

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2020

Volume 46, Number 10

## School board vice chair Kanninen to address FCA virtually Oct. 14

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Arlington School Board Vice Chair Barbara Kanninen will be the featured speaker at FCA's virtual monthly meeting Oct. 14. The meeting will be live streamed on FCA's Facebook page and residents can submit questions through the chat function.

A member of the school board since 2015, Kanninen was recently named the board's liaison to FCA. She has served previously as chair of the board and visited with FCA in 2018 for ceremonies marking the completion of the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary. She also participated in the ribbon-cutting for the renovated school.

When classes resumed on Sept. 8, Fairlington families adjusted their routines to a virtual learning environment, while school board members and School Superintendent Francisco Durán monitored both technology challenges and the options for returning to some form of in-person classes later in the year.

Kanninen noted that "Our goal this year is the same as every year: to provide an excellent education to every one of our students. Unfortunately, given the virus rate in our community and across Virginia, it has simply not been safe yet to open our classrooms to in-person learning. The superintendent has been clear that he hopes to begin phasing students into the hybrid model (part virtual, part in-person) in October, and we hope to phase all students into the hybrid model by November.

"This can only happen," she continued, "if our virus rate declines. We are hopeful that our community will practice all safety protocols so that we can begin bringing our children back into our schools."

During her remarks, Kanninen is expected to discuss major aspects of the school board's action plan for the 2020-2021 school year, including virtual learning and the options for in-person instruction later this year. One



Barbara Kanninen visited with FCA President Guy Land at FCA's 2018 meeting celebrating the completion of the Abingdon Elementary project. Photo by Kent Duffy.

Continued on page 23

## 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 14

**Special presentation:** Arlington School Board member Barbara Kanninen will discuss the school board's work plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The meeting will be held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page. Residents may ask questions through the chat box.

#### 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 Citizens Association.

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
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| <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.)<br>202-225-4376 |

#### Fairlington Citizens Association

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#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**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:

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Email editorial announcements to:

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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 or pay via PayPal at [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com)

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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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Designed and printed by More Vang.

## Calendar

### Fairlington Knits

Monday, October 5, 6:30 pm  
See page 25 for details

### Fairlington Diners

Saturday, October 10, 12:30 pm  
FCC Grounds

### Columbus Day

Monday, October 12  
FCC Closed

### FCC Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Outdoor Concert

Sunday, October 18, 2 pm  
Utah Park

### Book Group

Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 pm  
See page 25 for details

## T-i-m-b-e-r!!



*A contractor for Arlington County saws off limbs of a giant oak tree at the intersection of 31st and Buchanan Sts.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Tina Byrd, Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, Kelley Kurtz, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Jackie Winkelvoss, and Sam Wolbert.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"What does FCA do?" That's a question I occasionally get as residents sort through the differences between their condo association and FCA.

FCA's work falls into three broad categories.

Our primary mission is to represent Fairlington in conversations with local officials, better connecting them with the community. An example of this will be our virtual meeting Oct. 14 in which Arlington School Board Vice Chair Barbara Kanninen will join us to discuss the school board's work plan for this school year. FCA has often worked with the school board, particularly on issues that affect Abingdon Elementary.

FCA frequently weighs in with Arlington and Alexandria on real estate development proposals near the neighborhood. We provided testimony to the planning commission and the county board on the proposal for increased density in Shirlington. We will be fully engaged with the county as it considers an application to redevelop Park Shirlington.

Our second major emphasis is strengthening the sense of community and enriching life in Fairlington. We focus on things that can bring residents together and add value to their Fairlington experience. The popular Fairlington Farmers Market, which has now become a valued part of the community, is an outgrowth of FCA work.

More recent examples include September's family movie night and the forthcoming Alexandria Symphony brass concert. Both events afford families the chance for a fun outside activity that is convenient and socially distanced.

Finally, we facilitate community-wide conversations and opportunities. Our response to COVID linked the condo associations, the PTA, the county, businesses, and other organizations in a coordinated effort to meet the needs of residents of Fairlington and Park Shirlington.

That effort built on the relationship we forged with the condo and homeowner association presidents several years ago when we created an informal council of presidents to discuss common challenges.

Through our COVID work we identified the need for a Fairlington-focused nonprofit and established Fairlington Cares, which will launch its operations this fall.

Now we are looking at ways we, as a community, can address issues of racism and inclusion.

Through all of these things, FCA seeks to enhance the quality of life in Fairlington. We welcome your help.

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

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# October brass concert planned for Utah Park

Fairlington residents can enjoy outdoor live music on a mid-fall Sunday afternoon when the Fairlington Historical Society and FCA host a performance of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's (ASO) Brass Quintet. Pending final approval from Arlington County, the community event will take place in Utah Park in South Fairlington on Sunday, October 18, at 2 pm.



*The picnic gazebo in Utah Park will become a bandstand for October's outdoor concert. Photo by Guy Land.*

For the concert, the first of its kind in Fairlington as far as we know, the picnic gazebo will become a bandstand, with the audience sitting on the park grass in front of it.

The Fairlington performance will be subject to COVID safety measures. Visible markers will be placed six feet apart to denote seating areas for small family groups. There will be no food provided; however, personal picnics are permitted. Concert attendees are required to wear masks unless eating or drinking within their space.

The hour-long performance will feature a mix of types of music—classical, popular, jazz, and diverse pieces. The musicians, who are fully professional, will engage the audience with brief, informative and entertaining commentary about the music.

When COVID-19 made it impossible for the symphony to present its normal indoor concerts, the organization shifted to find other ways to engage area residents and share the musicians' talents.

"At this challenging time, there is a pressing need for art's humanizing impact," ASO Trustee Judy Grey wrote FCA President Guy Land in proposing the neighborhood concert earlier this summer. "The ASO is looking to use its musical resources to hearten and delight the residents of the area. The Fairlington community immediately comes to mind with its abundant families and attractive outdoor spaces."

The Fairlington Historical Society quickly joined FCA to cover the expenses of the concert, which primarily consist of modest compensation for the musicians, whose normal concert income has declined because of COVID.

The Symphony is known to provide quality and accessible music in the local area through its highly respected

and innovative professional performances. ASO Executive Director George Hanson stated, "Like many of our musicians, they are leaders among the artistic community in the D.C. area. Several hold key positions with Army, Air Force, and Marine service bands and orchestras. The ASO and our community are blessed to have some of the country's finest musicians available to perform with us."

ASO has captured attention across the nation for exciting and creative programming during the time of COVID-19. Symphony Magazine, the industry's national trade publication, recently featured ASO on its cover for their safety-conscious performances and unique outdoor venues to include senior care facilities and local neighborhoods.

In the event of rain, the concert will occur the following weekend on October 25. Please consult FCA's Facebook page for last-minute updates.

—Rebecca Sayres

## ***Fairlington architect's map reproduction—now available***

Perhaps you have noticed the sepia toned map of the Fairlington community hanging in the North Fairlington Community Center. The original map was probably prepared c. 1943 by the architect Kenneth Franzheim for the Defense Homes Corporation and subsequently revised for Fairmac, the firm that managed the post-World War II rental community from 1947-1972.

The map was updated by CBI Fairmac, the firm that oversaw its conversion to condominiums in 1972-1978, and later revised by the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) to better define the villages.

FHS is now making 36" x 24" reproductions available for purchase for \$40 each, postage included.

Go to [fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) and select 'Publications and Tours.' Download the 'Fairlington Architect's Map' order form and mail your form and check to FHS, 2776 Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, VA 22206.

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Until this crisis is over, we will continue to monitor the developments set by the CDC and our local governments and will make any necessary adjustments to our practices to keep you safe.

We support our community and feel that it is everybody's job to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and in that light, we encourage you to take advantage of telephone, Facetime, and video consultations for all your home improvement needs.

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## *Virtual 5K to help local girl starts October 10*

As many know, the Fairlington 5K is a springtime tradition in our neighborhood. Since 2014 hundreds of people have come out to run and walk the streets of Fairlington in the name of physical fitness and community involvement, raising money to help find a cure for Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn.

Ellie is a 12-year old born with a very rare and degenerative brain disease known as LBSL, which slowly robs children of their ability to walk, stand, and eventually coordinate all movements.

To date, the race and silent auction, usually held each April, have collected over \$100,000 for research into a cure for LBSL and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

"Doctors are close to unlocking the secrets of Ellie's disease and identifying a possible target for drug intervention," explained Ellie's mom Beth. "COVID canceled our in-person event, but it won't cancel our hopes for a cure."

The McGinns decided to take the 5K virtual starting Oct. 10. Participants have until Nov. 7 to complete the race on their own using an app on their phones. As in past years, racers will receive a dry-fit 5K t-shirt, but this year's race also offers supporters a chance to receive custom logo head bands, sunglasses and a pair of Nike running shoes designed by Ellie herself.

Registration is available at [www.Fairlington5K.com](http://www.Fairlington5K.com).

—Beth McGinn

## *New group takes over FAS*

The Fairlington Appreciation Society group, known as FAS, on Facebook is now being administered and moderated by Jill Briggs and her team. FCA is no longer attached to the group.

Jill's proposal to run FAS received the majority vote in an online poll conducted in June among members of FAS. The proposal included a mission statement that the admin team "will consist of a volunteer group of diverse members" with a purpose to "share resources, recommendations, and events, and to discuss topics that specifically impact the Fairlington Community."

FCA would like to thank Jill's team for volunteering to take over the dynamic neighborhood group. FCA voted to spin off FAS given limited resources to manage an active Facebook group, as well as the overly complex

relationship of managing a Facebook group overseen by a civic association. FCA would also like to thank the prior volunteer moderators who dedicated their time and energy to FAS.

FCA will continue to use our own page on Facebook for announcements from the civic association.

## *Fairlingtonians plant milkweed to save Monarchs*



*Fairlington residents visit a Monarch butterfly community garden on Abingdon St. They hope to get it designated an official Monarch Waystation. Photo by Kelley Kurtz.*

You've likely seen many vibrant orange and black Monarchs soaring through Fairlington recently. These butterflies have been making their 3,000-mile journey south from Canada to Mexico, where they will overwinter in the oyamel fir trees.

A group of five Fairlington neighbors have been working to sustain the habitat for this iconic species while educating others on the importance of milkweed gardens. Milkweed is essential for all four stages of the Monarch's survival—from egg, caterpillar, and chrysalis to butterfly.

Last month, in front of their Abingdon Street community garden, Michelle Mrdeza, Karen Olson Weaver, Sara Eguren, Lorenzo Morales-Eguren, and Kelley Kurtz handed out hundreds of milkweed seeds to friends and neighbors. Their next project will be planting more native flowers to serve as a fuel source for next summer's butterflies.

They are also in the process of having their garden certified as an official Monarch Waystation through Monarch Watch. If you are interested in planting your own Monarch butterfly garden, please contact the group for free seeds and fall planting information at [MonarchsofFairlington@gmail.com](mailto:MonarchsofFairlington@gmail.com).

—Kelley Kurtz

# A guide to the November 3 ballot and voting

## What's on the ballot?

Federal elections on the ballot will feature races for President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives. The battle between Donald Trump and Joe Biden has garnered most of the attention, but incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Warner faces a challenge from Republican Daniel Gade and Independents Denise Kim and Mary Knapp.

In the House race, incumbent Democrat Don Beyer is challenged by Republican Jeff Jordan.

For Arlington residents, local offices will see a race for county board between incumbent Democrat Libby Garvey and Independent Audrey Clement. Three candidates are vying for two slots on the school board: David Priddy, Cristina Diaz-Torres, and Symone Walker. School board races are non-partisan, but Priddy and Diaz-Torres won the endorsement by Arlington County Democrats this summer.



*Election day in 2016 saw lots of activity in Fairlington, with campaign signs and workers outside polling places, kids selling refreshments, parents educating their children about the importance of voting, and a steady stream of voters entering the neighborhood's two polling places. Photos by Guy Land.*

Voters will also consider two constitutional amendments. One would establish an independent redistricting commission to determine congressional and state legislative districts. The other would exempt from taxation automobiles and pickup trucks owned by veterans with a hundred percent service-related disability.



Arlington residents will also consider five separate bond issues: \$29.94 million for Metro and transportation projects; \$3.63 million for parks and recreation facilities; \$7.485 million for community infrastructure; \$52.65 million for schools; and \$50.84 million for stormwater capital projects.

## What is the deadline to register?

Virginia residents must register or update their registration by Oct. 13. You may submit or update your registration information online through the Virginia Department of Elections, [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov).

There are three ways to register: online (you'll need your DMV ID number); mail or dropbox (the application can be downloaded online); in person at the voter registration office, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320 in Arlington and 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100 in Alexandria.

## How do I vote by mail?

All voters are eligible to cast a mail ballot. Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, Oct. 23.

There are six ways to request a mail ballot: online, mail, email, phone, any library, in person.

Mail ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and must be received by noon on Friday, Nov. 6. They can also be dropped off in person at the Bozeman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., 1st Floor, or at supervised drop box locations.

No witness will be required for mail voting. Return postage will be pre-paid.





If there are errors in the return of a mail ballot, as long as the ballot arrives by Oct. 31, the registrar will attempt to contact the voter and give the voter an opportunity to correct any errors, such as omitting material information, such as the voter's signature, on the ballot return envelope. The voter must do so before noon on Nov. 6.

Election officials encourage residents to cast their mail ballots early. Arlington residents can track their ballots online, <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/track-your-ballot/>.

### Can I vote in person early?

Yes, Arlington County has established five locations for in-person early voting:

- Courthouse Plaza, 2200 Clarendon Blvd. (former Wells Fargo space by Starbucks)
- Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 18th St. S.
- Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.
- Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St.
- Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. S.

All locations will open selected hours, Monday–Saturday, from Oct. 17 through Oct. 31. Check the county's website for specific hours.

Alexandria residents can vote early at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100; at the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St.; or on Saturdays only at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Rd., and George Washington School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave. See the City's website for information on hours. [www.alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=1720](http://www.alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=1720)

### Where do I vote on election day?

South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. North Fairlington resi-

dents vote at Abingdon Elementary, 3035 S. Abingdon St.

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

Polls are open from 6 am to 7 pm on election day.

### Do I need an ID?

Yes. You will need to show an ID to vote. Acceptable forms of valid ID include: voter registration confirmation documents; a valid Virginia driver's license; a valid U.S. passport; or any valid student identification card. You may also use an employee identification card; Virginia Voter Photo ID card; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

If you are unable to provide ID, you are required to sign a statement that you are the registered voter you claim to be in order to cast a ballot.



### ***FCA to compile list of board candidates***

FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2021 FCA Board. Board members set the policies for the association and serve one-year terms. Anyone interested in serving on the board should email FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies at [vp@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:vp@fca-fairlington.org).

All nine seats on the board will be up for election at the Dec. 9 annual meeting. Directors receive no compensation for their service, other than the satisfaction of helping make Fairlington an even greater place to live. For information about what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.

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# Fairlington

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OCT  
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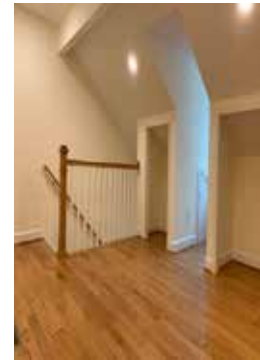
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– Janene, Arlington, VA



Dr. Rogers is a leading edge dentist. He keeps up with the **latest technologies** and implements them into his practice. Even my latest crown was practically **pain free!**

– Patty, Fairfax, VA



I had a great experience. The staff was extremely **friendly and helpful.** I felt welcomed and comfortable the whole time I was in the office. The hygienist and the dentist **explained everything** to me in full detail and spoke to me honestly about my options.

– Erik, Arlington, VA



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# Farmers market open through November 22



There's something special about shopping at a farmers market in the fall—cooler temperatures, an abundance of colorful, seasonal fruits and vegetables, beautiful flowers, and pumpkins, gourds, and cider!

Take some time to think about meals you'd like to make this month and visit the market for apples, Asian pears, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, grapes, green beans, herbs, peppers, potatoes, raspberries, squash, and tomatoes. Many of our vendors have healthy and nutritious ready-made meals for quick and easy lunches and dinners, along with snacks for the school or work day.

The market is open every Sunday from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, through Nov.

## A special treat: free ice cream

Pick up some delicious ice cream when you leave the market on October 4, courtesy of market sponsor Kay Houghton & Associates. Kay has also generously provided hand sanitizing stations and bottled water all season. Thank you, Kay!

22. As we enter the last two months of Fairlington Farmers Market's sixth season, the health and safety of shoppers and vendors remains our highest priority. Please continue to enter the market on S. Utah St. and exit on S. Stafford St., wear a face covering, and practice physical distancing while in lines.

Although we haven't been able to host special events and onsite music and activities this season, the Arlington Arts Truck will set up a tent near the market exit on Oct. 25 to present a mini-activation of Greg Stewart's project, "Flight." Stop by and pick up a free seed bird sculpture "Take and Make" kit for an educational home activity.

If you haven't had a chance to volunteer at the market yet, please sign up for a shift before the end of the season. Our COVID-19 precautions this season have required more help from Fairlington residents, and we greatly appreciate your support. Sign up at our volunteer site, [SignUp.com](https://www.signup.com).

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

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Dear Fairlington Friends and Neighbors:

This year Election Day is November 3 and is now a holiday in Virginia. I hope I'll have your vote. Mostly, I hope you'll VOTE. You need an ID, though no photo is required. If you have not done so, register to vote:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Ways to Vote:

- 1) **Regular mail** can take up to 10 days within Arlington. The County does not recommend mailing a ballot less than 10 days (October 19th) before Election Day.
- 2) **Ballot Drop-off Locations:** <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/ballot-drop-off/>
  - Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, 1st Floor
  - More drop-off places: TBA
- 3) **Vote In-person Absentee** at the following locations: <https://vote.arlingtonva.us/early-voting/> No excuse is needed.
  - Beginning September 18: 2200 Clarendon Blvd. (across from Bozeman)
  - Beginning October 17: At the following community centers: Aurora Hills; Langston-Brown; Madison; Walter-Reed
  - Take it to your polling place on November 3 to drop it off there
- 4) **Usual Polling Place.** Polls will be open on November 3, 6:00am – 7:00pm. People will be distanced and wearing masks.

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# APS to adjust elementary school boundaries

The beginning of the 2020–2021 school year definitely looked a lot different around Fairlington this year—school buses were missing, and no one was walking or biking to school. If you don’t have a school-aged child you may not have realized that students are back in the classroom with their teachers and friends learning virtually.

We are still in the midst of a global pandemic but it will not always be like this and eventually students will be back at Abingdon Elementary. With that in mind, Arlington Public Schools (APS) is moving forward with their Fall 2020 Elementary School Boundary Adjustment Process, which will redraw the lines that govern which schools individual students will attend. Here is a guide to what will be happening this fall:



Abingdon Elementary. Photo by Guy Land.

## Why is APS adjusting the boundaries?

On February 6, 2020, the APS School Board adopted a proposal to move two option elementary schools (Key Immersion and Arlington Traditional) to new sites and the majority of McKinley students to a new neighborhood school under construction at the Reed Building site. These changes will take place when school starts in 2021.

That means that a new neighborhood attendance zone needs to be created for the new neighborhood school at the current Key site, and APS needs to develop adjusted neighborhood zones for McKinley in the new building at the Reed Site, Arlington Science Focus School, and for most, if not all, of the remaining neighborhood schools to relieve overcapacity at some schools.

## How does this affect Fairlington?

Fairlington is divided into 3 planning units (<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/>

[PlanningUnitReferenceMap\\_FiveColor\\_2020.pdf](#)) that attend Abingdon and the school is currently one of the most over-crowded schools in APS based on capacity utilization (<https://www.apsva.us/engage/afsapreport/>). The boundaries that are drawn this fall will likely be in effect until 2025, possibly longer.

## Didn't we just do this?

Yes, Abingdon's boundaries were considered during a boundary adjustment process in the fall of 2018 when the former Drew Model School opened as a new neighborhood school, the Montessori Public School of Arlington moved to the Patrick Henry site, and the majority of Patrick Henry students moved to a new building at Fleet. However, since that time Abingdon's student population has only continued to grow.

Abingdon was renovated less than five years ago to increase capacity to 725 students. On June 30, 2020, (the last date for which data was available), Abingdon had 700 K-5 students (total enrollment with pre-school was 752). In December 2019 Arlington Public Schools published their 10-Year Projections Report (<https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-Report-Final.pdf>). These are the projections for Abingdon from that report:

| School Year Projection | K-5 Students | K-5+Preschool Students |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 2020–2021              | 775          | 823                    |
| 2021–2022              | 847          | 895                    |
| 2022–2023              | 882          | 930                    |
| 2023–2024              | 932          | 980                    |
| 2024–2025              | 945          | 993                    |

The capacity at Abingdon has increased by 100 students with the addition of 4 relocatable classrooms over the summer, but those are not meant to be a permanent solution to the issues of being over capacity.

## How can I learn more about the Fall 2020 Elementary School Boundary Adjustment Process?

Check <https://www.apsva.us/engage/> regularly for the latest information.

## What can I do to make sure my voice is heard in this process?

*Continued on page 19*

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# For the love of nature

*A column by Fairlington grounds committee members and gardeners*

The Fairlington condo associations' garden and grounds committees are sharing their current practices and guidelines on how to discourage future planting of non-native invasive plants.

When you hear the term "invasive," do you think of an aggressive spreading plant? Well, there is a difference. An aggressive plant species is a native plant to the local ecosystem that spreads faster than you would prefer, or into areas of your garden where it is unwanted. A plant may be aggressive in one area and well behaved in another. For example, common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is an aggressive spreading native plant.

Invasive plants are non-native species that cause health, economic, or ecological damage in their new range. Invasive plants have competitive advantages that allow them to disrupt native plant communities and the wildlife that depend on them. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation states on its website that 57 percent of the native plant species listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are directly threatened by invasive species.

Not every non-native plant is an invasive species. Chicory was introduced from Europe to flavor coffee in the 19th century and it grows wild in the U.S. but does not displace native plants. Kudzu was introduced from Asia for erosion control in the mid-20th century in the South and is considered invasive, as it covers all plants in its path and deprives the native species of sunlight.

So would it surprise you to know that in Fairlington you can probably walk out your front door and see a plant species listed on the Arlington County or City of Alexandria list of "Non-Native Invasive Plants"? One example is the common daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*). This orange lily is a native of Asia and was introduced to the U.S. in the late 19th century. The plant is popular for its showy flowers, hardiness, and ability to spread.



*The Commons' Stormwater Wise project (on S. Utah) needed an aggressive spreading native plant to anchor the soil on the steep hill. Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) was the right plant for the right space. It is a riot of color in early spring, and its foliage serves as an attractive ground cover. Photo by Tina Byrd.*

However, it escaped our gardens into woods, fields, and alongside roads. It spreads rapidly by rhizomes to form dense stands that displace native plants.

However, do not despair if you love your common daylily. There are native replacements such as the beautiful orange Turk's cap lily (*Lilium superbum*). If you want to replace your common daylily, just dig them up but be careful where you dispose of the roots/tubers to prevent accidental spread outside of your garden.

The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia webpage "Invasive Plants and Better

Alternatives" (<https://mgnv.org/reading-room/invasive-plants/>) provides links to the Arlington County and City of Alexandria list of non-native invasive plants. This webpage is a great resource to identify plants native to Northern Virginia that you can use instead of invasive non-native plants such as the butterfly bush, lirioppe, nandina, and many more.

—Tina Byrd

## ***FCA endorses Lindsay redevelopment plan***

The FCA board has voted to support the proposal by Lindsay Automotive Group to redevelop their property in Alexandria just off Quaker Ln. Representatives of the company briefed the board at its August meeting.

The proposal calls for demolishing the existing office building on Osage St. and developing a Volvo dealership with sales and service on that site. The company would also demolish the existing Cadillac sales building and parking garage off of Kenwood and Fern Sts. and replace it with a new Lexus dealership with separate sales and service buildings.

The proposal is expected to go before the Alexandria City Council in November.



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## Abingdon Elementary School named an APS meal site

In early September, Arlington Public Schools (APS) provided an update on meal services prior to the start of the virtual school year. Twenty-one schools and ten delivery sites were selected. Details on the meal plan came at the same time as a USDA announcement that waivers were extended through December 31. This, in effect, means that any child age 18 and under may receive a meal for free. No ID is required and children do not need to be registered students with APS.



Family Pizza “picnic” on Abingdon track. Photos by Jennifer Davies.



Abingdon 5th graders in line for lunch.

Students, as well as toddlers, preschoolers and homeschoolers, can come to Abingdon between 11 am and 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. APS Director of Food Services Amy Maclosky indicated that all kids are encouraged to come and clarified that the meal service is not exclusively for those on the Free and Reduced Meal program.

Ms. Maclosky remarked, “We really want everyone to come out and

have lunch.” On Friday, Sept. 11, families from Abingdon, Arlington Traditional School, Claremont, and Campbell elementary schools came to the school for a pizza lunch. Many families stayed for a socially distant picnic and “recess” on the playground.

—Jennifer Davies



A Campbell elementary school family gets their lunch.

---

### APS from page 15

APS has many ways to engage the community in this process. The first way is to participate in the questionnaire that became available at the Engage with APS webpage on Sept. 21. There are also virtual Community Meetings scheduled for Sept. 29 and Oct. 7 where community members will be able to ask questions.

Other opportunities will be made available later in October and the School Board Public Hearing will be on Dec. 1 at 8 pm. The School Board will vote on the boundaries at the meeting on Dec. 3, and they will go into effect for the 2021-2022 school year.

The boundaries that are drawn this fall may affect many families in Fairlington who are not yet enrolled

in APS. The Abingdon PTA wants all community members to be aware of the process and will be posting updates regularly to our Facebook (Abingdon Elementary PTA) and Twitter (@AbingdonPTA) pages, so please follow to make sure you are aware of the latest information as it becomes available.

—Jackie Winkelvoss, PTA President

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# Women's and kids' clothing swap draws enthusiastic "shoppers"

The threat of showers couldn't deter scores of socially distanced and masked Fairlington moms, and a few dads, from "shopping" at the neighborhood's first community-wide Women's and Kids' Free Clothing Swap in mid-September.

With the Moms' Club's consignment sales cancelled and many of the local collection sites not accepting donations (due to COVID), the swap allowed participants an opportunity to clear out their closets of items they no longer needed while simultaneously "shopping" for new things to love. All items were free.

Clothing stretched across the full extent of the Fairlington Villages' Community Center parking lot—generously made available by the condo association. More than three carloads of remaining clothes were donated to local charities after the event, including Fairlington Presbyterian Church, ALIVE House, Carpenter's Shelter, and families of Drew Elementary.

The event was coordinated by Kristen Johnson, with the help of nearly 40 volunteers from the Fairlington community.



Photos by Guy Land.



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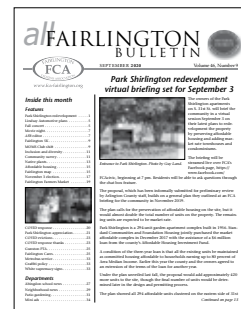
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## Wanted: All Fairlington Bulletin Editor

The Fairlington Citizens Association seeks an editor for the *All Fairlington Bulletin* to manage the production of the monthly print publication that is delivered to more than 3,400 Fairlington households. In this role, you'll edit the content, select photos to accompany the stories, write headlines and captions, write articles as needed, take photos as needed, and ensure the publication is error-free before sending to the printer.



This is a part-time, paid position that is ideal for anyone with a journalism or communications background. If you are detail-oriented, a good writer, and a solid editor, you'd be a great fit. The ideal editor wants to highlight the wonderful things the residents of Fairlington are doing to help their community, and bring to light news that impacts Fairlingtonians as well.

Candidates should submit a resume and brief cover letter to [resident@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).



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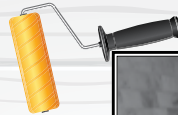


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# PAW PRINTS

## *Animal Welfare League of Arlington offers pet resources*

The Fairlington community's support of our neighbors in need has been nothing short of incredible. Still, we know there are challenging and uncertain times ahead. If people in our community are struggling, then family pets are too. Fortunately, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) is here to help.

Pets have an enormously positive impact on our health and wellness, and during these challenging times that bond is more important than ever. AWLA's goal is to keep pets out of the shelter and remain in homes where they are loved.

Some of the community support programs that are offered include:

- Pet food bank where families in need can come to AWLA to pick up pet food and pet supplies such as treats, litter, toys, and flea/tick prevention.

- Ross-Roberts Veterinary Assistance Grants for emergency veterinary care and select chronic medical conditions, ranging from \$100–\$1000 grants.
- Safekeeping program for short-term sheltering for pets of residents of Arlington County or Falls Church experiencing a health or housing crisis (i.e. house fire, or unplanned hospitalization).
- Low-cost spay/neuter vouchers.
- Rabies vaccines and microchip clinics.

If you, or someone you know, needs a little extra help caring for a furry family member, please call the AWLA at 703-931-9241 or email [communitysupport@awla.org](mailto:communitysupport@awla.org).

—Sam Wolbert

## *Family Movie Night welcomes fall*



*Families scattered out across the field to enjoy the movie. Photos by Guy Land.*

Socially distanced and masked Fairlington families gathered under the stars on the FCC field to watch *Trolls World Tour*, presented by FCA. The event welcomed the beginning of the new school year and offered families a safe outdoor activity. Although rain earlier in the day had threatened the event, the clouds disappeared just in time for the start of the movie, yielding a cool, clear evening.

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*School board continued from page 1*

hot topic that may interest Fairlington residents is the elementary school boundary adjustment process. This will result in redrawn boundaries for a number of the county's elementary schools, in response to both continued growth in enrollment in the county and the construction of new elementary schools. Abingdon is included in this process. See story on page 15.

Additional topics in the work plan include the APS relationship with school resource officers, as some jurisdictions have seen calls to eliminate these positions in response to Black Lives Matter discussions. Other topics include student wi-fi access and connectivity; equity, facilities, and discipline; and the APS Capital Improvement Plan.

Kanninen is a Ph.D. environmental economist, children's book author, and co-founder of the Youth Ultimate League of Arlington. She and her husband Kevin have lived in Arlington for more than 25 years and have two sons, Fred and Markus, who were both K–12 Arlington Public Schools students.

—Guy Land

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# neighborhood news

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## ***Fairlington Diners***

The Fairlington Diners usually 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. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants.

Since social distancing set in, however, we'd been Zooming thru the summer heat. But in September, we tried a small step towards dining together again, picnicking together on the FCC grounds. We'll try it again in October, but for Saturday lunch to avoid the all-too-early sunset by then.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, at 12:30 pm, we will picnic on FCC grounds. Let's take advantage of the splendid weather that early October offers for another picnic together. If we each bring our own food and drink, we can have lunch together but have a chance to visit at an appropriate social distance. Please RSVP by email to carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com, and directions for the specific location will be sent about a week in advance.

If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list

## ***Book Group***

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Oct. 27, to discuss *Stone Mattress: Nine Wicked Tales* by Margaret Atwood.

This collection of short stories is "surprisingly unsettling, gripping and at once laugh-out-loud hilarious. It attains its laudable goal: Myths last over time, and the stories in this book have that very quality. They are timeless, memorable and quite simply fun." —*Chicago Tribune*

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. Our meeting will be held on Zoom this month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive a Zoom invitation.

## ***Join Fairlington Knits! and Crochets and relax***

Feeling tied up in knots due to the pandemic? Knitting has been proven to lower blood pressure and create a sense of calm. Join us for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship on Monday, Oct. 5 from 6:30–7:30 pm via Zoom.

We're meeting on Zoom so we can see what everyone is working on, ask for help/advice or for inspiration for a project. All levels of crafters are welcome--beginner to expert. Log in from your home to talk with like-minded people about projects that might interest you!

Email Turner for the Zoom information to join the call: Turnerwork@aol.com.

## ***Fairlington Moms' Club***

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

## ***FCC offers limited operations***

As the region entered into Phase 3 mid-summer, the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) opened on a limited basis. While technically only open at limited capacity for the fitness facilities, FCC management has allowed access, with advanced permission, for certain persons to enter the building to retrieve items.

Hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from 8 am to 8 pm; and Saturdays from 8 am to 5 pm. The building is closed on Tuesdays (new during pandemic) and Sundays. The fitness rooms, which require county membership, operate under capacity limits.

With the playground now open, the outdoor restrooms are also open. The indoor bathrooms can be used, provided masks are worn and there is no socializing.



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Time for the year's last view of your garden*

Before you think about Halloween, Octoberfests, or Fall Festivals, focus one last time on your garden. Now is one of two ideal times to plant new specimens, the other being in March-April. These are periods without humidity or frost. Moisture loss from the soil and plant leaves is minimal during these times. Thus, plants are healthier.

Planting in October–November allows root systems to establish before winter's frost and return of May's intense heat. Plant selection may be limited but there still are plenty of shrubs and ground cover to select and plant. Forget about annuals, as they die in December.

Following are plants that are underplanted and non-mainstream. But they are pretty and perform well in our climate:

**Cotoneaster:** It is low-growing and mounded and gets wider than taller. Grows in the shape of a mushroom. This plant has tiny, oval evergreen leaves, white fragile flowers in April-May, and red "Holly-like" fruit in winter. I have seen it flourish in sun or shade.

**'Crimson Pygmy' Barberry:** This is a miniature plant (as its name reveals) that keeps its maroon leaves in winter. It is 10 inches tall with a similar spread. It can be used as an accent to taller plants or an outliner (on the edge of a garden bed or walkway).

**Southern Magnolia 'Little Gem':** Its parent grows 60 feet tall with a



*Abelia at Fairlington Presbyterian Church. Photo by Guy Land.*

wider spread but this dwarf cultivar only reaches 14 feet tall with a spread of eight feet. You can purchase them five-or six feet tall at a reasonable price. It grows slowly (one foot a year) so it is easy to manage in terms of pruning. 'Little Gem' (or other dwarfs such as 'Madison,' 'Majestic Beauty,' or 'Workman') have similar characteristics to its parent (a football-shaped, undulating leaf with a six-inch-wide, fragrant flower). It's just smaller for patios and courtyards.

**Russian Sage:** This lavender-flowering perennial has a stringy growth habit whose thin stems sway in a breeze. Plant them in clusters since it has more presence than when planted singularly. It offers a delicate look in the garden with vertical stems reaching 20 inches in height.

**Beautyberry:** This bushy shrub was in full bloom in September. It has shiny purplish-lavender berries that clump on long, arching stems. Each Beautyberry will grow four feet

tall and six feet wide, so it needs space in your garden. I can't think of another fruited specimen in the same color. Beautyberry has pink or white flowers that show in July. The smallish leaves are blue-green in spring/summer but turn yellowish in autumn. They are fat in the center with a pronounced point at the tip. Its Greek genus name is *Calli* (beautiful) *carpa* (fruit). And it's accurate.

**Ajuga:** Find a small space in your garden and situate three decorative stones, so they appear like outcroppings from the ground. Among them, plant Ajuga. All you need is a trowel. It's a very small plant with fibrous roots. But mixed around decorative stones, it looks like it occurred naturally. On long vertical stems in April, Ajuga shows little blue flowers. The foliage is basal—at the base of the plant. And it comes in olive, purplish, and maroon. All its leaves are spongy and shiny.

**Abelia:** It is so underrated, I've never seen one in a Fairlington patio garden. But they are here and there in common areas. If you're waking by the Fairlington Presbyterian Church, there is an arc of them under the stained-glass window. Abelia looks best when not pruned into a sphere. This way, the branches lean over in a pendulous fashion. The thin herbaceous (non-woody) stems are red. The tiny trumpet-shaped flowers are either pink or white and fragrant. Abelia likes sun and will grow to five feet high with a similar spread.

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



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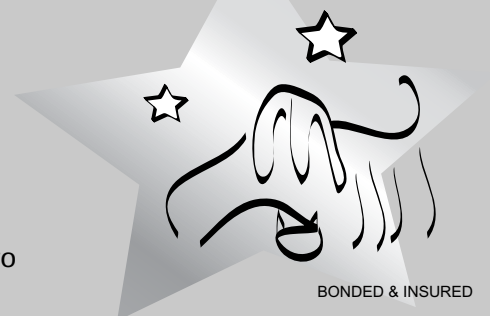
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