

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2023

Volume 49, Number 11

## County board hears about Fairlington permitting issue

### Inside this month

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Members of the Arlington County Board have expressed an interest in trying to solve the zoning problem that currently is requiring some Fairlington homeowners to get a zoning waiver before they can obtain county permits to carry out routine renovation work inside their units. FCA President Guy Land raised the issue with the county board at its September 23 meeting.



*FCA President Guy Land addresses the Arlington County Board about the Fairlington permitting problem.*

Recently when residents have sought permits to make interior improvements, such as opening up Clarendon kitchens or installing egress windows or building out attics, they have been required to go before the county's Board of Zoning Appeals and seek a variance from a zoning requirement that buildings be set back a specified distance from each other.

Although the zoning code was adopted after Fairlington was constructed, it does not contain an exemption for Fairlington. The setback requirement is unrelated to the renovation work homeowners want to do.

"It is counter-intuitive to have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a kitchen remodeling," county board member Takis Karantonis said at the meeting. He encouraged the county manager to ask staff to craft a solution "as soon as possible" in order to avoid the "unintended consequence" of the zoning provision.

Board member Libby Garvey, a resident of South Fairlington, expressed the hope that this matter could be resolved relatively quickly. "These renovations have been done just fine for decades," she said. "I'm hoping we can do a pretty quick fix."

While expressing sympathy for Fairlington owners, county board chair Christian Dorsey noted that the issue "requires a fair bit of research to get our heads around," but he expressed hope the staff will be able to put together a solution for the board to consider.

*Continued on page 23*

# Coming up

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

## FCA monthly meeting November 8

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

### 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](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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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
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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6 p.m., **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com).

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

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## Calendar

### Election Day

Tuesday, November 7

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, November 8

Held virtually on the  
FCA Facebook page

### Fairlington diners

Thursday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.

Busboys and Poets  
4521 S. Campbell Ave  
Arlington, VA 22206

### Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 23

FCC closed

### Fairlington book group

Tuesday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center  
3308 S. Stafford St.

## The Scouts are out!



Scout Troop 350 sells popcorn outside of the Fairlington Community Center in October. Photo by Guy Land.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While you would expect FCA to work closely with Arlington County officials and staff--the current zoning waiver issue is the most recent example—we also try to maintain strong relationships with leaders and staff of the City of Alexandria.

A small portion of Fairlington Villages is actually in Alexandria. More generally, we are bordered on both the south and east by Alexandria. So Alexandria decisions can have an important impact on Fairlington.

That's why earlier this year we hosted a briefing by city staff to advance the public engagement component of creating an updated vision for Alexandria's West End.

We have always found Alexandria staff responsive to our requests for briefings and updates. Examples include presentations on the new Lindsay Automotive development along Quaker Lane and, a couple of years ago, the planning for the Minnie Howard campus (which is now visible from Bradlee Center) of the expanded Alexandria City High School.

The most recent example is the initial planning for improvements along King Street in the area of Bradlee Center.

As they prepared to launch the planning process for the King Street project, city staff reached out to us and asked for the opportunity to inform our residents about the chance to weigh in on priorities for improving King Street.

In return, we invited staff to visit with us at our next available meeting. This conversation last month gave us a better sense of what this project is expected to be and enabled us to share with them some of the questions and concerns our residents have about it.

Developing the King Street project will likely spread over much of next year. FCA will continue to be engaged with Alexandria staff and will look for opportunities to provide additional updates to our residents.

This is part of our mission to help you stay informed about what our local governments are doing that could affect you and to facilitate sharing your views with them.

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

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Tina Byrd, Kirsten Ann Conrad, Sue Davis, James Harlow, Martha Hermann, and Guy Land.

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



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# Alexandria to develop options for King Street improvements

Guided by responses to a fall online survey, the City of Alexandria is developing options to improve mobility, safety, and stormwater drainage along King St. from Quaker Ln. to the entrance to I-395.

Sara Brandt-Vorel, Transportation Capital Project Manager with the city's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, briefed FCA on the process at FCA's October 11 meeting. She noted that the goal was to make the area "better and safer for everyone who comes through this space," including vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.

The remainder of this year will be devoted to reviewing the responses to the online survey, which closed last month. By mid-October more than 500 people had responded to the survey.

A design consultant will develop two or three concepts that address issues and priorities identified in the survey,



*Sara Brandt-Vorel explains plans for improving mobility, safety, and storm water drainage along King St.*

and in the spring the city will seek public comment on the options, with an eye toward narrowing it down to one concept.

After that the city will determine what is feasible and what the cost implications are, along with the available sources of funding and the timing for when those funds could become available.

FCA board member Julie Butler asked what was the motivation behind the project. Brandt-Vorel noted that

the city's mobility plan and transportation master plan identified areas that lacked adequate infrastructure, such as that to serve bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as areas with a number of vehicle accidents. Those factors led to the current focus on that stretch of King St.

*Continued on page 23*

## General election slated for November 7

After seven weeks of early absentee voting, Tuesday, November 7 brings the general election day for in-person voting.

South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. North Fairlington residents who live in Arlington vote at Abingdon Elementary School, while those who live in Alexandria vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents may still vote absentee, either by mail or in-person. Mail ballots must be postmarked on or before November 7 and received by 12 p.m. on November 13. The deadline for requesting a ballot by mail was October 27. The deadline to vote in-person absentee is 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 4.

Arlington voters will choose two new members of the Arlington County Board and one new member of the Arlington School Board, along with selecting members of the State Senate and House of Delegates in Richmond. Alexandria voters have only one contested race, for the

Senate district.

In the county board race, voters will vote for two candidates from among Democrats Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham and Independents Juan Carlos Fierro and Audrey Clement.

In the Arlington state Senate race, Democratic incumbent Barbara Favola faces Republican David Henshaw in a reconfigured 40th district.

For the House of Delegates, Democratic incumbent Del. Alfonso Lopez is being challenged by independent Major Mike Webb.

Democratic candidates for the other county offices face no opposition.

Voters in the Alexandria part of Fairlington have a Senate choice between incumbent Democrat Adam Ebbin and Republican Sophia Moshasha. Del. Charniele Herring is unopposed.

—Guy Land

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# Last chance to visit the farmers market before the season ends



There are a few more weeks to shop at the Fairlington Farmers Market before the season closes on November 19.

Our vendors can help your Thanksgiving shopping – stop by to pick up fresh produce, bread, dessert, cheese, coffee, and prepared foods to make this

busy time of year a little easier.

Don't forget to stock up on honey, jams, coffee beans, and sauces for holiday gift giving – get creative and put together your own unique gift baskets.

Our beloved neighborhood market launched in 2015, and this year was busier than ever with large crowds each week. We thank the shoppers from Fairlington and nearby neighborhoods who came out rain or shine. Our vendors greatly appreciate your continued strong support!

We welcomed five new vendors this season: Atlixco's

Mexican Grill, Baguette Republic, Pasta Ilgatto, Pickle Factory, and Qualia Coffee.

Live music was back with several terrific musicians providing everything from folk, jazz, and rock. On that note, musician John Kammen will perform at the market on November 5.

We were also pleased to continue to host the Arlington Art Truck and other interesting activities for adults and children.

Planning for our next season will begin in early 2024. The market committee needs additional members next year to ensure our market continues to thrive and provide our community with local, fresh, and nutritious food and other products.

To learn more, please contact [fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com). We'd also love to hear your ideas for new vendors and special events.

—Lynne Blasi





## *Thank you!*

It takes a lot of support to organize and operate our market for seven months of the year, and planning starts before opening day in May. We are so grateful to our volunteers, sponsors, committee, and managers—without this dedicated group there would be no weekly market.

**Volunteers:** Rebecca Nickerson, Stefany Aida Quiroz, Eva Alvarez Ero, Josue Rocha, Taz Alam

**Sponsors:** Active and Connected Family Therapy, Kay Houghton & Associates, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Presbyterian Church

**Market committee:** Melissa Beene, Lynne Blasi, Robin Habberley, Jeff Kost, Elizabeth Lawrence, Tracey McGovern

**Market manager:** Elizabeth Mortimer

**Market assistant managers:** Esmeralda Mathews, Maddy Watkins, Elijah Dale, Maddie Selinger, Rosemary Hill



*Photos by Guy Land.*



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# For the love of NATURE



## A reflection on our water

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday founded on the tenets of sharing and getting along. Every year we sit around a table with family, sometimes strangers, and one person will ask if everyone could say why they are thankful. For one person it is being together, for another year of health, or maybe stable finances, or best yet, for a wonderful meal.

Native people understand the world in a different way. The gifts for which they are thankful include the sun, water, trees, plants, and animals. The children at the Akwesasne School in Haudenosaunee start each day with the Thanksgiving Prayer, part of which began this article. Native traditions are about sustainability and reciprocity as well. They demonstrate this by expressing thanks before taking the gifts of water, land, or food. These actions form a relationship with the land from which the gifts come. The bottom line is that individuals share equal responsibility in caring for these gifts so they will continue to take care of us.

One of the responsibilities that Fairlington communities have taken on is caring for the water. Not so long ago rain just filtered into the ground. With each additional road, sidewalk, building, parking lots, and impermeable surface, we eliminate this ability. Native plants that filtered the water on its journey to the Potomac were replaced with grass. Look at a meadow and anyone can see a variety of plants living and thriving together because nature works in polycultures. Without it, there



*The native plant gardens on Utah Street started as StormWaterWise projects, to replace a hillside full of thin lawn and eroded soil from stormwater runoff. Photo by Norm Waters.*

is erosion and run-off from stormwater that pushes harmful materials into our water supply.

Arlington County is taking serious action about stormwater management by charging a fee. This fee can be offset with credits that can be applied in Fairlington. Search for stormwater utility fee to learn more.

In the meantime, some Fairlington communities have already taken action to improve and, in many cases, eliminate run-off to make sure that the water entering the Potomac is slowed and filtered. Several examples of caring for water are listed below:

The Commons worked with Arlington County's Storm-WaterWise program and a landscape architect to design a solution to fix the runoff on Utah Hill. Community members planted the hillside and shared native plants from other neighborhoods. (See April 2022 issue of *The Bulletin*)

Fairlington Villages created 8 rain gardens to collect and slow water, using native plants that soak up the rain. (*Bulletin* August 2021)

The Mews installed a Conservation Garden using native plants near the pool tennis court where standing water was an issue. (*Bulletin* June 2021)

How will we reciprocate?

Search for Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address to read it in entirety.

Email [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) with questions or for planting recommendations in your patio, and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Sue Davis

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# FAIRLINGTON

## *pet profiles*

### *A dog from a galaxy far, far away*

If you've seen Star Wars, then you know Chewbacca (or Chewie to his friends); the faithful Wookiee warrior who helped restore freedom to the galaxy during the reign of the Galactic Empire. He was known for his unwavering loyalty, gentle kindness and hairy face.

South Fairlington is home to Chewy, a golden labradoodle that shares not only the same name, but the same character traits, and a much better hair style.

Chewy was born in Atlanta, moved to Virginia with his Mom and Dad and spent his puppyhood in an apartment. Now two years old and recently new to the neighborhood, Chewy has made many friends and found joy at the dog park and in watersports. He has a life vest and is an excellent swimmer. Pet Profiles found him to be very well versed in everything from grooming tips to movies.

*Do you prefer townhouse living to apartment living?*

I miss all of my friends in my building, but moving to Fairlington is the best thing that's ever happened to me. No more taking the elevator down just to go to the bathroom and so many new places to run around. The flowers and bushes throughout the neighborhood are so refreshing to sniff I almost forget that I'm in a big city! I hope we stay for a while.

*What advice would you give other dogs about living here?*

Every time your humans take you for a walk, tug a tiny bit in the direction of Utah dog park. Don't pull so hard that it's obvious, but just enough to trick them into taking you in that direction and then they won't be able to deny letting you hang with all your pals for a bit. Also, there are really good tennis balls near the tennis courts for taking.

*You are named after a well-known Star Wars character. Are you a movie buff? Who is your favorite film character and why?*



*Chewy is ready to take on the empire. Photo courtesy of Caleb and Libby Hoehner.*

I watch a lot of movies and shows, but only when my mom and dad are home. Unfortunately, they don't leave the remote with me anymore after I chewed through two Roku remotes as a puppy. My favorite movie character would definitely be Han Solo. He seems like he would be a good sidekick for the neighborhood mischief like when I pranked my neighbors and ran in their house when they were moving in.

*How do you maintain your curls? Where do you get your fur done? Can you give us some grooming tips?*

It's a process! If I'm not too busy in the evenings, I sit near mom or dad and they brush me. After rainy days or days I play in the mud, they put me in the bathtub

and scrub me down with my favorite dog shampoo. And then every so often I get swooped up on the counter and they buzz me. Even though I don't love that, it is nice to be able to see every once in a while, because when my hair gets long it blocks like 90% of my vision. It's also tons better than when I used to get sent to a groomer. I would wait for hours on end for my parents to save me and once my dad didn't even recognize me when he picked me up even though I barked at him.

*What are you most thankful for this Thanksgiving?*

Wow, let's see... there's so much that comes to mind! I'm very thankful for my stuffed dog "Biscuit" who keeps me company when my humans go to work. Also very grateful I was able to sneak my special blue ball home from the Utah Street dog park when no one was looking. I haven't put it down in weeks. I'm thankful for the neighborhood dogs that always like to say woof when they pass by, and especially for my friend Haven who I sometimes go on walks with.

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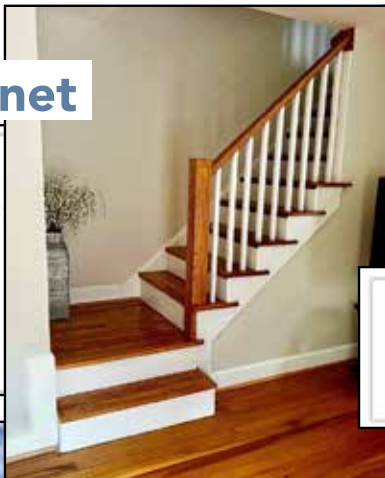
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**Chris C.**  
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**Chelsea C.**  
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Peter and his team were professional, affordable, and efficient. Would definitely keep them in mind for future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



**Najia G.**  
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## Letter to the Editor

I want to commend you on your October article "10 Small-sized Woody Shrubs." There's not a better way to reduce noise and fumes from landscape pruning equipment than to plant miniature shrubs. And there are big savings to be appreciated on landscape maintenance labor costs as well.

Some landscape history: Many of the shrubs in our community associations were planted more than 30 years ago. These old favorites...yews, hollies, euonymus, junipers, burning bush, forsythia, glossy abelia....all want to grow to be trees, both in height and width! They require several prunings per season, to keep them from blocking walkways, doors and windows.

Associations that want to reduce their landscape maintenance costs, and cut down on greenhouse gas

emissions and noise pollution, while keeping their shrub borders looking their best, now have many miniature options to choose from.

Many thanks, again, for this excellent story!

Karen Olson Weaver  
Resident, Fairlington Villages

*The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers 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.*



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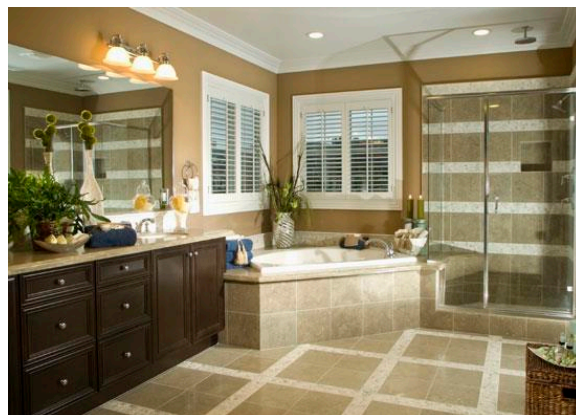
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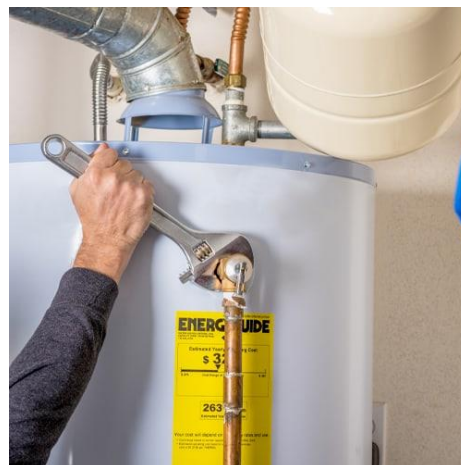
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## Two schools and a Tiffany window

If, like me, you're fairly new to this community, you may not know a lot of the history of Fairlington. I recently looked at some essays written about the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) and discovered first, that it had been a school, and second, it housed a Tiffany window!

A vital part of any community, Fairlington has been home to two elementary schools and has a long history of engagement with both.



*Children and a defense worker walk along Utah Street approaching 35th Street, 1945. Photos courtesy Fairlington Properties, Realtors.*

The first, Fairlington Elementary School (now the Fairlington Community Center), at 3308 S. Stafford Street, was planned and built along with the construction of Fairlington. It opened in February 1944 for children in grades 1–6.

The school, then as now, was a focal point of community life. According to the Fairlington history book *Fairlington at 50*, “The Fairlington Parents-Teachers Association was organized almost the moment the school opened; it later participated in the Arlington County Council of Parents and Teachers. The school’s grounds were used for neighborhood sports and other activities, such as the shredding of Christmas trees into mulch for the tenants’ tiny gardens. The 16-room building offered space for civic meetings, social get-togethers, and plays.”

By 1972, when Fairlington’s conversion to condominiums began, school enrollment had dropped and speculations about what might happen to the property were many. By the time the school was closed in 1979, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) had successfully lobbied the county to keep the building and grounds as

they were and to keep the space for use as a community education and recreation center.

Today’s FCC houses a full range of civic, educational, and recreational purposes. The most recent addition is the Fairlington Farmers Market, introduced in 2015.

The center also features a significant Arlington artifact. Look up as you enter and you’ll see installed in the ceiling a stained glass window that was part of a set of Tiffany windows removed from the Abbey Mausoleum, built in 1924. The windows were incorporated into the U.S. Marine Corps’ Henderson Hall Headquarters in 1942 which was later torn down in 2000. FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) collaborated to fund the repair, conservation, and installation of this piece of Arlington history when the renovated center was opened in 2010.

Fairlington’s second school (Abingdon) opened in 1959 as the post-World War II ‘baby boom’ continued to reach school age and the population of Arlington continued to grow.

Built on land donated to the county by CBI Fairmac, which had purchased the entire Fairlington property in 1947, the school was originally called ‘North Fairlington Elementary’ after its location. By the time it opened, though, it had been named after the Abingdon House and plantation, owned by the prominent Virginia Alexander and Custis families, and now part of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport property.



*Fairlington Elementary School, c. 1972 (now the Fairlington Community Center).*

Like its sibling school to the south, Abingdon Elementary’s history has been strongly influenced by Fairlington’s active parents and civic association.

Another section of *Fairlington at 50* reads, “Abingdon’s original plans called for six rooms. Four more were added after the Parents-Teachers Association and the civic association surveyed each house to learn the number of children in the area.”

*Continued on page 23*

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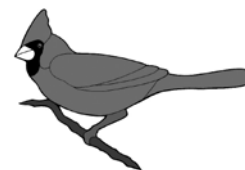
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# ABINGDON school news



## Fall fun at Abingdon!



A packed house for the 2023-2024 kick-off meeting of the Abingdon PTA, a “bear-y” festive Trunk-or-Treat car.

It’s been a busy fall over at Abingdon Elementary! The first PTA general meeting of the year was packed with parents and families ready to talk about how best to support our students and staff. Thank you to all who joined us in a robust discussion about how best to serve our community this year!

On October 17, Fairlington neighbors gathered at Silver Diner for a Spirit Night benefitting Abingdon. Thank you, Silver Diner, for donating 20 percent of your incremental sales to support our school!

Meanwhile, after school fall enrichment classes kicked off in mid-October. Students had the

option of choosing everything from fencing to origami, LEGOs to cheerleading! The PTA is proud to offer these opportunities to our students—and ready to see all the new skills learned.

Also in October, parents and teachers met for their first in a series of one-on-one conferences to discuss student progress and goals for the year. The PTA provided lunch for our incredible faculty, thanks in part to donations from the community.

Finally, the entire Abingdon Community gathered on Saturday, October 28, from 1–3 p.m., the Abingdon Community will gather by the school’s main entrance

to celebrate Trunk or Treat. This beloved (and still growing!) annual event brings together neighbors, faculty, parents—and lots of adorable kids in costume—to celebrate fall and usher in Halloween. How many Barbie-themed cars will there be? You’ll just have to stop by and see for yourself.

Then return to Abingdon on Monday, October 30, from 12:15–1 p.m., for the Fall Parade. Led by the Wakefield High School Marching Band, our Cardinals will parade around the school grounds. Let’s line the route and give everyone a hearty cheer!

We will soon announce a few opportunities for the broader Fairlington community to support Abingdon families during the holiday season. Stay tuned—and check us out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonElementaryPTA>) for updates.

—James Harlow

### We need you!



We’re looking for volunteers of all kinds to ensure our yearlong programming is fun and successful. Please scan the code and fill out our survey to let us know we can count on your help.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Abingdon has had a PTA since the 1950s?! According to an unearthed 1957 handbook, “P.T.A. meetings provide opportunity for the school and community to meet on a common basis and share ideas and information...children appreciate and frequently discuss parent participation and attendance at the P.T.A. meetings. Attendance at these meetings seems to increase the confidence of the child, parent and teacher in the endeavor that is before us.”

### Abingdon School Dates

**11/7**—No School - Election Day  
Bake Sale at Abingdon Polling Place  
**11/10**—No School (Veterans Day)  
**11/16**—PTA General Membership Meeting  
**Nov 22–24**—Thanksgiving Break



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# FROM THE PILE

## *Can we just leave the leaves?*

For some of us raking the leaves is a rite of passage—a pleasurable, traditional task that marks the end of the growing season. We can smell the heady aroma of fallen leaves while experiencing the crackly sounds of dry leaves underfoot. Many of us rake them into giant piles for the children (of all ages!) to play in.

For others, the removal of tree leaves is just work: a conditioned chore of gardening, a cost of having trees; the price we pay for the pleasure of shade. We rake it, we pile it up, and we haul it away—or we pay someone else to do it so we don't have to think about it again till the following year.

This year, let's do something different. Let's work at accepting that those leaves are not only valuable to us and to our landscape, they are also valuable to a plethora of living creatures. Worms, spiders, millipedes, snails, all kinds of beetles, fireflies, and mites spend the winter under these



*Healthy plants peek up through a thick cover of leaves. Photo courtesy Xerces Society/Justin Wheeler.*

leaves and provide support for many mammals, amphibians, turtles, and birds. Most of our butterflies and moths live the overwintering part of their life cycle in leaves and garden debris as chrysalis' or larvae. Even pollinators like bumblebees use the shelter provided by leaves to protect them as they hibernate.

### *How can you help protect them?*

Reduce your lawn area so that leaves can cover your landscaped beds. By spring the leaves will be decaying and your perennials will push up through them. Most plants will appreciate the protection from temperature fluctuations provided by a cover of leaves.

Remember that the nutrients and carbon that leaves return to the earth, provide valuable plant food and organic matter to the soil microorganisms that support soil health making your garden healthier and saving you money on fertilizer.

Help others to understand that this is how our landscapes under the trees are supposed to look in the winter. We live in what was historically a heavily forested highly diverse environment. We can try to recreate this wherever possible for our sense of place.

—Kirsten Conrad, Agriculture Natural Resources Agent,  
Virginia Cooperative Extension

### ***Leaving more than the leaves***

Some native insects have learned to lay eggs on stiff plant stems of native perennials. Some even burrow into the hollow stems to overwinter.

Many native perennial flowers like the grasses, coneflower, and black eyed susan hold their seeds and are used as food sources by birds all winter long.

Try to leave spent flower heads and stalks of perennial plants up in the garden as long as possible. Insect emergence and egg hatching is triggered by accumulated hours of temperatures above 50 degrees. Check out the Pest Predictive Calendar from the University of Maryland.

If you cannot leave them standing, cut them and pile them in the corner or under a deck or somewhere out of sight behind the landscape and leave them until spring.

**Having trouble keeping leaves where you want them to stay?** If you have an area of dormant soil—perhaps a vegetable garden area—install a temporary fence around it and pile the leaves high! In spring you can turn them under for great soil building. Shred a small portion of them and use that to spread lightly over the top of large leaves or use a fine layer of soil or mulch. If they get very dry, use a hose to wet them down to prevent blowing. Try laying sticks, stalks or branches over the leaves or use a temporary net over the top.

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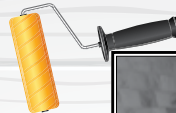


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—Mary Thomasson,  
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*Abingdon Elementary School, c. 1992. Photo by Jim Tingstrum.*

Initially, the schoolhouse opened for 384 children in 1959. Abingdon added kindergarten facilities in 1965 and later expanded to 19 classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, offices, and kitchen, with a parking lot added in 1970.

Today's Abingdon is a vibrant, multicultural school that serves more than 700 students.

Want to find out more about Fairlington through the ages? Have a Fairlington or Abingdon School story to share with the Fairlington Historical Society? Visit us at <https://www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/>, where you can also find copies of *Fairlington at 50* available for purchase.

—Martha Hermann  
*Fairlington Historical Society*

### ***Seeking candidates for paid position with The Bulletin***

The *All Fairlington Bulletin's* editor, Regina Bethencourt will be leaving in 2024. Bethencourt has held the position for three years, and her contributions to the mission of the Bulletin will be greatly missed. The FCA Board thanks her for her dedicated service.

The *AFB* is looking for a motivated professional to take on this role.

This is a paid position. Responsibilities include content strategy, writing articles, editing submissions, supervising layout, and copy-editing. If interested, please contact Guy Land at [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).

Dorsey cautioned that while a Fairlington-specific fix might sound desirable, the board needed to make sure the proposal would not create issues in other parts of Arlington and would be equitably applied. But he noted the importance of not taking a long time to come to a resolution.

In his remarks to the board, Land noted that the current process increases both the cost and the time required to do renovations that will modernize Fairlington units and make them more competitive.

FCA sent a letter to the county board in September outlining the issue and asking for a comprehensive zoning amendment that would include community engagement and recognition of Fairlington's historic character.

FCA Board member Dianna Bentley has coordinated FCA's work on this issue.

—Guy Land

---

### *Alexandria from page 5*

Several audience comments focused on safety concerns at Bradlee Shopping Center, the influx of more students as the new Minnie Howard school building comes on line, and the operation of multiple DASH bus stops in front of Bradlee.

Brandt-Vorel said that project planners would be working closely with the Alexandria police department.

In response to a question about the scope of the study, she said it included possible changes to King Street itself and not just to the service road.

Arbor resident Bill Gillespie emphasized the importance of addressing stormwater management issues and doing so in a way that would make the area look better.

Brandt-Vorel noted that the median is large enough to accommodate significant stormwater drainage improvements.

FCA expects to host another briefing once the concept designs are available.

—Guy Land

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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

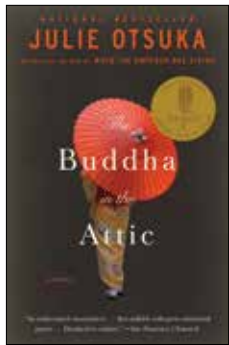
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In October, we returned to Ramparts, which we consider our home base, for Smokehouse night.

Thursday, November 16, 6:30 p.m., Busboys and Poets, 4521 S. Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206, (703) 379-9757, busboysandpoets.com. This mainstay of the Shirlington restaurant scene is one we haven't visited as a group. The Randolph St garage is recommended.

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

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

## Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in November to discuss *The Buddha in the Attic*, a novel by Julie Otsuka. We will meet Tuesday, November 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

*"The novel comprises a gorgeous mosaic of the hopes and dreams that propelled so many immigrants across an ocean to an unknown country. . . . A*

*social history of the Japanese immigrant experience wrought in exquisite poetry, each sentence spare in words, precise in meaning and eloquently evocative, like a tanka poem, this book is a rare unique treat."*—Washington Independent Book Review

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

## 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 fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.

## Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden



Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.

## Interested in serving your community? Join the FCA board!



FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2024 FCA Board. Board members set the policies for the association and serve one year terms.

Anyone interested in serving on the board should email FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies at [vp@fcfairlington.org](mailto:vp@fcfairlington.org).

Directors receive no compensation for their service, other than the satisfaction of helping make Fairlington an even greater place to live. For information about what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.

# 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

**VIOLIN LESSONS:** Classically trained violinist teaching Suzuki and traditional violin lessons in Parkfairfax. Kids & adults, all levels welcome! Individual or partner lessons. [www.annaweddington.com](http://www.annaweddington.com), 859-948-4765 for more info.

**NEED A BABYSITTER?** Contact Katelyn: responsible, experienced, and Red Cross Certified high school student. Rates start at \$5/hour. Please text 703-201-3847.

**IRS ENROLLED AGENT** can prepare your individual, business, amended and prior year income tax returns, and respond to IRS and state tax letters. Bookkeeping services also available. Flexible time and place appointments. Please visit [www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com](http://www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com) for more information or call Christine at 703-407-7545 or email: [christine.atb3@gmail.com](mailto:christine.atb3@gmail.com).

**LOCAL & PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT.** We know Fairlington! Leasing, comprehensive tenant screenings, online rent collection, property inspections, itemized monthly e-statements & more. Contact Allegiance Property Management – [info@allegiancepm.com](mailto:info@allegiancepm.com), 703-824-4704, or [www.allegiancepm.com](http://www.allegiancepm.com)

**WELLNESS with MOORE THAN YOGA offers:** Yoga, Meditation, Breathing Techniques, Infant/Children's Massage, Reflexology, Reiki & more. Private session or create a class. [www.moorethanyoga.com](http://www.moorethanyoga.com). 703-671-2435.

## Home Improvements

**JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS: Joel Riggs Home Repair Service.** Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turnaround time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

**IS THERE A FIRE HAZARD IN YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM?** Dryer vent hoses in Fairlington homes need to be inspected regularly to ensure they are clear from accumulated lint, which can cause fire. Often, the whole system needs to be cleaned out, and in some cases, replaced entirely. Call Juan today for a free inspection 703-307-4022 or [angelvillanueva33@gmail.com](mailto:angelvillanueva33@gmail.com).

**STAPLES REMODELING.** For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at [www.staplesremodeling.com](http://www.staplesremodeling.com).

**HANDYMAN SERVICES.** Carpentry, painting and drywall repairs, basic electrical and plumbing work. Clean, reliable, insured. Igor 703-944-8402

**HARDTIMES HANDYMAN SERVICES.** Home and office repair, rental maintenance, painting, drywall repair, pressure washing, minor electrical and plumbing, to do lists and more. Free estimates, fair pricing and friendly service. Since 2008. Fairlington references available. Tim Miles cell 443-995-3825. Please, no texts. [timmiles74@gmail.com](mailto:timmiles74@gmail.com).

**INTERIOR PAINTING.** Chelsea Paint and Paper, Inc. Painting, wallpapering, and plastering. 25 years of experience. Professional, clean, neat, reliable. Licensed, bonded, insured. References available. Free estimates. Steve Chute. 571-216-9338/703-912-1450. [Chute285@aol.com](mailto:Chute285@aol.com).

**MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS.** 26 years of experience, kitchen and bath granite countertop remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, crown molding, painting, drywall, handyman services. Class A license. Call Mario 703-501-7506. [mzambrana60@yahoo.com](mailto:mzambrana60@yahoo.com)

**ELECTRICAL SERVICE.** Master electrician. Lights, fans, panel replacements. Licensed, insured credit cards Allegro LLC 703-314-1287 [info@allegroLLC.net](mailto:info@allegroLLC.net)

## House Cleaning

**MARYEN/RAUL HOUSE CLEANING.** Reliable and experienced. Good references. Flexible scheduling. Reasonable rates. We are licensed, insured, and employees covered through Worker's Comp. We bring our own equipment. Weekly, biweekly, monthly, occasionally, one-time, move in/out, offices. For free in-home estimate, call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

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**JADA'S CLEANING LLC.** Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steam cleaned. Call us for free estimates 571-643-8371 or [mjadaservices@aol.com](mailto:mjadaservices@aol.com)

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Thanks to our great customers, we have reached our 45th anniversary! We are family-owned and operated. For a free estimate call 703-820-8635 or text 703-477-2317.

**MICHELE'S MAIDS.** Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. 703-820-1808. Visit our website at [www.michelesmaids.net](http://www.michelesmaids.net)



*Enhance your community  
by volunteering for  
FCA activities.*



**MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS**

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

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

**Email:** [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com)

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

**Drop Box Location:** Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

**Cost:** 50 cents per word.

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



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3531 S Wakefield St S #A2  
Arlington, VA 22206  
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***For Rent!***  
***Listed for \$2,500/month***

Listing Agent  
Michele Graves



5200 32nd St N  
Arlington, VA 22207  
3BR/1.5BA

***RENTED!***  
***Rented for \$3,350/month***

Listing & Tenant Agent  
Joanne Ritchick



4686 34th St S #1565  
Arlington, VA 22206  
1BR/2BA \*Edgewood Model\*

***Under Contract!***  
***Listed for \$545,900***

Listing Agent  
Julie Flory



4551 Stratfield Ln #4234  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
2BR/1BA

***RENTED!***  
***Rented for \$1,940/month***

Listing & Tenant Agent  
Julie Flory



Julie Flory  
703.599.3111



Patricia Quinlin  
703.835.7312



Joanne Ritchick  
571.215.3350

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