

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2022

Volume 48, Number 5

## County board chair Cristol to address FCA in-person May 11

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Katie Cristol, chair of the Arlington County Board, will visit with Fairlington residents at the monthly meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) May 11. Marking a return to in-person FCA meetings, she will speak to the community in the Fairlington Community Center (FCC), 3308 S. Stafford St.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 100. All Fairlington residents and owners are invited to attend.

Cristol, who is in her second term as board chair, is no stranger to Fairlington, having spoken to FCA in 2017, attended several Fairlington Fourth of July parades (sometimes with her husband, young son, and dog Bear), and made a number of visits to the Fairlington Farmers Market.

She was first elected to the county board in 2015 and was comfortably re-elected in 2019.

Cristol is the co-chair of Arlington's Project PEACE, an interagency collaboration to address domestic and sexual violence in our community. Regionally, she represents Arlington on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, of which she is immediate past chair.

In declaring her priorities for Arlington earlier this year, Cristol highlighted increasing the quantity and quality of affordable housing; improving access to high quality, affordable childcare; and providing family-supporting wages for workers.

She called for a more racially equitable Arlington and for making climate action not a group of specific projects but a lens through which all the county's actions are viewed.

"What these two values—sustainability and equity—have in common,"



County Board Chair Katie Cristol addresses the crowd before the 2018 Fairlington Fourth of July parade. Photo by Guy Land.

Continued on page 23

# Coming up

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

## FCA monthly meeting May 11

**Special presentation:** Arlington county board chair Katie Cristol will speak to FCA about sustainability and equity in Arlington.


### Regular board business:

- Approval of April 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](http://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](http://www.avatartech-llc.com).

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm)

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### Fairlington Citizens Association

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### — DEADLINE —

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

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

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**For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)**

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## Calendar

### Blood drive

Monday, May 2, 11 a.m. –3 p.m.  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.  
See page 25 for details

### Fairlington 5K

Saturday, May 7, 8:30 a.m.  
Abingdon Elementary School  
See page 5 for details

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington diners

Thursday May 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St.  
See page 25 for details

### Book group

Tuesday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.  
See page 25 for details



**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Jenn Davies, Sue Davis, Beth McGinn, Renee Powlette, Bill Sullivan, and Lorin Venable.

*Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The arrival of spring brings an explosion of activities in Fairlington. Just looking at some things that are on tap for the coming month suggests what a vibrant neighborhood this is.

The Fairlington Farmers Market returns for an 8th season on May 1. This has become a key component of life in Fairlington. Last year was the market's most successful ever, and the volunteer committee that oversees the market expect this year's to be even more popular.

Most of your favorite vendors are back for another year, reflecting the fact that the market is both a successful business activity and a great community gathering space.

FCA is pleased to again be a financial sponsor of the market. We took the lead in creating the market a decade ago and believe it continues to be a valuable asset for our community.

After two years off because of COVID, the popular Fairlington 5K Fun Run/Walk will course through the neighborhood on May 7. Registrations have already set a record, but there's still time to sign up if you haven't already done so. FCA is a financial sponsor.

This is truly a neighborhood activity in every respect. Most of the runners either live in Fairlington or are friends of Fairlingtonians.

The race benefits the physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary, and the proceeds also fund A Cure for Ellie, an organization that supports research on a cure for a 13-year-old Fairlington resident who was born with a rare and degenerative brain and spinal cord condition.

**Please note that there will be temporary street closures, monitored by police, during the race.**

After a COVID hiatus, the Fairlington Villages Spring Yard Sale will entertain shoppers on April 30. Vendors are limited to North Fairlington residents, but the sale welcomes customers from everywhere.

Finally, the summer swim season is almost on us. Most of the condo pools will open by Memorial Day—check the times and rules for your individual condo association.

Registration is now open for FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming). As the number of kids in Fairlington has grown, so has participation in this program that builds skills and fosters camaraderie.

There are great opportunities to join your neighbors for fun activities. I hope to see you at some of them.

Guy Land, FCA President, [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

# Fairlington REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT



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# Fairlington 5K poised to set registrant record

As of mid-April, nearly 500 people have already registered for the Fairlington 5K set for May 7, 8:30 a.m. at Abingdon Elementary School. There is still time to sign up, and day-of registrations will be accepted from 7 to 7:45 a.m. on race day.

The special K-9 category, sponsored by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington will also take place on race day. There will be music, food, and even a special visit from a Disney character.

The online silent auction portion of the event kicks off that night and closes May 15. Thirty generous small



Abingdon St. was filled with runners in the 2019 5K. An even larger group is expected on May 7. Photo by Guy Land.



The Fairlington 5K will follow the same route as previous years, winding mostly through South Fairlington before finishing back at Abingdon Elementary School. Photo courtesy of Beth McGinn.

business owners and local residents donated to the auction—offering everything from summer camp registrations and wine tastings to vacation homes and travel packages.

Go to [Fairlington5K.com](http://Fairlington5K.com) to sign up and to check out the list of amazing items up for auction.

—Beth McGinn



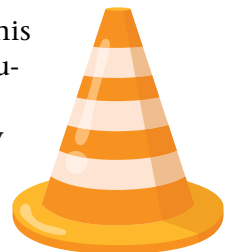
## Road closures:

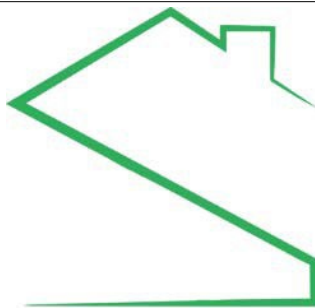
The following roads will be closed starting at 8 a.m. and will re-open on a rolling basis starting at 9:30 a.m. according to the race map:

- Abingdon St. to 36th St S.
- 36th St. S to S. Wakefield St.
- S. Wakefield St. to 36th St. S.
- 36th St. S to S. Stafford St.
- S. Stafford St. to 34th St. S.

- 34th St. S to S. Wakefield St.
- S. Wakefield St. cul-de-sac
- 34th St. S to Abingdon St.

If you need to use a vehicle during this time, please use an abundance of caution, respect all road barriers, and follow police direction. The primary goal is to keep our runners safe!





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# Local legislators report on General Assembly session

Policy and political differences between Democratic legislators and Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin marked many of the actions in the Virginia General Assembly this spring, according to Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.



*Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker visited virtually with Fairlington residents.*

The two legislators, who represent Fairlington in Richmond, visited with the FCA board in April, discussing highlights of the recent session. Both are Democrats.

Policy differences were particularly apparent in the big picture debates over the state budget, with the Republican-controlled House of Delegates following the Governor's lead, while

the Democratic-controlled Senate approved a different plan.

Because legislators had not agreed on a final budget before the statutory end of the session, the General Assembly was scheduled to reconvene at the end of April to reach a final agreement.

"The Senate budget was more prudent," Ebbin said, noting its funding for mental health and addiction services, increased education funding, and more state support for affordable housing.

Bennett-Parker likewise emphasized the importance of teacher funding, saying that she hopes the final budget agreement will provide a teacher pay raise of 10 percent over the next two years.

The budgets also differed in how they proposed to deal with taxes. Gov. Youngkin proposed entirely eliminating the grocery tax, while the Senate budget would eliminate the state tax on groceries but not touch the local tax.

Fairlington's legislators expressed concern about eliminating the local tax without at the same time identifying a long-term replacement for that revenue for local governments. They said this could be an area for bipartisan agreement in the future.

Tax differences also included the Governor's proposal for a "gas tax holiday." In March Youngkin proposed to

temporarily eliminate the state's Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax for the months of May, June, and July.

Both Ebbin and Bennett-Parker pointed out that the gas tax funds critical transportation infrastructure, and they expressed concern about the impact of the proposal on road maintenance and transit.

Turning to particular pieces of legislation, Ebbin mentioned a bill to outlaw ghost guns, which passed the Senate but died in the House.

Ebbin also stated his support for legislation that would make loud mufflers a primary offense. When asked about how this fit with a larger effort to eliminate primary offenses that could potentially disproportionately affect minorities because of the discretion provided local law enforcement officers, Ebbin said this was the only one that directly impacted other people.

In response to a question from a resident about solitary confinement, Ebbin said he had visited the state's solitary confinement facility and supported ending solitary confinement.

Addressing legislative redistricting, both Ebbin and Bennett-Parker said that their new districts would not include Fairlington. The state supreme court imposed new district boundaries late last year when a bipartisan redistricting commission failed to agree upon a plan.

Reflecting some of the partisan tensions, Ebbin said that 10 of his bills had passed, but the governor had vetoed nine of them, even though six of those were identical to House-passed bills that the governor signed. Traditionally, the governor signs both bills when they are identical.

Ebbin chairs the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, which considers most of the governor's cabinet appointments. The committee rejected the governor's nomination of Andrew Wheeler to be Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources. Wheeler had been the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Trump.

Both legislators appeared troubled by what they perceived as more partisan moves by Gov. Youngkin in April, which they said marked a departure from general practice in past administrations.

"I hope he'll realize he's governor of all the people," Bennett-Parker said.

—Guy Land



# Farmers market opens May 1



The Fairlington Farmers Market, a favorite Sunday morning neighborhood destination, is back with a variety of healthy and nutritious offerings both from long-standing and new vendors. Join us in welcoming District Biscuit Company and Little Austria to our market and watch for additional new vendors.

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. through November 20, on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St.

We're grateful to our returning sponsors Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, and Kay Houghton & Associates. Please thank and support our generous sponsors for their strong commitment to our market.



*The Fairlington Farmers market is a great place to meet neighbors, enjoy tasty treats, and shop for fresh, organic produce. Photos by Guy Land.*

Special events are back this season! Mark your calendar for two interactive events this month:

May 15: Book signing and discussion with Fairlington resident Amina Luqman-Dawson, author of *Freewater*, a historical novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. Book will be available for purchase.

May 22: The Arlington Art Truck presents *From Our Waist to Waste: Is Fashion Sustainable(?)*. Learn how our decisions about fashion, clothing, and textile purchases have affected our environment and community and what we can do about it.

## Vendors and Pre-Order Information

Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter for details on vendor



pre-orders and deadlines at [www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org). Shoppers can also use To-Go to pre-order food from up to eight participating vendors (see website for list) with one payment and pick up at each vendor's tent. Learn more at <https://woso.co.fairlington>.



**Ana's Twist:** Ecuadorian vegetarian and meat empanadas, juices, and soups.



**Cafe Los Suenos:** A specialty coffee roastery with a variety of blends. Buy beans, bottles, and to-go cups of cold brew.



**District Biscuit Company (NEW):** Classic biscuits, chocolate chip biscuits, and cinnamon bites with honey butter, clotted cream, and jam; fresh breakfast items including biscuits and sausage gravy (V) and biscuit sandwiches. Frozen biscuits available by pre-order.



**Faerie Springs Farm:** Cheese made from pasteurized goat and cow's milk, including chevre, feta, mozzarella, and camembert.



**J'aime Madeleine:** Traditional madeleines with natural flavors, cookies, and jelly rolls.



**Kiwi Kuisine:** New Zealand-style handmade savory pies.





**Kuhn Orchards:** Seasonal fruits and vegetables, jams, cider, and honey.



**Little Austria (NEW):** A variety of apple and cheese strudels, spinach strudel, and potato strudel.



**Mama's Donut Bites:** Mini donuts in a variety of flavors.



**Number One Sons:** Pickles, kimchi, and kraut.



**Old Blue BBQ:** BBQ, marinades, meal kits, sauces, rubs.



**Ozfeka Catering:** Turkish borek, kisir, sarma, and baklava.



**Pleitez Produce:** Seasonal vegetables, fruits, and herbs.



**Roggenart:** Quiches, babkas and pretzels, breads, croissants, danishes, strudels and desserts..

**Sandy Bottom Acres:** Eggs, chicken, beef, pork, and sausage.



**Sexy Veggie:** Vegan and vegetarian salads, soups, wraps, and patties.

**Spring Valley Farm & Orchard:** Salad greens, seasonal fruits and vegetables, jams, honey.

**Sweet Pea Farm:** Gourmet mushrooms including golden, grey, and king oyster, shiitake, brown beech, and lion's mane.



Tell your friends and neighbors about the market and follow Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter.

—Lynne Blasi

## Fairlington tots scramble for Easter eggs in the Mews



*A new Fairlington Mews Easter tradition attracted more than 30 kids. Photo by Renee Powlette.*

Fairlington Mews decided to start a new tradition this year and held its first annual Easter egg hunt over by our main recreation area. About 20 families and 30 kids participated in the much anticipated hunt for plastic eggs stuffed with candy and toys. We also hid three “silver” eggs which awarded the finders big chocolate bunnies. The 250 eggs were hidden in different areas by age group so that every kid had a chance to get some eggs and we very cleverly had each kid take a break after finding seven eggs to collect prizes of Easter PEZ dispensers, Hot Wheels cars and small stuffed animals.

We’ve all missed out on so much fun in the last two years and a this new activity helped us get back to normal. Mom Chandra Burnside commented that her 3-year-old son Andrew “would have been to two Easter egg hunts already but because of the pandemic, this was his first one.” When asked what he thought about the hunt, Andrew said it was “good.” When asked what was his favorite part, Andrew replied “eggs.” Couldn’t have summed it up better.

It was great to see the smiles on all the children’s faces a split second after they heard “ready, set, GO!” One little almost 2-year-old didn’t even care about gathering eggs, but he understood that something exciting was happening and took off running and laughing with an expression of pure joy on his face. It was a good day in the Mews.

—Renee Powlette

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# Fairlington 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). 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.



*The FINS program rotates weekly between three different condominium association pools in South Fairlington including Fairlington Mews, pictured above. Photo courtesy fairlingtonmews.org.*

FINS runs for three weeks from July 11 to 29, 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.

Important pool safety and capability concepts, like treading water, front and back floating, lap lane protocols, straight-leg kicking, and swimming with faces submerged 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 open to only to Fairlington resident

children five to ten years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2022 program or to ask additional questions, email [fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com](mailto: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. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery in June.

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 for these 3 weeks in July, pay is \$15-20 per hour.

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

—Lorin Venable

## Abingdon School field and property is off-limits for dogs and non-students

No dogs are allowed on the Abingdon school property and the playground is for school use only when in session, which includes the playgrounds and the track. Abingdon school hours are 7:40 a.m. to 2:40 p.m., our Extended Day program ends at 6:00 p.m. It has been an ongoing issue with the neighborhood continuing to bring children and dogs on the property putting students and staff at risk. For liability purposes for Abingdon's students, staff, and the community, it is important that residents of Fairlington and surrounding areas respect school rules.



## FCC parking lot rules reminder

The Fairlington Community Center parking lot may not be used for car washing or detailing. Residents or commercial organizations using the parking lot for this purpose will be asked to leave.

All cars that park in the FCC parking lot overnight must be moved by 7 a.m. and may not be parked before 9 p.m.



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# Construction to begin on new Alexandria high school campus

Past issues of *the Bulletin* have examined private real estate development in the general Fairlington area. This month's issue looks at a planned public construction project near Fairlington.

City of Alexandria officials held a late March ground-breaking for the construction of a second campus for Alexandria City High School on the current site of the Minnie Howard School behind Bradlee Center. The Alexandria City Council approved the necessary permitting for the project in January.

The current school building will remain in operation while the new school is built to the east. The new school building will be where the athletic facilities currently exist. Once the new building is complete, the old Minnie Howard building will be removed and replaced with new athletic facilities, recreational amenities, bus loop, and parking.

The current Alexandria City High School Building will be known as the King Street Campus, while the new building will be called the Minnie Howard campus. The two campuses are intended to function as one high school with students in all four grades attending each campus.

Currently the Minnie Howard school serves only 9th grade students, while students in grades 10 through 12 attend the King Street campus. When construction is complete, Minnie Howard will serve students in all four grades and will have significantly increased classroom capacity.

Designed to accommodate 1600 students in grades 9 through 12, the new facility will be a five-story structure that responds to the pressing need for additional high school classroom space as Alexandria continues to experience a substantial growth in student enrollment.

Alexandria City High School offers 400 courses and has space for approximately 3800 students between its two major campuses. By 2025, Alexandria City Public Schools



Graphic courtesy City of Alexandria

(ACPS) anticipates there will be 5,000 high school students.

In addition to classrooms and athletic facilities, the site will contain office space for Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services, a Teen Wellness Center, and an early childhood learning center.

Several attributes are envisioned for community use, including an indoor, regulation-sized swimming pool and training pool, as well as a multi-purpose field, tennis/pickle ball courts,

basketball courts, and outdoor space for school and community use. A path will encompass the athletic areas, providing an on-site loop for walking and running.

A new and enhanced streetscape along Braddock Rd. will include wider sidewalks, landscaping, and double rows of trees. The plan calls for planting 45 new trees along the street frontage. The city's landscape guidelines prioritize the use of native plants.

The building is designed to meet LEED Gold and Net Zero standards for energy conservation.

The City and ACPS evaluated the property for affordable housing but concluded that the property was too small to accommodate additional development beyond the existing and potential future needs directly associated with the school's academic and recreational requirements.

In order to retain use of the existing school for as long as needed and not have to relocate students, the existing open space and recreational areas will be graded for construction of the new school, starting this spring.

Staff note that construction management is a concern for the community. "It is a priority for both ACPS and the City to minimize impacts on the neighborhood and maintain a functioning school throughout the duration

*Continued on page 23*

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# For the love of NATURE



## Wanted: Native shrubs to bring back pollinators

May is when all life returns at once in a sensual overload. Flowers in all assortments, shapes, aromas, and hues. A circle completes and begins again. Or does it? What is the reason for a flower? A flower's purpose is to create a seed, but to do that, pollinators are needed.

So where are all the pollinators? Maybe stories about missing bees have caught your eye. We have fewer because the native plants they look for are no longer here. They have been replaced with plants from around the globe. After Rachael Carson's novel, *Silent Spring*, about the effect of pesticides on plants and wildlife, there was a push to use shrubs that were not subject to insect infestation. The result was that landscapers and homeowners began to buy multitudes of non-native and often invasive plants.

How do we change this? When shrubs need replacing at the Mews, we have tried to use native plants when possible (though sometimes a boxwood is the only thing that will do).

What are some of these native shrubs?

**Southern Wax Myrtle**—One side of the Mews property aligns with King St. During fence replacement a few years ago, a decision was made to get rid of the Red-tipped Photinia that had become an eyesore. Worse yet, a new land survey moved our boundary inward. Some Eastern Red Cedars that were once on Fairlington land were now in Alexandria. Southern Wax Myrtles were planted on the inside of our new fence line as a Photinia replacement and have gone gangbusters. The first ones planted are now about 8 feet tall and green year-round, and they block light and noise from King Street as well as absorb water run-off.



*This beautiful native Common Ninebark is in Fairlington Mews. Photo by Sue Davis.*

**Witch Hazel**—If you desire a winter blooming shrub, this one is the perfect replacement for Mahonia. A native plant that produces flowers after the leaves are gone.

**Steeplebush**—One of these has just been planted in the Mews as a substitute for Butterfly bush. Yes, Butterfly bush attracts insects who take the nectar, but will never lay their eggs, so that butterfly won't be able to propagate. Steeplebush produces pink flowers from July to September and actually hosts several

native butterfly species.

**Virginia Sweetspire**—Everyone has favorites and this is one is a real winner. It's a great replacement for burning bush. Beautiful white spires of flowers appear in June and then red, orange, and purple foliage appear into the fall and early winter. I have seen places in Arlington where several are planted together and the effect is wonderful.

**Common Ninebark** - It is the perfect replacement for Nandina. White flowers produce a cascade in the spring, followed by bird edible seeds, and lovely fall color.

There is one in the Mews, but hopefully there will be more soon.

There are many more great native shrubs replacements. Visit the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for more suggestions at <https://mgnv.org>. Feel free to send us questions or comments at [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Sue Davis



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## *Shows, swaps and slugs signal Spring at Abingdon*

Abingdon “cardinals” continue to soar throughout the school year. Abingdon Elementary’s musical production of “DIG IT!” debuted in the school auditorium. Directed by Abingdon teacher Ms. Kerry Abbott, fourth and fifth grade students brought history to life by depicting ancient civilizations through talented performances, unique props, and creative costumes. Performers received a standing ovation for their hard work and brilliant show.



*Abingdon teacher Ms. Kerry Abbott and her fourth and fifth grade students pause for a photograph following the musical production of “DIG IT!” Photo by Sharon Burd.*

In other news, Abingdon hosted its first annual free book swap to kick off Read-A-Thon. Students brought their reusable bags to freely shop from over hundreds of books generously donated from neighbors and from Barnes & Noble bookstore. To that end, students were equipped with new books to partake in Abingdon’s Read-A-Thon.

Abingdon parent Clare Rosenberger who coordinated these events highlighted, “The [Read-A-Thon] event was a great way for kids to get excited about reading. They got to see their class totals grow, and would stop by the bulletin board to track their progress - and to see if their class was taking the lead! We are so appreciative of the support from the whole school community for our biggest fundraiser of the year.” Over the course of this event, students collectively read 259,836 minutes!

The Abingdon Community Garden’s momentum carries on. Fairlington friend Lancaster Landscapes recently donated a dump truck’s

worth of wood chips and many tree stumps for Abingdon’s community garden. At the Earth Day Celebration, Abingdon parent Lauren Shaub Sanchez directed over 45 garden volunteers who all lent a helping hand with covering the garden grounds with wood chips, weeding the 11 garden beds, and picking up litter on school grounds.

Lauren shared, “I am so grateful and inspired by our community’s team effort. Having our volunteers, families, and students come together during the event to take ownership has made the heavy work light.” In the garden, the students were particularly excited to encounter a few slugs, many earthworms, and two baby snakes!

Lastly, our amazing teachers were treated to a classroom supply buffet, with coffee and breakfast treats in the school library. Organized by parent volunteers Ashley McCarthy and

Meredith Greene, teachers popped by to restock their classroom (with items including EXPO markers, tissue boxes, and glue sticks), enter the raffle basket drawings, and mingle with fellow volunteers and colleagues about planning Abingdon’s upcoming International Night.

We are thankful for the dedication and hard work of our students and educators, as well as our energetic volunteer team who help strengthen our Abingdon community.

To that end, we are always looking for volunteers with various skills such as translating (Spanish, Mongolian, Amharic, and Arabic), gardening, woodworking, and graphic design. Please contact [abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com) if you would like to help out. Thank you for supporting our flock of cardinals and helping them soar.



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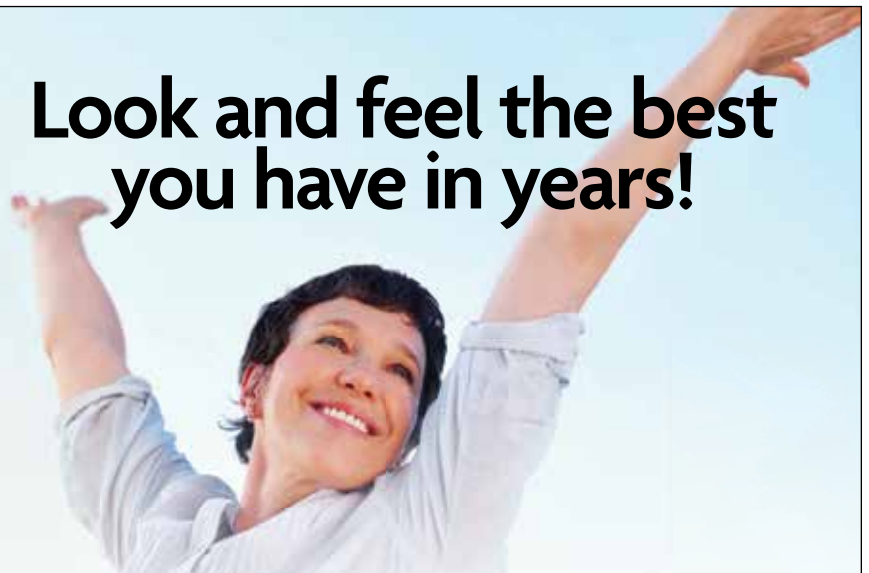
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# FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

## ***Gaston: A Labradoodle with a Fairlington-do***

Gaston, a 3-year-old Labradoodle, lives in North Fairlington with his human Mom and Dad and their young son. He is a bouncy, gregarious fellow—playful but gentle for his size—with lots of friends both human and canine. He had a spirited visit with Pet Profiles and offered advice on home life, along with some tips.

*What advice can you give to other dogs about newborn babies that join your human family?*

It's not too bad having a baby join your human family because that means, for a few weeks at least, your humans will be home with you all day! And eventually that baby becomes a toddler, and you get lots of snacks and scraps from them. My advice to humans would be to carve out time to do one of your fur baby's favorite activities. We know you are busy with our new sibling, but we enjoy one on one time with you like the old days.

*What do you say when you meet other dogs? Can you tell us 'dog talk'?*

Fairlington has so many nice dogs for me to say "hello" to around the neighborhood. Truthfully, I get so excited sometimes when I am out on a walk and see other dogs that I don't always get to talk as much as I would like. When I do get a chance, I express my excitement by chomping grass like a goat—and talking with a mouthful of grass isn't easy.

*You have a French name...are you French? Can you tell us why you're named after a character from Beauty and the Beast?*

I am not French; Pennsylvania Dutch actually. But my Mom and Dad saw how handsome I was and that every last inch of me's covered in hair, and thought Gaston



*Labradoodle Gaston, sports a playful hairstyle, showing off his golden curls. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Smith.*

would be a good name for me. I'm not much like the character from Beauty and the Beast, though. People usually describe me as gentle and sensitive, not what comes to mind when you think of my namesake.

*How do you keep your fur so soft? Do you find humidity makes your hair grow wild?*

Just lucky I guess! Doodles do require a lot of grooming or else we can get matted. My Dad is very good about making sure not a bit of me is scraggly or scrawny, brushing me every day when my hair gets long! It's not my favorite time of day but I know that once he is done, I will get a treat. In terms of humidity, although I like to keep my hair long in the winter, I definitely need a haircut to make it through the hot summer months; so when it's humid, I've usually got a high-and-tight anyway.

*Your 'signature gift' to other dogs is a bandana. And you are known for your personal collection of 'seasonal bandanas'. Can you explain? Why a bandana? What is your favorite?*

Being "French," bandanas were a natural choice for me. Bandanas are canine friendship bracelets. I enjoy gifting them to my dog besties whenever I get the chance. My favorite bandana is my Cincinnati Bengals bandana. My Mom and Dad are from Cincinnati, and we were so excited that they were finally in the Superbowl this year, even though they were robbed in the end!



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# AFAC, Arlington Little League, and Wakefield High School Baseball team up for charity

On a cool and breezy early April weekend, Arlington Little League (ALL) welcomed players from across the county to Barcroft Elementary School for its annual opening ceremonies. The event also brought players from Wakefield High School's (WHS) JV and varsity teams, many of whom got their start as Little League players.



*Wakefield High School's JV baseball team. Photo by Jenn Davies.*

The focus of the event was to provide support to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). This collaboration was the brainchild of ALL board member and WHS booster coordinator, Dan Branch and AFAC Development Coordinator, Deborah Staren-Doby. If those names sound familiar, it is because they are long-time Fairlingtonians with strong ties to Abingdon Elementary School. Branch served as Abingdon PTA co-president and Staren-Doby was part of the school's staff.

This is the first time AFAC, ALL, and WHS collaborated, and it was a huge success. One hundred and seven teams, representing approximately 1200 players, competed by team to collect non perishable food for AFAC. Wakefield JV players collected and tallied the donations while the varsity players assisted with the Little League player parade.

AFAC collected 2,223 pounds of food. The winning team,

the AA Giants, donated over 600 items and were rewarded with a free team meal at an Arlington restaurant.

Little League players, some as young as 5, enjoyed looking up to the "big boy" baseball players from Wakefield, many of whom got their start playing sandlot baseball on Abingdon's field. In fact, a total of eight current WHS baseball players attended Abingdon; Beck, Boerstling, Branch,

Mahoney, Merryweather, Sagana, Segui-Asad, and Todd. Many players still call Fairlington home and would otherwise be recognized formally as the "Racing Presidents" from past Halloweens.

"AFAC was thrilled to partner with Arlington Little League and the Wakefield baseball program to help feed our neighbors in need. We are planning for the Opening Day food drive to become an annual event. It was extra special to work with Dan again after many years," commented Staren-Doby.

"What a great way for the Wakefield players to give back to the community and hopefully inspire younger kids to play the game well past Little League," added Branch.

The opening day event marked an excellent start to the season both on and off the field.

—Jenn Davies

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## County board from page 1

she said, "is that they require us to see beyond our own immediate interests and to value our community, as a whole, in all its diversity and for its future. I know we can do that in the year ahead."

Cristol has been an advocate for women's issues, including reproductive health, political representation, and support for survivors of sexual assault, for over a decade. She and her husband, Steve, and their son Cary, live off Columbia Pike, one of the most diverse corridors both in the County and in the metropolitan region.

—Guy Land

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## Construction from page 15

of the project," declared the staff memo to the city council that accompanied the permitting recommendation.

Construction is budgeted at \$177.4 million.

Occupancy of the new school is planned for summer 2024. Full completion of the entire project is expected by spring 2025.

ACPS briefed FCA twice as the project was being developed.

—Guy Land



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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for informal dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In April, we had a relaxed dinner at Ramparts, our “home base.”

For May, here's what's planned: Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m., Beckett's, 2800 S Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22206, <https://samuelbecketts.com/>, 703-379-0122. This casual restaurant/bar in Shirlington has delicious soups and a spectacular chicken curry.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group in May to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, by David Grann.

“A masterful work of literary journalism, crafted with the urgency of a mystery.”—*The Boston Globe*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Masks are optional! We hope you'll join us.

## Fairlington Moms' Club

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



## Fairlington blood drive: May 2



Children's National Hospital will hold a blood drive at Fairlington Community Center on Monday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents who wish to give blood may register at <https://www.cnmcblooddonor.com> and enter “Fairlington” in the sponsor search. There may be slots available due to last-minute cancellations.





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**Greetings!** My name is Angel Villanueva, and I spent 18 years working full time for the late **Victor Sison** of **FAIRLINGTON MAINTENANCE SERVICE**, learning construction and repair from the ground up. If you knew Victor, then you know me, and it will be my pleasure to serve you! I have worked in hundreds of Fairlington homes. Specializing in bathroom and kitchen remodeling!

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—Mary Thomasson,  
Former Fairlington owner



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# DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



## *An argument in favor of white*

Colors seem to get all of the attention in a garden. Everyone I visit with has a favorite color. And some folks despise certain colors.

Ignored but noble in the garden is white, being achromatic or without hue. White objects scatter or reflect visible wavelengths of sunlight instead of absorbing the spectrum's colors.

Enough science. Let's look at some beautiful specimens that flower in white.

**Pieris:** Its flowers dangle in clumps in early March from fragile reddish stems. It's the first-flowering shrub you will notice at the nursery. Fragrant and shaped like the flower of Lily of the Valley, the pieris flower hangs in clusters like jewels on a necklace. The pieris shrub has lance-shaped foliage that radiates out from the main branch. Leaf color ranges from lime to hunter green. The evergreen habit is irregular, featuring branches that lean in different directions.

**Gardenia:** A true white flower with a pale, yellow eye, it's maybe the most fragrant flower. It has layers of petals in a rounded form—much like a rose. My mother, who lived in Fairlington for nearly 30 years, cared for one in her garden. She wrapped it in burlap come winter so ice and snow didn't damage the plant.

**Candytuft:** Speaking of true white, this summer-flowering perennial has such vivid, white blooms, one



*Gardenias, a classic white flower, add a fragrant touch to any garden. Photo courtesy Wikipedia Commons.*

will notice it from yards away. Candytuft has so many blooms, the basal foliage is almost hidden. Resembling a carnation, these domed-shaped, fragrant flowers show in late spring and summer.

**Climbing Hydrangea:** This woody vine—it has exfoliating bark on the branches—offers white flowers in summer. It has an espaliering habit so it looks best on a trellis. The flowers are flat and wide that encircle a yellowish eye. The leaves are beneath the blooms and resemble a viburnum leaf with an undulating margin and recessed veins.

**Southern Magnolia:** Think dwarf for your Fairlington patio. "Little Gem" is the most popular and available one at local nurseries. Like the parent plant, it has large, cup-shaped, white flowers in summer. A yellow eye fills the center

of this fragrant bloom. The leaves are leather-like, thick, long and oval (like a football). The fruit of a Southern Magnolia is an aggregate filled with red seeds (like the fruit of a dogwood tree) that attracts birds at meal time.

**Fall-blooming Clematis:** Just like candytuft's bloom fill the plant's habit, this vine is floriferous. How much? It resembles a white blanket covering the fence façade in autumn. We know what the summer-blooming clematis looks like with its 4-inch-wide purple, pink or white flowers. But the fall-blooming clematis has fragrant blooms in the shape of an airplane propeller or dragonfly. Four, long petals (like your pinky finger) radiate from the flower's center.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)



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**Bryan S.**  
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**Najia G.**  
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Excellent service! the guys were on time for the job. Worked quietly, and professionally. Cleaned up after the job was done and were very polite and respectful. I am so impressed. Thank you.

**Chelsea C.**  
★★★★★ Verified  
Peter and his team were professional, affordable, and efficient. Would definitely keep them in mind for future projects.

**Chris C.**  
★★★★★ Verified  
I'm a Realtor and have a client that was putting in new floors. They hired Home Depot who, upon finding that the subfloor wasn't level, walked away from the job. Peter was able to level the subfloor for a reasonable price and got the floors installed. He was very prompt and knowledgeable.

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