

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2019

Volume 45, Number 10

County Board member Matt de Ferranti to address FCA

Inside this month

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Arlington County Board Member Matt de Ferranti will speak at the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. De Ferranti will speak to topics of interest to Fairlingtonians and will take questions.

De Ferranti's priorities for his first year in office included addressing Arlington's office vacancy rate and encouraging economic development; providing funding for school buildings; improving access to affordable housing; making Arlington a leader on addressing climate change, developing renewable energy, and protecting the environment; and ending child hunger in our county.

De Ferranti grew up in Northern Virginia and lives in the Courthouse neighborhood. Prior to winning election, he served on Arlington's Housing Commission, Public Schools Budget Advisory Council, and the Joint Facilities Advisory Committee. By day, he is Senior Legislative Counsel for the National Indian Education Association, and works to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Native American students.

As members of the Arlington County Board, de Ferranti and his board colleagues oversee an annual budget of \$1.4 billion. The unanimously approved FY 2020 county budget included a property tax hike, increased funding for schools and affordable housing, cuts to some county programs, and the elimination of 27.5 full-time staff positions.

In May, de Ferranti voted unanimously with his board colleagues to approve the use of almost \$34 million in state funds on transportation projects connected with Amazon HQ2. In June, the board again unanimously voted to approve a new salary cap, which gives the board the option to raise their salaries in the future to up to \$89,851 a year for members and \$95,734 a year for the board chair. Board positions are considered part-time, and members are currently paid \$55,147, while the board chair is paid \$60,662.

De Ferranti is Arlington's newest County Board Member, having won office in 2018 in a hotly contested general election against incumbent John Vihstadt (I). This November, Arlingtonians will cast votes for two county board



Matt de Ferranti was elected to the county board in November, 2018. Photo courtesy Arlington County.

Continued on page 7

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 9

Special Presentations: Arlington County board member Matt de Ferranti will be speaking and taking questions on issues currently facing the county.

Arlington County Fire Chief David Povlitz as well as representatives from the county's Department of Environmental Services will brief residents and take questions on the status and future of Fire Station 7.

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. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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| 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 |
| www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm | |
| Helicopter Noise Complaints | Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376 |

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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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 the Advertising Manager at 571-403-1942.

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Calendar

Fairlington Knits

Monday, October 7, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, October 9, 6:30 pm
Clyde's
1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Knits

Monday, October 21, 6:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Group

Tuesday, October 22, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, October 28, 6:30 pm
Beckett's
2800 S. Randolph St.

Abingdon Halloween parade

Thursday, October 31, 12:30 pm
North Fairlington

Good contact



Fall means soccer season for a number of Fairlington families. The field behind the FCC is a popular place for soccer practices and matches, like this one in mid-September. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lucy Beadnell, Lynne Blasi, Shelley Burns, Sara Tuke Carr, Jennifer Davies, Donna Felipe, Guy Land, Rachel Mallory, Andrew Raab, Susan Renehan, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Fairlington Farmers Market, which is celebrating its fifth birthday on October 20, is a great Fairlington success story. It has become a valuable asset for Fairlington and is now a settled component of our community.

I was initially skeptical about the ability of the neighborhood to support a market, or even the degree of interest in having one. In 2013 North Fairlington resident Melissa Beene persuaded me to stick this on a survey of potential activities that residents would like to see FCA undertake. To my amazement, the market topped the survey, with roughly 90 percent of the respondents saying they were very interested in having a farmers market in Fairlington.

Armed with that info, FCA recruited a hearty group of volunteers, led by Melissa, Lane Erwin, Carrie Street, and Jacob Gelbaum, to guide a two-year planning effort. Their work included scoping out locations, dates, and times; surveying nearby neighbors; examining parking issues; holding community briefings; and selecting a private entity—Field to Table, Inc.—to operate the market. Their thoughtful work laid the foundation for today's success.

The market has more than fulfilled our vision. We wanted a community market, not a destination market like the one in Dupont Circle. It draws primarily from Fairlington and adjacent neighborhoods like Parkfairfax and Shirlington. Each Sunday a steady stream of customers walks across the Abingdon St. bridge to the market.

It has become a general meeting place, where neighbors catch up with each other. The renovation of the playground has made it even more attractive to families. This popularity has not generated major complaints about noise or trash or parking.

We've had great vendors—businesses that share our vision of the market and enjoy visiting with residents. Nine of the current 15 vendors have been at the market every year since it started. That demonstrates that there's a strong customer base. According to market leaders, 7000 people walk through the market each month.

The market's success is the product of a dedicated group of volunteers and the market manager, Aisha Salazar. Current frequent volunteers include Lane Erwin, Melissa Beene, Jeff Kost, Tracey McGovern, Lynne Blasi, Cheryl Goodman, Martha Hulley, and Laura and Eliot Kriviski.

The market's success is also a tribute to the support of you, its customers. You're the ones who have brought our vision to life. Come join us October 20 in celebrating this milestone in the life of Fairlington.

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

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Arlington transportation engineers propose pedestrian safety improvements

At FCA's September meeting, two engineers from Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services (DES) provided concept designs and preliminary cost estimates to improve pedestrian safety at three intersections located in S. Fairlington. Nick DiTaranto and Max Miller explained that the studies were driven by resident concerns in these locations. While additional resident inquiries have since been submitted, the presentation looked at investigations initiated in January of 2019.



This image of potential improvements at S. Abingdon, 34th and 36th Sts. is one of three different proposals for pedestrian safety improvements in Fairlington. Photo courtesy Arlington county.

FCA was fortunate to have secured funding between \$50,000–\$75,000 as part of a developer agreement for pedestrian facility upgrades for Shirlington-area civic associations. Having these funds already allocated to FCA ensures that project construction can start as early as spring 2020.

However, preliminary cost estimates demonstrate that the scope of all three designs cannot all be covered. FCA, with input from the community, will be required to provide recommendations or request options that are less costly. In order to keep within the project timeline, FCA has been asked to provide guidance within the next month.

DES did not find any locations met the criteria to add new stop signs, explaining that sightlines were satisfactory and no accidents had occurred recently.

The first intersection focused on the corner of S. 34th and S. 36th Sts. The investigation revealed the following:

- High rates of speed for east-bound traffic coming from the overpass (S. 34th St.) and turning onto S. 36th St. This is due to a wide turn radius, so drivers do not need to slow down. The crosswalk is long with no refuge area.
- No crosswalk across S. 34th St. to access bus stop.

DES proposed improvement:

- Reconstruct southwest corner to reduce turn radius from 125' to 25', effectively narrowing the crosswalk by building out the curb. Cars could no longer turn at high speeds. Estimated cost: \$43,000.
- Construct a two-phase pedestrian crossing using the existing median. Projected cost: \$21,000.

The second area of study was the crosswalk in front of the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St. The investigation showed:

- High volume of vehicles (approximately 900) cross the intersection daily, however 85 percent of them observe the 25 mph limit.
- High volume of pedestrians use the crosswalk to cross S. Stafford St.

DES proposed improvement:

- Construct curb extensions on each side of the crosswalk to reduce length of crossing and increase visibility. DES does not believe this would take away on-street parking spaces. Estimated cost: \$12,500.

The third area of study focused on 33rd and S. Stafford Sts. The observation noted:

- Poor sight distances for drivers on 33rd St. onto S. Stafford St.
- Long crosswalk across 33rd St.

DES proposed improvement:

- Restrict parking on S. Stafford St. to the right, which is already in place.
- Construction of a median nose to provide a refuge area for pedestrians. Estimated cost: \$21,000.

Several residents at the meeting questioned the

Continued on page 7



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Fire chief to discuss future of Station 7



Fire Station 7 has been temporarily closed since October, 2018. Photo by Guy Land.

Arlington County Fire Chief David Povlitz will brief the Fairlington community on the status of Station 7 (the Fairlington station) at FCA's October 9 meeting. He will be joined by staff of the county's Department of Environmental Services (DES), which oversees the building itself. The meeting begins at 7 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.



Arlington County Fire Chief David Povlitz was sworn in on November 5, 2018. He will be speaking at the October meeting of the FCA. Photo courtesy Arlington County.

responds, a substantial portion of which are in nearby Alexandria or Fairfax County, Chief Povlitz recommended that the station be permanently closed. Service to Fairlington would be provided primarily by Station 9 on S. Walter Reed Dr.

The station closed temporarily last October after fire department personnel expressed concern about the ability of the concrete slab to support the weight of the current fire engine. Additional investigations revealed that major changes are also required to make the station code compliant. Informal estimates suggest that the cost of the needed renovations would be in the range of \$3 million to \$5 million.

After examining studies of the needed improvements and looking at reports of the calls to which Station 7

At press time, County Manager Mark Schwartz had not made a final decision on Chief Povlitz's recommendation. If the station were to be closed, DES would coordinate the process of determining future uses of the building. Assistant County Manager Michelle Cowan has said that the county would work closely with FCA on any reuse plans.

Povlitz reports that travel times for emergency calls from Fairlington are within the countywide target of four minutes or less. "We will continue to make sure that the community is protected," he says.

At the FCA meeting Chief Povlitz will discuss the future of the station and emergency service to Fairlington, while DES will describe the engineering and compliance issues facing the station and the process for determining any reuse of the station.

—Guy Land

County Board from page 1

seats in a four-way race pitting Democratic incumbents Christian Dorsey and Katie Cristol against independent candidates Audrey Clement and Arron O'Dell.

—Michelle Woolley

Arlington Transportation from page 5


effectiveness of improved pedestrian crossings when stop signs or other speed and traffic strategies might work better. Residents also noted that Fairlington is being used as a cut-through to Shirlington or to avoid congestion on larger streets.

DES encouraged residents to continue to voice their concerns through the county or through FCA.

FCA plans on following up with DES to inquire about other less costly options such as pedestrian bollards and pavement markings to address concerns of speed. Please let FCA know your thoughts by contacting president@fca-fairlington.org no later than Friday, November 8, 2019.

Have a traffic concern or complaint elsewhere in the neighborhood? Email FCA at president@fca-fairlington.org or the county at DES-TEO@arlingtonva.us. Please note that the process for study and investigation takes approximately six to eight months to complete.

—Jennifer Davies



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County to host Park Shirlington briefing October 2

The Arlington County Housing Division will host a community meeting to launch the discussion of a potential new development at Park Shirlington on S. 31st St. The briefing will be held October 2, from 6:30 to 9 pm at the Trades Center—Park Operations Division, 2nd floor conference room, 2700 S. Taylor St.

The owners of Park Shirlington have indicated their desire to increase density on the Park Shirlington site, enabling them financially to maintain the existing number of units at the site as affordable housing, as well as create new housing at many different price points.

Park Shirlington is a 294-unit garden apartment complex built in 1956. Standard Communities and Foundation Housing jointly purchased the market affordable apartment community in December 2017 with the assistance of a \$6 million loan from the county's Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

Home Properties, the prior owner of the property, had previously proposed a major market-rate apartment complex for the site that included tenant displacement. A shift in corporate philosophy led the prior owner to abandon those plans and put the property on the market.

A condition of the three-year Arlington loan was that all the existing units be maintained as committed housing affordable to households earning up to 80 percent of Area Median Income.

The county has been working with the owners as they craft a site plan proposal that would maintain the existing 294 units as committed affordable housing once the loan period ends in December 2020. County staff stress the importance of maintaining affordable housing in Arlington, particularly in light of the arrival of Amazon, but they recognize that incentives, such as increased density, may be necessary to entice owners to maintain the property as committed affordable.

One option under consideration by the owner would see



Park Shirlington is a 294-unit garden apartment complex built in 1956 and is currently maintained as affordable housing. Photo by Guy Land.

an expansion of housing on both sides of 31st St., with no reduction in the number of affordable housing units but an addition of “missing middle” condos, both multifamily and town-house units, to the site. The owners have not yet determined the total number of new units that would be added to the property.

County staff will be on hand October 2 to outline the background on the county's goal of preserving affordable

housing, and representatives of the owners will present development options that are being considered. The meeting will afford the community an opportunity to hear these ideas directly from the property owners and county staff.

As a follow-up to this meeting, FCA will be arranging a special session where Fairlington residents will have the opportunity to raise and discuss particular issues that the county and the owners should consider as the site plan process goes forward.

—Guy Land

Voter registration deadline approaches

The deadline to update your address or register to vote for the Tuesday, November 5 general election is Tuesday, October 15. The deadline to submit an application to have an absentee ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, October 29, by 5 pm.

In-person absentee voting began Friday, September 20, and runs through Saturday, November 2, at 5 pm. For more information, including hours when in-person absentee voting takes place, visit the Virginia Department of Elections at elections.virginia.gov, Arlington County at vote.arlingtonva.us/elections, and the City of Alexandria at alexandriava.gov/elections.



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395 Express Lanes open this fall

Mike McGurk, Customer Experience Manager from Transurban, presented the latest updates on the 395 Express Lanes at the September FCA meeting. Currently, these lanes, running between the north- and south-bound 395 lanes from just south of Route 236 all the way into Washington, DC, are HOV 3+ only for the



Mike McGurk of Transurban briefs the FCA on the changes coming with the opening of the 395 Express Lanes. Photo by Guy Land.

inbound and outbound weekday commute, but open to all drivers outside of those times.

By the completion of this project, there will be a seamless continuation of what exists on Interstate 95 from Stafford to just north of Edsall Rd. The 395 Express Lanes will still allow for free travel for HOV 3+ vehicles, but will also be open to all single and double occu-

pancy cars that are willing to pay a toll. In addition, there is an increase from two to three lanes.

Dynamic pricing for tolls will be displayed on at least two marquee boards before a driver has an opportunity to join the express lanes. This allows enough time for a driver to decide if they want to pay the advertised toll amount to their destination.

Continued on page 13

How to get an E-ZPass Flex

One big change that comes with the opening of the 395 Express Lanes is that everyone using it will need an E-ZPass—even if your vehicle is HOV-3 (three or more people including the driver).

To use the 395 Express Lanes for free when you are HOV-3, you'll need an E-ZPass Flex. You can swap your E-ZPass for a Flex or order a new one. For more information, visit ezpassva.com/EZPages/Get-Flex.aspx.

Contractor selected for sidewalk project

The funded neighborhood conservation project along S. 31st St. from S. Woodrow St. to S. Randolph St. is inching towards construction with the county's selection of a contractor. The project, which was funded by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), will install a sidewalk on the east side of S. 31st St. from the bus shelter across from the Shirlington House apartments to the Shirlington bus transfer station.

The project initially included replacing the existing cobra style streetlights with LED streetlights along S.

31st St. between S. Woodrow St. and S. Randolph St. This aspect of the project has been placed on pause as the county seeks guidance from the Street Light Management Plan which will dictate how the county manages streetlights moving forward.

The project will include the planting of trees to replace those that have to be removed during construction, in addition to some supplemental trees. The County Forester is actively pursuing funds from TransUrban to cover the cost to replace trees that have already been removed as part of the I-395 sound wall construction.

A construction start date is pending and will be determined upon the completion of the I-395 sound wall, contractor availability, and the sequencing and completion of other construction projects underway. Once a start date is specified, a pre-construction meeting will be scheduled to provide an overview of the project and introduce the contractor as well as assigned county staff to affected property owners.

The NCAC leads the development of neighborhood plans and recommends neighborhood-initiated capital improvements for funding by the Arlington County

Continued on page 13

Sidewalk project endorsed by the FCA

The FCA has endorsed Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program's proposal to install a sidewalk along Abingdon St. from S. 31st St. to S. 31st Rd. The vote by the FCA comes on the heels of both Fairlington Villages and Fairlington Court indicating their support for the project.

The endorsement was the second of the two conditions that needed to be met, allowing the project to move forward (related: see September *All Fairlington Bulletin*).

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Movie night draws a crowd

Fairlingtonians and friends of all ages gathered at the Fairlington Community Center fields for an FCA-sponsored showing of the movie *Moana* on Friday, September 6. The cool early September weather was perfect for a relaxed evening spent with neighbors. More than 100

people turned out to enjoy the screening of the film. The FCA hopes to offer another outdoor movie night in the future. *Photos by Duncan Carr and Guy Land.*

—Sara Tuke Carr



395 express lanes from page 11

Tolls will never be less than \$1 and are enforced 24 hours, 7 days per week. An E-ZPass is required for the express lanes, while a special HOV E-ZPass is required to use the HOV 3+ option.

395 Express Lanes are expected to be complete during the fall of 2019. While there will be no changes on the Shirlington Circle that allows access to the regular and express 395 lanes, traffic patterns will be different around the Pentagon. Commuters should check www.expresslanes.com/395 for further information and updates.

—Chris Weathers

Contractor from page 11

Board. Improvements include sidewalks, street beautification, pedestrian safety projects, street lights, and parks.

NCAC members are comprised of representatives from 48 of Arlington County's 57 civic associations. Each community that participates in the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program has a NC Representative that serves as a liaison with county staff in the development of a neighborhood plan. The plan ultimately reflects the desires of the community as a whole. All NC representatives serve on the NCAC.

—Rebecca Sayres



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Alexandria Film Festival to take place in November

The Alexandria Film Festival (AFF) is scheduled to take place next month, from November 7-10. The local festival is now in its 13th year.



Eileen Bradley, a member of the Executive Committee of the Alexandria Film Festival, spoke to the September meeting of the FCA. Photo by Guy Land.

Eileen Bradley, a member of the AFF Executive Committee, was on hand at the September 11 meeting of the FCA to promote the festival and answer questions. She encouraged Fairlington residents to learn about and attend the festival, and emphasized that festival sponsors come from Arlington as well as Alexandria.

The AFF will screen 70 films over the four days of the festival. The selections are independent films, including documentaries, from all over the world.

Alexandria native Casey Wilson, a writer and actress, will be attending the festival to screen her latest film. Wilson graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1998 and has appeared in a number of movies and television shows, including Saturday Night Live.

The Alexandria Film Festival also includes a selection of student films from Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) students. There will also be several films from local filmmakers.

Save the date: Fairlington Historical Society to hold event November 7

Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) is sponsoring a professional education event focusing on our historical buildings' materials. Mark your calendars now and join the FHS on November 7 at the Fairlington Villages Community Center for this presentation by South Fairlingtonian Julie Butler. Details will be in the November AFB.

The festival will hold a free screening at the Beatley branch of Alexandria library on November 8, followed by a number of screenings held during November 9-10 at the AMC theater at the Hoffman Center.

For more information on the festival, including film selections and schedule, visit the Alexandria Film Festival website at alexfilmfest.com.

—Susan Renehan

FCA supports STEM Preschool renewal

FCA has voted to support the renewal of the use permit for the STEM Preschool at 3120 S. Abingdon St. The Arlington County Board is expected to consider a three-year renewal of the permit at its October meeting.

Earlier this year FCA also supported the preschool's application to expand by leasing the property previously occupied by the Sure Shot production company in the commercial buildings behind the fire station. The expansion will add 40 children. According to preschool executive director Portia Moore, the new space was slated to open in mid-September.

At FCA's request, Moore has provided an admission preference for Fairlington families. FCA supported the school's use permit requests in 2014 and 2015.

—Guy Land

FCA to compile list of board candidates

FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2019 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 Lindsay Willmann at vp@fca-fairlington.org.

All nine of the seats on the board will be up for election. The list of candidates will be published on the FCA website at least 10 days before the December 11 annual meeting. For information about what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.

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Save the date:

Farmers Market birthday party on October 20

Fairlington residents and their families and friends are invited to a special birthday party—our farmers market is marking five successful years in the neighborhood! Join the market committee, volunteers, vendors, and guests on October 20 from 9 am – 1 pm for birthday treats and fun for everyone.



Help is needed setting up the information tent before the market opens and putting supplies away when it closes, answering questions from shoppers, and assisting with special events. Vendors handle their own set up and sales. Thank you to the Fairlington residents who have volunteered this year!



Fall is a busy time at the market with special events, activities for kids, and lots of fresh produce and specialty items. Photos by Guy Land.

Events include:

- Food-related activities with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers: Super Foods crafts for kids, tips on storing food properly, and healthy recipes
- Scavenger hunt, giveaways, and raffles
- Face painting with Creatives by Cristina
- Music with Shelley and Friends



More details are available on our Facebook page and the weekly market e-newsletter.

In honor of the market's birthday, please consider volunteering for an hour or two before the end of the season. Sign up at fairlingtonfarmers-market.org.

What else is happening in October?

October 6: Meet naturalists from Arlington's Long Branch Nature Center. They'll share information and hands-on learning opportunities with bones and pelts.



October 27: The Arlington Art Truck brings *Ties That Bind: Learn to Sew on a Button and Connect* by Lorenzo Cardim with artists Charlene Wallace and Angela Latson. Sew fun and colorful buttons of all shapes and sizes onto fabric shaped like Arlington civic associations or neighborhoods to create a map of Arlington. While sewing, chat with neighbors, make new friends, and share ideas on how to conserve resources. There will also be Halloween fun and giveaways! Come in costume to win prizes.



And it wouldn't be October without pumpkins, gourds, cider, and colorful produce...fall is a great time to visit the market!

—Lynne Blasi

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New restaurant in Shirlington



Sydney's Restaurant and Lounge on Shirlington Rd. opened in July. Photo by Andrew Raab.

The Shirlington area has added another new restaurant, as Sydney's Restaurant and Lounge opened to the public over the summer. Located at 2620 Shirlington Rd. (at the previous location of Chester's Billiards), Sydney's goal is to have a diverse crowd from all local neighborhoods to enjoy a new establishment that offers an American cuisine with a Caribbean flair.

Sydney's offers a nightly happy hour (4 to 7pm) and is still in the planning stages for different theme nights and other special events. Although they are still waiting on county permits, Sydney's is planning on offering a variety of entertainment (jazz, country, and karaoke for

example). The management team hopes to have that established sometime this fall.

For additional information, visit their website: www.sydneylounge.com.

—Andrew Raab

County taxes due October 5

The second installment of the Arlington County real estate property tax and the vehicle personal property tax are due to the county treasurer on Saturday, October 5.

If the due date falls on a Saturday, as it does this year, late payment penalties will not be assessed for payments made on the following business day. Per the code of Virginia, taxpayers are responsible for knowing the due dates and ensuring payment is on time. The Arlington County Treasurer collects real estate taxes.

For details and more information, visit taxes.arlingtonva.us.

Wags N Whiskers

Fairlington residents, including the four-legged variety, enjoyed greeting old and new friends at Wags N Whiskers, held in Shirlington in late August. The 12th annual festival included activities, booths hosted by local businesses, and live music. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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- Dennis K. (Fairlington Mews Homeowner)



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MOMS Club® Consignment Sale a huge success

The MOMS Club® Fall 2019 Consignment Sale on Saturday, September 14, was a huge success! More than 50 sellers, most of whom are MOMS Club members, supplied over 8,000 items for the sale. The day yielded nearly \$16,000 in sales, with some additional funds brought in through the sale of a limited number of early shopping passes.

Eighty percent of the proceeds go back to the sellers, and the balance is donated to Backpack Buddies, a program at the Arlington Food Assistance Center providing food to children in food-insecure households.

As always, the sale relied heavily on a group of volunteer coordinators and dozens of MOMS Club members, who spent Friday and Saturday setting up the sale, organizing items to be sold, running the registers, helping shoppers, and finally

packing it all up at the end of the day.

Many of the sellers donated some or all of their unsold items to the Good Stuff Thrift Store, a new volunteer run store that donates all proceeds to people in need of basic health care services. Other items went to an Alexandria-based charity giving back to families in need.

The semi-annual sale will be held again in the spring of 2020. Be sure you like and follow the sale's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FairlingtonMomsClub-ConsignmentSale>) for updates.

—Lucy Beadnell



Shoppers at the Fall 2019 Consignment Sale waited in long lines to get into the sale, and again to check out. Photos by Guy Land.

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Halloween in Fairlington

The end of October means Halloween season. This spooky holiday brings a number of opportunities to enjoy the unique experience that living in Fairlington affords.

From carved pumpkins on front porches to elaborate Halloween scenes with music and lights, many homes have festive displays that showcase creepy scenes and impressive visual effects. An evening stroll through the neighborhood during the last week in October can give you a chance to enjoy the creative efforts of your neighbors.



Last year's Halloween celebrations in Fairlington included the Abingdon parade as well as trick or treating throughout the neighborhood. Photos by Guy Land.

If Halloween is your cup of witch's brew, there are a number of ways to enjoy a Fairlington Halloween:

Abingdon Halloween parade

Thursday, October 31, 12:30 pm

The Wakefield High School marching band leads off the parade, followed by students, teachers, and staff from Abingdon Elementary. Students parade in costumes, accompanied by their teachers and parent volunteers.

The parade route goes from Abingdon Elementary school, up 29th St., and through North Fairlington, ending back at Abingdon Elementary. In years past the



Wakefield High School marching band performed a brief concert at the end of the parade.

The parade is open to the public and there are lots of good spots to view the procession. For more information including the parade route, visit the FCA Facebook page.

Trick or treating

Thursday, October 31, 6 pm (approximately)

Trick or treating takes place throughout Fairlington on the evening of Halloween. Although there are not specific times, most families will begin trick or treating around 6 pm when it starts to get dark.

If you want to hand out candy to trick or treaters, you can turn on your front porch light to signal that you have candy. (If you don't want trick or treaters, make sure your front light is turned off that night.)



Many residents, whether in town-homes or multi-unit buildings, sit on their front porch to hand out candy and chat with neighbors. Some courts host gatherings with hot cider and other refreshments. Check with your association or court representative to see what specific events are taking place.



—Susan Renehan

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E-CARE to take place October 19

The semiannual Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) allows Arlington residents to safely dispose of household hazardous materials and electronics. This fall, E-CARE will also recycle bikes and small metal items among other things.

E-CARE is scheduled for October 19 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Talk to neighbors and combine loads, saving extra trips to the collection site.

E-CARE takes place at 1425 N. Quincy St., formerly known as the Buck Property, directly across the street from Washington-Liberty High School and the David M. Brown Planetarium.

For more information, including a list of specific accepted items, visit recycling.arlingtonva.us/events/e-care-fall-2019.

Order your ornament online with PayPal before the holidays!



The FCA is accepting online PayPal orders to make it easier to purchase this must-have Fairlington ornament. Place your order at www.fca-fairlington.org, using PayPal or a major credit card. Then, pick up your order at the Fairlington Villages Management Office, 3001 S. Abingdon St., during operating hours. The FCA and Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) are selling Fairlington brass-plated ornaments. The price for each ornament is \$10. Ornaments will also be available for purchase at the next FCA meeting on Wednesday, October 9. If you have questions, please contact FCA Secretary Rebecca Sayres at rebecca@fca-fairlington.org.

Fairlington Raccoons are a home-grown bluegrass band



Shelley and the Raccoons perform at venues throughout the region, including at the Fairlington Farmers Market. Photo by Guy Land.

The Fairlington Raccoons band was the brainchild of Fairlington resident and singer/fiddle player, Shelley Burns. In the summer of 2017, Shelley, a big fan of the Fairlington Farmers Market, was playing other local farmers market gigs with her friend and Park Fairfax resident, Sara Rasmussen. Burns thought, "Why not bring some music to the Fairlington Farmers Market?"

That September, The Raccoons, named after the infamous raccoon invasion of Fairlington, was born. More of a musical collective than a fixed band, Burns, along with bass player, Bob Burleson, and guitar standout, Joe Chiocca, form a core musical background to support great singers, like Sara, and standouts from the local bluegrass, folk, and country music communities.

The Raccoons love to mix it up, playing everything from centuries old traditional ballads, lively bluegrass songs, country and blues classics, and even a bit of rock n' roll, all on acoustic instruments. If you miss The Raccoons at the Fairlington Farmers Market on October 20, you can catch the band at one of their upcoming gigs around the area. For more information on the band, including upcoming shows, you can visit their website at evening-crag-62702.herokuapp.com or their Facebook page, facebook.com/The-Fairlington-Raccoons.

—Shelley Burns



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Fundraising is a family affair

Fairlington residents Addy and Amelia Young had big plans for their cookies and lemonade. On a weekend day in late summer, instead of hanging by the pool or watching television, they set up shop on a Fairlington corner where they could attract customers for their lemonade stand.



Addy and Amelia Young sold cookies, lemonade, and books to their Fairlington neighbors as part of their fundraising efforts. Photos by Guy Land.

Addy, 13, and Amelia, 9, were selling lemonade and cookies to raise money for a triathlon. The triathlon, JustTryanIt, supports families with childhood cancer. This is the third year the girls have participated in the event and they raised \$120 from their cookie and lemonade stand with all the funds going directly to charity.

The sisters were also selling some of their books—Amelia set aside some of her book sale profits to buy new books, while Addy is working toward the ambitious goal of funding a Spanish immersion trip to Peru next summer.

Addy and Amelia agreed to answer some questions for the *All Fairlington Bulletin* about their fundraising efforts:



What are you raising money for?

Addy: We are raising money for JustTryanIt, which is an organization that helps families with childhood cancer, covering what insurance does not cover. I am also raising money for an international trip to Peru next summer with the Spanish Immersion program.

What are some of the projects that you have done to raise money?

Amelia: We've done lemonade stands selling pink lemonade, fresh squeezed lemonade, and homemade cookies [for JustTryanIt].

Addy: This summer I've done babysitting and different pet sitting jobs to raise the money [for the Peru trip].



What has surprised you the most?

Addy: The kindness and generosity of all the people in Fairlington willing to support our cause.

What are you most grateful for?

Amelia: That the people that need the money for cancer get the things they need.

If people would like to help, what can they do?

Addy: They can visit the website justtryanit.com to donate or register to race.

Is there anything else you would like our readers to know?

Amelia: Fundraising makes me feel good that I'm helping other people.

Addy: Other Fairlington families should sign up for the triathlon next year because it's a really great experience. Also, I'm available for pet sitting.

—Susan Renehan

Wakefield Happenings

October is a good month to attend some Wakefield fall sports. There are several Fairlington residents who participate in Wakefield sports. Most events are free or low cost.

The Homecoming football game is scheduled for Friday, October 11. In addition to football, Wakefield has some action-packed events with volleyball, field hockey, ultimate frisbee, and competitive cheer. The Wakefield cheer team hosts the district and regional finals at the end of the month. Last year Wakefield came in 2nd place in the district. The volleyball senior night is October 10. Check out the athletics website for the most current information and schedule: <https://warriorsswhsathletics.com>.

The Wakefield music department would like to thank everyone who contributed to the music Tag Day in September. This is the most important fundraiser of the year. If you would like to contribute, you may do so online at <http://wakefieldband.org/tag-day/>.

The award-winning choir has their fall concert on Wednesday, October 16, at 7 pm in the auditorium. Of course, you can also see and hear the Wakefield band march through our neighborhood when they lead the Abingdon Halloween Parade (see page 23 for details).



Varsity field hockey is just one of the fall sports taking place at Wakefield High School this season. Photo courtesy Wakefield Athletics Twitter feed @WakeAthletics.

It may seem early, but we are recruiting judges for the annual science fair that is scheduled for Saturday, January 11, 2020. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Wakefield science teacher Davis Tran at davis.tran@apsva.us.

—Donna Felipe

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Back-to-school events and volunteer opportunities at Abingdon



There was a great turn-out for the back to school picnic held at Abingdon on Labor Day. The picnic, hosted by the Abingdon PTA, welcomed new families, returning families, and staff. Photos by Rachel Mallory.

Back to school events

Before the start of school on September 3, Abingdon students and families had several opportunities to connect with the school, teachers, and administrators.

For the first time, the Abingdon Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosted a Kindergarten popsicle playdate so that some of the youngest incoming students could get to know each other. Amber Scivolette Mustafa, PTA co-president, estimated that 50 families attended the event.

Students were also invited to meet their teachers for the new school year on August 29. There was a crowd of students and families out-

side of the school even 20 minutes before the front doors were opened, demonstrating excitement for the upcoming year.



Finally, the Abingdon PTA continued its tradition of hosting a back-to-school picnic the day before school started. Despite the hot weather, many families, teachers, and staff attended the event and were lined up to try the delicious pot-luck food as soon as the event started.

There are many ways that Fairlington residents can volunteer to support Abingdon. For example, the Abingdon PTA needs help translating their weekly emails and flyers into Spanish. They are also seeking someone with graphic design experience to help create flyers. Please contact abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com to volunteer to help.

Volunteering at Abingdon

If you would like to volunteer in the school, there are also numerous opportunities to help! The school needs reading tutors, volunteers to help once a week creating bulletin boards in the library, and help preparing and maintaining the school's iPads.

Math specialists need help from volunteers to create games from home. Abingdon also has a Makerspace, which is a place that students can go to collaborate, think, and create with each other to invent new ideas.

The school could use donations of items such as gently used Legos, jewelry boxes, egg cartons, cardboard tubes, and small plastic containers to support its Makerspace. To help any of these volunteer initiatives, please contact Debbie Staren-Doby, Volunteer and Partnership Liaison, at deborah.starendoby@apsva.us.

—Rachel Mallory

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In September we tried out Dudley's Sport and Ale in Shirlington.

Here's what's planned for October:

Wednesday, October 9, 6:30 pm, Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, 703.820.8300. This is a local favorite, nearby with easy parking. The crab cakes are a favorite with many regular diners, as are the hamburgers. Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol (see below) no later than 6 pm on Tuesday, October 8.

Monday, October 28, 6:30 pm, Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703.379.0122. This is an alternative to burgers for us. Beckett's is a casual restaurant/bar in Shirlington with delicious soups and a spectacular chicken curry.

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.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in October to discuss *Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe*, by Laurence Bergreen.

"Prodigious research, sure-footed prose and vivid descriptions make for a thoroughly satisfying account... it is all here in the wondrous detail, a first-rate historical page turner."—*New York Times 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. We are meeting on Tuesday, October 22, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Canasta Group Doubles the Fun

Our local Canasta group has multiplied the cards, the luck and the fun. We are now playing "Hand and Foot,"

a Canasta-type card game played coast to coast. If playing your hand was fun, there may be wild cards waiting in your foot! Join this local group, which plays Tuesday mornings at a church hall near Fairlington. Having card sense is helpful, but we're happy to teach you the rules of this game. Call Carol Ann 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Knits

Join Fairlington Knits! on Monday, October 7, and Monday, October 21, at the Fairlington Community Center from 6:30-8 pm for a knit/crochet meet-up. Bring what you're working on, share what you know, and learn new skills. Meet new friends, some who might be neighbors, and enjoy an evening of making things with like-minded people. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome. The event is posted on the Fairlington Appreciation Society's Facebook page. For more information, contact: Turner at Turnerwork@aol.com.

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 fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to join.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® 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' nights out. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Fall makeover for your patio garden

Did you inherit a mature yet overbearing garden with plants everywhere? If so, this is your opportunity to re-design something matching your taste and preferences.

Exterior (or outdoor) design mimics interior design. It's your living space. But your space doesn't have to reflect the taste of the previous resident. Inside, you might have taken out a wall dividing the tiny kitchen and dining room to create a large "country" kitchen. Or you removed the closet near the entrance to open the staircase which leads to the upper level.

So, you have this mish-mash of plants outside. Where do you start?

Before you plant, know that open space is relaxing and accentuates the plants you keep or plant yourself. Shrubs packed together fight for your attention as well as compete for sunlight.

They also fight for ground water which carries oxygen and soil nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, and calcium). Spaced apart, plants are healthier and more noticeable. And when a garden is cluttered, it offers critters nesting spaces.

Hosta is popular but thrives in our climate—blistering sun or full shade. And they tolerate drought. But some cultivars can be big (not tall but up to two feet wide) which takes up your valuable space in a Fairlington patio garden. Why not keep a hosta "here and there" while leaving space



Hostas are a popular choice for patio gardens due to their resilience and versatility. Photo courtesy Pixabay.

between them? Or flank the hostas with a different-looking plant (in terms of size, leaf shape, and flower).

Wildflower gardens also are trendy. I saw one today filled with black-eyed Susans. The blooms were spent (since it flowers in early-to-mid summer) and the stalks were brittle, barren, and messy. This plant is pretty but think about keeping a swath or two and digging up the rest. When this plant approaches dormancy, your garden won't look so "sleepy."

Ground cover has no verticality but covers the mulch. Unattended ground cover takes over by rooting along the way. It provides an evergreen carpet—some which flower—but your "floor space" will look busy.

Again, keep teardrop shapes of these plants while uprooting other sections. Now you either may spread

mulch between the ground cover sections you keep or plant a small shrub with height in this open space.

Many patios have euonymous, holly, or boxwood plantings. Why? They seldom die and are evergreen. They offer 12-month interest and tend to be very low maintenance. So, what's the drawback? None flower and you may tire of the same look, season after season.

Keep the ones you like and then plant something that gives you dynamic flower. But first determine if your patio is sunny or shady. Some plants need full sun while others prefer shade. These new flowering plants will be suitable complements to the dominant evergreens you keep.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (October 10 for November 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

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.

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

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