

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



MAY 2024

Volume 50, Number 5

[www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

## Farmers market reopens, welcomes new vendor

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Many of last season's vendors will return this year. Family of Nuts is a new addition. Photo by Guy Land.

Opening day of the Fairlington Farmers Market is right around the corner! Come to the market on Sunday, May 5, and help celebrate the start of the season with giveaways, face painting, and a visit from the Arlington Art Truck. Check out our Facebook page and weekly e-newsletter for details. The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. through November 24, on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St.

The market offers a mix of fresh produce, grass-fed meats, poultry, seafood, eggs, cheese, coffee, pastries and breads, salads, honey, jams, and prepared foods, including vegan and vegetarian options. Shop for fresh, high-quality food right in the neighborhood, and get to know the people who grow and prepare your food.

Most of the vendors from last season are back, and we're excited to welcome Family of Nuts to our market! Additional new vendors will be announced shortly.

You can pre-order from many vendors and pick up at their tables or select grab-and-go items. Shoppers can also use the To Go service to pre-order 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>.

*Continued on page 9*

# 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 8

The board will hold a virtual work session. There will be no special presentation.


### Regular board business:

- Approval of May 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](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.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

**Fairlington Citizens Association**  
PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
571-403-1943 • [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Editor:** Dianna Heitz

**Advertising Manager:** Rita Bubniak

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### — DEADLINE —

6 p.m., **8th 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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For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

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## Calendar

### Spring Yard and Plant sale

Saturday, May 4, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Fairlington Villages Community Center  
3005 S. Abingdon Street

### Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, May 4, 8:15 p.m.  
Rogue One: A Star Wars Story  
Fairlington Community Center field  
3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington Farmers Market opens

Sunday, May 5, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center  
3308 S. Stafford St.

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m.  
Meeting held virtually

### Home and Garden Tour

Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.  
3005 S. Abingdon St.

### Fairlington Diners

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.  
Busboys and Poets  
4521 S. Campbell Ave, Arlington

### Book Group

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

## Let's go to the swap



*The 8th semi-annual clothing swap brought neighbors together to share and shop in early April. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Maggie Bush, Julie Butler, Tina Byrd, James Harlow, Dianna Heitz, Guy Land, Lydia Redway, and Lauren Shaub.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For the first time since before COVID, the popular Fairlington Home & Garden Tour returns on Saturday, May 11. Sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), the tour offers the chance to see creative ways some of your neighbors have updated the interiors of their units.

It's also one of those rare activities that gets residents from North and South Fairlington out exploring each others' courtyards. One of my delights during prior tours was watching the literally hundreds of tour-goers wander around the community, trying to figure out where the units on the "other" side of Fairlington were located.

This year's tour coincides with the 25th anniversary of Fairlington being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior. That designation was achieved in March 1999. Fairlington had already been listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, the state equivalent of the federal designation, in December 1998. Historic designation has continued to be one of the values real estate agents highlight when they advertise Fairlington units.

The effort to secure historic designation laid the foundation for the creation of the Fairlington Historical Society, as interested residents, with support from FCA and several of the condo associations, tackled the arduous task of documenting Fairlington's history. This included photographing all the buildings to demonstrate the preservation of the architectural features that marked Fairlington's construction in the early 1940s.

FHS has continued to play an important role in the life of Fairlington. It published Fairlington at 50—and the updated 60th anniversary edition—the go-to source for information on the history of Fairlington. For the holidays, FHS markets the Fairlington ornament, produced jointly with FCA. FHS also conducts oral history interviews, collects artifacts from our past, and fosters conversations about our rich heritage.

The tour displays how homeowners are keeping their units contemporary while the buildings remain consistent with the original Williamsburg style. That underscores why FCA is urging the Arlington County Board to address a zoning issue that is adding time and expense for some Fairlington owners who want to modernize the interiors of their units.

FHS is a valuable Fairlington organization. I encourage you to consider joining. <https://www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>. In the meantime, I hope to encounter you on the tour on May 11.

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





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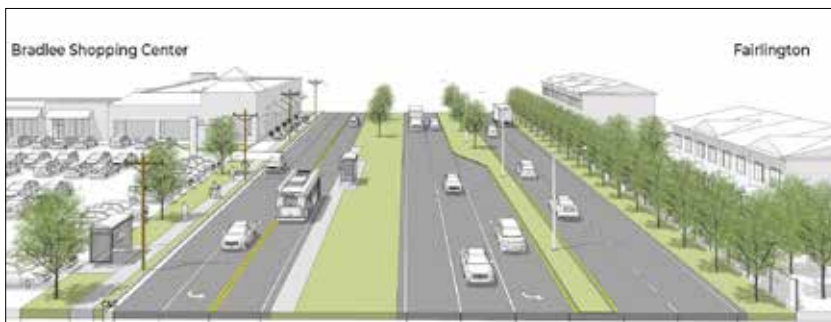


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## FCA sends King Street project concerns to Alexandria City

The Fairlington Citizens Association shared resident feedback with the City of Alexandria regarding the King Street-Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements Project. The project, which plans to improve King Street between N. Quaker Lane and Menokin Drive, recently completed its second phase of community feedback. This phase sought input on three alternative designs for King Street and the access road.



*The FCA letter highlights ideas and concerns raised by Fairlington residents about the King Street corridor. Graphic courtesy City of Alexandria.*

FCA submitted a letter to the City highlighting ideas and concerns raised by Fairlington residents about the King Street corridor. The letter detailed issues around King Street including: long waits for pedestrians, narrow sidewalks, inadequate bicycle facilities, limited amenities at bus stops, poor aesthetics and unattractive swales in the medians, and poor drainage conditions on the north side of King Street where stormwater runoff enters the Fairlington Mews, Arbor, and Glen properties.

The letter also noted challenges for buses turning into and out of the access road. FCA encouraged the City to address signal timing and missing crosswalks at intersections with this project.

Additionally, FCA provided feedback on the proposed alternative designs. This feedback included concerns about access to the Safeway and surrounding businesses, as those entrances and exits were not illustrated in the concept designs.

The letter also explained that the one-way access road alternatives would make it more difficult to access Bradlee from North Fairlington, and likely would increase traffic through South Fairlington as a result. FCA encouraged the City to explore a complete remake of King Street which would remove the access road entirely.

The letter reiterated feedback that FCA has shared with the City in the past about the need for stormwater management and landscaping improvements along King Street. It emphasized the importance of ensuring that stormwater management plans will minimize run-off impacting the adjacent Fairlington properties. Additional information on the King Street-Bradlee Safety and Mobility Enhancements Project can be found at: <https://shorturl.at/adpu9>

—Lydia Redway

## Outdoor movie night set for May 4 with Rogue One

May the Fourth be with you! Join us for Fairlington's annual outdoor movie night on May 4, featuring a Star Wars theme for Star Wars Day. Hosted by the Fairlington Citizens Association, this free event aims to bring Fairlington residents together for a night of community bonding and entertainment.

Bring your blankets, chairs, and favorite snacks to the Fairlington Community Center field and immerse yourself in the epic journey of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* under the twinkling stars. The movie will kick off shortly after sundown, around 8:15 p.m., so arrive early to secure your spot.

Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed on FCC grounds. While floodlights will illuminate the area behind the FCC, parts of the field may be darker

after the movie ends around 10:30 p.m. We recommend bringing flashlights, camping lanterns, or using the flashlight feature on your phone to safely navigate your way home.

Although we anticipate a delightful spring evening, there's always a chance of inclement weather. In case of cancellation, updates will be posted on the FCA website and Facebook page, with a makeup date announced in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

—Julie Butler





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## Annual Spring Yard & Plant Sale on May 4

Spring is upon us, and we are excited for the annual Spring Yard & Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon Street. Join fellow Fairlingtonians to see what great items you can find!

This year the native plants available for purchase include swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, Green and Gold, purple coneflower, native/wild strawberry, liatris, sundrops/evening primrose, woodland phlox, creeping phlox (light blue or pink), brown-eyed Susan/orange coneflower. Native plants are great for the environment, attracting beneficial bees and butterflies. Helpful information about native and annual plants, as well as growing tips, will be provided. Knowledgeable



*The annual event offers a variety of items being sold by Fairlington neighbors, alongside expert advice on native plants. Photo by Guy Land.*

gardeners from the Grounds Committee will be there to assist you in choosing plants.

Parking will be restricted in the Community Center parking lot the night leading up to the event, so be on the lookout for temporary “No parking” signs.

The Yard Sale activity is recruiting volunteers; if you are interested, please email [activities@fairlingtonvillages.com](mailto:activities@fairlingtonvillages.com). Plants will be sold from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 4 by the Grounds Committee.

Volunteers are needed to help. No knowledge of gardening or plants is needed to volunteer for the Plant Sale. If you can lend a hand (even one without a green thumb), please email [grounds@fairlingtonvillages.com](mailto:grounds@fairlingtonvillages.com).

## Early voting begins in May for June’s dual primary

In-person early voting for Virginia’s June 18 dual primary kicks off on May 3, for both local and statewide elections.

Earlier this year, Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey announced her retirement at the end of this term. Candidates in the Democratic primary for her open seat are: James A. DeVita, Julie E. Farnam, Tenley D. Peterson, Natalie U. Roy, and Julius D. “JD” Spain, Sr.

Candidates in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate are: Hung Cao, Jonathan W. Emord, Edward C. “Eddie” Garcia, Jr., Scott Thomas Parkinson, and C.L. “Chuck” Smith, Jr. The winner of the June 18 primary will face Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine, who is the only candidate on the ballot in his party’s primary and therefore automatically moves to the general election.

Voters can request mail-in ballots, which must be post-marked on-or-before June 18 and received by 12 p.m. on June 21.

Voters in the City of Alexandria, which encompasses part of Fairlington, will also cast their ballots on June 18, choosing from a field of 11 council candidates and three mayoral candidates.

### Upcoming key dates

First day of in-person early voting: May 3

- ▶ **Last day to register to vote or update existing registration:** May 28
- ▶ **Same Day Registration begins:** May 29
- ▶ **Last day to apply for a mail ballot:** 5 p.m., June 7
- ▶ **Last day of early voting:** Saturday, June 15
- ▶ **Election Day:** Tuesday, June 18
- ▶ **General Election:** Tuesday, November 5

—Information courtesy of Arlington County Voter Registration & Elections

This year’s general election will be held on Tuesday, November 5.

For more information, visit: <https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Elections>.

—Dianna Heitz





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Here's a quick look at our vendors; more information about products, pre-order deadlines, and payment methods is available at fairlington-farmersmarket.org.



The farmers market is a great community resource to get a variety of fresh and local produce and goods from May 5 through November 24. Photo by Guy Land.



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



**Mama's Donut Bites:** Mini donuts



**Ozfeka Catering:** Turkish borek, kisir, sarma, baklava, and other specialties



**Pasta Ilgatto:** Handcrafted fresh pasta and a variety of sauces



**Pickle Factory:** A variety of favorite flavors



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



**Qualia Coffee:** Small-batch roaster of single-origin estate and micro-lot beans



**Roggenart European Bakery:** Croissants, artisan breads, and pastries



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



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



**S Valley Farm & Orchard:** Salad greens, fruits and vegetables, jams, honey

Parking is available on S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., in the community center lot, or on Quaker Lane. Please be a good neighbor and avoid parking directly in front of residences across from the community center. Dogs are not permitted in the market, except for service dogs. We greatly appreciate our returning sponsors Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, and Kay Houghton & Associates. Please thank and support our generous sponsors as they have supported us.

—Lynne Blasi



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



**Atlixco's Mexican Grill:** breakfast burritos and bowls



**Baguette Republic:** Artisan breads, pastries, and cookies



**Cold Country Salmon:** Wild, sustainably caught Alaskan and local seafood



**Cooking Live - J'aime Madeleine:** Traditional madeleines, jelly rolls, and cookies



**Faerie Springs Farm:** Goat cheese, feta, mozzarella, and camembert



**Family of Nuts (NEW):** Small-batch, dry-roasted nuts



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



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# For the love of NATURE



## *Invasive big-headed ants and English ivy*

The Washington Post recently published an article titled “In Kenya, the king of the jungle faces a new challenge - ants.” Turns out that big-headed ants (BHA), which are not native to Kenya, are responsible for an “ecological chain reaction.” In the early 2000s, the BHA landed in Kenya hiding in goods from a foreign port or carried by an unwitting tourist.

So how can an ant (a little bigger than the width of a nickel) upset the food chain for a lion? To explain, let’s start from the top of the food chain and work backwards. Lions use whistling thorn acacia trees as cover when hunting zebras. The lion hides behind the acacia trees waiting for the zebra to get close before giving chase.

The acacia trees provide food for elephants and giraffes. As a defense against these animals with large appetites, the acacia tree has a symbiotic relationship with the acacia ant. The tree provides the ant with both shelter and nectar for food in exchange for protection. The acacia ant will swarm into the nostrils of the herbivore feeding on the tree and bite the animal as it feeds. The animal will move to a less painful food source thereby leaving the acacia tree to thrive and provide cover for the lions.

This is where the BHA upsets the food chain. BHAs kill the native acacia ants thereby leaving the acacia trees vulnerable to herbivores such as elephants who will knock the trees down, destroying the lions’ cover. Without the acacia trees for cover, the lions have had to find a new food source not dependent on concealment. Lions have turned to African buffalo, which fight back,



*Volunteers have been working in the Commons woods for several years to clear the English ivy in the area that backs up to I-395, and they have made tremendous progress. Photo by Tina Byrd.*

so cover is less important. Five to 10 lions are needed to kill a buffalo instead of the one to two required to kill a zebra.

Imagine that this small invasive organism, an ant, has upset the food chain for lions in the same way an invasive plant can upset the food chain for insects and birds in our neighborhood parks and woods. For example, the ubiquitous English ivy is one such organism. It is spread by vines and by birds, who eat the berries and deposit them in another location.

When English ivy covers the forest floor, it chokes out the native plants (a food source for insects and birds), eliminating biodiversity; and when it climbs a tree, it harms the tree and eventually kills it. Trees provide so many benefits such as wildlife habitat, wildlife food, absorbing stormwater, to cooling the environment. English ivy provides resting spots for mosquitos on hot days or hides puddles, where they breed. Do we want more mosquitos?

Volunteers around the DMV, of which I am one, spend endless hours pulling English ivy from our parks and community gardens. If you have English ivy in your patio, please remove it. If you have English ivy on your community grounds, you can ask your Board to remove it or offer to do it yourself. Email [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) with questions or for plant suggestions, and please follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Tina Byrd



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## SPECIALS & COUPONS

Take advantage of our seasonal specials! And remember, we offer a 10% military discount and senior citizens receive 10% off, every day!

### SAVE 10%

Military personnel 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 \$100

Save \$100 on hydro-jetting of main sewer line & video camera inspection. \*

\*A **before & after** video camera inspection of the line will be done to verify that the line is clear. Hydro-jetting of main sewer line & video camera inspection must be completed together in order to receive a discount. 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.



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

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### SAVE 10%

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## 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 is open to Fairlington residents ages 5 to 10 years old. Registration opens on June 1. Image courtesy of FINS.*

FINS runs for three weeks from July 8 to July 26, 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 only open to Fairlington resident children 5 to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). Please visit <http://www.fairlingtonfins.org/> on June 1 for registration.

For the program to be successful, we are also looking for two to three parents or other adults to assist with the daily coordination of the swimmers. The requirement is two hours per day, 4:30–6:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 1.5 hours on Fridays, 6–7:30 p.m. for these three 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. Email your interest to [fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com). Looking forward to a fun summer swimming in the Fairlington pools!

—Lauren Shaub

## Democrats to select school board candidates

Four candidates are seeking the endorsement of Arlington County Democrats in the race to fill two slots on the Arlington School Board. Voting will take place across three days in May. Under Virginia law, school board elections are non-partisan, but candidates often seek the formal endorsement of political parties.

Kathleen Clark, Larry Fishtahler, Chen Ling, and Zuraya Tapia-Hadley are seeking positions that are being vacated by current School Board Chair Cristina Diaz-Torres and Vice Chair David Priddy, who announced earlier this year that they would not be seeking re-election.

Voters may request an electronic ballot through Thursday, May 9. Electronic ballots will be sent out starting at 10 a.m. on April 20 and can be completed any time until 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 11.

In-person voting for the Democratic endorsement will occur at three caucuses: Sunday, May 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Washington-Liberty High School, 1301 N. Stafford St.; Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School, 1415 S. Queen St.;

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School, 3500 S. 23rd St.

Clark is the vice-chair of the 2024-30 Arlington Public Schools Strategic Plan steering committee and served six years on the Special Education PTA. Fishtahler, a previous candidate for the school board, once led the Advisory Council on Instruction and the County Council of PTAs.

Ling is the parent of a third grader at Ashlawn Elementary School and the director of engineering at a Fortune 500 company. Tapia-Hadley is the senior director of public affairs for Spanish-language media company TelevisaUnivision and a Virginia Public Access Project board member.

The party will use ranked-choice voting to determine the candidates who win the Democratic endorsement. Those candidates will be joined on the general election ballot in November by Fairlington resident James Vell Rives, who has run previously for the school board.

—Guy Land

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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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*Cultural Heritage Night 2023.*

## ***PTA pushes back against potential staffing cuts***

Thanks to everyone in the Fairlington community who has weighed in during our effort to keep robust staffing levels, including two assistant principals, at Abingdon in the 2024-'25 school year budget. The PTA continues to advocate to ensure Abingdon students have the resources they need to succeed. Read more at [www.abingdonpta.org](http://www.abingdonpta.org).

## ***Field to Table grant provides fresh food to Abingdon families***

During this season of spring abundance, we gratefully acknowledge the generous support of community partner Field to Table. Well-known to AFB readers as the organizer of the much-loved Fairlington Farmers Market, Field to Table awarded Abingdon Elementary a grant worth thousands of dollars. Grant funds have helped provide food to dozens of families throughout the school year and will support a new garden on the school grounds.

## ***Abingdon seeking school-based subs***

Abingdon is seeking school-based substitute teachers! School-based subs serve on a longer term basis in a single school, receive competitive pay, and are eligible for benefits. This would be a great position for a semi-retired person or a student living in Fairlington. If interested, please contact Jolynn Lopez at [jolynn.lopez@apsva.us](mailto:jolynn.lopez@apsva.us).

## ***Abingdon celebrates Cultural Heritage Night***

Hundreds of students and families flocked to the school on a recent Friday to celebrate our school community's wide variety of cultures. Attendees enjoyed food, performances, and more! Thanks to all who made this favorite annual event a success once more.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that Abingdon once had a playground designed by a local celebrity?

Abingdon unveiled its "Leathers Playground" in

April 1985. The playground was designed by Robert Leathers, a celebrity playground architect whose designs were constructed over multiple days by hundreds of community volunteers!

### ***Abingdon School Dates***

**May 27**—Memorial Day

**June 14**— Last Day of School





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■ **Celebrate Summer with Jake's Ice Cream**

Friday, June 14th

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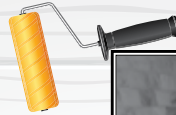
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—Mary Thomasson,  
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# neighborhood news

## Calling all student entrepreneurs

Are you a Fairlington student offering your services this summer? Available to clean patios, walk dogs, water plants or other tasks? The *Bulletin* wants to highlight your small business in a future edition!

Please email a description of your offerings, general availability and contact information to [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com). We'll reach out ahead of our next issue.

## 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 April, we returned to Ramparts, which we consider our home base, for a Saturday lunch.

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m., Busboys and Poets, 4521 S. Campbell Ave, Arlington, 703-379-9757, [busboysandpoets.com](http://busboysandpoets.com). This mainstay of the Shirlington restaurant scene is one we haven't visited as a group. The Randolph St. garage is recommended.

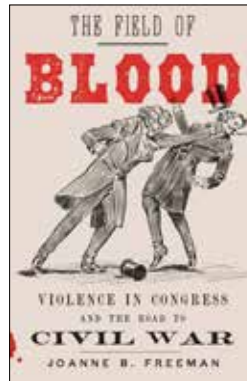
Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 not later than 24 hours in advance if you plan to attend. Leave a voicemail if you don't reach her--include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

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

Join the Fairlington Book Group in May to discuss *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*, by Joanne B. Freeman. We will meet Tuesday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

"Absorbing, scrupulously researched . . . Freeman uncovers the brawls, stabbings, pummelings, and duel threats that occurred among United States congressmen during the three decades just before the Civil War... Men and



women crowded the Congressional galleries with the expectation of seeing entertaining outbreaks, much the way fans of professional wrestling or hockey do today."—*The New York Times Book Review*

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

## Get your tickets now for the Home and Garden Tour

Saturday, May 11 is the Fairlington Home and Garden Tour benefiting The Fairlington Historical Society. This event happens once every two years and you won't want to miss it. You'll see some great homes and lovely gardens, meet fellow residents, and get some good ideas and inspiration.

Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance (visit our website <https://shorturl.at/hwT09> to download the order form) or in person:

- **Saturday, May 4**—at the Fairlington Yard Sale, Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. from 8 a.m.-11 a.m.
- **Sunday, May 5**—at the Fairlington Farmers Market, 3308 S. Stafford Street from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 11**—TOUR DAY at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tickets ordered in advance can be picked up at the FV Community Center on May 11. You'll get a wristband and Tour booklet (which serves as your ticket) that includes a brief description of each home and a map.

Cash or check only. Please make checks payable to the Fairlington Historical Society.

—*Barbara Berti*



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## Home Improvements

**ODD JOBS Help** for all your “odd-job” home needs is returning in mid-May. Renovations, repairs & all sorts of odd jobs such as painting, drywall repair, small carpentry projects and many other miscellaneous items. I’m a retired remodeling contractor / civil engineer available for free estimates, advice & quality work. Call or text David @ 703-732-1534 or e-mail: [dacdac3027@gmail.com](mailto:dacdac3027@gmail.com). A Fairlington resident with many local references.

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**Due date for ads and payment:** 6 pm on the 8th of the preceding month (May 8 for June issue).

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

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Listing Agent: **Joanne Ritchick**

Patricia Quinlin, Joanne Ritchick and Julie Flory are proud sponsors of the Fairlington Historical Society 2024 Home and Garden Tour May 11, 2024 as your Community Builders.



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