

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2020

Volume 46, Number 5

Fairlingtonians, Great Harvest Bakery, and Abingdon PTA help neighbors in need

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Abingdon teacher Deborah Staren-Doby and FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies prepare food bags outside Great Harvest Bakery while bakery owner Megan Hurst looks on from inside. Photo by Guy Land.

The Governor's declaration to close schools for the remainder of the year has disrupted the lives of many Fairlington families. In addition to teleworking, parents are being asked to manage their children's home-schooling and distance learning. For many families who live in Park Shirlington, Abingdon's school closure has impacted more than instruction.

Approximately 80 to 90 Abingdon students live in the Park Shirlington complex, which is part of Fairlington Citizens Association's (FCA's) service area. Most of them are eligible for free or reduced meals at school.

While APS has been providing meals daily at certain schools, Drew Elementary school (the closest site to Abingdon) is not easily accessible by foot. Given that reality, Abingdon staff, including Fairlington resident Deb Staren-Doby, and Abingdon PTA spearheaded an effort to team up with the non-profit Real Food for Kids and Bayou Bakery to distribute meals weekly to Park Shirlington families.

About 75–100 healthy plant-based meals are provided. The amount is expected to increase in the coming weeks. The initiative also provides meals to the Columbia Grove apartments off Columbia Pike where other vulnerable Abingdon families reside. The program got underway April 1.

Since then, FCA has teamed up with Abingdon PTA and Ms. Staren-Doby to expand the effort. To support that effort, a school supply and small toy/book collection was established with porch drop-off sites in North and South Fairlington.

Fairlingtonians have generously donated new and gently used items which have brought smiles to many children in Park Shirlington. Students were able to pick up school supply packets with markers, crayons, and scissors.

This is especially important for younger elementary students who do not regularly use digital learning. Margaret Dickie, Community Manager for Park Shirlington commented, "Thank you so much for supporting the families in

Continued on page 5

Coming up ...

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

FCA monthly meeting May 13

There will be no presentation at the May 13 meeting. The Board will hold an electronic work session.

Regular board business:

- Approval of April minutes
- Unfinished business
- Officer and committee reports
- New business

Meeting minutes: Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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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 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy.

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street or pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Deadline for school board caucus ballot request

Thursday, May 7
(see p. 5 for details)

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 7 pm

Memorial Day

FCC Closed

Book Group

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 pm
online event (see p. 17 for details)

Deadline for school board caucus ballot to be received

Saturday, May 30
(see p. 5 for details)

One egg hunt to go, please



On the Saturday before Easter, Fairlington Villages volunteers distributed bags of filled Easter eggs to neighborhood children in lieu of the annual egg hunt. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Rachel Mallory, Susan Renahan, Bill Sullivan, and Lorin Venable.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the second full month of stay-at-home requirements, Fairlington residents seem to be holding up remarkably well, further evidence of the spirit that is the hallmark of our community.

"How are you doing?" is a commonly heard question, asked not as a perfunctory courtesy but as a genuine inquiry about the person's welfare.

As the days have gotten warmer, Fairlington has been teeming with kids and dogs and bikes and scooters and joggers—in the middle of the day, during the work week. I've never seen it so populated without there being a special event.

No doubt you've seen some of the sidewalk chalk art or heard about the kids' teddy bear hunt or the residents singing birthday greetings. These things speak volumes for the kind of neighborhood we live in—and how collectively we are handling the challenges of COVID-19, which has so fundamentally disrupted all of our lives.

FCA sees itself less as a sponsor of specific COVID-19 response activities than as a clearinghouse for information and activities that are sponsored by others.

We have been checking in with the Fairlington condo and homeowner association presidents to see what their associations are doing and asking if there are ways FCA can help them. We have no interest in duplicating their efforts.

Their networks are generally more robust than ours, and we've asked them to encourage residents to be aware of neighbors in need and identify at least two people who can help them in case they get sick.

We've talked with county and school leaders about how we can match up with broader county-wide efforts and how our residents can plug into some of the coordinated volunteer opportunities that exist across the county.

FCA will use its broadcast channels—Facebook, website, and listserv—to communicate information and support for the community. We see ourselves as a curator of Fairlington-centric information and assistance.

This can range from feel-good stories or a request for volunteers to useful information, such as the location of AFAC drop bins, or sharing key county and state links. It can also be an area where residents can let us know their needs (such as to get groceries or find a mask).

So check out our channels, and let us know how we can better help Fairlington respond to COVID-19.

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

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Arlington County Democrats to hold vote by mail caucus; primary moved

The Arlington County Democratic party is holding a vote-by-mail caucus in order to determine the two school board candidates who will receive the party's endorsement in the November election. Although the caucus for school board candidates is normally conducted in-person, the party has shifted to a mail ballot in order to comply with the Governor's guidance on social distancing.

In order to participate in the caucus, which is open to any registered voter, the party must receive a request for a ballot no later than May 7. (A request must be received and not postmarked by this date.) To request a ballot, go to www.arlingtondemocrats.org/vote/school-board-caucus/ and follow the instructions or call 703.528.8588 extension 4.

Once you have received your ballot you are encouraged to complete it and return it immediately. A ballot must be received (not postmarked) by May 30 for it to be counted in the caucus.

The party has chosen a system called Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) to utilize in this caucus. Under this system, voters will rank the candidates according to preference so that there is no need for a follow-up contest to determine the top two candidates. The Arlington Democrats hope to announce the caucus results by June 9.

Statewide, Governor Ralph Northam has moved the state's primary from June 9 to June 23 to increase social

distancing an additional two weeks. The deadline to register to vote before the June primary is June 1. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 pm on June 16.

—Susan Renehan

Farmers Market opening day still to be determined

With the continued uncertainty around COVID-19, the planned May 3 opening of the Fairlington Farmers Market cannot be confirmed. The health and safety of Fairlington residents and the vendors that are part of our market is the primary concern of the Farmers Market committee and Field to Table, the organization that manages our market and other local markets.

The market committee is closely monitoring the changing language of regulations surrounding the operations of farmers markets and restrictions on public gatherings. We are looking at options that would enable us to support farmers and producers and provide our local community with another source for obtaining food, and information will be forthcoming. Please check the market website, fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org, or follow Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook for updates.

—Lynne Blasi

Fairlingtonians from page 1



Abingdon 3rd grade teacher Sarah Tyson helping to distribute food to families in need. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

our community during such a difficult time."

Fairlington's spirit to give back extends to Great Harvest Bakery, owned by Megan and Brad Hurst. The Hurst family, who live in Fairlington Arbor, have been consistently generous to Abingdon and Fairlington for years and this initiative is no exception.

In early April Great Harvest donated 55 breakfasts and an additional 15 loaves of

bread. The soft-spoken Megan Hurst does not seek publicity for what she does, just acknowledges that it is the right thing to do.

As Deb Staren-Doby observed, "In these uncertain times, it's been incredible to see the community come together. APS is providing meals around the county, and Great Harvest Bread Company, Real Food for Kids, and Bayou Bakery have helped Abingdon bring meals and groceries directly to our families. Our connection with Great Harvest is particularly special, as the owners are an Abingdon family who have offered and delivered again and again to provide for our families in greatest need right now."

Organizers hope to be able to support Park Shirlington through the end of May.

—Jennifer Davies

Dear Fairlington Residents,

In these times of crisis, we need Family and Community more than ever. In my 53 years in Fairlington, I am fortunate to be able to provide more than half a century of historical perspective that is filled with positivity and Hope.

Over the years Fairlington has proven financial resiliency like very few other communities.

- 1981 Mortgage interest rate 18.63%
- Stock market crash 1987
- Dot-Com crash 1995-2001
- Subprime mortgage crisis 2008

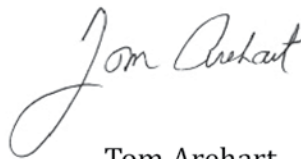
Throughout our nation's past and recent economic events, Fairlington's financial vitality has proven, that this too, will soon pass....

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GAO studies helicopter traffic

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is studying helicopter traffic in the Fairlington area. As part of their study, in late March GAO staff interviewed FCA President Guy Land and Treasurer Ed Hilz.

According to GAO, the inquiry is looking at two main topics: What is known about helicopter operations and noise from flights in the D.C. area? To what extent have the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and helicopter operators taken action to minimize helicopter noise in the D.C. area and what other strategies exist?

Land and Hilz described frequent resident complaints about noise, the percussive effect of some helicopters, such as the Osprey, and the low altitude that the aircraft often fly.

Hilz, who has coordinated the complaints about helicopter flights in the Fairlington area for over 15 years, outlined the history of community meetings on this topic over the past ten years.

In response to GAO questions, Hilz noted that neither the FAA nor the military had reached out to Fairlington to provide information or discuss noise mitigation options.

The study was requested by Reps. Gerald Connolly and Don Beyer of Virginia, Reps. David Trone, Jamie Raskin, and Anthony Brown of Maryland, and Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton of D.C. FCA joined Rep. Beyer in hosting a forum on helicopter noise in 2018.

GAO expects to complete the study around the end of the year.

—Guy Land

FCA supports preschool permit

The FCA Board has endorsed the renewal of the STEM Preschool permit at 3120 S. Abingdon St. The renewal is expected to be considered by the Arlington County Board at its May 16 meeting.

The permit renewal would be for the operation of both the original school and last year's expansion, with authority to serve a total of 106 students. The renewal constitutes the county board's three-year review of the original permit and one-year review of last year's expansion permit.

The expansion covered property previously occupied by the Sure Shot production company in the commercial buildings behind the old fire station.

FCA supported the initial permit as well as last year's expansion, and has worked with the school's executive director, Portia Moore, to minimize any adverse impacts on Fairlington.

At FCA's request, Moore has provided an admission preference for Fairlington families. FCA views a quality child care facility within Fairlington as a benefit to the community.

—Guy Land

Silver linings

While stay-at-home orders have changed the daily lives of all Fairlingtonians, many have found creative ways to keep spirits up and affirm what a great neighborhood we live in. From Easter egg scavenger hunts, to chalk art, to birthday

singing grams, we have found reasons to smile during this time. Photos by Guy Land and Mike Harrison.



Arlington school board candidates respond to voters' questions

Although social distancing during the month of May prevents a gathering to hear the candidates in person, the FCA has asked each of the five Arlington Public School (APS) school board candidates to answer questions for the readers of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. Here are the four questions that were posed to each of the candidates:

1. **What are your top three policy priorities as a candidate?**
2. **A common theme among many candidates is equity. What does that mean to you and what policies would you pursue as a school board member?**
3. **APS has drawn criticism regarding capacity projections. Abingdon will be the most overcrowded elementary school despite a large renovation and expansion two years ago and Gunston is the largest middle school in the county despite this year's new boundaries. Both schools serve as Fairlington's home schools. As a school board member, what new approach would you bring to address these concerns?**
4. **Fairlington is home to many APS teachers and staff. It is considered one of the last affordable communities in the county. As a school board member, how do you see APS encouraging and retaining talented teachers to remain in Arlington?**

[Editor's note: Each of the candidates was asked to adhere to a word limit both for space allowances and for fairness to all involved. Their responses are printed here without edits, corrections, or deletions.]



Cristina Diaz-Torres
cristinaforarlington.com

1. I am a teacher and an education policy specialist. As a board member, I will focus on:
 - a. **Educators:** Support our educators with teacher-driven, evidence-based professional development and competitive compensation
 - b. **Equity:** Every decision should be made based on the promise that all students have a right to succeed

- c. **Transparent Data:** Improve our data systems to be more transparent and accessible.

2. Equity means every student has access to needed services that are timely and action-oriented. I use equityXdesign (eXd) as a guiding framework.
3. I support a collaborative framework for education governance, especially for difficult choices. This means fewer engagements that feel like "checking the box" and more that allow us to collaborate authentically.
4. Teachers need real agency so they can advocate for themselves and their students. I support Interest-Based Bargaining that brings educators to the table as partners and allows us to promote best practices in every school throughout Arlington.



Steven Krieger
stevenforschoolboard.com

1. Steven's Three Priorities
 - a. Increase teacher compensation
 - b. Equity for **every** student
 - c. Improve student mental/physical wellness
2. Equity and excellence in education mandates that every student is provided with consistent and appropriate access to opportunities to achieve based on their specific needs. APS needs to operate as a school system, not a system of individual schools.
3. Overcrowding is the consequence of incorrect projections resulting from poor data. In January 2019, APS projected 34,000+ students in 2028, but in January 2020, APS projected fewer than 31,000 students for 2028. We must use better data to guide our decisions.
4. APS is great because our teachers are great. Arlington used to be a leader in teacher compensation. Today, neighboring districts pay their teachers more than Arlington. We must show our appreciation for teacher dedication to our children by providing performance and cost of living increases to begin the process of correcting this disparity.



Sandy Munnell

sandyforschools.nationbuilder.com

After twenty years as an educator in APS, I bring a different perspective to the table. I know what school board decisions feel like when policy hits the classroom. I understand the competing interests when setting priorities, some of which rise to the top, like the Justice Department directive for English learners (EL). Other priorities cannot lie unaddressed, such as reading instruction, and supporting special education.

My priority, after addressing EL instruction, is to bring our current site-based managed schools into alignment with the standards established by the Dept. of Teaching & Learning and the School Board for reading and intervention, and special education support. Each Elementary School needs to be using a common approach to reading literacy and intervention, offering the same services, with approved APS instructional materials. Each school must develop a plan whereby they can be inclusive, serving families with special needs. I welcome your questions.



David Priddy

priddyforschoolboard.com

1. Priorities

- a. Equity
- b. Long-term plan for facilities
- c. Determine Covid-19's impact on APS.

2. I have a four-step plan for implementing equity throughout APS. Visit www.priddyforschoolboard.com for more details.

3. I would examine the six criteria (efficiency, proximity, stability, alignment, demographics and contiguity) for evaluating the school boundary process. One change I

propose, is to consolidate to four criteria (due to redundancy) and rank by order of importance, depending upon the school (e.g., elementary vs. high school). As it relates to Fairlington, my son (current 7th grader) attended Abingdon for 1st and 2nd grade so I am aware of the uniqueness of this community.

4. I have spoken with members of the County Board on initiatives for subsidized housing for teachers. As your school board member I will continue to have those conversations and work to ensure that teacher compensation is competitive with the neighboring districts.



Terron Sims

terronsims.com

1. My top three policy priorities:

- a. APS Budget and CIP Management
- b. Balanced Education & Career Opportunities
- c. School Capacity

2. Equity is every school resourced so all students receive a quality education. Socio-economic background and ethnicity should not determine academic outcomes.

3. APS should build/refurbish its schools in a manner that gets ahead of potential capacity issues: i.e. build additional classrooms though the math does not state their need. Doing so provides principals flexibility in planning classroom space when their schools reach capacity.

4. The community's ability to properly advocate for salary and COLA increases and benefits mandates that the superintendent include them in every year's budget. APS must tie COLA increases to Social Security or another comparable measure, which better measures and determines the requested COLA increase for each budget cycle.

Advocate for the creation of an affordable housing program for APS employees.

For instruction on how to vote in this month's vote-by-mail school board caucus, see related story on page 5.



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– Patty, Fairfax, VA



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Abingdon teacher balances distance learning and homeschooling

Kerry Abbott is in her 20th year of teaching at Abingdon. Having previously served as the school's Instructional Technology Coordinator, she is no stranger to learning on digital devices, which for Abingdon students is the iPad. The Fairlington Meadows resident is also a mom to 2nd and 4th grade Abingdon students.

The school closure for the remaining year has meant a shift in how she approaches teaching her 5th grade class. That academic grade in particular is a pivotal one, as students start to prepare for the transition to middle school. Students will miss their final few months at Abingdon, including the graduation ceremony, yearbook signing, and goodbye parties.

Up through spring break (April 3), Ms. Abbott coordinated with Principal David Horak on how to best maintain instruction and stay connected. "He told us to be creative, reach out to our families, reach out to our students, and provide a sense of normalcy," she said.

Before returning to (virtual) classrooms on April 14, APS Department of Teaching and Learning set guidelines on what instruction should look like for the remaining academic year. Ms. Abbott commented, "I will continue to work online with students. I am still differentiating (teaching at different levels) and giving them individual feedback. Students are still being asked to think critically and participate in back and forth discussion with the teacher." She notes that group discussions as well as hands-on learning are both challenges.

Several of Ms. Abbott's students certainly miss her and are trying to make the most of the situation. After seven years as an Abingdon parent, former PTA board member Diana Funk remarked, "We've been so fortunate to have Kerry as our teacher in ordinary times, but during quarantine, we're especially grateful for her! Not only does she have the technical experience to ensure her students are able to continue learning, she also has the biggest heart. It's evident how much she misses her kids. Her videos and messages are such a wonderful way



Kerry with her daughters Abby Jane and Eloise. Photo courtesy Kerry Abbott.

for the kids to stay connected to her. While the whole situation stinks, we feel lucky to continue to have her presence in our lives."

Keira Nichols, a 5th grader in Ms. Abbott's class commented, "It's actually pretty good so far. Ms. Abbott already taught us on Nearpod and Seesaw so we were prepared for online schooling. What I've liked most about online schooling is that we get to Facetime with Ms. Abbott once a week and I get to see her and talk with her. But I really do miss my friends."

Ms. Abbott echoes these sentiments. "I am really missing my students and staff. There is a reason I've been there for 20 years. It's breaking my heart that I can't be there right now."

—Jennifer Davies

WMATA bus service update

During the WMATA budget process earlier this year, there was a discussion that included altering or eliminating a number of Metrobus routes, including several that serve Fairlington. Now it has been determined that the existing 7Y and 22A/C bus routes in Fairlington will remain unchanged this summer.

At its April budget meeting, WMATA opted to retain these routes despite earlier proposals for their cancellation. However, longer-term the 22A/22C is probably still at risk of being curtailed or modified given low ridership.

FCA will continue to engage with Arlington County on future options. (Note: due to COVID-19, further changes in the short-term are possible notwithstanding the overall decision to retain the routes.)

—Kent Duffy



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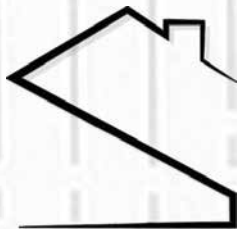


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ABINGDON school news



Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Virginia's governor Ralph Northam announced that all Virginia schools, public and private, will be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Since the closure, Arlington Public Schools (APS) teachers have used a combination of printed paper packets and online learning, through the platforms Canvas and Seesaw, to provide instructional activities for students. At Abingdon,

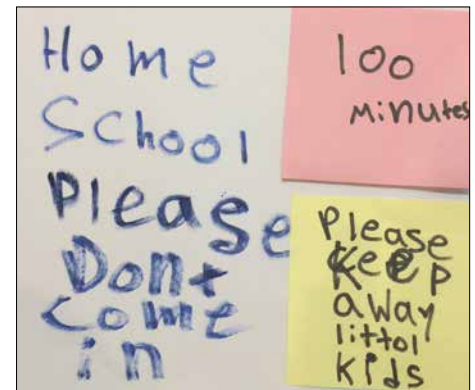


Alden Kim, an Abingdon 1st grader, does school work while her younger sister watches. Photo by Rebecca Kim.

students in grades 3-5 have individual iPads that they are allowed to take home, which they can use for home instruction. Teachers and staff have reached out to the families of students in grades K-2 to ask what type of devices and internet connection students have access to.

APS wrote, "While virtual learning can never replace classroom instruction, teachers are providing instructional activities meant to help students maintain their skills and knowledge and prepare for what's coming next. We understand this comes with both challenges and perks as adults and students work to establish new routines."

Since most workplaces are also closed due to COVID-19, many Fairlington parents are attempting to balance assisting their children with virtual learning while at the same time working from home themselves. This can present challenges, but Garrett Sylwester, an



A sign made by Anna Mallory, an Abingdon 1st grader, in an attempt to keep her younger sister away while she does school work in her room. Photo by Rachel Mallory.

Abingdon 3rd grader, said, "School at home with mom is fun." Rebecca Kim, mother of a 1st and 5th grader at Abingdon, added, "I can tell how hard the teachers and staff are working to get the students engaged. It is clear how much they love and miss their students. And vice versa!"

—Rachel Mallory

Wakefield happenings



May is typically an exciting time at Wakefield with the Spring musical, performances by the band, choir, orchestra, and jazz band, senior nights for the athletes and possible playoffs, senior project events, and the occasional "prom-posals." Unfortunately, world events changed the end of the year.

Similar to schools throughout the country, Wakefield staff continues to provide lessons and support for our students. Students primarily com-

plete work through the online program Canvas. Senior Project presentations continue virtually, and APS provides meals for all students at locations throughout the area. Our Advance Placement (AP) students finish reviewing for their exams that may count towards future college credit. For two weeks in mid-May, students in the College Board's AP program will take their tests during daily online testing periods. These are timed so that students throughout the world are taking the same test at the same time.

May is the month for high school seniors to decide where they will attend college. Some of the schools that will see Wakefield alumni on their campuses range from East Coast Ivies such as Harvard and Penn, to Stanford on the West Coast, to the Air Force and Navy military academies, to Tennessee and Alabama in the SEC, to Virginia schools such as William & Mary, UVA, Virginia Tech, George Mason, JMU, and Mary Washington.

As you walk around town, you may notice signs for the Wakefield class of 2020. Give them a little cheer.

—Donna Felipe

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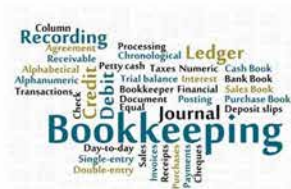


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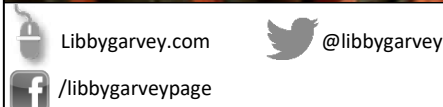
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This is a difficult time for all of us, but Fairlington is one of the best communities anywhere when it comes to helping each other get through a crisis. The pandemic situation changes constantly. Arlington County is focusing on 4 major needs: Sufficient Medical Care for those affected, Adequate Food for everyone, Financial Assistance for individuals, and Small Business Support. Our goal is to help individuals and businesses survive and be able to rebuild when the crisis has past. Our County resources page has good information and is updated every day:
<https://health.arlingtonva.us/covid-19-coronavirus-updates/food-financial-and-medical-assistance/>

I continue to be heartened by how many people are stepping up to do whatever they can and encourage everyone to reach out to neighbors to make sure they are OK. We are urging everyone to have a personal COVID plan and identify 2 other people who can help if you get sick. Consider joining Arlington Community Corps (<https://beaneighbor.vomo.org/org/arlington-community-corps>), a new volunteer organization that seeks to build and support these important networks. Please email me info@libbygarvey.com with any comments.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington 5K update

The COVID-19 health crisis forced cancelation of this year's "7th Annual Fairlington 5K & Silent Auction," which was set to take place in April. The events, which are sponsored by the Fairlington Civic Association, "A Cure for Ellie" foundation, and the Abingdon Elementary PTA, raise money for a local 12-year old girl with a rare brain disorder, as well as physical education activities at the school. Organizers hope to reschedule both events for late-September. Check www.Fairlington5K.com for updates.

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are on hiatus through May. We hope to return to our normal schedule of two events per month in June.

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

Book Group

The Fairlington Book Group is scheduled to discuss *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance* by Erik Larson, at its May 26 meeting. Please note: we are planning to hold a virtual meeting at that time.

Larson's book "takes readers out of today's political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when, in the face of unrelenting horror, Churchill's eloquence, courage, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together." —amazon.com

Please call Gary at 703-379-1361 and leave a message to join our email list or to learn more details as the date approaches. We hope you can join us 'virtually'!

Local Canasta Group Suspends Play

As with all community activities these days, our Canasta group has suspended play for a while. But if you want to learn, or play with a computer, there are multiple sites online where you can learn the rules of Canasta and Hand and Foot. You can also play with real people online or just play against a computer. We are a friendly group of players and miss our Tuesday sessions. We hope you will consider joining us come summer. If you have questions, please contact Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com.

FINS registration begins May 1



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).

FINS runs for three weeks from July 8 to 24, 2020, and consists of four 30-minute lessons Monday through Thursday and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The cost for the three-week summer session and t-shirt is \$70 per child.

The program is open only to Fairlington resident children 5 to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2020 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

Registration for returning participants and age-related siblings will be May 1 to 15. Registration for new participants will be May 16 to 30.

—Lorin Venable, FINS Coordinator

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Additionally, we have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they don't come in to work if they feel at all sick. Additionally, they have been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Tickled pink in Fairlington

For the past month, color appeared in the landscape. For maybe the past six months, the only color was green—thanks to the multitude of evergreen specimens—which drop leaves but soon replenish.

Simple walks around the block became entertaining with so many colors to admire. Forsythia was first in line with its undefined branch structure bearing yellow flowers. Up next was the Bradford pear tree, whose branches were filled with white flowers. The redbud tree featured tiny beads of neon pinkish-purple which was more evident since the blooms were precocious (showing before the tree leafed out). Later, the native dogwood appeared with its white or pink wide-open blooms. Finally, the Japanese dogwood showed with its flat, ivory flowers that lay like small handkerchiefs on the branches.

My favorite color in the landscape always has been pink. It's softer than the more vibrant yellows, reds, whites, and violets. So now, I'll talk about my favorite specimens that flower in, what else, pink.

Dianthus or cheddar pinks:

Aptly named for its buttercup-like flower and bluish foliage. Look at the outer margin of the bloom and its serrated edge. Not many specimens bear foliage that is bluish. Dianthus needs full sun and is a perennial. Try planting them in bunches so the pink flower is showier.

Weigela: Bears a tubular flower with five petals. Its throat is deep (maybe two inches long). I only have seen



Tulip magnolia on Buchanan St. Photo by Guy Land.

two hummingbirds in the wild in my life. Once was in Seattle on Lake Washington. The other? On a weigela in a Fairlington patio. Some hybrids show flowers in pink and white. Weigela has trailing branches in a fountainous habit. It needs space since it can grow five feet tall and eight feet wide. It can tolerate full sun or a good amount of shade.

Crape myrtle: This tree flowers in pink, white, red, or lavender. Its bloom first appears in mid-June and flowers into early October. Each cultivar of the tree flowers at a different time. Try buying a dwarf crape myrtle. These grow just eight- to ten-feet tall, ideal for a patio setting. For a pink flower, look for these cultivars: hopi, caddo, pecos, or tonto.

Sand cherry: It's of the prunus genus which has many cultivars—one being the yoshino—which circles the Tidal Basin by the Jeffer-

son Memorial in Washington. The sand cherry is a smallish tree (eight feet tall with a little larger spread). It has tiny, pinkish-white flowers on branches filled with maroon foliage. It blooms early (March into April) and is one of the most beautiful small trees in the landscape.

Coral bells: This tender perennial has basal (at the bottom) foliage in shiny maroon, olive with purple veins, lime green, or apricot. But in the spring, tiny pink flowers dangle on 10-inch-long stems. This plant looks best when planted in clusters. If you have decorative stone or rocks, mix these in with this plant.

Lenten rose: This perennial is bushy with its long leaves that cluster at the base of the plant. Ivory or mauve flowers seem to hide behind the foliage during winter. The flowers can reappear during spring. Look closely at the bloom. It is an inverted bonnet with a yellow center. Down in its throat, the petal is a dark pink. But out toward the edge of each petal, that color morphs into a soft pink.

Tulip magnolia: Referred to as the "tulip tree," this ornamental flowerers in early March. Sometimes, its pink petals turn brown since the tree blooms before the winter frosts have expired. Look at the same time as the star magnolia, which has white flowers with petals like one's fingers. It resembles a star the way each petal grows straight out.

—Bill Sullivan
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Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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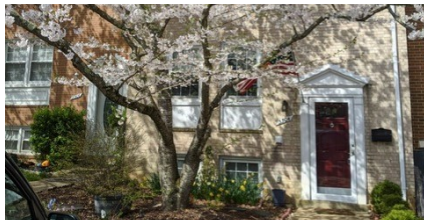
2983 Columbus St. #A1, Arlington, VA 22206
1BR/2BA

For Rent \$2,250/month
Listing Agent Julie Flory



4916 28th St S. Arlington, VA 22206
2BR/2BA

Under Contract!
Listing Agent Barbara Kirkland



3304 Applegate Ct. Annandale, VA 22003
3BR/4BA

Coming Soon for \$450,000
Listing Agent Sherry Schaffer



4201 Breezewood Ln. Annandale, VA 22003
4BR/3BA

Coming Soon for \$650,000
Listing Agent Patricia Quinlin



Arlington Office | 703.522.0500 | 4600 Lee Hwy, Arlington VA 22207

Falls Church Office | 703.534.9660 | 6299 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church VA 22044

