

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2017

Volume 43, Number 10

## Hear plans for I-395 sound walls at October 11 FCA meeting

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Selected Fairlington residents will soon have the opportunity to vote on whether they would like sound walls as part of the I-395 express lanes project. Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the project's private contractors will outline the voting process and discuss the sound wall designs at FCA's monthly meeting, Wednesday, October 11, at 7 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

An engineering assessment last year examined the potential noise impacts of the express lanes and concluded that sound walls were "feasible and reasonable." The study generally identified the units along the corridor that would likely be impacted by the possible increase in noise and benefited by the placement of a sound wall.

At press time, the plans for the sound wall process, including the list of specific unit owners and residents that will be eligible to vote, were undergoing final revisions.

According to AECOM, the private contractor that is coordinating this part of the express lanes project, the sound wall process from study to proposal to voting to construction occurs nearly concurrently, but the walls along the southbound side of I-395 will be finalized, voted on, and constructed first.

Eligible owners and residents on the southbound side (selected residents in Fairlington Villages and Fairlington Court) should receive ballots in late September or early October.



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

The approval process for sound walls on the northbound portion of the project should occur a few weeks after the southbound portion is finalized. Ballots will likely be sent to owners and residents on the northbound side (which includes some units in Fairlington Commons, Fairlington Mews, and Fairlington Green) in late October.

Initial ballots will be distributed by regular mail, and residents

*Continued on page 15*

# Coming up ...

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

## FCA monthly meeting October 11

**Special presentation:** Representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation, AECOM, and Transurban will discuss the proposed sound walls for the I-395 express lanes.

### Regular board business:

- Approval of September 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 Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA,  
[www.avatar-systems.com](http://www.avatar-systems.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/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
571-403-1943 • [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

### — DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Email editorial announcements to:

[editor@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:editor@fca-fairlington.org)

Email commercial and mini ads to:

[admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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### Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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

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## Calendar

### Coffee with a Cop

Wednesday, October 4, 4 – 6 pm  
Best Buns, Shirlington

### Columbus Day: FCC Closed

Monday, October 9

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fall E-CARE event

Saturday, October 14, 8:30 am – 1 pm  
Yorktown High School  
5200 Yorktown Blvd.

### Fairlington Fall Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, October 14, 10 am – 12:30 pm  
Wakefield circle, Fairlington Commons

### Fire Station Open House

Saturday, October 14, 10 am – 4 pm  
3116 S. Abingdon St.

### Fairlington Diners

Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 pm  
Laporta's Restaurant  
1600 Duke St., Alexandria, VA

### Book Group

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington Diners

Monday, October 30, 6:30 pm  
Ramparts Tavern & Grill  
1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA

### Halloween

Tuesday, October 31, noon  
Abingdon Elementary parade  
North Fairlington

## Boo!



*Fairlington residents always go all out to celebrate Halloween. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Evan Harvey, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, Lindsay Willmann.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the August 9 groundbreaking, featuring Gov. Terry McAuliffe, construction work on the I-395 express lanes project has gotten underway in earnest. The project will have both short-term and long-term impacts on Fairlington.

Much of the construction will take place at night. This will minimize the impact on the HOV lanes during the morning and evening rush hours. The lanes will remain open for rush hour during construction. But that means that for the short term, Fairlington residents who live near the highway may hear construction noise during the evening. Construction is likely to take up to 18 months.

One of the more lasting Fairlington impacts could be the existence of sound walls along the highway. This would affect both the traffic noise experienced by nearby residents and the visual appearance of the community.

Residents near the highway will vote on whether they want sound barriers. Neither FCA nor individual condo associations will have a say on the sound walls question. An engineering study last summer identified the individual units that would potentially benefit from sound walls, and they are the ones that will be entitled to vote on whether to have the sound barriers.

FCA's October meeting will feature a description of the voting process and a discussion of the proposed designs for the walls.

It's important to note that the final project does not contain a major change to the Shirlington Circle. Such a change was part of the express lanes proposal several years ago, and it sparked considerable opposition from Fairlington and Parkfairfax residents.

The project also does not call for any major land acquisition, other than modest acquisition that may be necessary for installing sound walls. The additional express lane will be created within the existing highway right-of-way by narrowing the current HOV lanes and reducing the size of one of the HOV shoulders.

The lanes will be toll lanes at all times, so Fairlington residents wanting to dash into D.C. or the Pentagon will need to pay a fee, even if they aren't traveling during rush hour. The system will use "congestion pricing," where the toll is determined by traffic conditions.

One of the potential benefits will be significant improvements at the S. Eads St. intersection. This will facilitate HOV and bus traffic going to and from the Pentagon.

With major construction now taking place, the long-discussed express lanes project is no longer just a concept.

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



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# ACE cleans up at FCA meeting

Last month's FCA meeting featured guest speaker Elenor Hodges, the Executive Director of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). ACE has been focused on environmental cleanup and sustainable communities for almost 40 years, and Hodges has led the organization since 2000. Fairlington and ACE are closely acquainted. The neighborhood has benefitted from a number of ACE-led beautification projects, including the tree canopy program and various streambed cleanups. Hodges's office, as some of you may know, is located in our Fairlington Community Center.

The meeting, which coincided with Arlington Public School Back-to-School night, had a relatively light turnout, but that did not diminish Hodges's presentation or enthusiasm. ACE began as a county-initiated trash cleanup project—which is still a crucial task—but its mission has gradually encompassed other tasks. ACE “protects and improves water, air, and open spaces in the Arlington community and nearby areas,” according to its mission statement. It does so by educating citizens about natural resources and devising practical, sustainable community living solutions.

Hodges quizzed the crowd on an important question: Why does sustainability matter? Answers ranged from “clean air and clean water” to “natural preservation” to “healthy choices for my family.” The potential cost savings and local business support related to making sustainable consumer choices also came up. When it comes to environmental stewardship, ACE leads or sponsors outdoor service projects, such as marking storm drains and removing invasive plants.

But it soon became clear that ACE delivers local impact through a few key projects.

The ACE Energy Masters' program selects and trains a small class of volunteers every year. This team learns residential energy efficiency techniques, helping low-income consumers lower their energy bills. After training, the Energy Masters are asked to provide 30 hours of volunteer service a year. Hodges told interested residents



*FCA Board member Evan Harvey welcomes ACE Executive Director Elenor Hodges to the October FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land.*

that a new training class was starting on September 27.

ACE's Tree Canopy Fund, as mentioned above, provides money to improve tree cover in Arlington County. The program allows private landowners to apply for grants to purchase and plant native trees. After some administrative debate—and an increase in budget—ACE has again committed to the tree canopy program this year, with trees to be planted in Spring 2018. See the separate story on page 21.

ACE also engages with citizens beyond the Fairlington community on projects like building and deploying rain barrels, stormwater runoff mitigation, and even solar energy cooperatives. These may not all be applicable to Fairlington homeowners, due to various condo association rules, but they do convey the full scope of ACE's work in the county.

Another program that applies to Fairlington is the Virginia state energy rebate program. Hodges told the attendees that they might qualify for up to \$575 back from the state if they add insulation, seal up ducts, or even just replace a water heater or HVAC system with a more efficient model. More information about this and all the programs above can be found on the ACE website at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org).

The Q&A session at the end of the meeting raised several interesting points, most notably about the collection of e-Waste. E-Waste refers to electronic equipment and peripherals of all kinds (computers, printers, TVs, radios, and so on) that have reached the end of their useful lives. In many cases, these items should not be put out

*Continued on page 21*

## ***Selected ACE-supported activities***

- Invasive plant removal and stream cleanup by volunteers
- Energy Masters training
- Tree Canopy Fund
- Arlington StormwaterWise program
- Home energy rebates

# HALLOWEEN CANDY BUY BACK



Candy will be collected November 3, 2017

7:30AM to 2:30PM

Open To Everyone – Bring A Friend!

Bring your Halloween candy into Fairlington Dental and receive **\$1 per pound** (up to 5 pounds). The largest group donation of candy receives a **group pizza party!**

Candy will be donated to *Operation Gratitude & Mattie Miracle*



**FAIRLINGTON DENTAL**  
EVERYBODY SMILES

# Abingdon Elementary project nears completion

The newly renovated and expanded Abingdon Elementary School drew rave reviews when students returned after Labor Day. All students are now back in the school building, after a number of classes spent last year in the portable classrooms ("relocatables").

"The new school is looking amazing," said Jen Davies, the former Abington PTA Co-President. "My son is in the third-story 'penthouse' with views of the Washington monument and even Nats stadium (or so he claims). The buzz has been pretty positive."

The three-story tower was one of the major additions to the building, along with a new gym, cafeteria, and entrance to the building. Last school year, students had celebrated the new cafeteria, which opened in the spring.



*The top floor corner classroom in the new three-story addition offers great views of the area. Photo by Jen Davies.*

Work will continue on the project this fall, as the contractor completes some renovation work in the center of the building interior and tackles the remaining exterior components of the project.

The portable classrooms are expected to be removed in early October, clearing the way for the contractor to begin renovating the playing field and installing a new track. The contractor expects this work to be completed by the end of November, weather permitting. The track



*Abingdon reading specialist Mary Lou Rube brings her classroom materials to Abingdon a couple of days before the beginning of the school year. The renovation project created a new entrance to the school. Photo by Guy Land.*

installation cannot occur during cold weather.

The installation of a raised crosswalk on Abingdon St. has been delayed, as Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the county negotiate the details of water line improvements near that location. The crosswalk will then connect to the new, and widened, sidewalk to the school. That work is expected to be accomplished in late October.

The fall will also see the removal of the current temporary parking lot along S. 29th St. and its replacement

with a long-term permeable surface parking lot.

Some tree planting is expected this fall, subject to the sign-off by the county forester.

Certain parking spaces in the lot next to the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St., will continue to be reserved for school use only during the weekdays, pursuant to a multi-year agreement between APS and the condo association.

—Guy Land

## FCA to compile list of board candidates

FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2018 FCA board. Board members set the policies for the association and serve one-year terms.

Anyone interested in serving on the board may express that interest by emailing FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley at [vp@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:vp@fca-fairlington.org). There are currently no vacancies on the board, but all of the nine positions are up for election.

The list of candidates will be published on the FCA website at least 10 days before the December 13 annual meeting.

For information about what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.



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## fall festival

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### AFAC

During the fall festival, we will also have food drive boxes set up to collect food donations. Please bring non-perishable items in support of AFAC and our Arlington neighbors in need! Learn more at [www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org).

Please go to [www.khassociates.com/events](http://www.khassociates.com/events) for more information.  
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# Fairlington Movie Night wraps up summer

On Friday evening, September 8, the Fairlington Citizens Association hosted its first-ever, free outdoor movie night on the soccer field adjacent to the Fairlington Community Center (FCC). It was a beautiful night, filled with fencing, wrestling matches with giants, strategic games to the death, revenge, screaming eels, paralysis, chases, escapes, the perfect kiss, and of course, true love, as movie-goers enjoyed the feature, "The Princess Bride."

Veterans of such outdoor events filed in early to stake a spot on the lawn. Several families and individuals of all ages set up chairs and blankets to picnic as they waited for daylight to wane. One industrious party even inflated an air mattress to ensure comfort for the entire evening. In a patch of open space, a small group also threw a frisbee to burn off a little energy in the fading light before settling in for the show.

Amongst the sandwiches, pizza, and other take-out treats brought by residents, personal bags of pop-

corn were also distributed by Chris Weathers from TTR Sotheby's International Realty.

FCA Board Secretary and lead organizer for the event, Lindsay Willmann, welcomed the jovial crowd and introduced "The Princess Bride" as the projector beamed onto the big screen, set up just below the plaza behind the FCC building. Fans of the film cheerfully chirped before, during, and after fondly remembered scenes, while those who were new to the feature took in their first experience in a unique setting under the stars. The exciting mix of adventure and humor kept the attention of the crowd of approximately 150 neighbors and friends.

Fairlington Movie Night was rousinglly deemed a success by those in attendance. There was a noticeable buzz about the potential for future movies on the lawn as the evening wrapped up. The FCA board will certainly take this into consideration as it plans for 2018. In the words of Wesley from "The Princess Bride" ... "As you wish," Fairlington!

—Chris Weathers



Photos by Sheri Weathers.

Special thanks to FCA Board member Chris Weathers and The Reef Team at TTR Sotheby's International Realty—Arlington for the popcorn. Kudos to FCA Secretary Lindsay Willmann for coordinating the event, with assistance from FCA Board members.







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\*See club for more details. Must be 18 years or older, local residents and first-time guest. ID REQUIRED. Some restrictions apply. Expires 10/31/17.



# Pumpkins, cider, and more at Fairlington Farmers Market

Fall is here and the Fairlington Farmers Market is ready! Stop by on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm and check out the wide variety of seasonal vegetables and fruit available at our neighborhood market. The market is open through November 19.

What better way to welcome fall than with apple cider, pumpkins, and gourds? Kuhn Orchards, a vendor at the market since it started, has it covered! Located in Adams County, Pennsylvania's scenic Fruitbelt region, the orchard is family-owned and operated by Sidney Kuhn.

The Kuhn Orchards family history of farming in the Cashtown area dates back to the 1840s. In 2012, Sidney purchased the business from her parents and became the fifth generation of her family to own and operate the same farm and land. Her parents are also involved in operating the farm.

Because they live,



work, and eat in the orchard every day, the Kuhns think carefully about ways to protect their fruit from pests, while also protecting their health and that of their customers. They practice Integrated Pest Management, a holistic and environmentally sensitive approach to pest and disease control that focuses on long-term prevention by managing the ecosystem and limiting pesticide use. They don't grow any genetically modified organism (GMO) crops.

The Kuhn family enjoys the opportunity to sell high-

quality fresh-picked produce directly at farmers markets in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., area. On just over 100 acres of their 340-acre property, they grow more than 20 acres of apples, over 50 acres of peaches and nectarines, and small amounts of cherries, pears, grapes, berries, rhu-

*Continued on page 12*



*Kuhn Orchards pumpkins. Photos by Guy Land.*

## Thanks to our vendors for supporting AFAC

The Fairlington Farmers Market sends a big thank-you to our vendors, who have generously donated 3,230 pounds of food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) since May of this year. Since the start of the market in 2015, the total amount donated is 11,309 pounds.

AFAC's Plot Against Hunger project collects fresh produce from many sources, including farmers markets, to help families who come to them for supplemental groceries each week. AFAC distributes groceries to nearly 2,200 families every week. Over 35 percent of the people they serve are children and 30 percent are older residents, making the donations from our vendors especially important.



*Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) volunteer Rick Morris picks up donated produce from market vendor Pleitez Produce.*



Kuhn Orchards peaches were popular this summer. Photos by Guy Land.

### Community tables available

Do you work or volunteer for a non-profit or are you part of a community group? We have community tables available at the market for sharing information. To learn more, stop by the market table or email [info@fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org).

barb, plums, asparagus, heirloom tomatoes, and other vegetables, flowers, and herbs. In addition, neighbors process their fruit into products like cider, jams, canned peaches, applesauce, apple butter, and dried apples—visit the market to see the full selection.

Visit Kuhn's website at [www.kuhnorchards.com](http://www.kuhnorchards.com) for recipes and helpful tips for selecting, preparing, and storing fruit and vegetables.

—Lynne Blasi



The market has enjoyed good crowds this year.



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## Fun fall events



### Coffee with a Cop, October 4

Captain Adrienne Quigley, Third District Commander, Arlington County Police Department, invites Fairlington residents to the 3rd annual Coffee with a Cop event on Wednesday, October 4, from 4 to 6 pm at Best Buns in Shirlington. This is an opportunity to ask questions and get to know the officers in our district.

### Fire station open house set for October 14



The Arlington County Fire Department hosts its annual Fire Station Open House on Saturday, October 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. According to Captain Craig Brightbill, this year's theme is "Every second counts."

The popular event is a great opportunity for residents to meet the crew at Station 7 (3116 S. Abingdon St.).



*A future fireman participates in last year's fire station open house. Photo by Guy Land.*

The open house offers a chance for youngsters to climb aboard Engine 107 and try on real firefighting turnout gear. There will be activities for kids, demos, and great picture-taking opportunities.

Young and not-so-young alike can learn more about fire safety from those trained to protect us and to pass the lessons on to junior firefighters. The open house is part of a county-wide event held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

### Second annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair, October 14



Fairlington Commons will be hosting its 2nd Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair featuring local Fairlington crafts-



*Young Fairlingtonians check out some woodworking products at last year's Commons Fair. Photo by Guy Land.*

men. The fair will be on October 14, from 10 am to 12:30 pm in the S. Wakefield St. circle basketball court. There will be artisans, bakers, activities for children, food trucks, and more.

You must be a Fairlington resident to be a vendor. There is a \$10 fee per table, which will be donated to charity. To participate as a vendor, please email Robin Mott at [rmfaircommons@gmail.com](mailto:rmfaircommons@gmail.com).

### Fall E-CARE event Saturday, October 14



Arlington County's E-CARE event will be held Saturday, October 14 from 8:30 am to 1 pm at a new location, Yorktown High School (5200 Yorktown Blvd.). Residents can safely dispose of hazardous household materials (HHM) and recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes, clothing and much more!

HHM are products found in the home that are flammable, corrosive, poisonous, or potentially hazardous. They include items such as automotive fluid, car care products, fluorescent light bulbs, corrosives, household cleaners, and propane gas cylinders.

Before you come to the event, talk to your neighbors. Combine your items and save a trip to the collection site. Place all materials in the original container or label materials clearly, overpack any leaking containers, and bring your ID to verify that you are an Arlington resident or employee.

For a full list of acceptable items, go to [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search "E-CARE."





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## County tests improvements at Walter Reed and Arlington Mill intersection



*Traffic moves through the new lane alignment at the intersection of Arlington Mill and S. Walter Reed. Photo by Guy Land.*

In late summer, Arlington County implemented the new lane realignment at Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Walter Reed Dr. to field test the signal timing plans for the intersection improvements. The key change realigned westbound Arlington Mill to one left-turn lane and one right-turn lane in order to improve crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The project is designed to improve the transportation flow on this short, but critical segment of S. Walter Reed and encourage more bicycle and pedestrian trips, improve access to Shirlington, and better support motorists and county service vehicles that rely on this connection.

According to Valerie Mosley, Capital Project Manager with the county's Division of Transportation, in September, county staff were monitoring and tweaking the timing plans in light of school-related traffic through the intersection. This is a major route for school buses that are housed at the county Trades Center.

Once the pilot period testing the realignment and signal timing has ended, the county will proceed to other major enhancements to the intersection and the slip lane. These include:

- Creating a larger island with plantings and ADA-compliant curb ramps
- Installing a raised crosswalk between Four Mile Run Trail and the island

- Realigning Four Mile Run Trail's approach of crossing to improve visibility
- Installing appropriate signal/signage technologies to better support crosswalk users
- Creating ADA compliant bus stops

These improvements are expected to occur in 2018.

—Guy Land

## Reminder: County taxes due October 5

The second installment of Arlington County real estate property tax and personal property tax are due to the county treasurer on Thursday, October 5. For complete information, go online to the county website, [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us), and search "taxes."

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### *I-395 sound walls, continued from page 1*

will have 21 days to return the ballot. The ballot will include an overview of the voting process, information on the location of the proposed sound walls, and aesthetic and design information.

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

It is important to note that only those units that have been identified by the engineering and design studies will be eligible to vote. Neither FCA nor the individual condo associations will be entitled to vote.

Construction on the express lanes began earlier this summer. According to Susan Shaw, VDOT's Northern Virginia Megaprojects Director, much of the work currently underway in the corridor is to repair existing pavement joints and to prepare the pavement (for example, improving shoulder pavement) so that traffic can be temporarily shifted to one side of the HOV lanes and new concrete barriers can be constructed. This will facilitate the construction of the additional express lane.

Additional information on the express lanes project can be found at [www.395expresslanes.com](http://www.395expresslanes.com).

—Guy Land

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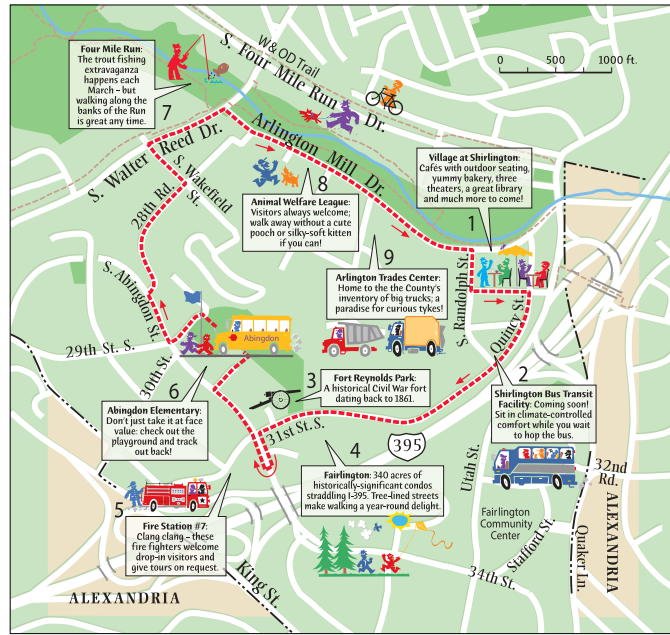
# Do you walk Shirlington?

The WalkArlington two-part series continues this month with the Shirlington Walkabout. The route is slightly longer than the Fairlington Walkabout featured last month, spanning just under two miles.

The Walkabout begins at the corner of Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Randolph St. From there, walkers will pass through the Shirlington Village making their way onto Quincy St. and past the Shirlington Transit Station.

Continuing to the steepest passage of the route, the Walkabout heads up the S. 31st St. hill heading into North Fairlington. This is the most difficult stretch of the Walkabout; however, it is manageable for those in moderate-to-good fitness. Towards the top of the hill, walkers will pass by Fort Reynolds Park, the site of a historical Civil War fort dating back to 1861.

Once reaching the top of the S. 31st St. hill, walkers make a left at S. Abingdon St., continuing past the Fairlington Fire Station before turning around back on



Map courtesy of WalkArlington.

S. Abingdon St.

After passing Abingdon Elementary, the Walkabout makes a slight right turn down S. 28th Rd. In contrast to the S. 31st St. passage, this stretch features a steep downhill. At the bottom, walkers will make a left on S. Wakefield St. past the 7-11, then a right onto S. Walter Reed Dr. for approximately one-tenth of a mile prior to turning right onto Arlington Mill Dr.

The Walkabout continues past the Animal Welfare League before arriving back at the starting point.

Once finished, reward yourself with a cup of coffee, smoothie, or refreshment at one of the various establishments in the Shirlington Village! If you enjoyed the Fairlington and Shirlington Walkabouts, visit [www.walkarlington.com](http://www.walkarlington.com) for more information on one of the other 25 self-guided walking tours in Arlington.

—Rebecca Sayres

## Next Door: A modern way of connecting communities

Next Door, a one-stop-shop style website for neighborhoods, provides a new way of connecting with neighbors both in Fairlington and the surrounding communities. The site, a self-described “private social network” for neighbors and communities, offers a Facebook meets Angie’s List meets Meetup format to post notices, needs, questions, services, or alerts on a neighborhood page.

Arlington County offices, neighborhood organizations, and individuals use it as a platform to communicate with residents, who may then post their thanks or replies. It offers a quick and easy way of meeting neighborhood necessities.

Perhaps one of the best features is the urgent alert system, which sends out messages if a dog is missing or a break-in has occurred. This creates the opportunity for a quick response by community members, and allows

local authorities to easily communicate information when emergencies arise.

Involvement can be personalized to meet a member’s wants and needs. You can subscribe to “Daily Digests” with regular updates or important alerts, or set your account to receive no emails whatsoever. Once you sign up, you can create a detailed profile, or simply provide a name and street (house numbers are not required).

Next Door protects your privacy through verification requirements (members must use real names and verify their address), encryption, and a guarantee not to sell information to advertisers. For the really ambitious, an app is also available and can also be tailored to an individual’s membership needs.

*Continued on page 18*



Next Door, continued from page 17

On the Fairlington/Shirlington page, you will find everything from tutoring services to bakery recommendations. Information on group outings, local issues, and rentals are among the notices shared by those hoping to connect with others in the area.

If you are looking for a way to track local events and opportunities beyond the usual social media outlets, Next Door is a great resource for keeping track of what's going on in and around the community. Interested in learning more? Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

—Lindsay Willmann

## The FCA Board at work



From left, Lindsay Willmann, Kent Duffy, Hugh Baumgardner, Evan Harvey, Chris Weathers, and Jonathan Ansley. Photo by Guy Land.

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## Nearby and Noteworthy

*This new occasional column will explore areas of interest in close proximity to Fairlington.*

### Fort Ward Park

Fairlingtonians love history, as evidenced by the popularity of neighborhood history walks offered by the FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society. The 45-acre park, operated by the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, is one of the area's hidden historic treasures. It consists of the historic site, museum, and recreational area.



*A Civil War era brass band performs at Fort Ward Park back in the summer. Photos by Guy Land.*

According to its website, Fort Ward is “the best preserved of the system of Union forts and batteries built to protect Washington, D.C., during the American Civil War (1861-1865).” Built in 1861 as part of the Defenses of Washington, a system of 164 earthwork forts and batteries, the fort was named after Commander James Harmon Ward, the first U.S. Naval Officer killed in the Civil War.

The historic fort site features a ceremonial entrance gate; a restored bastion complete with cannon, powder magazine, and ammunition filling room; a reconstructed wooden officers' hut; underground bombproofs built to shelter 500 men each in case of attack; and much more.

The museum features objects from the Civil War period, including military equipment, weapons, flags, musical instruments, medical equipment, uniforms and accessories, cooking and mess equipment, artwork, documents, photographs, and artifacts excavated on site. The library includes over 2,000 books, periodicals, and archival materials and is open to the public for research by appointment.



*Reenactors man a cannon at Fort Ward Park.*

The grounds, which are often used for Civil War and Revolutionary War reenactments, contain an amphitheater, dog exercise area, park shelter, playground, and reservable picnic areas.

Fort Ward is located on W. Braddock Rd. between King St. and N. Van Dorn St. in Alexandria. Self-guided tours may be taken any time the museum and historic site are open. Guided tours for students and groups are available with advance reservations. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) and search “Fort Ward.”

—Christine Chirichella

### Going to the dogs



*Pets of every description descended on Shirlington in late summer for the annual Wags & Whiskers celebration, which featured more than 50 vendors. Photo by Guy Land.*





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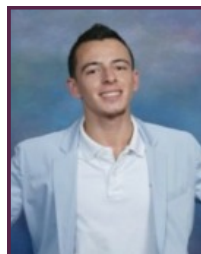
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## Grants to plant or maintain trees on private property in Arlington

Through Arlington County's Tree Canopy Fund, residents and condo associations can receive grants to plant trees on private property. The Tree Canopy Fund is administered by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) and the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission (UFC).

The grant covers planting large native trees, such as American beech, bald cypress, sweetgum, and red oak. Trees generally have a caliper of two inches and are about seven feet high. A list of trees is available online at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org). Property owners must agree to maintain the trees.

In past years, several Fairlington condo associations have taken advantage of this program. Over the past decade Fairlington Villages has received trees valued at several thousand dollars through the Tree Canopy program.

Applications are due by November 8. The application is online, and additional information is available at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org/community-action/trees](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/community-action/trees).

## Composting Master Gardener session

Join the Virginia Cooperative Extension for a free session, "Composting, And What To Do With All That Leaf And Yard Waste," on Saturday, October 14, from 10:30 am to noon, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Learn how to turn yard clippings, kitchen waste, and excess paper into black gold for your garden.

Get advice on how to start composting at home, what to put in a compost pile, how to easily maintain it so the materials break down properly, and how to apply it in your own garden and lawn. Register in advance at [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org). For more information, call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

## Plan now to vote in next month's elections

On November 7, Virginia voters will elect the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General, along with members of the House of Delegates. Arlington voters will elect one person to the county board and the school board, while Alexandria residents will select the sheriff and the commonwealth's attorney.

In-person absentee voting began September 22 and runs through November 4. The deadline to submit an application to have an absentee ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, October 31, at 5 pm.

The voter registration deadline for the November 7 General Election is October 16.

### Fall market visitor



Arlington County Board Vice Chair Katie Cristol chatted with Fairlington Farmers Market volunteer Lynne Blasi during a visit to the market. Photo by Guy Land.

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ACE, continued from page 5



Elenor Hodges visits with North Fairlington resident Carol McCaffrey prior to the FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

with the daily trash, or even left for the less-frequent bulk collection. ACE and FCA committed to work together and with the condo associations on community education and, if necessary, intervention ideas.

—Evan Harvey

## List with Lynn... and take the stress out of selling!

"I highly recommend Lynn Robinson-Gant, my realtor for the sale of my Fairlington home. It was especially stressful to be moving out of state after 30 years in the same house. Lynn not only gave me excellent advice on large and small home improvements to help the house sell quickly, but also made all the arrangements for the contractors, who did a wonderful job at a very reasonable cost. She supervised all the work herself and I had no hesitation leaving everything in her hands as I traveled to my new home in Colorado. Largely due to Lynn's expertise and long experience with Fairlington, my house was under contract during its first open house. An experience I had dreaded, instead went very smoothly, including the long distance settlement procedures. Lynn was always available to answer any questions, always helpful and calm throughout the process. I couldn't have been happier with my experience."

- Carole Bogart, seller End Clarendon 4527 S. 34th St.

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# neighborhood news

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## ***Fairlington Diners***

The Fairlington Diners generally 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 September, we had a fun visit to Beckett's as a change in our hamburger night and also went to National Harbor.

Here's what's planned for October:

Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 pm, Laporta's Restaurant, 1600 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-683-6313, [www.laportas.net](http://www.laportas.net). Based on the interest among several of our members in dining Italian, we'll return to this charming local restaurant after several years. There is free parking (to the right of the front door), and a wide variety of menu choices.

Monday, October 30, 6:30 pm, 1/2 price burger night at Ramparts Tavern & Grill, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, [www.rampartstavern.com](http://www.rampartstavern.com). This is a local favorite that we visit often—usually with a large turnout. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and 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@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## ***Book Group***

Join the Fairlington Book Group in October to discuss *My Name is Lucy Barton*, a novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout.

"Sensitive, deceptively simple...It is Lucy's gentle honesty, complex relationship with her husband, and nuanced response to her mother's shortcomings that make this novel so subtly powerful....[It's] more complex than it first appears, and all the more emotionally persuasive for it."—*San Francisco Chronicle*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tues-

day, October 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

## ***Card Players Welcome***

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

## ***Fairlington Babysitting Co-op***

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

## ***Fairlington MOMS Club®***

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

## ***Abingdon Halloween parade***

North Fairlington's streets will be filled with wizards, princesses, superheroes, and goblins when the annual Abingdon Elementary School Halloween parade marches through the neighborhood. Led by the Wakefield High School Band, the parade steps off at noon on October 31.





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- Ana Macnamara

*"I was a first time seller in Fairlington and wanted to work with someone who not only was savvy with market trends, but who was also highly knowledgeable about our community. Rita was the perfect choice! I enjoyed working with her & highly recommend her for your buying & selling needs"*

-Christina Mills

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## *Volunteer opportunities at Abingdon*



*Abingdon alumnae helped with face painting during the Back to School Picnic. Photos by Carrie Lewis.*

The school year is off to a great start in the newly renovated building, and as the year progresses, there will be many opportunities for Fairlington residents to volunteer time or resources at this wonderful neighborhood school. Individuals interested in participating in these activities can contact Fairlington resident and Abingdon volunteer coordinator Deb Staren-Doby at [deborah.staren-doby@apsva.us](mailto:deborah.staren-doby@apsva.us). All volunteers will be required to complete an application.

**Are you a bookworm?** Abingdon reading specialists and first-grade teachers are working on a tutoring program for young, struggling readers. Volunteers will read with students to help build skills and encourage a love of books.

**Artistic or creative?** The beautiful new Abingdon library is expected to open by early October. Volunteers will work once a week on bulletin boards, displays, and other special projects.

**Technically savvy?** Join the Abingdon Tech Crew and work with the Abingdon technology coordinator to prepare and maintain the school's iPads and other technology.

**Have a green thumb?** The Abingdon garden will return this year, and will likely be ready by the end of November. All produce will be donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Volunteers will be needed to water and weed during the summer. In conjunction with the garden, Abingdon will be implementing a composting project, and will need volunteers to help students sort their trash, recycling, and food waste during lunch periods.

**Bilingual?** Abingdon needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to help translate and do other special projects for teachers.

### **Are numbers your thing?**

Abingdon's Math Specialist needs volunteers to make math games for students. This is a great job for someone who wants to do most of their volunteering from home.

### **Have expertise in any area?**

Abingdon welcomes all volunteers who want to share their areas of expertise with students. In several classrooms, students participate in "Genius Hour," where students

research and learn about topics they choose based on their own interests: [www.geniushour.com/what-is-genius-hour/](http://www.geniushour.com/what-is-genius-hour/). Abingdon is creating an "expert bank" made up of community members willing to be interviewed by students. Teachers will match appropriate experts with students' areas of interest. Community experts willing to be included in this bank should fill out the form at [goo.gl/forms/NXuUkXMUDRUXwtz92](http://goo.gl/forms/NXuUkXMUDRUXwtz92).

**Looking to clear out your closets?** Abingdon students participate in "Makerspace," a special place where students can go to think, wonder, and collaborate to design and invent new ideas. Students are encouraged to use the Engineering Design Process to solve problems and to explore content from all subject areas by designing and creating different products made from donations of clean recyclables.

The staff would love to collect clean cardboard and plastic recyclables (anything the size of a shoebox or smaller for now). No glass, please. Helpful items might be jewelry boxes, egg cartons, cardboard tubes, small plastic containers, or unused crafting items such as ribbon or scrapbooking decorations. Gently used Legos are greatly appreciated as well. Finally, purchases from the Abingdon Amazon Wish List are welcome. (An Educator Can Dream: [a.co/9xLiThi](http://a.co/9xLiThi)).

To read more, visit the Abingdon Makerspace webpage at [abingdon.apsva.us/curriculum/makerspace/](http://abingdon.apsva.us/curriculum/makerspace/).

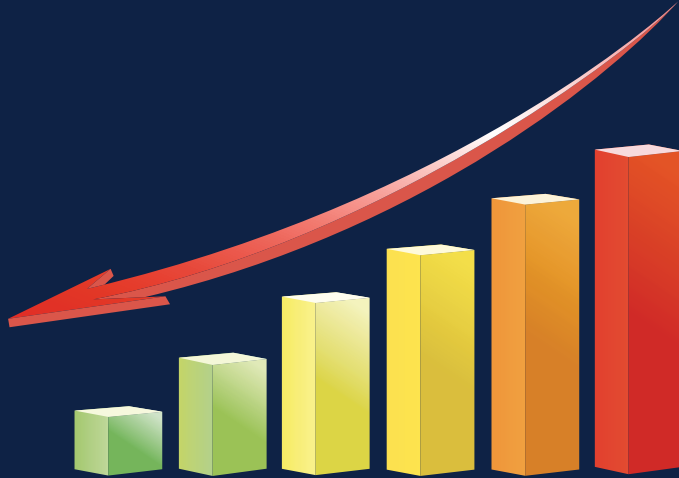
—Carrie Lewis



*At the picnic, Abingdon Principal, Joanne Uyeda, welcomed families to the new school year.*

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *It's all for show: fall planting guide*

Although October is a dormant time for most specimens, it's an ideal time to plant. Without day-long blazing sunlight and humidity, the soil stays moist and malleable, which is ideal for plant roots. The same concept applies to sod.

And this month can be showtime for many plants, despite the absence of flowers. You already may have plants that “show” in autumn, but if not, use this list below to plan for next October.

**Red Twig Dogwood:** This is a shrub as opposed to the *Cornus* genus of trees. It stands three feet tall and almost six feet wide. Its branches are pendulous and filled with white flowers and broad leaves in summer. But when these leaves drop, all that's left is a dense, scarlet display of branches. There is one in the bed on the southwest corner of S. Abingdon St. and S. 31st St. in North Fairlington. The network of red branches stands out in the snow.

**Oak Leaf Hydrangea:** This has ivory, cone-shaped flowers in summer, but when the temperature is colder, the petal tips become light pink. The blossoms stand erect at the ends of the branches and are flanked by leaves that resemble an Oak tree. Some leaves can be 12 inches long and five inches wide.

**Redbud Tree:** This tree is so named for its neon-pink, bead-like flowers in late March. The leaf of the tree is heart-shaped and come autumn, black seed pods (four inches long) hang from the branches. These seed

pods are miniature compared to the much longer black pod of the Black Locust tree.

**Japanese Dogwood:** This bears dense foliage, and in fall, you will notice quarter-sized, soft-pink, ball-like drupes with a pebble-finish, which hang on three-inch-long stems off branches. They are so plentiful, they usually cover the ground beneath the canopy. There is one near a bench at the corner of S. Stafford St. and S. 33rd St. in South Fairlington.

**Native Dogwood:** By contrast, this tree (Virginia's commonwealth tree) has fruit that is a half-inch-long, shiny red drupe that birds devour. Look under the canopy and you can see bits of the red shell the birds have torn open. This tree is usually the first to show fall leaf color (red) in our area.

**Catalpa Tree:** Look for this tree where S. 32nd Rd. meets S. Utah St. In summer, it has large white flowers and huge, heart-shaped leaves. But this time of year, notice the 14-inch-long fruit pods that resemble cigars hanging on end from the branches. The look can be eerie, resembling the fruit of the Black Locust and Redbud trees.

**Southern Magnolia Tree:** You'll find a beautiful example where S. Stafford St. meets S. 32nd Rd. Look under the canopy and you'll find its fruit—football-shaped aggregates with a multitude of red follicles (resembling the fruit of the native dogwood tree). They are hard and



*Magnolia fruit. Photo by Guy Land.*

plentiful this time of year.

**Sycamore Tree:** One stands on the median where S. Wakefield St. meets S. 36th St. in South Fairlington. Its leaves actually started to drop in September, but when the branches are bare, notice the pattern on the main trunk—it's a mosaic of ivory, charcoal, light gray, and olive. From a distance, its stark, white/gray markings can be mistaken for those of the Birch/Beech trees.

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

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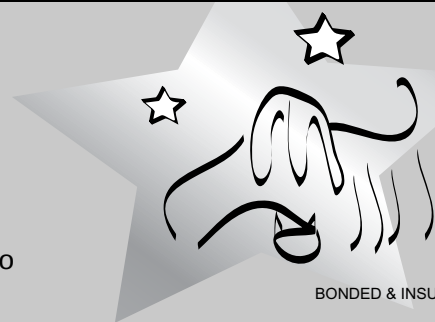
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**Due date for ads and payment:** 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (Oct.10 for Nov. issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
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**Email:** [admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

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

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

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

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

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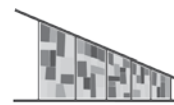
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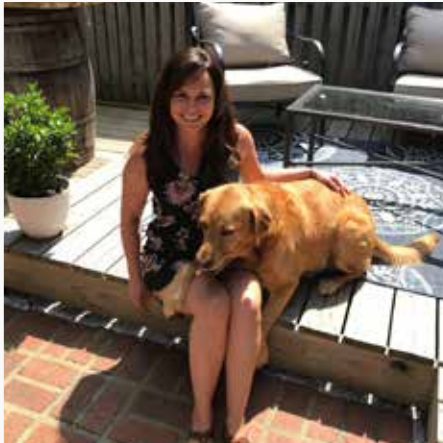
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