AFAIRLINGTONBULLETIN





www.fca-fairlington.org

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Neighborhood news

Fairlington students are back in the classroom, in-person and full-time



Fairlington Villages Claremont student excited about 1st grade. Photo by Jennifer Clardy Chalmers. On August 30, Fairlington students in Arlington Public Schools (APS) returned full-time after 18 months of shut downs, virtual classes, and hybrid instruction. It was also the first time APS started the school year before the Labor Day holiday. Busy bus stops, bikers, and walkers filled the sidewalks and streets starting at 6:50 a.m. The return to school was met with a typical mixture of excitement, trepidation, and caution.

The pandemic continues to impact what a typical school day looks like; from masking (for all staff and students, regardless of vaccine status), to expanded outdoor lunch spaces, to continued efforts at social distancing.

While a vaccine mandate is in effect for all APS staff and volunteers, the delta variant

remains a concern, particularly among elementary students who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

According to Virginia Department of Health statistics, almost 86 percent of 12–17 year olds in Arlington have gotten the vaccine, now a requirement for sports teams. Wakefield High School is one of several selected schools offering walk up testing for any students who want it, provided parents sign a waiver in advance. This service is open for any APS student.

Abingdon's 5th grade teacher and Fairlington Meadows resident Kerry Abbott commented on the unique nature of this year's start to school. She said, "after 22 years teaching at Abingdon, no academic year is the same, but this one is special. I have missed seeing smiling faces in my classroom. Even if those smiles are behind masks, I can see it in their eyes."

Lizzie Lyons, Fairlington Villages resident, sent her children on to new schools this year; Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School. After missing so many school milestones and rite of passage school events, from Jamestown field trips to middle school graduation, she is looking forward to a fresh start.

Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually and streamed on FCA's Facebook page.

FCA monthly meeting October 13

Special Presentation: Alistair Watson, co-chair of the school bond campaign committee, will discuss the Arlington school bond issue that will be on the November ballot.

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 Citizens Association.

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

Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, www. avatartech-llc.com.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
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www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental

Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm

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Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE –

6 p.m., **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: afbeditors@yahoo.com.

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and checks 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.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Calendar

North Fairlington Yard Sale

Saturday, October 2, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Fairlington Villages Community Center lot

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, October 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. See page 23 for details

Columbus Day

Monday, October 11 FCC Closed

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 7 p.m. Virtually on FCA Facebook page

Fairlington diners

Thursday, October 14, 6:30 p.m. See page 23 for details

Fairlington Knits!

Monday, October 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. See page 23 for details

Book group

Tuesday, October 26, 7:30 p.m. See page 23 for details

It's the best time of the year for slides!



The cooler temperatures bring dozens of families (and little sliders!) to the Fairlington Community Center park. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Leslie Cameron, Christine Chirichella, Jenn Davies, Guy Land, Angela McNamara, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you checked out the Master Gardeners exhibit at the Fairlington Farmers Market? Free seeds, free tools, free plants...and, most importantly, free advice. This is one of the latest ways the Northern Virginia Master Gardeners, many of whom are Fair-

lington residents, are enhancing life in Fairlington.

Anchored in the support of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), a division of Virginia Tech whose office is in the Fairlington Community Center, the Master Gardeners receive professional training and in return commit volunteer time to help the community.



Fairlingtonians who are Master Gardeners, joined by Master Naturalists and Tree Stewards, are leading the way in working with Fairlington's condo associations and grounds contractors to foster more environmentally friendly grounds policies.

You have probably read their monthly article in this newsletter ("For the love of nature"), which educates all of us about the value of using native plants—and encourages us to reverse decades of contractor planting of invasives.

But that's just one of their activities. Collectively they are putting in dozens of hours each

year improving Fairlington's natural environment.

Here are just a few of their activities over the past several years: installing multiple rain gardens across the community, preserving snag trees in the Commons, creating an Audubon at Home site in North Fairlington, maintaining plants at the community center, offering online training in patio gardening, and conducting educational walks in the area.

That's a very active agenda.

In the past few years, three things have impressed me about this group: their passion for their work, their commitment to our neighborhood, and the number of Fairlington residents who participate in their activities.

If you are interested in learning more about this group of dedicated and thoughtful residents, and maybe even joining them, check out their website, https://mgnv.org/, or contact Kirsten Conrad-Buhls at VCE, kbuhls@vt.edu.

The VCE office and the large number of Master Gardeners are important assets for Fairlington. Say thanks to these resident volunteers for their contributions to our neighborhood.

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

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Early voting gets under way for November 2 election

Early voting is now open for the November 2 general election. All registered voters are eligible for in-person early voting. Voters mark and cast their ballot on the spot.

For Arlington voters, early voting occurs at Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. In Alexandria it is the Alexandria Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal Street. Office hours for both are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional hours are available on Saturday, October 23 and 30 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); Sunday, October 24 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.); and Tuesday, Wednesday, There have October 26 (20 december 26 (20 de

day, Thursday, October 26-28 (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

In-person voting in Arlington those days can also be done at the Walter Reed Community Center and the Madison Community Center. In Alexandria it can be done at Beatley Library.

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of identification at the polls. Voters arriving at the polls without an acceptable form of ID will be required to either sign an ID Confirmation Statement or vote a provisional ballot.

Acceptable forms of ID include a voter card you received when you registered, a drivers license or Virginia ID card, student ID card, employer-issued photo ID card, or a bank statement or utility bill or payment statement with your name and address.

Voters may also request a mail ballot. This can be done online, by mail, by email, or by phone. Voters may also pick up a mail ballot application at any county library site or at the elections office.

Arlington ballots can be returned at any one of nine drop box locations or at a polling place on election day. The drop box that is closest to Fairlington is outside the Shirlington Library. It is located to the left of the main entrance into the library.

In Alexandria a secure outdoor ballot drop box will be available in front of the Office of Voter Registration &



Election volunteers help guide voters at the Fairlington Community Center during the November 2020 election. Photo by Guy Land.

Elections, from the start of early voting till 7 p.m. on Election Day. This drop box is under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Voters may request a mail ballot now. Ballots are mailed out starting 45 days before the election.

The voter registration deadline for those not already registered to vote at their current address is October 12.

In the November 2 general election voters will chose the governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, as well as members of the

Virginia House of Delegates. Arlington county voters will select a member of the county board and a member of the school board. Alexandria voters will elect a mayor, the city council, and nine school board members.

For the House of Delegates, Fairlington residents who live in Arlington will choose between Democratic Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Republican J.D. Maddox. For those who live in Alexandria, Del. Charniele Herring is running unopposed.

For Arlington County Board, incumbent Democrat Takis Karantonis faces independents Audrey Clement, Michael T. Cantwell, and Adam Theo. In the Arlington School Board race, Mary Kadera and Major Webb are seeking the single opening on the board.

Arlington voters will also be voting a \$23.01 million school bond issue.

South Fairlington residents vote at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. North Fairlington residents who live in Arlington vote at Abingdon Elementary, while those who live in Alexandria vote at the NOVA Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.

Voting precincts will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

—Guy Land

Have You Thought About Life After Fairlington?



As a former Fairlington resident and mother of three, I know that leaving Fairlington can be hard.

There's the charm, the green space, the sense of community, and the amazing location. So, where do Fairlingtonians go when they are in need of *more space*?! I've helped dozens of families find their **Life After Fairlington** and would love to help you, too!

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202.557.0311 Lauren@LaurenKolazas.com www.LifeAfterFairlington.com



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Fairlington students from page 1

"This has been a long period of challenges and disappointments, and even if we are still not back to normal, I am glad my kids can be with their friends and meet new teachers in person," she said.

With Abingdon Elementary School, Gunston Middle School, and Wakefield High School (all Fairlington's zoned neighborhood schools) projected to be the largest ones in APS, students are expected to deal with the usual growing pains of expanding student populations, from locker sharing to creative instruction spaces to crowded cafeterias.

For the 2022-23 school year, APS will make limited boundary adjustments where needed to balance enrollment, utilizing the instructional spaces across neighboring school facilities. Adjustments will be made between Abingdon and Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary and Gunston and Jefferson Middle Schools. During the fall 2019 boundary revisions, one of several APS proposals suggested re-zoning all of South Fairlington to Drew elementary. This remains a possibility during this year's boundary adjustment process.

—Jenn Davies







Photos by: Jennifer Clardy Chalmers, Jennifer Davies, Elizabeth Lyons, Jessica Mancari, and Stacey McGinnis.

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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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Mourning the passing of Sam Anthony

On August 20, former FCA President Sam Anthony passed away after a 17-year battle with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma. The FCA and Fairlington community send condolences to his family, especially his wife, Sharon, and daughter, Maddy.

I had the honor of serving two terms on the FCA board with him, including as Vice President. His outgoing, friendly, and engaging personality drew everyone in. A true Southern gentleman, Sam was honest, kind, humble, and respectful. His enthusiasm and zest for life was contagious. He was a great leader. Always the optimist, Sam motivated you to do your best and accomplish more than you thought you could, walking every step along the way with you.

A librarian at heart, Sam held a B.A. in history and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and M.L.S. from University of Maryland School of Library and Information Science. He was also a graduate of The Protocol School of Washington, D.C. He spent his career in public service, working for 30 years at the National Archives. For the last 16 years, he served as Special Assistant to the Archivist, lending his passion for people, government, and history to coordinate special projects and tours.

Sam served on the FCA board for one year as secretary and three years as president. His affable personality and experience at the National Archives served him well. He created a walking town hall, inviting county board members, who all attended. He launched the



Sam Anthony holds the mic for the Fairlington Commons President during a "walking town hall" tour in 2009. Photos by Guy Land.

first Council of Presidents, where FCA hosted the leadership of the community's association boards to discuss issues of common interest. His love of history led the FCA to work closely with the Fairlington Historical Society to help preserve and restore the original Fairlington models, which now reside in the Fairlington Community Center.



Sam Anthony.

During Sam's tenure, he led the charge to mod-

ernize communications efforts, while creating new opportunities and ways to connect. The FCA created a new logo; updated its website to a WordPress platform; and introduced a monthly e-newsletter, building an email list with sign-in sheets at meetings and an opt-in on the website. With the logo, he oversaw the creation of new polo shirts for the board and t-shirts to sell to residents, which launched during a reinvigorated Fairlington Day.

Sam set up the first FCA Facebook group (which has since transitioned to a new group) as an homage to the neighborhood he loved. It had attracted thousands of people who either live or previously lived in Fairlington. He also spearheaded using sandwich boards throughout the neighborhood to create awareness and announce upcoming FCA meetings. To attract more people to attend, he created a more social atmosphere by instituting name tags and offering free pizza, snacks, and beverages.

Many of these measures that Sam implemented remain in place today. Clearly, his impact on Fairlington can be seen long after he moved out of the neighborhood 10 years ago. Current FCA President Guy Land credits Sam with recruiting him to the board. Guy recalls, "Sam brought an awful lot of passion and energy to all things Fairlington."

So anytime you get an email from FCA, access its website or Facebook group, or buy one of its t-shirts, I hope you'll remember and thank Sam for all of his efforts to create a better Fairlington for everyone.

—Christine Chirichella

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Voters to consider school bond issue

In the November 2 general election Arlington voters will be asked whether to approve \$23.01 million in school bonds to maintain and improve school infrastructure and address continued enrollment growth in Arlington County.

School bond issues are normally voted on in evennumbered years, but because of COVID-19, Arlington Public Schools paused its Capital Improvement Program for a year, and this summer the school board approved a revised multi-year program, including a bond issue to be voted on this November.

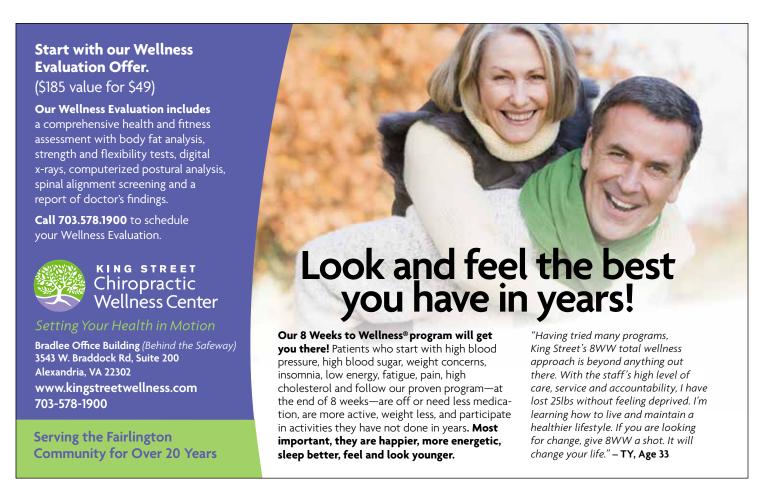
Most of the bond issue is focused on other schools in the county, particularly the new Heights Building on Wilson Blvd., but the bond issue would finance out-year spending on HVAC replacements and upgrades and at most schools, including those that serve Fairlington students, and synthetic turf replacement at Wakefield.

FCA expects to get an overview briefing on the school bond issue at its October 13 meeting.

—Guy Land



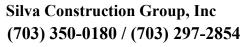
A main focus of the school bond funds is the Heights Building, a new school and program space to be built on Wilson Blvd. in North Arlington. Photo courtesy https://www.apsva.us/.











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For the love of NATURE

Free gardening help: learn about the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners

You might remember seeing notes in the past about free seed giveaways. Making free seeds available is a service offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and Extension Master Gardeners, but they both do much more.



The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the back of the Fairlington Community Center features growing food and ornamental plants in small spaces. Photo by Leslie Cameron.

VCE is an educational outreach program of Virginia's public land-grant universities—Virginia Tech and Virginia State University—and a part of the USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture. VCE shares evidence-based information with individuals and organizations throughout the commonwealth, focusing on health and wellbeing, children and youth, building a safe and stable food supply, resilient communities, and environmental health.

VCE also trains, manages, and supports the Master Gardener Volunteers, Master Food Volunteers, Energy Masters, Master Financial Volunteers, and 4-H Volunteers, and advises and supports the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists. The Arlington VCE Office in the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) at 3308 S. Stafford St. has been closed to visitors during COVID-19—but stay tuned for updates on hours.

Here are just a few of the free resources available to you

through VCE and the Extension Master Gardeners:

- Contact the Help Desk, staffed by Master Gardener volunteers, with questions about plant problems and pests (inside and outside the house).
- Visit an in-person plant clinic with questions or problem plants at three farmers markets: Arlington Courthouse, Del Ray, or Old Town Alexandria.
- Pick up free soil test boxes and instructions at the FCC on the gate to the alcove garden closest to Utah St. or at Greenstreet Garden Center.
- Visit one of many demonstration gardens maintained by the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia for plant and design ideas and growing information. Two are located at the FCC: the small space urban garden in the gated alcove in back near the basketball court and the Master Gardener Tribute Garden near the parking lot in front.
- Sign your child up for 4-H summer camp or for one of the 4-H clubs in Arlington on gardening, environmental education, nutrition, financial literacy, job preparation, or physical fitness.
- Check out one of the school victory gardens, a joint program of VCE and Friends of Urban Agriculture, growing fresh vegetables to support the community.
- Connect with MGNV on social media and by visiting their Virtual Classrom at https://mgnv.org.
- And of course—Pick up free seeds, just in time for Urban Agriculture Month, in October.

Want to know more? Visit https://arlington.ext.vt.edu/and https://mgnv.org

—Angela McNamara and Leslie Cameron

Feel free to send us questions or comments at fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

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Meet Blink: a Fairlington cool cat

Blink the cat was named after the 90's punk rock band Blink-182. But this cool cat is more Queen cat than rock and roller. Blink lives with her newlywed Mom and Dad in North Fairlington and recently moved to the neighborhood.

Born 5 years ago in Alabama, she has become an expert in doing what cats do best and has reinvented the idea of feline prerogative. Blink drinks only filtered Brita water, has an abundance of toys (she tucks in her two favorites at night) and has figured out how to be hypo-allergenic. No one sneezes around her. Chatty and friendly Blink has a lot to do in her new home.

You are new to Fairlington and live in a building full of resident cats. How do you feel about that?

I have yet to meet the other cats in the building. Each time my owners return home and open the door, I make a run for it to the other condos in an attempt to introduce myself to my fellow neighbors. However, they never answer when I knock and my owner cuts my introductions short by returning me back to my house. I will seek any and all means to continue to escape until we have all met.

Cats sit in windows throughout Fairlington. Why? Do you have conversations with birds and squirrels or are you simply protecting your home?

I enjoy my window time for some sunshine and warmth. I have a schedule and alternate between windows depending on which lets in the most light during a specific time of the day. In the event a bug, bird—or good heavenly days—a squirrel appears at my window, that just adds to the day's amusement.

On the topic of talking—People talk to you. Do you understand what they're saying? And do you think they understand what you're saying?



Blink takes a moment to stretch and relax ahead of her red carpet interview. Photo by Lauren Geilfuss.

I do in fact speak English. I am able to easily communicate with my owners when I want attention, food, a comfy spot to lie down, or the back door open. If my owners do not respect my desires, I will stand up for myself and let my voice be heard. If my voice is not heard, I have no other option but to claw on my owner's favorite chair.

Cats have a reputation for being independent thinkers, and doing what they want. Do you think this is true?

Whoever said variety is the spice of life never experienced the pleasure of a regimented, daily schedule. Each day I am responsible for waking up my owners, sitting in each sunbeam around the house, eating, helping my owners cook dinner,

and squeezing in at least 8 hours of napping before we all hit the hay for the day. Due to my busy schedule, I am left with a limited amount of time for independent or free thinking.

Any plans for Halloween?

Last year I had to bear the humiliation of dressing as a dinosaur. This year, I am hoping and praying that my mother does not come home with another ridiculous costume for me. Costumes aside, I plan to sit in the windows and watch the trick or treaters and enjoy some scary movies with my owners.

Interested in sharing your pet with Pet Profiles? Contact afbeditors@yahoo.com.















Fall in Fairlington: Bring on the pumpkins, cider, and...mushrooms

The Fairlington Farmers Market is open through Sunday, November 21, so come out and enjoy the best of fall produce and don't forget to pick up some apple cider and pumpkins from Kuhn Orchards. If you haven't tried the mushrooms yet from Sweet Pea Farm,

make it a point to meet owners Myles Jackson and Jasmine Livingstone, and get some great cooking tips along with delicious and unique mushrooms.

Myles and Jasmine began growing microgreens in their small garage three years ago, and expanded a year later to produce their signature crop: gourmet mushrooms.

"It took a while to get the conditions right, manipulating temperature, air flow and humidity, but eventually we started pumping out a decent crop," said Myles. They began selling at a farmers market in 2020, and leased farmland this year to expand their produce offerings and increase mushroom production.

"Our mission is to use urban agri-



Jasmine, of Sweet Pea Farm, sells unique mushroom varieties at the weekly Farmers Market. Photo by Guy Land. cultural practices to efficiently produce nutritional food for our community and beyond, and aid in mycological and agricultural research that will lead to innovative practices to help rejuvenate our land and produce healthy food more efficiently," said Myles.

Each week you can choose from Shiitake, Grey Oyster, Golden Oyster, King Oyster, Lion's Mane, and Brown Beech mushrooms.

They're also working on producing some value-added items, so stay tuned!

-Lynne Blasi



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Design team releases plans for Minnie Howard campus

Design team members have unveiled key design elements for the new high school building on the Minnie Howard campus along Braddock Rd. in Alexandria (behind the Bradlee Shopping Center).

The Minnie Howard campus will be part of a new Connected High School, in which Alexandria City High School (formerly T. C. Williams High) will consist of a King St. campus (site of the current high school) and the new

W BRADDOCK RD The new Minnie Howard campus (a part of Alexandria City High School) will be situated on

Braddock Rd. behind the Bradlee Shopping Center. Photo courtesy ACPS.

buildings at the Minnie Howard campus.

Representatives of Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) briefed Fairlington residents virtually at FCA's September 8 meeting. One part of North Fairlington is in the City of Alexandria.

Some earlier plans had proposed the co-location of affordable housing on the Minnie Howard site, but that option has been eliminated. "We need the space," Erika Gurlick, ACPS Director of Capital Programs Planning and Design, told the FCA Board.

Because of projected substantial growth in enrollment in Alexandria schools, the city faces the challenge of educating up to 5,000 students annually over the next five to ten years. The current capacity at Alexandria City High School is 2900.

After looking at options for building a separate high school at another location in the city, in 2019 the school board voted to expand Alexandria City High School into a Connected High School Network by building a new building on the site of the Minnie Howard Campus. Courses would be integrated across the two campuses.

"One high school; two unique environments," Gurlick explained. Both will be parts of the same high school, but each campus will emphasize particular areas of learning, with opportunities for students to do work on both campuses. The King St. campus will focus on core academic requirements and fine arts, while the Minnie Howard site will emphasize career and technical education courses.

The new school can accommodate 1600 students in grades 9-12.

The plans call for the new buildings to be located where the fields are now, with the fields being relocated to the site of the existing school building. The main building will be five stories, significantly larger the structure that is on the property now, but it will be recessed back from the street to minimize the visual impact of the larger size.

Plans also call for a new 12-lane aquatics center that would serve both students and the general public. The Alexandria City Council approved the addition of the aquatics center in June. ACPS expects to coordinate with the Chinquapin Recreation Center, which is used by a number of Fairlington residents, in determining what swim activities will be offered to the public at each location..

The Minnie Howard campus would include a teen wellness center and a day care center.

The high school is projected to cost \$155.7 million, while the aquatics center will run \$19.1 million. There would be additional costs for the teen wellness center and co-located facilities for the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services.

The project is expected to go before the Alexandria Planning Commission and the City Council in January 2022, with construction to begin in the spring.

—Guy Land



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- Patty, Fairfax, VA



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- Erik, Arlington, VA



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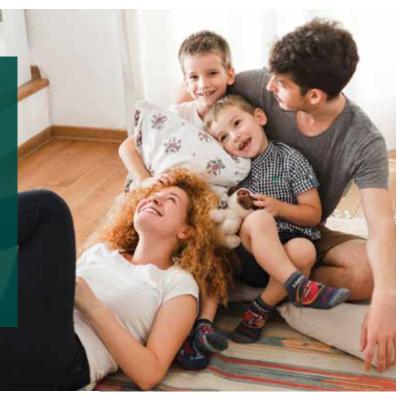
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Garbage truck catches fire in North Fairlington

On Saturday, September 4, the Arlington County Fire Department responded to a trash truck fire on Abingdon Street just before the bridge that crosses over I-395. The exact cause of the fire was not investigated, however the suspected cause the improper disposal of hazardous waste in regular residential trash. This is not unusual according to Deputy Fire Marshall Lt. Ryan Murphy. And when a fire like this occurs, the truck is emptied, and the trash is hosed down by the fire department.

To prevent this occurrence, residents should never dispose of hazardous materials or items that could become combustible and ultimately cause a fire along with their trash. Batteries, for example, need to be properly disposed of

and not just thrown out. Battery contacts that touch can cause a fire. All county fire stations have green or orange boxes where residents can discard used batter-



Firefighters work with Capitol Services to extinguish flames after the contents of a garbage truck ignited on September 4. Photo by Barbara Berti.

ies. They can also be dropped off at the County Hazardous Waste center located at 530 31st Street, South. Check their website for hours and additional information: https://recycling.arlingtonva.us/household-hazmat/.

Discarding warm ashes from charcoal grills is another cause of trash can or trash truck fires. You must be sure those ashes are cold before you throw them out. And never put your used gas grill tanks in the trash. Another point of fire safety concern is the use of grills on apartment balconies; a violation of State and County law. All grills must be placed at least 25 feet from the building structure. Failure to comply with this law could result in a warning and if the practice continues, you

could be issued a court summons and fined.

—Barbara Berti

Property taxes due October 5

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Tuesday, October 5. The same date applies to both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

Real estate bills were mailed in August. Residents will not receive a bill if taxes are paid from an escrow account through your mortgage. If you have a mortgage and receive a bill, please contact your mortgage company as soon as possible.

For customers who are responsible for paying their real estate taxes, Arlington's Customer Assessment and Payment Portal (CAPP) is a convenient way to pay securely online. Even if you do not pay via the internet, CAPP has many other benefits, including reminder emails about upcoming due dates. To learn more about CAPP, visit capp.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3702.

If you are having difficulty paying your real estate taxes, the Arlington County Treasurer's office is offering assistance through its Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP). More information can be found on their website, arlingtonya.us/treas.

Interested in serving your community? Join the FCA board!

FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2022 FCA Board.



Board members set

the policies for the association and serve oneyear terms. Anyone interested in serving on the board should email FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies at vp@fca-fairlington.org.

All nine seats on the board will be up for election at the Dec. 8 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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When will the housing supply increase?

SOON! Economist Dr. Lawrence Yun with National Association of REAL-TORS® says the U.S. is already past acute inventory shortages, and he projects supply to increase by the end of 2021 (5). Despite lumber and labor shortages, housing starts are up 50% from 2019 (6). Additionally, as forbearance programs phase out, more homes are expected to hit the market (5).

Are Prices

Going to Cool

Down?

SOMEWHAT! Lawrence Yun of NAR projects a temporary, slight leveling off of prices later this year, but no dramatic declines. Still, this could fuel a wave of "second chance buyers" who have been priced out of the current market (6).

SOURCE: 1. National Association of REALTORS®, "Existing-Home Sales Experience Slight Skid of 0.9% in May," June 2021. 2. REALTOR® Magazine, "Google Searches Reflect Consumers' Market Angst," April 2021. 3. Lily. Katz, "The Trials of a 2021 Homebuyer: More Money, More Competition and More Home Tours," Redfin, March 2021. 4. 2020 NAR Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers. 5. Buffini, Brian. Interview with Lawrence Yun. Brian Buffini's Bold Predictions 2021 Mid-Year Update, June 2021. 6. U.S. Census Bureau, "Monthly New Residential Construction, May 2021."





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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 returned to Ramparts for a meal at our friendly local. For October, here's what's planned:

Thursday, October 14, 6:30 p.m., Beckett's, 2800 S Randolph St, Arlington, VA 22206, https://samuelbecketts.com/, 703-379-0122. This casual restaurant/bar in Shirlington has delicious soups and a spectacular chicken curry.

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

Book Group

Please join the Fairlington Book Group on Tuesday, October 26, to discuss *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*, by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner.

According to Amazon.com, "although more than a century has passed since its publication, the novel's satirical observations of political and social life in Washington, D.C. are still pertinent."

We will meet either on Zoom or in the FCC (3308 S. Stafford St.) at 7:30 p.m. Masks are required at all times inside the FCC. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list in order to receive details about our meeting location a few days in advance.

Join us for two Virtual Fairlington Knits! and Crochets Meet-ups in October

Tune in online to join two Fairlington Knits! and Crochets meetings in October: Monday, October 4 and Monday, October 18 from 6:30–7:30 p.m..

Join fellow crafters for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship. Knitting/crocheting together, showing off our work, and talking with like-minded people helps us feel part of a community and has been proven to create a sense of calm.

We meet virtually, at the same time, on the first and third Monday of each month until we can meet in person again. Log on to 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.

Email Turner for the log-in information to join the calls: Turnerwork@aol.com.

Fairlington Bocce

Interested in a fun outdoor activity with neighbors and friends? Then you are interested in playing bocce! To express interest or get more information, shoot an email to marcyakel@gmail.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 several community service projects, routine playdates, craft days, family parties, and moms' nights out. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting with other Fairlington families, as well as our own classifieds listserv. We welcome all Fairlington moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.

Family Movie Night



FCA's outdoor family movie night returns on Saturday, September 25 at 7:15 p.m. The movie will be held outdoors on the soccer field at the Fairlington community center, weather permitting.

Residents are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and their favorite theatre snacks and enjoy a viewing of the 1989 classic "Honey I Shrunk the Kids", rated PG.

Attendees are encouraged to come early to set up. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on FCC grounds.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Take advantage of fall planting for year-round blooms

October in our area is the ideal time of the year to plant new specimens since heat isn't a factor and the ground is two months-plus away from freezing. Temperatures are mild and the soil is soft.

Spring planting is popular but really just a trend. May is our first hot month of the year and that taxes root establishment of new plants. April has constant rainstorms which can drown roots and even has some days in the 90s. March offers malleable soil and cool temperatures but we've had snowstorms in March that vary from 2 inches to 1 foot in accumulation.

Now that you can sit out on your patio with a cup of coffee or glass of wine without perspiring, here are some design ideas. When designing, think about how you want your garden to look in months ahead, since specimens need time to germinate or grow into mature sizes.

Bulbs: Spring-blooming bulbous flowers are planted (in bulb form) as the weather cools. Yes, we can have Indian summers in October and November but even if a bulb germinates early, it won't thwart a spring showing. Use a bulb planter (a longhandled one is better) to create a 6-inch-deep hole. Set the end onto the soil, step on the wings which recesses the end into the soil. Rotate the handle and then lift it to extract the soil core. Place the bulb (pointed end up) in the base of the hole and then replace the soil in the hole. Come spring, you'll enjoy crocus,



A beautiful evergreen holly plant offers a rare burst of color even in the darkest of winter months. Photo courtesy anonymous.

daffodil, iris, and hyacinth—the last one very fragrant.

Long-stemmed perennials: These look best when planted in clusters. When they reach 2-feet-tall with flowers on the stem ends, it offers a "spray" effect. They even sway in a breeze. Black-eyed susan (yellow), coneflowers (pinkish-purple, ivory) and day lily (mustard the most common color) are ones readily found at nurseries.

Winter-blooming plants: Since there are few, they are eye-catchers in cold weather. Winter-blooming camellia shows from December into April. Blooms are 4 inches wide and come in pink, red and white—all with yellow eyes (centers). Forsythia shows in late February with reaching branches filled with yellow flowers. It is the second-flowering shrub of

the year, following quince, which offers flowers in coral, pink, red or white. But quince is tallish and fat and not ideal for patio gardens. Winter jasmine shows in late January/early February and has nickelsized yellow flowers. This plant grows in a pendulous fashion. So, if you have raised beds, the evergreen branches spill over to the ground.

Evergreens: These plants are mainstays in any garden for their 12-month show. For our small Fairlington patios, consider euonymus 'Green Spire,' dwarf english boxwood, pieris (white, fragrant flower), azalea 'Encore' which blooms intermittently from May into December, and rosa 'Knockout' which also shows from spring into winter.

—Bill Sullivan www.sullivanslandscaping.net





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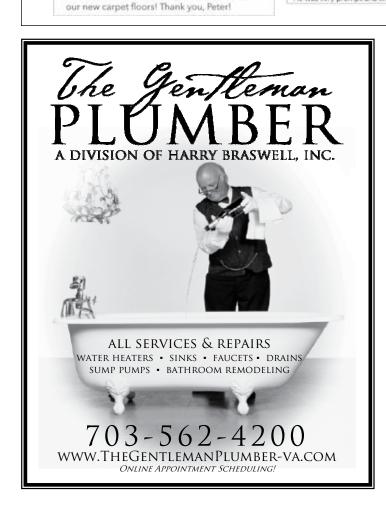
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Thanks to our great customers, we have reached our 43rd anniversary! We are family-owned and operated. For a free estimate call 703-820-8635 or text 571-243-7263.

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

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

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

Yard Sale!

North Fairlington will host their annual yard sale on Saturday, October 2 from 8 a.m. – noon in the Fairlington Villages Community Center Parking lot. Visit https://fairlingtonvillages.com/for more information.



Cleaning homes in Alexandria & Arlington Since 1990

> Shirley Waller, Owner 703-982-6020 irishmaidcleaning.com

- Affordable
- Reliable
- Thorough
- Eco-friendly cleaning supplies great for your family & pets!
- No teams
- Licensed, Insured & Bonded





Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

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).



Pet & Plantcare by Gerri, LLC Walking Sitting Playgroups Medications Gerri Horan Call/Text 703.629.1970 SINCE 1999 BONDED & INSURED

Reach out to these experienced agents for real estate services in Fairlington and beyond!

LONG & FOSTER®

CHRISTIE'S

October 2021



Julie Flory 703.599.3111 Juliet.Flory@LNF.com



3430 S Utah St #A Arlington, VA 22206 3BR/2BA *Dominion Model*

Coming Soon! Listing Price \$635,000

Listing Agent Julie Flory



3311 Wyndham Cir #4192 Alexandria, VA 22302 1BR/1BA

For Sale! Listing Price \$289,900

Listing Agent Joanne Ritchick



Kay Yancey 703.201.4292 Kay.Yancey@LNF.com



Sherry Schaffer 703.402.9113 Sherry.Schaffer@LNF.com



Barbara Kirkland 703.405.5920 BarbaraK@LNF.com



3369 S Stafford St #A2 Arlington, VA 22206 1BR/2BA *Barcroft Model* For Rent! Listing Price \$2,150/month

Listing Agent Julie Flory



246 N Granada St Arlington, VA 22203 2BR/2BA For Rent! Listing Price \$3,000/month

Listing Agent Sherry Shaffer



Megan McMorrow 703.403.5543 Megan@LNF.com



3800 Powell Ln #1217 Falls Church, VA 22041 1BR/1BA **SOLD! Sold for \$249,000**

Listing Agent Patricia Quinlin



3501 W Ox Rd Fairfax, VA 22033 4BR/3.5BA **SOLD! Sold for \$950,000**

Listing Agent Kathy Koerner



Kathy Koerner 571.489.9903 Kathy.Koerner@LNF.com



Joanne Ritchick

571.215.3350 Joanne@LNF.com

Patricia Quinlin 703.835.7312 PatQ@LNF.com