



## *All Fairlington Newsletter*

### **President's Message**

May 2026

This month ushers in the start of the Fairlington Farmers Market on Sunday, May 3, pool season, Memorial Day weekend, and outdoor social gatherings. It signals the wind-down of the academic year and is often packed with end-of-school-year plays, musicals, sports banquets, and parties. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) has added a new event to the lineup, its first open mic night on Saturday, May 16, for talented, or not, Fairlingtonians. Please join us as a participant or listener.

While May can feel like a blur, my goal this month is to notice the smaller things in our neighborhood, such as the nuanced differences in our building's architecture, a courtyard I have yet to walk my dog through, or someone's garden coming to life. Can you walk through the neighborhood and look at it from a different perspective? Perhaps you will discover something new.

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*Photo by Charlotte Terry.*

## Visit the Farmers Market Every Sunday, Beginning May 3

Join your friends and neighbors for opening day of the Fairlington Farmers Market's 2026 season on May 3. The market offers fresh, high-quality food and the chance to connect directly with local producers. It is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Thank you to returning sponsors [Active & Connected](#), [FCA](#), [Fairlington Dental](#), [Fairlington United Methodist Church](#), and [Kay Houghton & Associates](#).

Enjoy live music, family-friendly events, and community partners throughout the season. Follow [@fairlingtonmarket on Instagram](#), [Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook](#), or subscribe to the weekly newsletter for updates.

### Opening Day Highlights:

- Live music by The Two Peas
- 9 to 11 a.m. — Master Gardeners

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- Meet FCA

**Vendors include:** Ana's Twist, Atlixco's Mexican Grill, Baguette Republic, Cake by Kika, Cold Country Salmon, Faerie Springs Farm, Family of Nuts, Fresh Off the Roast by Qualia Coffee, J'aime Madeleine, Jinlan Wenhua, Kiwi Kuisine, Kuhn Orchards, Mama's Donut Bites, Ozfeka Catering, Pasta Ilgatto, Pleitez Produce Farm, Roggenart European Bakery, Sandy Bottom Acres, Sexy Veggie, and Spring Valley Farm and Orchard. More information is available at [field2table.org](https://field2table.org).

Parking is available on S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., in the community center parking lot, or on Quaker Ln. Please avoid parking in front of nearby residences. Dogs are not permitted, except for service animals.

—*Charlotte Terry*

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**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL**

**FAIRLINGTON FCA**  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

**FAIRLINGTON OPEN MIC**

**SHARE YOUR TALENTS!**

**WHERE**  
Community Center  
3308 S. Stafford St.  
Room 134

**WHAT**  
**FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!**

**WHO**  
**ALL AGES!**  
**MUSICANS! POETS!**  
**PERFORMERS!**

**SIGN UP**  
ThomasKeith87@gmail.com

**MAY 16**  
**2 - 4 PM**

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[www.facebook.com/FCAcivic](https://www.facebook.com/FCAcivic)

## Fairlington Open Mic Debuts May 16

The FCA is hosting its first open mic event on Saturday, May 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 134 at the Fairlington Community Center. This event offers a low-pressure opportunity for performers of all ages and skill levels.

Hosted by FCA board director Tom Keith, the event aims to recreate the feel of a college coffeehouse, where artists can perform, capture photos and video clips for social media, and meet like-minded creative members of the

—Tom Keith

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## Volunteers Needed for Disaster Response Training Exercise

Fairlington residents are invited to participate in a disaster response training drill on Saturday, May 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers will serve as “actors,” playing the role of community members arriving to help after a disaster.

This hands-on exercise supports the [Volunteer Reception Center \(VRC\)](#), a trained group of local volunteers who organize and assign unaffiliated volunteers during emergencies. Participants may take on different roles throughout the morning, helping organizers practice real-world response scenarios.

The VRC plays a key role in disaster recovery by connecting willing volunteers with immediate community needs. Whether assisting the Red Cross with shelter support or helping local organizations with cleanup efforts, the VRC ensures volunteers are efficiently placed where they are needed most.

This training helps strengthen community preparedness and response efforts. Those interested in participating can register at [VolunteerAlexandria.org](https://www.volunteeralexandria.org).

—Reba Winstead

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## May Events Calendar

Interested in having your event included? Email [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com)

### Fairlington Villages Yard & Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

### Fairlington Farmers Market

Sunday, May 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

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Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 100

### **Volunteer Training**

Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[Volunteer Alexandria](#)

### **Fairlington Diners**

Saturday, May 16, noon

[T.H.A.I. in Shirlington](#), 4029 Campbell Ave., Arlington, (703-931-3203)

If you plan to attend, send an email to carol\_dabbs at yahoo dot com no later than 24 hours before the event. Please include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. New diners welcome!

### **Fairlington Open Mic**

Saturday, May 16, 2 to 4 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 134

### **Abingdon Elementary PTA Spirit Night**

Wednesday, May 20

Silver Diner, 4630 King St., Unit A3, Alexandria

A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Abingdon Elementary School PTA.

### **Fairlington Book Group**

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 104

The group will discuss *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

### **Fairlington Moms**

Are you a Fairlington Mom looking for more support, play opportunities for kids, or a group of friends in the same period of life for some fun? The Fairlington Moms' Club is the place for you. We offer:

- Playgroups for different age groups, accommodating all moms & schedules
- Family holiday-themed events
- Moms' nights out
- Meal trains and support for when you need it most
- Our very own classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group



*Photo by Erin Lattimer of her son, Callum (1), with the Easter Bunny.*

## **Spring Fun at the Fairlington Moms' Club Easter Egg Hunt**

The Fairlington Moms' Club held its annual Easter egg hunt, graciously sponsored and hosted by Kay Houghton & Associates, on Saturday, April 4. The event included age groups from infants to upper elementary school students and brought together more than 150 members from across all Fairlington HOAs. Kay Houghton's team provided refreshments, photos with the Easter Bunny, and an egg hunt for all ages.

The next all-family event will be held on Sunday, July 19.

*—Molly Haines*

## YOUR FAIRLINGTON REAL ESTATE EXPERTS



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### Thinking About Making a Move in Fairlington or the Surrounding Area?

At [Kay Houghton & Associates at eXP Realty](#), we specialize in helping homeowners and buyers navigate the market with confidence. With deep local expertise, a proven strategy, and a hands-on team approach, we're here to make your experience as smooth and successful as possible — whether you're buying your first home, upgrading, downsizing, or preparing to sell.

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*Photo by Julie Butler.*

Fairlington Historical Society

## Fairlington Stumbling Stones Unveiling Honors Enslaved Individuals

More than 100 community members gathered on April 26 for the unveiling of Fairlington's Stumbling Stones, hosted by the FCA and the [Fairlington Historical Society \(FHS\)](#). The ceremony honored Harry, born circa 1770, and Milley, born circa 1755, who were enslaved on land that is now present-day Fairlington.

The event included remarks from Arlington County Board Member Takis Karantonis, Tim Aiken of the [Arlington Historical Society](#), Fairlington resident Dan Burd of the Fairlington Historical Society, and Craig Syphax, board member of the [Black Heritage Museum of Arlington](#). Speakers reflected on the history of the Morven Plantation, which once covered much of Fairlington, and the lives of those who were enslaved there.

The Stumbling Stones, small markers placed in the ground, serve as lasting reminders of individuals whose lives were tied to this land. The stones are

remembrance. The Fairlington Historical Society and FCA plan to hold additional ceremonies as more stones are purchased.

“I stand before you not just as a speaker, but as a descendant of people who were enslaved in this very county. Their lives were not footnotes. They were the foundation. Today, we have done something sacred. We have remembered. We have spoken the truth. We have said, clearly and without apology: they mattered.” —Craig Syphax

—*Jenn Davies*



*Photo by Sue Davis.*

For the Love of Nature

## **Project Weeds: Plants in the Wrong Place**

A friend of mine had no dandelions in his yard. Not everyone likes them. I knew he didn't use herbicides, so I asked how he did it.

“Well, I get home from work, grab a beer and my dandelion digger, and walk

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We may not all have yards in Fairlington, but we do have gardens. And weeds? You bet. But don't, I repeat, don't use Roundup or other herbicides. They kill indiscriminately, and it is easy to wipe out your hard work with only a few applications.

There are more eco-friendly alternatives that use combinations of vinegar, citrus oil, and soap for waxy leaves, such as poison ivy. There are also many do-it-yourself recipes available online.

So where does that leave the gardener? When possible, a hands-on approach is the best method. That will mean kneeling. Fortunately, there are tools that can help with "Project Weeds," including a dandelion digger, a trowel, and garden sleeves, which I prefer to gloves. If kneeling is difficult, consider kneeling pads or using a cut piece of an old yoga mat for support.

It has been said that if you keep at it for two or three years, you will see far fewer weeds over time. You can do this, and best of all, you will feel satisfied looking at your garden.

—*Sue Davis*

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Government Updates

## **Arlington School Board Chair Briefs FCA**

Bethany Zecher Sutton attended the April 8 FCA meeting at Park Shirlington's new community room. She discussed the FY 2027 budgeting challenges the school system is facing. The APS budget is \$855.69 million, a 1.3% increase from FY 2026. Approximately 80% of the budget goes to salaries and benefits. Additional revenues from the state and county have declined 78.1% and 87.2%, respectively. To offset the loss of additional revenue, APS plans to reduce spending at the central office. A projected decline in enrollment may also lead to some savings. The budget is expected to be adopted on May 14.

Zecher Sutton addressed community concerns about Abingdon Elementary School's recent test scores. Federally, Abingdon is identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) due to outcomes for Hispanic students and students with disabilities. The School Board Chair stated that a designation of

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coordinated intervention. Despite losing its Title I status last year, no staffing cuts occurred. Zecher Sutton indicated that a new survey will be released in the next few weeks to help determine Title I eligibility.

FCA thanks Zecher Sutton for attending the meeting and providing thorough and thoughtful answers to community concerns and questions.

—*Jenn Davies*

## **City of Alexandria Elects Sandy O. Marks to City Council**

On April 21, Democrat Sandy O. Marks won the special election for an open seat on the Alexandria City Council. Marks received 55% of the vote, defeating independent candidates Frank Fannon, 29%, and Alison Virginia O’Connell, 15%. Marks will replace former Councilman R. Kirk McPike. McPike served on the Alexandria City Council since 2022 before resigning to run for delegate for House District 5, which includes part of the City of Alexandria. The result gives Alexandria its first female-majority City Council, with four of seven seats, in the city’s 279-year history. The governing body now includes Mayor Alyia Gaskins (D), Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley (D), Councilwoman Jacinta Greene (D), and incoming Councilwoman Sandy Marks (D).

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