade (we would pick up and return promptly). If you can help, please contact Robin Weinick at rweinick@gmail.com.

Please contribute lots of baked goods, come hungry, and help us make a generous donation to end hunger in our community.

—Robin Weinick

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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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### County provides additional Park Shirlington financing

The Arlington County Board has provided \$3 million in additional loan financing to the owner of the Park Shirlington apartments on 31st St. to assist with the renovation of the apartments. The funds are coming from the county's Affordable Housing Investment Fund. The county board approved the loan at its April 22 meeting.

The payment offsets a portion of the increase in interest rates that has occurred since the county approved a financing package in October of last year to help cover the costs of acquiring and renovating the property. The owner

will cover the additional financing gap by increasing its seller's note to the property.

In February the owner received an allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the state. This was the last major component of the capital stack needed for the acquisition of the property.

The owner will renovate all 294 units on the property. The renovation work is expected to take approximately



The Park Shirlington apartments will be fully renovated starting this summer. Photo courtesy of parkshirlingtonapts.com.

two years, with work beginning this summer. The renovation will include a new building with a community room, clubhouse and leasing office, conversion of the existing leasing office to a residential unit, and solar installation.

The package also includes a digital equity reserve which will provide free in-unit internet to residents.

The renovated units will be committed as affordable housing for families with up to 60 percent of the Area Median Income for a period of 75 years.

Earlier plans had called for significantly increased density on the site, but the as part of the financing arrangement, the owner has abandoned that proposal.

FCA generally supported maintaining the property as affordable housing while protecting against additional density on the site.

—Guy Land

### Fairlington FINS from page 5

merged are taught; proper stroke techniques are introduced to stronger and older swimmers. The cost for the three-week summer session and t-shirt is \$75 per child.

The program is only open to Fairlington resident children 5 to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2023 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

Registration for returning participants and age-related siblings will be June 1–10. Registration for new participants will be June 11–16. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery by June 30.

For the program to be successful, we are also looking for 2-3 parents or other adults to assist with the daily coordination of the swimmers. The requirement is 2 hours a day, 4–6 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 1.5 hours on Fridays, 6–7:30 p.m. for these 3 weeks in July.

We are also looking for high school or college students with strong swimming skills and ability to work with children who are interested in being instructors, pay is \$15–20 per hour.

Looking forward to a fun summer swimming in the Fairlington pools!

—Lorin Venable, FINS Coordinator

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My Fairlington Neighbors,

As June 20th is nearly upon us, I hope you will strongly consider voting early or voting on Primary Day.

As a candidate, I have knocked on many doors in your community. As a cop, I have responded to many calls for vehicle break-ins and other crimes that spill over from Bradlee Shopping Center and elsewhere in Alexandria. Sadly, this is becoming a more frequent occurrence, as Arlington Police face continued staffing shortages.

Officers' ability to patrol and investigate is being severely limited by the need to go from call to call, often away from their assigned areas. The result: more opportunities for people to commit crime without being apprehended.

I'm the only cop running to be the Sheriff of Arlington County. I envision - as a former D.C. Police Officer and current Arlington Police Officer - a Sheriff's Office that works closely with ACPD, as well as regional partners in Alexandria, Fairfax, and D.C.

Arlington Deputies (who receive the same academy training as police officers) could help to aid these dire staffing shortages by serving shifts on the street, rather than being restricted to courthouse and jail security. Supplementing ACPD means response times will improve and Officers will be able to patrol their assigned areas more effectively. This is just one of many policies I plan to enact should you choose me to be your Sheriff.

I hope you'll vote on or before June 20th. Virginia has open primaries, and this primary may be your only chance for the next four years to have a direct impact, as a voter, on the public safety vision of our community.

Respectfully,

James Herring

sheriffjamesherring.com info@sheriffjamesherring.com (f) (i) @sheriffjamesherring



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### Early voting from page 15

required variance approvals for renovations and the cancellation of the Fairlington 5K. We need to develop a culture in Arlington County that focuses on saying "how can we make this work?" Our county processes should be for the benefit of the community, not to its detriment.

### Jonathan Dromgoole



Jonathan Dromgoole is a community leader and progressive advocate focused on increasing diverse representation through policy and public service. He is committed to ensuring that our home is a welcoming, inclusive, and representative community for ALL who live, work, and visit Arlington.

Part of the perception is the very real issue of access to information and transparency within our government processes. There should be no reason why it takes someone who is "tech savvy" copious amounts of time to find the information they need on our website because you have to click through multiple links only to find out that the information is not there or that the link is broken. This issue is magnified when you try to find information in another language. If you're able to find what you're looking for the translation is often incorrect, from my personal experience with the Spanish language version or the information is actually in English at the end of the long search.

I recognize that there are processes and people who may want to engage directly with a county staff member to resolve their questions or voice their concerns. In order to make it easier to get to a person or receive a timely response we need to streamline our county website and online resources. This way residents who want to go to our website are able to find the information they need efficiently rather than calling and adding to the turnaround time of others.

We should also be transparent about turnaround times for emails and phone calls by our residents and hold our government operations accountable to this. A survey or audit should be conducted to provide insight into the average wait times that residents may be experiencing. Together we can work towards a more efficient and transparent government.

### **Natalie Roy**



I am running for a seat on the Arlington County Board because I believe the Board needs an energetic and experienced community activist who will serve the entire county. Arlington is my home of 32 years, where my husband and I have raised three wonderful daughters, where I bike everywhere for my business, and where I volunteer in the community.

As I go door-to-door across the County, I have received similar concerns from residents about the County's slow response on a variety of concerns. We need to focus on improving our responsiveness on every level.

One area I would focus on is to ensure that the County has active and knowledgeable ombudspeople on staff who can navigate residents to the correct office and staff person. We also need to ensure that staff is picking up phones and responding to emails, even when they are working remotely.

We can also improve our permitting system to be more efficient. Another avenue we should pursue on this front is to provide an expedited permitting process for developers, if they provide an additional tangible, durable community benefits.

### Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.



I am a proud Veteran, change agent, community activist, husband, and father. I believe in the power of collaboration, honesty, humility, and trust. I believe in the fair treatment of others no matter their background or income level. I believe that the economy should work for everyone, that healthcare is a right, and that our diversity is our greatest

strength and the most common thread that can and should bring us all back together.

I welcome the opportunity to assess the root cause of delayed responses, work with those concerned to develop and implement a time-based plan to address what is causing delays, and then collaborate with community partners to outreach updated response expectations based on their concern.

### **Tony Weaver**



I've been a community leader in Arlington County for the last eight years, driven by the conviction that everyone in our County should be ensured the opportunity to succeed, regardless of background. Through my volunteer work as president of the Arlington Rotary Club, I've gained a deep appreciation of the challenges many of our commu-

nity members face—including food insecurity, educational deficits, and insufficient access to healthcare and affordable housing.

As a small business owner with a master's in business and experience working in technology and founding tech startups, I will bring a perspective that prioritizes innovation to the Board. Whether it's traffic safety inquiries, permit processes for special events and building renovations, or water and sewer concerns, I recognize the need for efficient and responsive governance.

The pandemic forced us to get creative and pursue new options such as telework to handle many elements of government. Now that the crisis is subsiding, we must look back and evaluate which changes worked, and which did not move forward in the most effective way possible, striking a balance between teleworking and bringing staff back to the office. I will prioritize several key areas.

Firstly, I will focus on streamlining processes by simplifying procedures and exploring digital solutions to expedite tasks, such as improved online permit applications.

I will enhance communication by creating better lines of communication between residents, businesses, and county departments, making it easier for individuals to voice their inquiries and receive prompt responses. Additionally, I will emphasize the importance of exceptional customer service, ensuring that staff members are trained and empowered to offer courteous and efficient assistance.

I feel strongly that Arlington residents should be able to pick up the phone and talk to a person to help have their problems addressed.

### Susan R. Cunningham



I know and love Arlington County, my home for 25 years. I am running for Arlington County Board in the June 20, 2023, primary to bring common sense leadership to build Arlington's future. A small-business owner, management executive, parent, and community volunteer, I am an experienced problem solver ready to serve our community.

One of my top three priorities is getting the basics of good government right. (My other two priorities are getting housing and planning right, and reconnecting our community—especially our young people.) That includes clear standards for response time for inquiries, whether submitted by phone, email or online.

On the campaign trail, at doors and events, I hear a consistent concern that there is no longer a commitment to returning phone calls or addressing concerns. My own recent experience with permits, inspections, and helping refugee families navigate county benefits underscore this concern as well.

As a board member, I will require the county manager to communicate expected response times and track performance.

### Big bus from page 7

For South Fairlington, route VA386 appears to replace what routes 22A and 22F do. This new route would be at least every 30 minutes and run from Pentagon, through Shirlington and South Fairlington to Van Dorn St., to Southern Towers and then on to Ballston via Carlin Springs Rd.

For those who connect to routes in Shirlington there are a number of changes. For example, the new route VA287, which mostly replaces the 10B, would skip Shirlington and stay on Glebe Rd.

There are many more changes to explore, far more than can be summarized here. To learn more and provide input to guide the final product go to betterbus.wmata.com.

WMATA expects to complete public engagement by June 5 and then begin work on the final plan. They expect the final plan will go to the WMATA Board in late 2023 and a new network would be implemented in 2024.

-Scudder Wagg

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She's earned my support through her debate performance, grassroots work, and commitment to listening and engaging with all Arlingtonians. Ms. Coffey's specific ideas on the issues, persistence, evidenced-based approach, and humility are additional strengths that will serve Arlington well.

> MATT DE FERRANTI, ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD MEMBER



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# ABING School news



### A look at favorite spring happenings at Abingdon

We've had several field trips for Abingdon students this spring. Most recently, first grade took a field trip to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Third grade students also toured the Kennedy Center, and fourth graders visited the Renwick Gallery.



First grade students depart the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for their class picnic on the National Mall. Photos by Sharon Burd.

It was remarkable to see the awe on students' faces as they explored with much wonder and astonishment. A heartfelt thank you for the generous grant from our community donor which covered the transportation cost and the several grade level teaching teams for planning such a remarkable and memorable experience.

In other news, the Abingdon PTA recently hosted International & Cultural Heritage and History Night. Students enjoyed performances, "traveled the world" by visiting various countries, and everybody enjoyed a potluck style dinner buffet.



The 4th and 5th grade chorus perform at the school garden concert with Abingdon's music teachers Ms. Kingsley and Dr. Heim.

Performances included: the Abingdon Chorus, a Cumbia Dancer, and DC retro jumpers. It was terrific to see Abingdon students demonstrate their double-dutch skills. We're thankful to our families, staff, participants, and volunteers for making the night a huge success.

Lastly, a big congratulations and thank you to Abingdon PTA's 2023-2024 Officers:

President: James Harlow VP Educational Programs: Tina Kelly VP Fundraising: Megan Miller VP Community Relations: Sara Kirschner

VP Events: Meredith Greene VP Staff Appreciation: Ashley Farrugia

VP Communications: Maggie Bush Treasurer: David DeBoer

Secretary: Erin Cassidy

At a recent school board meeting, two of Abingdon's staffers, Ms. Davis and Ms. Palacios, were recognized for their APS career milestones of 30 and 35 years of service. It was a joyous celebration to applaud and cheer on Abingdon's educators.

The PTA celebrated all of Abingdon's remarkable educators and staff during Staff Appreciation Week. We are beyond grateful today, and every day, for our superhero Abingdon staff for inspiring generations of Cardinals and making monumental differences in their lives.

There are many volunteer and sponsorship opportunities to support our neighborhood school. We also welcome the community to fulfill our teachers' classroom wishlists: www.abingdonpta.org/wishlists. I hope you will consider staying engaged and connected with us as we continue advocating for our Cardinals: Facebook, Twitter, and www. abingdonpta.org.

—Sharon Burd

### **APS School Year Calendar:**

**Wednesday, June 7**—Elementary Early Release

**Wednesday, June 14**—Last Day of High School - Early Release & Elementary Early Release

**Wednesday, June 15**—Last Day of Middle School—Early Release

**Friday, June 16**—Last Day of Elementary School—Early Release

**Monday, June 19**—Holiday —Juneteenth



### Your Neighbor, Your Realtor

The Fairlington real estate market is known for its historic charm, affordability, strong community, and convenient location. However, it's important to note that real estate markets can change over time, and it's always recommended to work with a qualified real estate professional for up-to-date and accurate information about the current market conditions in Fairlington or any other area. If you're thinking of buying or selling a home, reach out to me and I'll get you home!

Dianna L. Bentley, U.S. Army Retired REALTOR





# neighborhood news

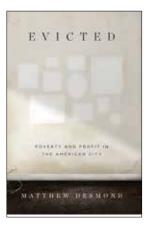
### **Fairlington Diners**

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In May, we met at Beckett's in Shirlington, and had a very nice evening.

Saturday, June 17, 12:00 p.m., Del Ray Cafe, 205 E Howell Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301,(703) 717-9151, delraycafe.com. They have an extensive brunch menu, and describe themselves as "an innovative local eatery that melds the best of French country cuisine and American country products." In other words, yummy. Trip Advisor ranks it #3 of 511 restaurants ranked in Alexandria.

We need a reservation for this popular restaurant, so please call Carol at 703-379-6840 not later than Thursday, June 15th 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 *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond. We will meet Tuesday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us!

"This book gave me a better sense of what it is like to be very poor in this country than anything else I have read.... It

is beautifully written, thought-provoking, and unforgettable."—Bill Gates

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and dropins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book.

### 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.



### Property taxes due June 15

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

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



### Can it take the heat? Garden picks for the summer months

You may wonder which plants can take the heat and which ones can't. While you might have favorites it's vital to know which plants can survive our scorching summer humidity and high heat indexes. The term, "drought-tolerant" more appropriately refers to cacti and yucca in the Arizona desert while the term, "sun-loving" is more appropriate for our U.S.D.A. Plant Hardiness Zone (6B-7).

If you don't like watering your plants or you frequently travel, think about having plants that are light drinkers:

**Euonymus:** While the burning bush and wintercreeper are considered non-native, there are many species of the genus which thrive here and aren't invasive. I've never seen one die. Along the pool fence in Fairlington Green, there is a row of euonymus green spire which provides privacy for sunbathers and swimmers. This plant features sturdy vertical branches in a dense habit. Its leaf is dark green and oval (like a boxwood). Many euonymus have leaf variegation in white or yellow. If you're driving on South 36th St. and approach North Quaker Ln., turn left. Notice the row of euonymus on the median strip of the gas station. This hedgerow provides an evergreen screen in a mixture of green and yellow foliage.

**Juniper:** Known for its bristly foliage in shades of bluish-green, this is another evergreen that needs little water. On Lee Highway in the center median strip is a dense planting of



Rosa "knockout" is a common flowering shrub that thrives in the summer heat. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

juniper, just adjacent to Merrifield Garden Center. The only water this juniper receives is from rain. They were planted four years ago and are thriving. Since they're situated between busy lanes of vehicular traffic, it proves how pollution-tolerant this specimen is.

**Salvia:** A mint family member, this sun-loving perennial has bluishgreen basal foliage and 12-inch-long vertical shoots holding purple, pink or white flowers all summer. It could be considered a ground cover since it isn't that tall or wide. There is a mass of pink-flowering salvia next to one of the churches on North Quaker Ln. Salvia is great for lining a walkway or along the edge of a planting bed. It returns every year. The only maintenance needed is pruning the lowest leaves which flop onto the soil.

**Spruce:** Yes, these trees are giants but there is one cultivar called a

bird's nest spruce that's in the shape of a pillow. It's circular, maybe 2-feet in diameter and grows no taller than 16-inches off the ground. The shape and structure of the plant is perfect for expectant female birds since the nest is already built. It's a good choice for a patio garden since it takes up little space.

Rosa 'knockout': This colorful specimen is popular on nursery lots and in residential gardens. This time of year, you'll notice red, pink, white or yellow flowers bursting open. In south Fairlington at the intersection of South 34th St. and South Utah St., there is a cluster of rosa 'knockout' along a side patio fence. The shrub's fragrant flowers show from April into December. If you're at the gas station in Shirlington, notice a group of rosa 'knockout' in the planting bed nearest the bus depot. The rosa 'knockout' has a dense habit so one may cut a few long-stem roses without leaving much of a gap.

Scotch broom: Recently, I was pleased to see this in full bloom at a customer's home in Alexandria. I planted them on the edges of a backyard shed a year ago. Orange red and pink flowers with petals in the shape of a mouse's ear line the stems. Scotch broom's flowers have a strong fragrance. The specimen grows 3-feet tall with stems reaching outward like a water fountain. I've read that in colonial days, the flowerless stems (which feel like plastic) were cut and used to make brooms.

—Bill Sullivan





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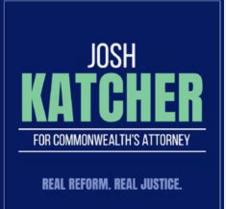
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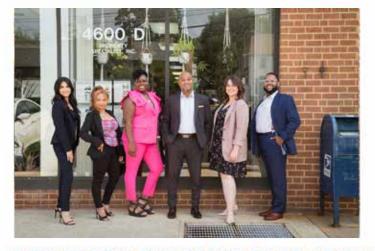
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- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington. ads@gmail.com.
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.

**Email:** fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com **Mailing Address:** FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

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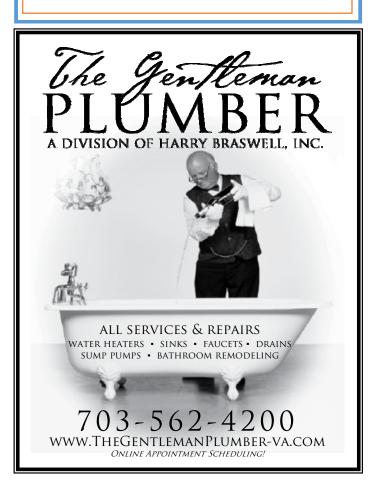
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