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President's Message

November 2025

Fairlington's proximity to the nation's capital means we are more engaged—and more closely connected to what's happening across the river, both physically and professionally—than many communities. Most of us have crossed the Abingdon Bridge at rush hour to witness how some neighbors exercise their First Amendment rights. On our playgrounds, park benches, and in community centers, we hear from friends and family affected by government layoffs or shutdowns.

Civic participation matters. Virginians have a big election this Tuesday, November 4—please make sure to vote.

Want to make a local impact in your community? Consider joining the Fairlington Citizens Association board. We'll be electing new officers and directors next month. More information is included in this issue.

Stay active. Stay engaged. Make a difference. organized by FCA.



—Jenn Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org



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Photo by Julie Butler

Fall Movie Night Brings Fairlington Together

sponsored by [Kay Houghton and Associates](#) and organized by FCA.

Interested in Serving Your Community?

Join the FCA Board

The Fairlington Citizens Association is seeking new officers and directors to serve on its board for the 2026 term. All Fairlington residents and property owners are welcome—renters included! FCA organizes community favorites like Family Movie Night and the Fire Truck Santa Parade, hosts local leaders for neighborhood discussions, and offers educational programs such as first aid trainings. Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. Interested? Email president@fca-fairlington.org to learn more or get involved.



Ceremony dedicating stumbling stones on Columbia Pike, June 7, 2025. Photo by Scarlett Bunting.

Remembering the Forgotten

What was here on this land before the Fairlington we all know and love? As you may know, our community of Fairlington was once an eighteenth-century plantation, Torthorwald, which stood here until 1942. Torthorwald, the summer residence of John Carlyle, was where his enslaved people bred horses, farmed, and operated a grist mill. At the time of Carlyle's death in 1780, he enslaved 43 individuals. Through research we know the names of at least two people, Milley and Harry, who were once enslaved here.

The Arlington Historical Society (AHS), along with the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, are sponsoring the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) project. With the help of high school students at Arlington Tech, Stumbling Stones memorializing the enslaved have been created and placed in various neighborhoods around Arlington where enslavement occurred.

The Fairlington Citizens Association voted to purchase a stumbling stone to support this project. AHS will coordinate with FCA to memorialize Milley and Harry with a commemoration event and unveiling of the stumbling stones in

-Scarlett Bunting



Instructors Andrew Turner and Gage Chalmers demonstrate how to apply an AED during a cardiac arrest. Photo by Jenn Davies.

Residents Learn CPR and AED at Free Training Session

At the October meeting, FCA's hosted instructors from [Campaign Pay It Forward](#) led a training session to a packed room of residents. Attendees learned what to do in the first few minutes of cardiac arrest, including how to initiate chest compressions and use an AED if available. The event was so popular, FCA will consider holding additional first-aid trainings.

-Jenn Davies



Photo by Molly Haines.

Fairlington Moms Club Halloween Potluck Recap

The Fairlington Moms Club held their annual Halloween Potluck event in Court 4 of the Glen (fondly known as the “blow-up court”), which has graciously hosted this event for three years running.

The event included activities for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary schoolers, as well as a costume contest. We also had some wonderful teenage helpers for the kids’ activities. An estimated 250 club and family members enjoyed all the Halloween fun!

Interested in joining? Email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com to fill out our short application! Our next event will be a Breakfast with Santa at the Beeliner Diner on Saturday, December 6.

-Molly Haines

November Events Calendar

Interested in having your event included? Email afbeditors@yahoo.com.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 6 a.m.–7 p.m.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, November 8, 12 p.m.

[Clyde's](#), 1700 N Beauregard St, Alexandria, VA, (703) 820-8300

This is a local favorite, with plenty of parking. The crab cakes are a favorite with many regular diners, as are the hamburgers. Please email [carol_dabbs](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com) at yahoo dot com not later than 24 hours in advance if you plan to attend—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 the email above.

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Fairlington Book Group

Tuesday, November 25, 7:30 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 103

The next meeting of the Fairlington Book Group will discuss the book, *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

Fairlington Moms

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

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

All moms welcome! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.



Fairlington Historical Society

Light Up Fairlington Holiday Display Contest

Before you know it, the winter holidays will be here—and we want Fairlington to shine brighter than ever! The Fairlington Historical Society is excited to announce a Holiday Display Contest to celebrate the season in style. So untangle those lights, polish the menorahs, arrange the kinara, fluff up the wreaths, and get ready to make Fairlington festive!

Two Ways to Win:

- Classic & Traditional: Celebrate the beauty of timeless holiday decor
- Creative & Modern: Anything goes—let your imagination sparkle, let your inflatables soar!

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category!

Winners will be announced on December 21.

Deadline to register: December 12 at midnight.

To register: Email president@fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org with your (or a friend's) address.



Photo by Caroline Weinroth.

Farmers Market

Fairlington Farmers Market Closes November 23

There's still time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market for some holiday food shopping before the market closes the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

This is the last month to donate nonperishable food items (no glass, please) to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) at our information table. AFAC is most in need of canned goods (fruit, tuna, soup, vegetables, tomatoes), peanut butter, cereal, and plastic water bottles. Thank you for helping our Arlington neighbors in need.

Mark your calendar for this month's activities:

- November 2: Live music by William Lloyd
- November 9: Abingdon Elementary community table with free native seeds from their school pollinator garden. Meet 4th graders who are learning about Virginia history and help support their May field trip to Jamestown; Field to Table's Fall Fest; Live music by John Kamman
- November 16: Fairlington Citizens Association; Live music by Swingology

Special thanks to our dedicated sponsors: Active and Connected Family Therapy, Fairlington Citizens Association, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Kay Houghton & Associates, and Modern Mobile Medicine.

learn more, visit [Fairlington Farmers Market – Field to Table](#). Thank you to all sponsors!

-Lynne Blasi



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Photo by APS

Abingdon School News

Abingdon Elementary Table at Fairlington Farmers Market

Sunday, November 9, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Abingdon Elementary 4th grade parent volunteers will be hosting a community table at the Fairlington Farmers Market to give away free native seeds from

recruiting volunteers and community members who may be interested in supporting their Jamestown field trip in May. Stop by the table to meet our scholars and the Abingdon Cardinal!

-Sharon Burd



A song sparrow enjoying dried goldenrod seeds in winter. Photo by Tina Byrd.

For the Love of Nature

Leave the Flower Seed Heads Over Winter

Winters can be long and gray, but your patio garden can diminish that dreariness and be transformed into a place of natural beauty. Remember that winter interest does not have to be all about evergreens. Look at spent flowers and grasses and see them for their sculptural forms. The dried seed heads not only bring beauty to the garden, but they also provide food and cover for birds and wildlife. When left standing, dried flower stalks and stems can be as striking as the bare trees in winter.

What is more interesting to look at on a dreary day than songbirds enjoying the seeds in your garden? Small birds like chickadees and goldfinches often perch right on the seed heads, while larger birds forage for seeds on the ground. Native perennials provide a cornucopia of seeds for our wintering songbirds plus architectural beauty.

Wait until spring to clean up your garden and enjoy watching the songbirds forage on the seed heads this winter. For more information on which native plant species attract birds visit the [Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia](#).

-Tina Byrd

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4

On Election Day, all Arlington polling places are open from 6 a.m.– 7 p.m. You must vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day. All eligible adults are encouraged to vote.

On November 4, Arlingtonians will be voting for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, three House of Delegates members (district-specific), one County Board member, and one School Board member.

Alexandria races will include Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff

Visit the [Arlington](#) and [Alexandria](#) election web pages for details.



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