

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2021

Volume 47, Number 11

## Don't forget: Virginia needs your vote on November 2

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After weeks of early in-person voting and voting by mail, Nov. 2 brings the official in-person voting day at all precincts across Northern Virginia. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

North Fairlington residents who live in Arlington vote at Abingdon Elementary School, 3035 S. Abingdon St. South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

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

You will need to show an ID to vote.

Mail ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2 and must be received by noon on Friday, Nov. 5.

In addition to statewide races for governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, Fairlington's Arlington voters will be voting for a member of the Virginia House of Delegates and selecting a member of the Arlington County Board and a member of the Arlington School Board.

Arlington voters will also consider four bond issues: \$38.7 million for metro and transportation, \$6.8 million for local parks and recreation, \$17.035 million for community infrastructure, and \$23.01 for schools.

Alexandria voters will be voting for mayor, the city council, and nine school board members.

For more information, including sample ballots, <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/> or <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>.

—Guy Land



Democrat Terry McAuliffe (left) and Republican Glenn Youngkin are caught in a tight race for Virginia Governor heading into the Nov. 2 election. Photo courtesy <https://terrymcauliffe.com/> and <https://www.youngkinforgovernor.com/>.

# 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. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

## FCA monthly meeting November 10

**Special Presentation:** Representatives of WETA will discuss the expansion plans for their headquarters in Shirlington.

### Regular board business:

- Approval of October 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.

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

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## Fairlington Citizens Association

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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### — DEADLINE —

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

Ad payment can be sent to: FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182, locally dropped-off at the drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington VA 22206 or pay via PayPal to [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com). Ad file(s) should be included with payment and emailed to the Ad Manager at [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com).

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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

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## Calendar

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 2

### Fairlington Knits!

Monday, November 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details

### Fairlington diners

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m.  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Thursday, November 11

FCC closed

### Fairlington Knits!

Monday, November 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details

### Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25  
FCC closed

### Book group

Tuesday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.  
See page 27 for details

## Future soccer stars show their stuff on the FCC field



*The field behind the Fairlington Community Center has been busy every Saturday this fall with youth soccer games.*

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Guy Land, Sara Rasmussen, Thora Stanwood, Mary Stewart, and Bill Sullivan.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A review of the preliminary data from the 2020 census reveals important demographic changes in Arlington.

Arlington is experiencing robust growth, with a population increase of almost 15 percent. This is the largest percentage increase in 60 years. That no doubt reflects the popularity of its location; its attractive set of schools, businesses, and amenities; and its record of good governance.

That popularity also inevitably means greater density and additional traffic. That's the downside of being a community where people want to live. But on the upside it helps sustain today's record-setting housing market.

Arlington's growth is driven in large part by an increase in the number of children. The number of residents under age 18 grew by 29 percent over the past decade. That is an eye-catching number. It blows away the rate of increase in this age bracket in the three previous census counts.

This corresponds to the increased enrollment in Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the associated conditions of overcrowding at many schools, including Abingdon Elementary. The new data will also potentially result in significant changes in the boundary lines for individual schools, as APS tries to balance out those higher enrollment numbers.

The increase in young Arlingtonians is the opposite of the trend the county experienced in the 1960 and 1970s, when the number of children was dropping. Those dramatic declines resulted in the closing of schools, including the school that was located at what is now the Fairlington Community Center. The fight to keep that school open provided much of the impetus for the formation of FCA back in the 1970s.

The census data also show that Arlington is becoming more diverse, driven particularly by a large increase in the Asian population, along with more modest, but still notable, growth in the number of Black and Hispanic residents. As a result, the White share of the population has declined from 64.0 percent to 58.5 percent.

The data for the two census tracts that cover Fairlington aren't yet available. County staff expect those to be released in the next few months. When the numbers have been analyzed, FCA will sponsor a briefing for the community by the county's two demographers. We invite you to join us in getting new insights into our neighborhood.

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



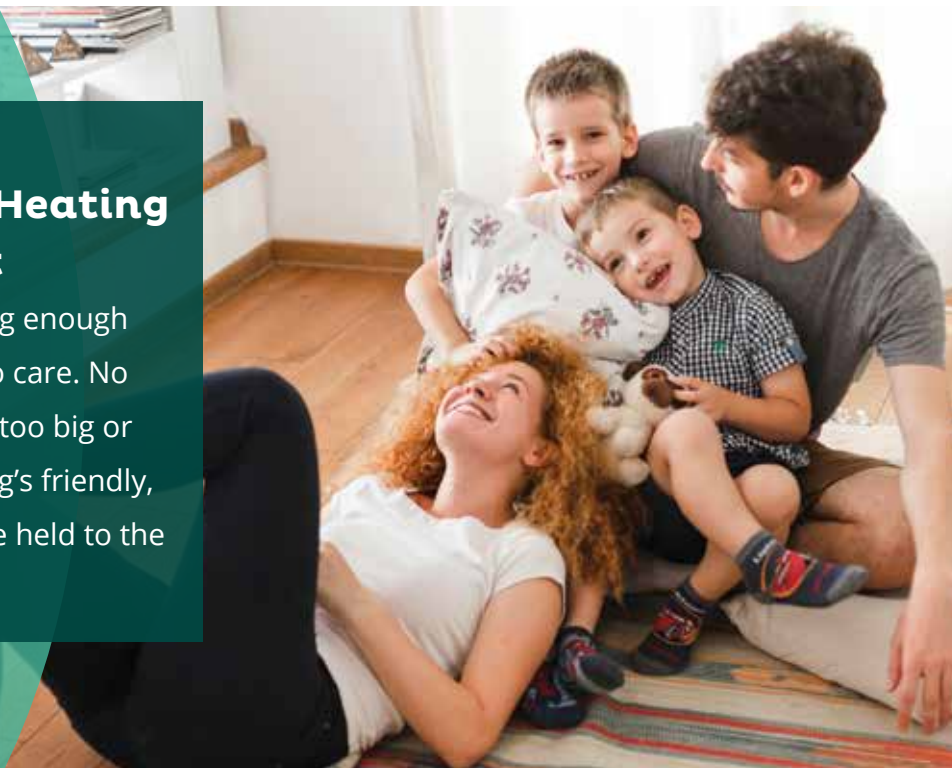


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## ***Fairlington blood drive a success; repeat planned for December***

Thank you to everyone who participated in the September Blood Drive for the Children's National Hospital (CNH), sponsored by FCA and Fairlington Cares.

All appointments were filled prior to the September blood drive and a handful of residents stepped in for cancellations the day of the event. Because of this wonderful support by Fairlington members, enough units were successfully collected to help 55 children at the hospital.

Children's National Hospital was delighted.

CNH blood donations have dropped by 70 percent this year, and each and every donation is greatly needed. All blood donations are kept and used directly at the hospital.

Many residents commented that they appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Blood Drive without having to leave the neighborhood. Several asked if we will be holding blood drives in the future.



We know the holiday month can be very busy, but the need for blood does not slow down. It takes an hour to give blood, and each unit of blood can help five children. Giving blood is safe. Covid precautions are implemented at blood drives.

Fairlington has had a supportive focus on families throughout its history. Donating blood to Children's



*Donors enter the bloodmobile parked outside of Fairlington Community Center on September 21. Photo by Guy Land.*

National Hospital is an easy and wonderful way to provide tangible help for children battling difficult illnesses.

Children's Hospital treats a variety of patients. Examples of CNH's young patients that need blood are: premature babies, children with sickle cell disease, children who need surgery, and children with cancers and blood disorders.

If you would like to donate blood to CNH, but cannot participate in the Fairlington

ton Blood Drive, you can always go to the CNH donation center to give blood. To make an appointment call 202/476-5437 or visit [childrensnational.org](http://childrensnational.org)

—Sara Rasmussen

## ***WETA to brief FCA on Shirlington expansion***



*WETA to brief FCA in November on their headquarters expansion. Photo courtesy WETA.*

WETA is expanding its headquarters in Shirlington to build new broadcast studios, offices, and community spaces in the land between the existing building on Campbell Place and WETA's parking garage. These studios, which are primarily used for their nightly production of PBS NewsHour and weekly series Washington Week, will replace the current WETA studio building on Four Mile Run Dr. Representatives of the public broadcasting station will join

the November 10 meeting of the FCA for a discussion of the expansion plan, construction timeline, and capabilities of the new facility.

—Mary Stewart

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# Census data shows robust growth in Arlington's population

With a rate of growth that is more than double the nationwide rate, Arlington's population grew 14.9 percent over the past decade, according to census data county staff presented to the Arlington County Board at its September meeting. The county's growth rate exceeds the regional average of 12.9 percent and is roughly double the nationwide growth of 7.4 percent.

The census data revealed that in 2020 there were 238,643 people in Arlington, compared with 207,627 in 2010. That's an increase of 31,016 persons.

Arlington's population growth alone accounts for 4.9 percent of Virginia's total growth and 9.7 percent of the growth in Northern Virginia, according to Elizabeth Hardy, an Arlington county demographer.

This growth was driven in part by significant increases in the number of residents under age 18 and by the number of Asian residents. The group of residents under age 18 saw an increase of 29 percent since 2010, roughly twice the county's overall growth rate.

The number of Asian residents grew by 7473, which is more than a fourth of the total increase in the county's population.

While white residents continued to constitute a majority of the county's population, that share of the total population declined from 64.0 percent in 2010 to 58.5 percent in 2020. Hispanic or Latino residents are the next largest group in the county, at 15.7 percent of the total (a modest

increase over the last census). Reflecting the overall growth in Arlington's Asian residents, the Asian percentage grew from 9.5 percent in 2010 to 11.4 percent last year.

The Black population was relatively stable, growing from 8.2 percent of the total to 8.5 percent.

Consistent with the growth in the number of residents under age 18, the average size of the Arlington household inched up slightly, for only the second time in the county's history.

So far the Census Bureau has only released countywide data. The numbers by census tract and block will be released later. FCA plans to host a briefing by the county demographers once that more granular data is available.

County officials stated that an estimated 99.98 percent of Arlington households had been counted in the 2020 census.

—Guy Land

## ***Wanted: new board members for FCA***

Interested in making a difference in your community? Interested in having a voice and a say in the future of Fairlington? Consider running for the FCA board this year. Now accepting applications. Find out more at [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org).

## ***Annual Native Plant sale returns to local church***



*Fairlingtonians and other local residents browse and learn about native plants at the Church of St. Clement on N. Quaker Ln. Photos by Guy Land.*



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# Recent collisions raise concerns about neighborhood pedestrian-vehicle safety

Recently, several residents have experienced pedestrian-vehicle collisions or near misses while walking through the neighborhood. One young boy was struck on the afternoon September 30 while riding a bicycle in the crosswalk of 31st St. and Abingdon St. in North Fairlington. He was bruised and shaken up but unharmed. Another resident was struck by a car on September 24 while walking his dog in the crosswalk of 36th St. and S Wakefield St. He was also unharmed. Several other residents have shared reports of near misses in Fairlington crosswalks this year.



*The intersection of 36th St. S and S. Wakefield St. is notorious for small accidents and pedestrian safety complaints. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.*

The section of South Fairlington that connects to King Street, especially the intersection of 36th St. and Wakefield St. is a particularly troublesome area for vehicles and pedestrians. A quick search of pedestrian near misses on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page refers to this intersection more than any other.

Between January 1, 2018, and October of this year, there were two reported car collisions at the intersection of S 36th St. and S. Wakefield St., according to the Arlington Police Department (APD).

The APD does not currently have any of the pedestrian incidents on file since the affected parties have not filed a report.

The Special Operations Section did receive a traffic complaint for speeding on S. 36th St. between S. Abingdon St. and S. Wakefield St. in July 2021 and conducted a speed analysis investigation. This did not reveal any issues with speeding; the average speed through the area during that time was 21 mph. At the FCA's request, the City of Alexandria installed a No Turn on Red sign on westbound King St. to reduce the danger of pedestrian incidents at the intersection with Wakefield St.

The Arlington County Board will decide to authorize a public hearing in November to potentially approve creating 'slow zones' on residential streets near 13 schools.

This would limit the speed to 20 mph in 58 zones affecting 11 Arlington County Schools.

## Tips to Share our Roadways Safely

Whether you walk, bike, ride a scooter or drive a vehicle, we all need to share our roadways safely. The Arlington County Police Department reminds you to be a PAL – predictable, alert and lawful.

### Drivers are reminded to:

- Obey posted speed limits, traffic signs and signals
- Have all vehicle occupants wear their seatbelts
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and use caution when passing stopped vehicles
- Look before opening your door
- Allow 3 feet when passing bicyclists

### Pedestrians are reminded to:

- Cross the street at marked crosswalks and never against a red light
- Look both ways before crossing the street
- Walk on designated sidewalks or paths, never along the side of the road
- Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with light-colored clothing, reflective gear and lights

### Cyclists and Shared Mobility Device operators are reminded to:

- Obey posted traffic signs and signals
- Ride in the same direction as traffic
- Communicate your intentions by using hand signals
- Keep your eyes on the road and avoid the use of devices that may distract you
- Stay visible after dark and in bad weather with light-colored clothing, reflective gear and lights
- Each e-scooter company has age restrictions requiring users to be at least 18 years old to ride
- Ride in designated areas:
  - E-scooters may be ridden on streets, but not on sidewalks or trails
  - E-bikes may be ridden on streets and sidewalks, but not on trails
  - Pedal bikes may be ridden on streets, sidewalks, and trails

—Barbara Berti

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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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# No new density planned for Park Shirlington property

Closing the door on several recent plans to redevelop the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St. and significantly boost the number of units on the site, the owners of the property assured Fairlington residents that there are no plans to increase density on the property.

"We have dropped redevelopment plans," Steven Kahn of Standard Communities, a co-owner of Park Shirlington, told the Fairlington community in a special briefing on September 14. "We are just renovating existing units on the property."

In addition, Kahn said the property, which contains 293 apartments, would be maintained as affordable housing. That commitment would run for 75 years.

Kahn made his comments at a meeting hosted by FCA. The recording of the meeting is available on FCA's Facebook page.

Kahn was joined by Melissa Danowski, the principal development specialist with the Housing Division of Arlington County's Community Planning and Housing Department.

Danowski stated that county staff supported the renovation plan, noting that Park Shirlington is one of the larger affordable housing developments in the county. County board members have emphasized the importance of maintaining the supply of affordable housing in Arlington.

"Affordable housing" means that rents in most cases are affordable (i.e., they do not exceed 30 percent of the household's income) to households earning 60 percent or less of the Area Median Income. That amount for a family of four in Arlington is currently \$77,400.

Standard Communities jointly owns Park Shirlington with the National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions. Both are national companies that specialize in affordable housing, but this is their first experience in doing work in Arlington.

Renovation work is projected to begin in 2022 and take 18 to 24 months.

Kahn said they would work to keep the disruption to surrounding neighbors at a minimum. The staging



*Park Shirlington has long been a central example of the density debate in Arlington. Photo courtesy Park Shirlington Apartments.*

would be on the property itself, rather than on the street. In response to a question from Board member Ed Hilz, Kahn said he didn't expect to see any major impact on 31st St.

"It's a good parcel to work with," Kahn said, noting that construction parking and storage of materials would be on-site.

The renovation would maintain the historic character of the property, with much of the work focusing on interior improvements, such as updated appliances and new HVAC systems.

The owners hope to build a new leasing office and an amenity center, but the decision on that will need to wait until the final budget, including

financing terms, has been determined. "The first priority is the housing itself," Kahn said.

Kahn assured the FCA Board that residents would not be displaced during the renovation. The goal is for the interior work to take place during the day, with residents able to return to their apartments for the night. A few vacant apartments will be held as over-night accommodations in case the renovation work in a particular unit kept it from being habitable overnight.

Standard and its partner are currently working out the financing package with the county and the state, as well as with private lenders. The county will provide funding from the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, the county's main financing program for the development of affordable housing.

The financing package with the county is expected to come before the Arlington County Board early next year.

Three years ago Standard had proposed demolishing the units on the north side of 31st St. and building new condos, townhouses, and market-rate apartments on the site. All of the current 293 affordable housing units would have been shifted to the property on the south side of 31st St. (the side between the street and I-395).

This plan would have more than doubled the number of units on the Park Shirlington site. That proposal is no longer on the table.

—Guy Land

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# For the love of NATURE



## Reclaiming the night sky: Light pollution and what we can do about it



*Shirin Wertime points out Fairlington Meadows' new "dark sky-compliant" lighting to neighbors. Photo by Ed Colonna.*

When was the last time you enjoyed a starry night in Fairlington? Sadly, the artificial glow that lights our streets and allows us to venture out with confidence after dark also blocks our view of the stars. Well-lit streets and homes provide many benefits, but by lighting up the night sky, humans are radically disrupting the

natural rhythms of many species of plants and animals, with deadly consequences.

The daily cycle of light and dark determines behaviors like feeding, reproduction, sleep, and predator-prey relationships in amphibians, birds, mammals, and insects. Nocturnal animals, an estimated half of all species on Earth, are especially impacted. The effect on already dwindling insect populations is concerning given that insects pollinate our food crops and form the basis of food webs for a multitude of animals. Flying insects are drawn to outdoor lights, where many are either eaten by predators or die of exhaustion. Fireflies, a familiar sight here in summer, struggle to find mates in excess lighting.

Every year, over a billion birds are killed in building collisions due in part to the effects of light pollution. Most birds migrate at night and lights from cities can steer them off course into dangerous urban landscapes. Artificial lights can also alter the timing of migrations causing birds to miss out on ideal conditions for nesting, foraging, and raising their young. With birds suffering from the impacts of climate change and dwindling insect populations, light pollution represents another signifi-

cant threat to the survival of many species.

So, what can we as individuals do to make a difference? The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) suggests taking the following actions to minimize light pollution:

- Only turn on lights when needed
- Only light the area that needs it
- Lights should be no brighter than necessary
- Minimize blue light emissions
- Install lights that are fully shielded (pointing downward)

In daily practice, this means turning off indoor lights when we leave the house and porch and backyard lights when we go to bed. If you are concerned about safety, consider installing timers and motion sensors on outdoor lighting. The color of light is also important. Insects are most attracted to blue and white light, so warm, amber colored bulbs should be used for outdoor lighting.

The Fairlington Meadows recently put these recommendations into practice when replacing their existing outdoor lighting. According to the Building and Grounds chair, "The committee was very pleased to find that using lighting designed to be "dark sky-compliant" fulfilled every single one of our aims: finding aesthetically appropriate, energy- and cost-efficient LED lighting that was also friendly to living creatures: birds, bugs, and humans."

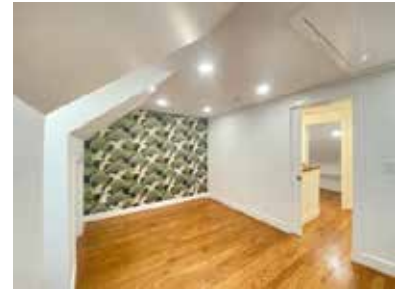
Unlike so many of the looming environmental challenges we face, light pollution is a problem with a relatively easy fix. By doing our part to limit excessive lighting and installing the right type of fixtures and bulbs we can feel safe outdoors while making sure nocturnal wildlife has a chance to survive and thrive.

For more information on IDA-approved lighting check out: [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

—Shirin Wertime

*Feel free to send us questions or comments at [fortheloveof-nature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveof-nature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!*





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# Dozens of Fairlingtonians gather for a fall movie under the stars

A clear sky on an early fall night was the perfect backdrop for FCA's fall Family Movie Night. Roughly 175 people turned out to enjoy *Honey, I Shrunk*

*The Kids* on the Fairlington Community Center field.  
Photos by Guy Land.







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# Last Farmers Market falls right before Thanksgiving



The Fairlington Farmers Market wraps up another successful season on November 21, just in time for Thanksgiving shopping. Whether you'll have a small or large meal, your neighborhood market has essential items on your list, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, breads, cheese, desserts, and more. Plan ahead for holiday gifts for the food-lovers on your list and stock up on honey and jam from Kuhn Orchards and Spring Valley Farm & Orchard, and coffee from Café Los Suenos.

The market enjoyed robust traffic throughout the year, with many new shoppers visiting for the first time. Here are some other highlights:

- Four new vendors joined the market, including Freed's Biscuit Company, J'aime Madeleine, Old Blue BBQ, and Sweet Pea Farm.
- Caputo Brothers Creamery came to the market as a pop-up vendor.

- As of September 26, approximately 1,548 pounds and 75 boxes of produce were donated to the food pantry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington. Thank you to Pleitez Produce, Spring Valley Farm & Orchard, and Kuhn Orchards for their generosity to our neighbors in need.
- To-Go, a system to make pre-ordering more convenient for shoppers, launched at the market this summer.

If you would like to join the market committee or have ideas for vendors and activities for our 2022 season, please contact [fairlingtonfm@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonfm@gmail.com).

—Lynne Blasi







## Fairlington t-shirts and swag are a farmers market hit



Fairlington t-shirts, totebags, hats and more will be available for purchase every Sunday at the Farmers Market.

Photos by Guy Land.

## With gratitude

A special thank you to our dedicated volunteers and sponsors. The market wouldn't exist without their continued help and support.

**Volunteers:** Zoe Fuller, Elizabeth Lawrence, Denice McCullough, K.M., Dominic Rojas, Erin Treacy, Karina Valverde

**Sponsors:** Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Kay Houghton & Associates

**Market committee:** Melissa Beene (co-chair), Lane Erwin (co-chair), Lynne Blasi, Cheryl Goodman, Robin Habberley, Jeff Kost, Tracey McGovern

**Market manager:** Aisha Salazar, Eliot DeLaCruz Kriviski





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# ***Fairlington HOA Presidents share neighborhood news in quarterly meeting***

Guy Land, Fairlington Citizens' Association (FCA) President, was the guest at the recent quarterly meeting of the Fairlington Presidents. Guy relayed information on numerous topics of interest to the Fairlington community: Park Shirlington, down the hill from Fairlington Villages, has agreed to provide affordable housing for the next 75 years. The FCA supports and contributes funds to Fairlington events such as the farmers' market, movie night, and the blood drive on behalf of Children's Hospital.

The primary communication tool of FCA is the *All Fairlington Bulletin (AFB)* which is in hard copy and delivered

to every household in Fairlington. The FCA has hired a specialist to study communication media to keep Fairlington residents apprised of events and issues pertinent to the community. One issue of interest is the fate of the vacant fire station located on S. 34th St. All want it to be put to good use and hope the County will include FCA in discussions regarding possible uses of the facility.

Other big picture topics covered the success of the 2021 pool season, a much brighter year than 2020 in lessening of restrictions and increasing pool hours; storm water management and the importance of keeping water away from Fairlington houses; and residents' increased interest in electric vehicle chargers.

The Commons is in the process of installing Electric Vehicle chargers. A survey of its residents indicated that they would buy an electric vehicle if charging stations were available. Virginia law now states that an association with reserved and assigned parking spaces may permit a co-owner to install a charging station in their assigned space.

—Thora Stanwood

## ***County moves forward with Abingdon street improvements***

The county has begun work to install a new sidewalk on Abingdon St. between 31st St. and 31st Rd. The county board approved the funding for this project in April as part of the Neighborhood Conservation program. FCA supported the proposal.

In late October crews from the county's Water, Sewer, and Streets Department were on site doing utility relocation work in preparation for the project. The county scheduled a final design meeting with representatives of Fairlington Villages and Fairlington Court, the landowners adjacent to the site, to scope out the final design for the project.

County staff expect to hold a pre-construction meeting about a week before construction is scheduled to start.

The project will install a sidewalk, curb, and gutter along the north side of Abingdon St., diagonally across the street from old Fire Station 7 and the STEM Preschool.

Funding for the project, which has an estimated cost of \$394,694, comes from bond issues that Arlington voters have previously approved.

—Guy Land

### ***Fairlington ornaments, books, maps available for purchase this holiday season***



The FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) have a number of items for sale this holiday season including ornaments and the Fairlington architect's map reproduction.

The price for each ornament is \$10 and the map costs \$50.

Place your order at [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org) using PayPal or a major credit card.

You may pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office, 3001 S. Abingdon St., during regular business hours.

You may reach the office at (703) 379-1440 or [office@fairlingtonvillages.com](mailto:office@fairlingtonvillages.com). If you have questions, please visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org).

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# FAIRLINGTON

## *pet profiles*

### ***Meet Norman & Draco: Unlikely roommates and best friends***

We can't always choose our roommates. But Draco, a 187-pound Great Dane and Norman, a 60-pound American Bully, both adopted from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, found themselves facing this domestic dynamic.

Norman thought he would be the only dog in the home he shared for 3 years with his Mom, Jenna, and Dad, Tim. When Draco came to their home in North Fairlington in March 2020 as a foster, he wasn't supposed to stay forever. And then, he needed a major surgery...an operation equivalent to repairing a torn ACL, which required months of recovery.

Something connected these two very different dogs that are now very close and bonded forever. They are best friends and have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. How did they do it?

*Norman, you got a new roommate...a foster that ended up staying.... how did you adjust to that?*

We have had a few fosters come through the house. Some have been good, and some have been a little wild for me. Draco was one of the wild ones. He never meant any harm, but the people had to keep him from sitting on me and stepping on me and stuff. I kept waiting for him to leave and here we are a year and a half later! I decided he's allowed to stay. He lets me lick his food bowl after dinner.

*Draco, Tell us about your operation. Were you scared?*

I got a little too crazy one day and got a limp. Mom and Dad said I needed the two metal plates and 12 screws in my leg to make me feel better so I could run again. The worst part of it was that I had to stay at the hospital overnight and I really missed my family. I was scared, but the people there were nice and took good care of me. The next morning, I was so happy to see my mom and dad. I tried to get in the car, but my leg didn't work,



*Draco and Norman, a Great Dane and an American Bully, snuggle on their Fairlington back patio. Photo by Jenna Makharita.*

so they had to lift my big body with all their strength!

*What advice can you give other dogs when they hear the words 'go to the vet'?*

*Draco:* I definitely do not like to go to the vet. Especially now that my parents can't come inside with me. Something about a "mandemic" or something? I try not to get out of the car, but someone always tricks me. Then I try to hide behind my mom, but she's smaller than me, so that doesn't work either. My parents also seem to be a little sad when I go to the vet, and they say we have to go so I can live a long, healthy,

and happy life. My advice: be a chicken and try not to go but if that does not work, be brave and everyone will be really proud of you.

*Norman, do you experience big dog/little dog syndrome? Or do you even notice Draco is larger?*

I notice he's bigger, because he sits on me all the time. But he's finally getting a better about that. I never have little dog syndrome because I am still the boss!

*Norman, you are a very friendly, happy dog. How do you explain your positive outlook?*

I am a "pawsitive" guy because I got a second chance! A lot of places are scared of dogs like me and they don't put us up for adoption. A very kind person named Sam decided that I deserved a great life and took me off death row. I ended up at the Animal Welfare League in Arlington where my dad was a volunteer. He visited with me and took me home that night! I have sofas, snacks, walks, and car rides, what more could a guy ask for?

—Barbara Berti

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# Gun violence at Bradlee shopping center drives increased security at local high school

The McDonald's at Bradlee Shopping Center on King St. in Alexandria has been the site of several violent crimes in late September and early October. On Tuesday, September 21, a juvenile sustained non-life threatening issues after being shot in the arm. The incident occurred outside near the McDonald's and the victim then fled to Duck Donuts to seek help. The teen received medical attention and is expected to make a full recovery.

On October 5 around 2:20 p.m. there was a fight involving a knife between an adult male and a juvenile at the same McDonald's. The juvenile was taken into custody while the victim was treated at the scene.

The following day, a student at Alexandria City High School with a handgun was taken into custody and charged with possession of a firearm on school property.

In response to the increase in crime incidents, Alexandria City Council voted to reinstate school resource officers in an effort to increase safety in the local community.

This is a reversal of a decision earlier this summer to remove the armed officers from the schools. School offi-

cials hope that the reversal will be temporary.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson attributes the violence in part to the difficulties young teens are facing in navigating the return to the classroom after so many months in quarantine at home.

"We knew going in that this was going to be a challenging time, and I think that's part of the reason we worked in partnership with the schools to expand those supports to help our kids, but we certainly have more work to do," Wilson said in a FOX 5 news report.

Several shop owners in Bradlee Center have expressed their concern about the increase in gang violence/gun violence and have called on the property management company to help with security for shop owners and shoppers.

If you see anything suspicious, or for police emergencies, please contact the Alexandria Police Department by dialing 911. For non-emergency calls and general information, please call 703-746-4444.

—Barbara Berti

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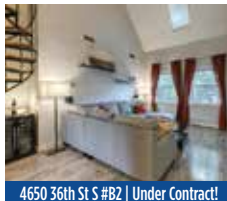
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# neighborhood news

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## **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 returned to Beckett's for a well-attended meal.

For November, here's what's planned:

Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m., Ruthie's All Day, 3411 5th St S, Arlington, VA 22204, (703) 888-2841. Their website says, "Ruthie's All-Day is a family-friendly, all-day neighborhood restaurant and bar with a custom built wood burning hearth." And here's where to find the menu: <https://www.ruthiesallday.com/menus/#dinner-menu>.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com

## **Book Group**

Please join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, November 30, to discuss *Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres.

The story, which takes place in Greece during World War II, "brims with all the grand topics of literature—love and death, heroism and skull-duggery, humor and pathos, not to mention art and religion....A good old-fashioned novel."—*Washington Post Book World*

We will meet either on Zoom or in the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) (3308 S. Stafford St.) at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required at all times inside the FCC. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive details about our meeting location a few days in advance.

## **Join us for two virtual Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meet ups in November**

Tune in online to join two Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meetings in November: Monday, November 1, and Monday, November 15, from 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship. Knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people helps us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

We meet virtually, at the same time, on the first and third Monday of each month until we can meet in person again. Log on to see what everyone is working on, ask for help/advice, or for inspiration for a project. All levels of crafters are welcome—beginner to expert.

Email Turner for the log-on information to join the calls: [Turnerwork@aol.com](mailto:Turnerwork@aol.com).

## **Fairlington Moms' Club**

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

## **Santa ride tentatively scheduled for December 11**

Santa hopes to be coming to Fairlington on Saturday, December 11. In what has become a treasured holiday tradition, Santa, and his firefighter friends from Fire Station 9, plan to ride the Firetruck through the neighborhood, waving to fans of all ages.

Last year, the usual photographs with Santa and passing out of candy canes after the parade were canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Details about restrictions and modifications this year are still in process. Keep reading *The Bulletin* for updates.



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Winter tips for well-maintained landscaping*

Now that we are in landscaping's off-season, it's time to plan ahead for next spring as well as correct mistakes we might have made out back. Being creative with landscape designs may morph into misgivings for the gardener. So, let's examine some classic landscaping looks.

**Culture:** In landscaping verbiage, this means sun exposure, which is vital since some specimens need sun and others need shade. Morning sun is less intense than afternoon sun. South-facing landscapes tend to be warmer since they face the equator. West-facing landscapes are prone to more wind (which will dry out the soil in a plant's root zone). Partly shady means the sun's rays hit your patio after beaming through a nearby tree filled with leaves. If there is a building blocking sunlight, that also alters sun exposure. Be sure to read the culture need of a plant you plan to install in your garden.

**Ground cover:** These are plants with no verticality. They grow laterally over the soil. Like mulch covers the soil, ground covers do the same thing. They are low-maintenance (in terms of watering or pruning) and most prefer shade. Left unattended they can become high-maintenance. I have seen them crawl up a plant's main trunk as well as run over the stoop, patio, fence and get caught in the A/C compressor vents. So, if you choose to plant pachysandra, periwinkle, ajuga, ophiopogon, ivy, or lamium, be mindful of their growth habits.



*This ivy ground cover offers a lovely solution for shady bare areas, but has to be watched closely to prevent it from invading other areas. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.*

**Mulch:** Readers of this column know I prefer to mulch modestly. Pile it too thick and you may invite rodents and earthy odors. Shredded hardwood ages in large clumps. Silver dollar tends to gray around the edges. If you are a DIY gardener, you know how heavy mulch bags can be. So, buy small bags (2 cubic feet) and spread them modestly. My favorite is Virginia Pine Fines. It has a cinnamon color, is the size of a quarter, and offers texture to a garden "floor." A heavily mulched garden will erode onto your patio in a thunderstorm or tornado.

**Trees:** We've seen the giant oaks and maples hulking over a patio in Fairlington. Their roots will buckle a concrete patio and run under a fence and into a neighbor's patio. So, think about dwarf trees. The smaller the tree, the fewer (and

thinner by diameter) the tree roots. Check these dwarfs: Japanese snow-bell, American dogwood, weeping cherry, pendulous Japanese maple, crape myrtle "tonto," "zuni" or "hopi" and serviceberry.

**English Garden Look:** Stay away from this one: it is dynamic, but busy. Very busy. And when plants are clustered together, they require frequent pruning and watering. Such a mish-mash is confusing when trying to differentiate one specimen from another. It's never wise to have branches from one specimen growing into those of another. Instead, it becomes messy and cluttered. Out-of-control plants will rob needed sunlight from another plant.

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





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