

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Volume 43, Number 11

County board member Vihstadt to address FCA in November

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Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt visits with FCA President Guy Land at this year's Fairlington Fourth of July celebration. Photo by Chris Weathers.

Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt will be the guest speaker at the Fairlington Citizens Association meeting on Wednesday, November 8, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Vihstadt will be ready to discuss issues affecting the county and issues of direct relevance to Fairlington.

Currently, Vihstadt is focused on three major county issues. First, he is concerned with shaping and managing the county's

growth as the population rises and the demand increases for both programmed and non-programmed green spaces, parks, fields, and other community infrastructure.

Next, Vihstadt seeks to shore-up the troubled Metro system through a combination of administrative and managerial improvements, enhanced oversight, and employee productivity reforms, along with a new, permanent dedicated funding stream provided by all participating jurisdictions.

Finally, he would like to see the county meet public schools' capacity challenges and the educational needs of Arlington children through better collaboration with Arlington Public School Board counterparts and program efficiencies.

Of recent note, in August, Vihstadt was one of two county board members to vote against a moratorium on creating new or changing current residential parking permit zones. The county plans to study the permit program over two years, but Vihstadt thought the timing of the moratorium was unfair to those with pending requests.

In September, Vihstadt joined with the four other board members to unanimously approve a ban on keeping wild and exotic animals as pets, including

Continued on page 17

Coming up ...

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

FCA monthly meeting November 8

Special presentation: Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt will discuss issues affecting the county and issues of direct relevance to Fairlington.

Regular board business:

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

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

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

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Email commercial and mini ads to:

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

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Calendar

Election Day

Tuesday, November 7
Polls open 6 am to 7 pm

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Veteran's Day observed

Friday, November 10
FCC Closed

Thanksgiving holiday

Thursday, November 23 to Friday,
November 24
FCC Closed

Fairlington Diners

Monday, November 27, 6:30 pm
Clyde's
1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA

Book Group

Tuesday, November 28, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fall is here



Outdoor decorations across Fairlington mark the arrival of the fall, Halloween, and the coming Thanksgiving holiday. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lucy Beadnell, Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Kent Duffy, Evan Harvey, Trey Hawkins, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Carol McCaffrey, Renee Powlette, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 19 brings to a close a very successful year for the Fairlington Farmers Market, a season marked by increased attendance, new vendors, and widespread community support.

When FCA first launched the discussion of having a farmers market, almost five years ago, we weren't sure where this conversation would lead. But you quickly told us this is something you wanted FCA to explore, and we assembled a very dedicated volunteer team to craft a proposal to Arlington County.

We said this would be a neighborhood market, designed for residents of Fairlington and the surrounding neighborhoods. We hoped it would become a community gathering place, where neighbors and friends would come, often on foot, to visit and chat. It was not intended to be a destination market for people who live outside the immediate area.

We've achieved our vision. According to an informal survey taken at the market in early September, 58 percent of market patrons live in Fairlington, while another eight percent live in Parkfairfax.

The market's success can be measured in various ways: the continued participation of vendors for whom the volume of sales justifies their time and expense (the vendors pay a fee); increasing foot traffic as the market retains prior customers and attracts new ones; and word-of-mouth enthusiasm about the market, as people linger to visit with neighbors.

We've succeeded on all three measures: We've kept our nucleus of initial vendors and added a couple more this year. Foot traffic has generally been up this year over last year. And the local "buzz" about the market resulted in *Edible DC* magazine selecting our market as one of three finalists for best farmers market in the D.C. area. (We went to print before we knew the final outcome of the voting.)

There are two keys to the market's success—our affiliation with Field to Table, which also operates the highly successful Westover and Marymount markets in Arlington, and a dedicated cadre of reliable volunteers.

Field to Table's management experience and financial resources enabled the Fairlington Farmers Market to get off on a solid operational footing, and its expertise and staff continue to support market decisions.

But it's really the Fairlington volunteers who make the market work—coordinating with the vendors, greeting market customers with a warm smile each Sunday, and managing the preferences of shoppers. We owe all of them our thanks. They have helped the market become an important part of life in Fairlington.

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



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– Patty, Fairfax, VA



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Fairlington residents sound out I-395 walls

The October FCA meeting featured a robust discussion on the merits of a sound barrier along I-395. The FCA frequently advocates for local residents as the larger region copes with escalating traffic and infrastructure demands. The construction of HOT express lanes along an eight-mile stretch of highway (from Edsall Road to S. Eads St.) will inevitably bring more noise to Fairlington, especially for those homes closest to the I-395 corridor.



Fairlington Mews resident Kay Yancey discusses the sound wall options with Jaret Demcher from McCormick Taylor and Ray Rivas from AECOM at the October FCA meeting. Photos by Guy Land.

The entities responsible for I-395 design and construction—the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Transurban, and AECOM—all sent representatives to speak at the meeting. Geoff Vetter, AECOM Public Information Officer for the I-395 Express Lanes project, presented a series of slides and did most of the talking. He laid out the timeline of this multi-year project, including the current phase.

The official noise impact report (Draft Noise Abatement Decision Report, or NADR) has been completed; it identifies the individual units that are “impacted and benefited” and thus eligible to vote on whether they want sound barriers. Only those units may vote. Neither the condo associations nor FCA is eligible to vote.

Units on the southbound side of I-395 will vote first, with the units on the northbound side getting ballots a few weeks later. Eligible Fairlington Villages residents were sent ballots in late September.

Those that received a ballot will have 21 days to return it. The ballot will include an overview of the voting process, information on the location of the proposed sound walls, and aesthetic and design information. Votes are based on

a simple majority. If 50 percent or more of initial ballots are returned, the majority outcome of the vote will decide whether sound walls will be built or not.

If less than 50 percent of initial ballots are returned, a second round of ballots will be distributed by certified mail to recipients who did not respond to the initial ballot, and residents will have 14 days to return the ballot. The majority outcome after the second ballot will be decisive.

As the details of these sound walls emerged during the discussion, many residents raised concerns. The proposed walls are 25 feet high, which will impact sight lines and sunlight for residents on lower floors. The walls also require 10 feet of clear space on either side, which will require the destruction of a fair number of trees and shrubs around the neighborhood perimeter. And the walls themselves may only provide five decibels (dB) of noise reduction, according to designers.

The number of official voting residents is small, according to Vetter, and based on proximity and noise dynamics. Not every vote bears equal weight. Residents are divided into “impacted” and “benefited” categories. An impacted resident is expected to experience highway noise above a 67 dB threshold; benefited residents would, in theory, get five dB or more of noise reduction



Paul Nishimoto with VDOT explains a slide in the I-395 express lanes presentation.

from the wall. And within these categories are subcategories: Owner/resident votes count more than owner/non-residents, and both count more than renters.

Several attendees were surprised to learn that renters even got a vote, because the sound wall project creates many years of residual impact. Others asked Vetter if

Continued on page 21

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Amanda - Fairlington Resident



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General election coming up Tuesday, November 7



On November 7, Virginia voters will elect the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General, along with members of the Virginia House of Delegates. And they'll do it the old-fashioned way, with the return of paper ballots.

According to Edgardo Cortés, Virginia's commissioner of elections, all of the commonwealth will use paper ballots and electronic scanners to ensure voting and tabulation are secure.

In-person absentee voting runs through November 4, though the deadlines for both voter registration and to apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you have passed.



A steady stream of voters dropped by the Fairlington Community Center voting precinct in last year's election. Photo by Guy Land.

Local Elections

Arlington voters will elect one person each to the county board and to the school board. Candidates for Arlington County Board include Democrat Erik Gutshall and Independents Audrey R. Clement and Charles A. McCullough.

Candidates for school board are Alison Priscilla Dough, Monique C. O'Grady, and M. D. "Mike" Webb.

Alexandria residents will vote in two unopposed local races: Democratic candidate Dana A. Lawhorne is run-

ning for sheriff and Democrat Bryan L. Porter is running for the commonwealth's attorney.

Statewide Voting

The Democratic candidate for Governor is Lt. Governor Ralph S. Northam and the Republican candidate is GOP consultant Edward W. Gillespie. Libertarian candidate Cliff D. Hyra will also be on the ballot.

For Lt. Governor, the Democratic candidate is Justin E. Fairfax and the Republican is Virginia State Sen. Jill H. Vogel.

Candidates for Attorney General are Democrat Mark R. Herring, who was elected Attorney General in 2013, and Republican John D. Adams.

In Arlington, incumbent Democrat Mark H. Levine is running unopposed for the House 45th District, which includes all of the Arlington part of Fairlington. In Alexandria's 46th District, which has the part of North Fairlington that is in Alexandria, Democrat Charniele L. Herring runs unopposed.

There are no referendums on the ballot for Arlington or Alexandria.

All polling places are open from 6 am to 7 pm. Take a valid photo ID, and reading glasses may be helpful for the paper ballot. If you're unsure where to vote, visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PollingPlaceLookup>.

—Christine Chirichella



Voting location updates

North Fairlington: Voters in precinct 22 will once again cast their votes at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St., due to construction soon to be completed at Abingdon Elementary, the usual voting location.

South Fairlington: The polling place will be at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Alexandria residents who live in Fairlington: Vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.

Farmers market wraps up third season on November 19

The Fairlington Farmers Market is open for a few more weeks—come out and enjoy the fall bounty and get a head start on your holiday meal planning and shopping! Fall at the market means apples, beets, broccoli, cabbage, greens/spinach, herbs, peppers, potatoes, and much more.



"The Fairlington Farmers Market's recognition as one of the premier weekly markets by Edible DC is a testament to both the persistence and hard work of the market's volunteer committee, and the incredible support of the market by the Fairlington community," said Rob Swennes, Executive Director of Field to Table, the organization that owns the market.

Edible DC Awards

Our market was honored to be selected as a finalist for Best Farmers Market in the Edible DC Awards! As a young and newer market, we're thrilled to be recognized in the same category as the other two finalists, Columbia Heights and Takoma Park, both well-established markets.

The awards celebrate community, sustainability, and economic growth, and each category had two winners: A Judge's Choice Award and a Community Choice Award. Thanks to everyone who voted for us! We know how passionate our neighborhood is about the farmers market and appreciate your support. (Winners were announced October 16, after the *Bulletin* went to press. Visit www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org to find out the results.)

Thank you to sponsors and volunteers



Volunteers were key to the market's success.

The market wouldn't exist without the support and help from our dedicated sponsors and volunteers—thank you so much for everything you do! The vendors and market committee greatly appreciate your commitment to ensuring that Fairlington residents have this wonderful market right here in our community.

Sponsors: Copperwood Tavern, Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, and Jennifir Birtwhistle, Realtor with Weichert, Realtors

Volunteers: Jeannine Christian, Madeleine Clarke, Gail Crider, Leslie Frank, Debbie Grant, Martha Hulley, Arnie Malin, Tracey McGovern, John Miley, Marta Pineda, Monika Schiller, Enrique Salazar, Warene Garmeson Sheridan, and Erin Treacy

Market committee: Co-chairs Lane Erwin and Melissa Beene, Lynne Blasi, Eliot DeLaCruz Kriviski, Cheryl Goodman, and Jeff Kost

Market manager: Aisha Salazar

Thanks for shopping at the market and see you next year!



2017 market highlights

- Our two new vendors this season have done well and quickly became mainstays for the market. Hog Haven's breakfast sandwiches are becoming famous, and Sexy Vegie's soups and prepared foods ensure the vegetarians and vegans among us have options at the market as well.
- This year's focus on marketing and increasing foot traffic has paid off. We've seen an increase in foot traffic and vendors report seeing new faces at the market. Best of all...sales are up by about 30 percent.
- People come for fresh food and stay for connection and community. As a market centrally located within a residential area, we're a bit different than other farmers markets. People linger to visit with neighbors, families walk or bike to the market and stay to have a picnic, new arrivals in the neighborhood stop by the market information tent

Customer map results

Did you take part in the customer map survey at the market in September? By placing a pin on the location of your residence, you helped us and Field to Table, the market owner, learn more about where our customers come from. Field to Table operates three markets in Arlington and did the same survey at the other markets. Here are some key findings:

- The number of households living within a radius of 1/4 mile from the Fairlington market is more than twice as many as those who shop from within the same radius at Field to Table's other two markets.
- Among the three markets, our market also dominates in terms of customers coming from within a 1/2-mile radius from the market.
- 58 percent of the market's customers are Fairlington residents; eight percent of customers live in Parkfairfax.



Market customers used push pins to indicate where they live.

- A surprising number of Alexandria residents living across Route 7 from Fairlington or further east into Alexandria visit the market.



to inquire about places to get shoes repaired or recommendations for bike trails, shoppers bring visiting family and friends along on their weekly visits, and kids kick a ball around on the soccer field or shoot hoops on the basketball courts while their parents shop.

- The search for additional vendors for 2018 continues. We have two to three more spaces for vendors and continue to search for dairy/milk/yogurt (they are hard to come by!). If you have suggestions for vendors for next year or would like to submit an application, let us know at www.fairlingtonfarmers-market.org.



Photos by Guy Land.

—Lynne Blasi

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FiOS has arrived in the Arbor

FiOS has finally arrived in South Fairlington. Subscriber use of the service became available to the Fairlington Arbor in late September. The Arbor is the first Fairlington association to be online. Chris Hornback, Arbor President, states "Many of our residents have been anxiously awaiting FiOS and the [in-unit] install work is now underway."

Delivery of FiOS will then be rolled out association-by-association in South Fairlington. Service in the Mews is expected to be on as of this publication date, followed shortly by the Meadows and then the Glen, and then the remaining associations. Residents will receive mailers as availability draws near; several different introductory packages and rates will be available for combinations of internet, TV, and phone service. Additional package information is also available at www.verizon.com/fios/2sc.

Louise Anderson, Verizon FiOS Franchise Service Manager, states, "Verizon has begun providing service to HOAs in South Fairlington, and will begin working in North Fairlington after the South is completed."

Residents of North Fairlington will have to wait a little longer for the service. Fairlington Villages recently sent final drawings reflecting correct hub locations to Verizon. Verizon will then complete the detailed designs

that will be sent to the construction contractor. Installation of wiring is expected to begin this year and last about eight weeks. Availability for subscriber use is anticipated for the third quarter of 2018.

—Rebecca Sayres and Kent Duffy

Help us celebrate Fairlington's 75th!

Fairlington turns 75 next year. The first units were rented in the spring of 1943. The FCA, in collaboration with the Fairlington Historical Society, is seeking ideas to appropriately mark this milestone in our community's history.

We've set up an online form for you to offer suggestions on how to honor the 75th anniversary—from selling unique Fairlington items (such as reproductions of early photos) to a community reception to an extended history walk. Or you may come up with other ideas that we never thought about.

Take a couple of minutes to give us your ideas about how to celebrate this important neighborhood occasion. Go to the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org, and click on the 75th anniversary survey link. The FCA board will discuss your suggestions at its annual meeting on December 13.

Spotlighting Fairlington's boundary stone

The removal of the old Mews boundary fence along King St. (see story on page 19) provided an opportunity for a fresh look at Fairlington's boundary stone, one of



*The Fairlington boundary stone.
Photos by Guy Land.*

the 40 original stones used to mark the boundary of the new national capital (the District of Columbia) in 1791–92.

The boundary stones represent the nation's oldest federal monuments. Farm plows had destroyed the top of the Fairlington stone by the early 1900s. With the widening of King St., the stone was moved to the right of way to prevent further damage.



FCA President Guy Land and Fairlington Historical Society Trustee Patty Clark stop to take a selfie while cleaning the boundary stone enclosure.

Each fall, a bike ride around all of the boundary stones, sponsored by Boundary Stone DC, commemorates these historic treasures.

—Guy Land

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A busy Fairlington Fall

Fairlington pulsed with a variety of fall activities in October, including the annual open house at Fire Station 7, the Commons Arts and Crafts Festival, and Cub Scout Troop 350 selling popcorn. *Photos by Guy Land.*



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Fairlington Villages to adopt new trash policies

The September issue of the *Bulletin* reported on two raccoon attacks in July that generated widespread community concern, local news coverage, and ongoing discussions on Facebook.

More important, the attacks prompted the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), Virginia Department of Health, and Animal Welfare League of Arlington to notify Fairlington Villages condo association that its procedure for trash removal was endangering people and creating a public health concern, and that the association had a legal requirement to change its trash policies. Continued placement of trash on front porches, or in common areas, not within a container that will restrict access by raccoons, would be considered a violation of law.

As a result, the Fairlington Villages Board of Directors authorized the immediate purchase of new trash receptacles and adopted an interim trash policy in the two Wards where the attacks occurred. The board also hired two wildlife management firms to trap and remove raccoons. Finally, it tasked the existing Ad Hoc Trash Working Group with researching the problems and options, and recommending policies, procedures, and a resident communication strategy for the association.

The next step is for the Fairlington Villages Board of Directors to evaluate comprehensive trash removal and recycling strategies, with the end goal being a revised policy for the entire association.

Throughout September, the management office displayed three new receptacle options for the residents to review. In October, options were presented for concealment of the receptacles.

The board is soliciting and collecting residents' input as it explores these new options through surveys and a series of ward meetings. Board President Terry Placek states, "The Fairlington Villages Board of Directors is committed to exploring and deliberating all options and listening to all. We hope everyone will keep an open mind, provide us feedback on the three prototypes, and attend the ward briefings."

Once the information has been gathered, and in consultation with government agencies and the association's trash contractor, a community-wide plan that includes community education will be put into place. The plan is expected to be completed and voted on at the February 2018 board meeting.

—Christine Chirichella

Fairlington's Cub Scouts to collect food for AFAC in November

Cub Scout Pack 350 will collect food in Fairlington for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) through Scouting for Food, a convenient and highly successful annual food drive, starting on Saturday, November 4, with food pickup Saturday, November 11. Scouting for Food brings together Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Crews in neighborhoods across the Northern Virginia metropolitan area to collect food donations for local food banks.

Cub Scout Pack 350, a charter of Fairlington United Methodist Church, will be responsible for both North and South Fairlington. "Our Cub Scouts love seeing how much food Fairlingtonians give to this worthy cause," says Pack 350 Committee Chair Elina Erlendsson. "And Fairlingtonians love how much energy these kids put to helping their neighbors in need."



Last year's Cub Scout food drive was a big success. Photo courtesy Cub Scout Pack 350.

On Saturday, November 4, the Cub Scouts (with help from parents) will distribute special Scouting for Food shopping bags to Fairlington homes. If residents are interested in donating food, they should place their donations in the Scouting for Food bags and set them outside their front doors by 9 am on the morning of Saturday, November 11, for the Cub Scouts to collect.

The Scouts will be uniformed, in teams, and accompanied by parents in automobiles. They will only pick up donations placed outside front doors; they will not knock on doors to solicit contributions. If a donation is not picked up by noon on November 11, residents should contact Trey Hawkins, Pack 350's Scouting for Food Chair, at treyhawkins@gmail.com and a Cub Scout and parent will come to collect the donation.

Continued on page 21

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MOMS Club® Consignment Sale a huge success



Photo by Lucy Beadnell.

The MOMS Club® Fall 2017 Consignment Sale on September 23 was a huge success!

More than 40 sellers, most of whom are MOMS Club members, entered nearly 5,000 items for the sale. The day yielded nearly \$10,000 in sales, with some additional funds brought in through the sale of a limited number of early shopping passes.

Eighty percent of the proceeds go back to the sellers, and the balance is donated to Arlington Food Assistance Center's (AFAC) Backpack Buddies program, which sends food for the weekend home in the backpacks of Arlington students living in food insecure households. This year the donation to AFAC was close to \$1,600.

As always, the sale relied heavily on a group of volunteer coordinators and dozens of MOMS Club members, who spent Friday and Saturday setting up the sale, organizing



Photo by Sheri Weathers.

items to be sold, running the registers, helping shoppers, and finally packing it all up at the end of the day.

Many of the sellers donated some or all of their unsold items to My Grandmother's House, a locally based charity that gives the items directly to Virginia families living in poverty. They have picked up the donated items for several sales now, and shared that the moms who receive the donations have come to feel like Fairlington mothers really care about them and are looking out for them. The MOMS Club couldn't agree more and was blown away, as always, by the members' generosity.

The semi-annual sale will be held again in February or March of 2018. Be sure you like and follow the sale's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Fairlington-MomsClubConsignmentSale>) for updates.

—Lucy Beadnell

Green county decal must be displayed by November 15

Per the county treasurer's office, the green 2017–18 car decal must be displayed by November 15 on the front windshield of every car domiciled in Arlington, to indicate payment of personal property tax—and to avoid a ticket. Police will ticket vehicles garaged, stored, or parked in the county that do not display a valid decal.

You must pay all personal property taxes and any outstanding debt, including parking violations, to receive your vehicle decal from the treasurer's office. For any decal-related questions, call 703-228-4000 or go online to the county website and search "car decal."

Vihstadt, continued from page 1

alligators, tigers, venomous snakes and reptiles, raccoons, and squirrels. He also voted with his colleagues to approve a one-time funding of \$100,000 for the Legal Aid Justice Center to provide emergency immigration legal aid services for county residents.

At the meeting, Vihstadt looks forward to discussing current development happenings and community engagement opportunities.

Vihstadt was elected to the Arlington County Board in April 2014 in a special election to complete the unexpired term of Chris Zimmerman.

—Michelle Woolley

Letter to the Editor

I wanted to share our communities' experience (Hollandtowne, Parkside at Alexandria, Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association) with VDOT when it proposed a sound wall as part of its 2013 project for the I-395 ramp and auxiliary lane ramp for Seminary Lane.

We opposed the wall and voted it down but will be required to vote again due to VDOT's 2016 Express Lane Project. I would like to share our objections with your residents as they make up their minds on how to vote.

1. Decrease in property values

Property values of those residential properties adjacent to the noise barrier walls may decline as much as six percent in the short run, and by 11 percent in the long run. Search online for: "The Effect of Noise Barriers on the Market Value of Adjacent Residential Properties," *International Real Estate Review*, 2007, Vol. 10 No. 2: pp.113–130.

2. Dramatic loss of green spaces and green horizon bordering I-395

3. No significant noise reduction

According to VDOT's own 2013 Preliminary Noise Analysis Technical Report, "The construction of a barrier between I-395 and N. Van Dorn St. would have no impact on present noise levels along N. Van Dorn St." (as measured by their receptors). The justification VDOT gives for the wall is based on VDOT-projected sound levels that will occur in 2042.

My recommendations for Fairlington homeowners:

When it comes time to vote, the most important thing for a community to have is access to as much information as possible.

1. Go to VDOT's website (http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/I-395_Noise_Tech_Report_August_2016.pdf) and carefully examine its Noise Technical Report Analysis Report and pay CLOSE attention to the sound wall maps that cover your area. The removal of trees, bushes, and green areas will be severe. According to VDOT's Right of Way Technical Report, the wall will remove 1.28 acres of trees and bushes along Fairlington's northern and southern I-395 borders. They will be replaced with a 15–30-foot wall that will block views, result in a loss of air circulation, and create a feeling of confinement.

2. Drive from Seminary Rd. to Edsall Rd. and

back to see how a VDOT sound wall looks and impacts the green area along I-395. Also, drive down N. Van Dorn St. from Seminary Rd. to Sanger Ave. to observe our section where we were able to defeat the construction of a wall. Observe VDOT's replacement landscaping, which is inadequate.

3. Research the impact the wall will have on property values. See my recommended article and do research on your own.

4. Encourage all eligible to vote when the time comes.

Best wishes,
William Rogle
Vice President, Hollandtowne HOA

Editor's note: The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

Master Gardener tribute bench



County officials and staff, along with local Master Gardeners and Arlington County's Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent Kirsten Conrad, celebrated the ribbon cutting for the Master Gardener tribute bench and garden on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center. Photo by Tamara Daily.

Mews begins fence replacement: A note from the president



Work moved quickly on the Mews fence project. Photo by Guy Land.

The Mews started its fence replacement project on September 25 after more than a year's worth of planning. We opted to replace the old chain link fence on the King St. border with a solid wooden one to help shield us from the noise and exhaust pollution.

We also removed the Photinia hedge that ran along King St.

because a lot of it was dead or diseased and it was expensive to maintain. Once the hedge was gone, it became apparent that we had a serious issue with trash that had previously been concealed, so we paid thousands to remove bricks, hubcaps, and even furniture.

We also had to get a site survey done because the Mews borders property owned by the City of Alexandria along King St., as well as the Virginia Department of Transportation at the entrance ramp to I-395.

Lastly, we found out through Miss Utility that a large gas line runs along the length of King St., so the gas company has to be onsite for safety reasons as the post holes are being dug.

The project was estimated to take three weeks and we just may meet that timeline. Once it's done, there will be a gate on the Mews' side for easy viewing of one of the original District of Columbia boundary stones that is now clearly visible in its enclosed green cage along King St.

—Renee Powlette, Fairlington Mews Board President

"Hometown Habitat" draws sellout crowd

Every seat in the house was filled at the special screening of "Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home" on September 18 at the Fairlington Community Center. The entertaining and compelling documentary showed the necessity of using native plants in residential landscapes to sustain our local ecosystems and the web of life.

We learned that abundant native plants are required for the survival of insects, birds, and all living creatures—including humans! We also saw how native plants and native animals evolved together over millennia and require each other to survive, and that non-native plants (ornamentals) cannot and do not support local ecosystems. The movie makes this easy to understand, and shows how practicing backyard environmentalism with native plants is the wave of the future.

The film was followed by a lively Q&A session with expert panelists to discuss how to adopt native planting into our communities, and when to change outdated landscape practices that can be harmful. The panelists were Rod Simmons (Natural Resources Chief for the City of Alexandria), Kirsten Conrad (Extension Agent, Arlington Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources), Joanne Hutton (Audubon at Home Ambassador and Steering Committee for Plant NOVA Natives), and Emily Ferguson (Master Naturalist, Tree Steward, and beekeeper).



An enthralled crowd watches the free screening of "Hometown Habitat" and learns about supporting ecosystems with native plants. Photo courtesy Carol McCaffrey.

Since the event, attendees have written to say they are modifying their HOA's landscaping plans to feature native plants, and their personal gardens, as well. People attended from all Fairlington condo associations, Windgate II, Arlington Ridge and Forest, Fairlington Towne, Parkfairfax, Rosemont, Arlington, Alexandria, and even McLean, D.C., and Maryland.

Special thanks to Fairlington Villages, the FCA, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Plant NOVA Natives for sponsoring the event. Carol McCaffrey of Fairlington Villages and Scott Knudsen of Parkfairfax organized and hosted the event.

—Carol McCaffrey



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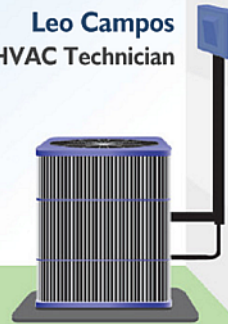
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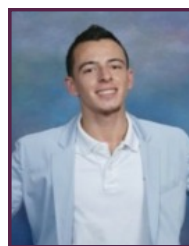
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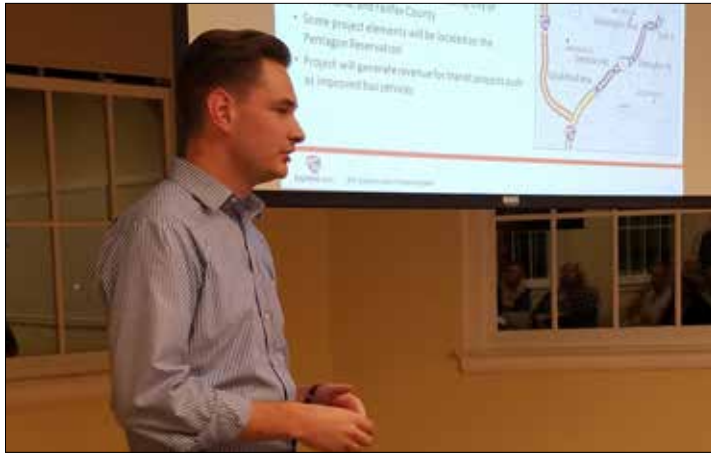


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Geoff Vetter of AECOM reviews the overall plan for sound walls on I-395. Photo by Guy Land.

voting residents knew enough to make an informed decision—if perhaps the ballots were sent before all the facts were made plain.

FCA President Guy Land asked Vetter and his team if any official estimate of the number of affected trees had been done; others asked if any plans had been made to replant those trees elsewhere. The answer, in both cases, was no. The condo associations, according to Vetter, are not given a vote in this process, but any landscaping accommodations would be negotiated with them.



Proposed sound walls for Fairlington would likely resemble this design. Photo courtesy AECOM.

There is also the potential that VDOT will need to acquire small amounts of property from the adjacent condo associations to provide an adequate buffer for the walls. While this could potentially result in an eminent domain enforcement—where VDOT takes the land, no matter what—Vetter said the goal is to negotiate an

acceptable arrangement with the affected landowners.

Conceding the points raised by residents at the meeting, the assembled agency representatives quickly agreed to a few changes in course. First, voters could decide to change their votes if already cast. Second, Vetter's team will work with the condo associations try to meet with the most immediately affected owners (near the area of King St. and S. 30th St.) in order to better explain the project. Third, FCA pledged to put more information (including the meeting presentation itself) on its website. Finally, VDOT said that it would consider re-sending (or re-scoring) the first round of voting ballots.

—Evan Harvey

FCA to elect board members next month

Looking for a way to get involved in your community? Have some ideas for ways to make Fairlington even better? Want a good outlet for your volunteer energy? Then consider serving on the FCA Board.

Board members are volunteers who serve one-year terms. All nine positions are up for election at this year's annual meeting, December 13.

The board meets monthly, coordinates a variety of community events, and serves as Fairlington's voice in dealing with local jurisdictions. Individual board members are on point for specific activities or initiatives, while the group as a whole examines larger issues that affect the community or enhance the quality of life in Fairlington.

If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours a month, consider this important leadership position. Anyone interested in serving should email FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley, vp@fca-fairlington.org. For more information, contact any current FCA board member.

—Guy Land

Cub Scouts, continued from page 15

AFAC provides supplemental groceries to more than 2,000 Arlington families per week. Last year, Scouts delivered 60,600 pounds of food to AFAC through Scouting for Food.

To learn more about Cub Scout Pack 350, please visit <http://pack350.mypack.us>.

—Trey Hawkins

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In October, we visited Laporta's for the first time in several years, where we enjoyed Italian fare, and had our regular half-price burger night at Ramparts.

For November, we'll have just one event, to allow space on our calendars for Thanksgiving.

Monday, November 27, 6:30 pm, Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA, 703-820-8300, www.clydes.com. This is a local favorite, nearby with easy parking. The crab cakes are a favorite with a number of the regular diners.

Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 pm on Sunday, 11/26. 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.

Also, you may want to plan ahead for our annual holiday luncheon: Friday, December 15, 12:30 pm, L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls, VA.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in November to discuss *A World Lit Only by Fire*, a history of the Middle Ages to the Renaissance by William Manchester.

"Manchester describes the transition of the medieval mind, 'shackled in ignorance, disciplined by fear, and sheathed in superstition,' into the Renaissance mind with villains such as Cesare Borgia and Torquemada and heroes such as da Vinci and Magellan." —*Library Journal*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, November 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Card players welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op


If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Email the coordinator, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Fairlington MOMS Club®

The Fairlington MOMS Club® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlington-momsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The Fairlington MOMS Club is the local chapter of MOMS Club International.

Audubon-at-Home Ambassadors needed

Audubon-at-Home Ambassadors visit properties at the request of homeowners to provide advice on planting natives, removing invasives, and other wildlife habitat improvements. The program will offer a training session Friday, November 3, (time and location TBD). Email audubonathome@folhc.org for more information.




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-Rita Tassa

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-Christina Mills

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Finding color and texture in winter trees

Unless you favor green, there isn't much color left in the winter landscape except for the Blue Atlas Cedar and Blue Spruce trees. Evergreens become prominent, as do the trunks of deciduous trees. On your winter walks, check out the following specimens at eye-level. You'll discover there is some color, after all.

Chinese Elm: Many are on the medians along Fairlington's streets. Visit one on the S. Utah St. hill (next to the fire hydrant). Its bark is gray with brown spots. Beneath that is an orange under-skin.

Sycamore: One stands where S. 36th St. and S. Utah St. meet. The thick trunk is a smooth mixture of light gray and charcoal. Beneath those colors are splotches of ivory. One Sycamore (corner of S. Abingdon St. and S. 30th St.) has splotches of tan on its trunk.

Dogwood: This tree features bark in imperfect squares that feels like cork board when you dig in a fingernail. Its reddish leaves dropped in mid-October. Besides this sketch-work bark pattern, you will notice shiny red seeds (drupes) which birds devour. There's one to the right of the Fairlington Dental entrance on S. 31st St.

White Ash: It almost resembles an alligator's back standing on end, with gray, vertical plates of silver bordering jet-black crevasses. Notice the spent flowers—green ovals that hang in panicles like charms off the branches. One sits 60 feet to the right of the parking lot entrance at



Fairlington Crape Myrtle trunks. Photo by Guy Land.

the Fairlington Community Center, just inside the black fence along the sidewalk.

Beech: These trees offer a stark gray surface that is soft and smooth. They can be seen from a distance when growing in the forest. This is the "tree of lovers," where you'll find initials carved within a heart on the bark's surface—it's that soft and smooth. However, there are unfortunately none in Fairlington.

Lacebark Pine: This has one of the prettiest bark patterns. Etched

along its trunk are rectangular indentations. There is a grove growing between the Presbyterian Church playground and Menokin Dr. just across King St. from South Fairlington.

Cherry: Six trees line the median at S. 33rd St., just off Quaker Ln. Notice the concentric lenticels (actually pores) that are raised off the silvery bark surface. Visit here in late March, early April for a dazzling cherry blossom display.

Crape Myrtle: This is another exfoliating tree trunk whose peels are funneled and dark brown. The species, 'Fauriei' has large, burnt-red splotches on its tan trunk. There are two small trees with these displays at the entrance to Fairlington Court on S. 31st St. Another, much larger one anchors the right edge of 4711 S. 29th St.

Dawn Redwood: There's one about 30 feet to the right of the Long & Foster entrance on S. 31st St. Notice the 1/4-inch-long needles and then look at the dark brown bark with an orange underside.

Juniperis (Red Cedar): This tree has a twisted trunk with gray vertical strips of bark. Beneath these pieces is a smooth, apricot-colored under-skin. You'll see some along S. 32nd St., just beyond the right-centerfield outfield fence at the softball diamond.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Abingdon students "Strive for Five"

Students at Abingdon Elementary School have learned a new pledge this year, which they recite every day after the Pledge of Allegiance. The "Strive for Five" pledge encourages students to strive for excellence by being safe, respectful, responsible, prepared, and mindful.



Abingdon music teacher, Eric Green, leads students in the Strive for Five song. Photo from Abingdon Twitter Account, @AbingdonGIFT.

Each morning, students recite:

I will STRIVE FOR FIVE.

I will be safe by keeping my hands, feet, and objects to myself.

I will be respectful by using words that are kind and positive.

I will be responsible by making choices that help myself and others.

I will be prepared by being ready to learn.

I will be mindful by being aware of my thoughts, feelings, and actions.

I will STRIVE for Excellence within myself and in my community.

The Strive for Five pledge is posted throughout the school to ensure consistent expectations in all areas. For example:

- Be Safe—by walking at all times, being aware of others, keeping hands and feet to yourself, using all equipment properly, reporting problems to an adult
- Be Respectful—by respecting students, teachers, and staff; using kind words; inviting others to join in; respecting others' spaces and belongings
- Be Responsible—by being in the right place at the right time, picking up after yourself, completing tasks
- Be Prepared—by listening to teachers' directions and being where you are supposed to be
- Be Mindful—by being aware of your body and voice, focusing on taking care of your needs, taking a breath if things don't go your way

To kick off the new program, students and staff participated in a fun assembly, where they learned a new "Strive for Five, Strive for Excellence" song written by Abingdon Music Teacher, Eric Green. Students also performed songs and skits to teach their peers each of the Strive for Five tenets.

Education through the arts

Abingdon is continuing its successful Project GIFT program (Guiding Instruction Through Fine Arts and Technology), by integrating arts and



First-graders learn social skills through movement as part of the CETA program. Photo by Nicole Jondahl.

technology into daily instructional practices. Abingdon has an ongoing partnership with The John F. Kennedy Center's CETA Program (Changing Education Through the Arts). The partnership provides staff with professional development activities in arts integration and students with the opportunity to attend fine arts events and work with visiting teaching artists within their classrooms.

Project GIFT includes:

- Staff-wide training provided by the Kennedy Center
- School-wide implementation of arts and technology integration strategies
- Arts coaching provided by Kennedy Center experts
- Special courses in all grades, including architecture, living histories, science lab, Spanish, and instrumental music
- Increased opportunities for parent and community involvement with evening events, such as Library Nights and Project GIFT Showcases

—Carrie Lewis

Mini-ads

Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.

Services

BABYSITTING. Red Cross certified middle school babysitter available weekends, holidays. Responsible. Great with children. References available. Have lived in Fairlington 11 years. Contact Gabriella at smithkz@umich.edu or 202-306-7317,

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. Fairlington home-owners our specialty for over 30 years. Convenient evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for an appointment with a FREE Retirement Check-up included. (703) 931-3290.

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IRS ENROLLED AGENT can prepare your individual and business income taxes, provide advice, and respond to IRS and State tax letters. Bookkeeping and Small Business / Government Contractor support services too. Former Fairlington resident with 25 years of experience. Flexible time and place appointments. Visit www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com for more information, or call Christine R. Coker at 703.407.7545.

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Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. This month is a good time to plant since our nights are cooler. And any month is suitable for a clean-up and mulching. Contact Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping. E-mail or call. billsullivan41@gmail.com 571.213.9567

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WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

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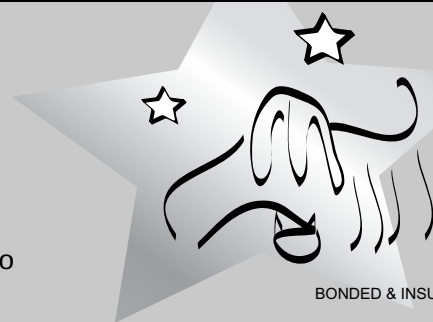
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Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (Nov. 10 for Dec. issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Mailing Address: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

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

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

Include with ad copy: Name, address, phone #, email address, and ad category (see Mini-ads for options).

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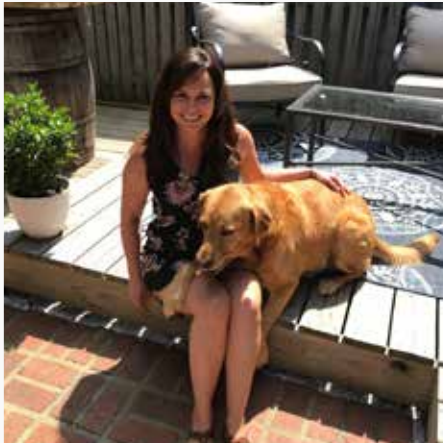
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