

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Volume 48, Number 10

## Clerk of Court Paul Ferguson to address FCA October 12

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Former Fairlington resident Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, will be FCA's featured speaker at its monthly meeting on October 12. The meeting, which begins at 7 p.m., will be in-person at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Ferguson was first elected Clerk of Court in 2007 after serving 12 years on the Arlington County Board, including three years as Board Chair. He was re-elected clerk without opposition in 2017. Virginia court clerks are constitutional officers and serve 8-year terms.

Since becoming clerk, Ferguson has modernized the clerk's office, moving from paper to electronic case files for civil and criminal court records, implementing electronic filing, and reducing the length of jury service from two weeks to one day/one trial.

Ferguson created an information packet in English and Spanish with sample forms for parties without an attorney seeking an uncontested divorce.

In Virginia the circuit court is the general jurisdiction trial court with authority to try all types of civil and criminal cases. Ferguson is the clerk of the 17th Judicial District, which has four judges.

In addition to managing the court, the clerk has a broad range of responsibilities. These include collecting the taxes and fees associated with filing

*Continued on page 27*



*Ferguson, a former Fairlington resident, has held the position of Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington County since 2007. Photo by Guy Land.*



The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is hosting community conversations about privilege, bias, and equity this fall. See page 9 for more information.

# 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.

## FCA monthly meeting October 12

**Special Presentation:** Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church will present to FCA.


### 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 Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, [www.avatartech-llc.com](http://www.avatartech-llc.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

[www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm)

Helicopter Noise Complaints      Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.)  
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### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Advertising Manager:** Katarina Lesandric

**Distribution Manager:** Sarah Lloyd

### — 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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**For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)**

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## Calendar

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 12 at 7 p.m.  
FCC  
3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington diners

Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Ramparts  
1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302

### Book group

Tuesday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m.  
FCC  
3308 S. Stafford St.

### Neighborhood Trick'or'Treating

Monday, October 31  
Starts at dusk

## *It's always time for story time*



*Eager listeners gather for story time at the Fairlington Farmers market. Photo by Guy Lnad.*

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Tina Byrd, Guy Land, Christine Philip, Mark Priceman, Lydia Redway, and Bill Sullivan.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fairlington has a rich history of providing leaders for Arlington County government, either as elected officials or as members of citizen advisory committees. That, along with consistently high voting turnout in elections, has given Fairlington a reputation for being one of the most politically engaged communities in Arlington.

Our clout is disproportionate to our size. That civic engagement—regardless of party—is one of the things that makes Fairlington such a vibrant community. The spirit of community that pervades Fairlington provides a good context for growing and sustaining civic leaders.

FCA's October speaker, Clerk of Court Paul Ferguson, is a good example. Paul lived in Fairlington for decades and continues to own a unit here. In many respects, he's still part of our community. Before being elected court clerk, Paul served three terms on the Arlington County Board. But he got his start as a community leader, President of FCA.

Paul was followed on the county board in a few years by South Fairlington resident Libby Garvey, who was first elected in 2012 and has twice served as chair. Libby has also lived in Fairlington for decades.

In Arlington much of the work of governance flows through citizen advisory committees, and over the past five years Fairlington residents have played key roles in things like the Housing Commission, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Four Mile Run Valley planning committee.

Fairlington also contributes major voices to school issues. FCA Vice President Jenn Davies led the citizen advisory committee that oversaw the renovation of Abingdon Elementary.

Often the leader of the Abingdon PTA is a Fairlington resident, as Sharon Burd is this year. As more Fairlington kids go to Gunston Middle School, it's not surprising that the Gunston PTA has also had Fairlington leadership.

And let's not forget that Libby Garvey started her county political career as a member of the school board. One of the school board candidates this fall, Vell Rives, has been a North Fairlington resident for years.

This climate of civic leadership—and it's not limited to formal government entities—is a hallmark of Fairlington. I encourage you to think about a good civic leadership role for you. It will add to our community's vitality.

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





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## MARKET *Update*

### MAKING SENSE OF TODAY'S MARKET AND WHY IT IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY OR SELL A HOME IN THE CURRENT MARKET

Experts are predicting that after the last few years of rapid appreciation and low rates, the Real Estate Market is coming in for a "soft landing".

#### Current Real Estate Market

- Sales: Slowed as days on the market increases in a more "normalized" market
- Inventory: Will remain historically low but should be rising after Labor Day which is traditionally the case as Summer comes to an official end.
- Prices: Are predicted to stay stable with a slight increase year over year for 2023 - up to 4%



#### Mortgage Rate Expectations:

- Today's Current 30 Yr Fixed Rate: 5.50% with 0 pts. and 5.125% with 1 pt
- Rates Remainder 2022: Financial Experts predict... Federal Reserve will likely increase the Federal Funds rate another .75 pt in September and an additional .25 pt in November. Resulting in 30 Yr Fixed Rates bouncing between 5.50% & 6.0%
- Mortgage Rates 2023 Rate for 30 Yr Fixed will likely level off between 5.50% and 6.0% for 30 Yr Fixed and remain level for most of 2023.
- Inflation/Recession 2023 Mid to late 2023 Inflation will start to subside and to keep Recession in check... rates will at some point likely improve by .50 pt between 5.0% and 5.50%
- Mortgage Rates in Perspective Historically Mortgage Rates for 30 Year Fixed Loan over the last 40 years have been as high as 16% in the 1980's and as low as 2.75% in 2021. It is not likely we will see 30 Yr Fixed rates as low as 2.75% anytime soon, however, it is likely that the 30 Year Fixed rates level off between 5.5% - 6.0% in the near future which still is in the "Historically Low" range.

**Summary:** The overall more normalized market will benefit both Buyers and Sellers - by allowing buyers to evaluate new inventory as it comes available with more protections in place for their purchase and for sellers to still cash out on the increased equity received year over year. While rates are higher than last year, the range of 5.5% to 6.0% for a 30 Year Fixed Rate Mortgage is still in the Historically Low range for Mortgage Rates over the past 20 Years.

As always, we are happy to help you explore if now is a good time for you either sell your home or purchase a new home in the current market. Call us for an evaluation and to further discuss!



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# Voting begins for November 8 general election

Arlington voters will choose a member of the Arlington County Board and select a new member of the Arlington School board, while both Arlington and Alexandria voters will cast ballots for the 8th district congressional office in the November 8 general election. Early in-person voting began in late September.

In Arlington, incumbent Democrat Matt di Ferranti is facing a challenge from perennial independent candidate Audrey Clement and newcomer independent Adam Theo.

The county's debate over "missing middle" housing has been the primary topic in the race.

The race for school board features Bethany Sutton and James "Vell" Rives. Current board member Barbara Kaninen chose not to run again. School board races are non-partisan, though Sutton was endorsed by Arlington Democrats. Both Sutton and Rives have been active on school advisory committees. Rives is a long-time resident of North Fairlington.

In the 8th district congressional race, voters will choose among Democratic Incumbent Don Beyer, Republican Karina Lipsman, and Independent Teddy Fikre. The district covers Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County.

Arlington voters will also consider 6 bond issues. The largest is \$177 million for significant improvements to the county's wastewater treatment, water, and sewer infrastructure. Arlington Public Schools would receive \$165 under another bond issue, largely to fund the Career Center campus and security improvements at various schools.

October 28 is the last day to request a ballot by mail for the November 8 general election. All voters are eligible to vote by mail. Applications must be received in the Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m. Applications may



*Voters can mail their ballots early or vote in-person at the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St. Photo courtesy of arlingtonva.us.*

be submitted online (<http://vote.elections.virginia.gov>) or by mail, fax, or email. For Alexandria, email [VoteAbsentee@alexandriava.gov](mailto:VoteAbsentee@alexandriava.gov); for Arlington it's [absentee@arlingtonva.us](mailto:absentee@arlingtonva.us).

Mail ballots may be returned by mail, in person, or by drop box. Mail ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on November 8.

October 17 is the last day to register to vote in the November election.

—Guy Land

## Property taxes due Oct 5

The due date for the first installment of real estate taxes is Wednesday, 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](http://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, [arlingtonva.us/treas](http://arlingtonva.us/treas).

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# Rives, Sutton vie for empty APS board seat

Independent James “Vell” Rives and Democrat Bethany Sutton will go head-to-head for the empty seat on the Arlington County Public School (APS) Board this November.

The board is composed of five members who serve overlapping four-year terms. Terms commence on January 1 of the year following the election. The seat opened up when former school board member Barbara Kanninen decided not to run for a third term.

The *Bulletin* caught up with both Rives and Sutton to discuss their position and priorities for APS.



*Fairlington resident and psychiatrist James “Vell” Rives decided to run for school board to tackle post-pandemic mental health issues. Photo courtesy of rivesforsb.com.*

Sutton, a higher education professional with more than 25 years of experience, decided to run for the school board as a result of years spent volunteering and engaging with the schools both as an administrator and as a parent.

“I have a strong track record of community leadership and engagement in our schools,” she said. “My kids are in 8th grade (TJMS) and 11th grade (HB Woodlawn) and I spent 7 years on the

PTA Board at Randolph Elementary School, where I still run the food pantry begun during the pandemic.”

Rives, an M.D. and mental health professional, was inspired to make the decision to run as a result of seeing the impact of COVID-19 policies on students’ and teachers’ mental health and the struggles with lost learning due to the pandemic.

“I think my experience as a parent, physician, and mental health professional will bring the perspective we need to address our current problems,” he said. “We’re still not caught up, and we must not lower our standards to get there. It will be hard. We have to get every child the help they need, and we’ve got to work to retain our excellent teachers. We have lost too many good teachers in the past two years.”

Sutton expressed her priority for focusing on inclusion and diversity in the APS system, citing recent state-

wide policies that she felt hamper efforts to expand opportunity and serve all students equitably.

“I am deeply concerned about the impact of the governor’s policies on our LGBTQ+ youth and students of color, all of whom data tells us are more likely to have mental health struggles,” she said. “Our best chance of tackling these daunting challenges involves ensuring that all students feel supported and a sense of belonging in our schools, and in employing best practices in the classroom, not attacking these children or their teachers. We need to amplify our commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion, not diminish or eliminate it.”

Rives was also critical of recent policies from the Governor’s mansion, including the tip-line established earlier in the year to report teacher misconduct, which he felt harmed relationships between teachers and parents.

A big priority for Rives is keeping classrooms open for in-person instruction, safely, whatever it takes.

“I also want to return to the pre-COVID practice of School Resource Officers (SROs) being assigned to schools where needed,” he said.

SROs have been a subject of much discussion lately as local schools have experienced an uptick in student crime after the officers were removed from school hallways in 2021.

While varying slightly in approach and priorities, both candidates are full of passion and commitment to make APS a supportive and healthy learning environment for every child that passes through its classrooms.

You can read more about Rives and Sutton on their websites, <https://www.rivesforsb.com/> and <https://www.bethany4aps.org/>.

Don’t forget to cast your vote at Fairlington Community Center on November 8.

— Regina Bethencourt



*Bethany Sutton has been a higher education professional for more than 25 years and has two children currently in the APS system. Photo courtesy of bethany4aps.org.*



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## Conversations on equity and inclusion to be held in October

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is hosting a series of community conversations to learn about and address the ways in which Arlington can be a more equitable and inclusive place. We encourage all residents to join us for these 1-hour conversations at the Fairlington Community Center on Thursday, October 20 and Wednesday, November 16 at 7 p.m.

Arlington County has partnered with Challenging Racism, a local non-profit dedicated to empowering people to disrupt racism wherever they find it, to develop the Dialogues on Racism and Equity (DRE) program.

DRE includes a series of toolkits used to spark conversations between community members as part of the county's broader commitment to racial equity. The conversations include short videos and discussion questions to challenge assumptions, interrupt bias, and understand equity vs. equality.

The October meeting will feature a discussion about bias and the November discussion will focus on equity.

If you are interested in participating in a community conversation or have any questions, please contact Lydia



*Arlington's Dialogues on Racism and Equity are part of the county's commitment to its Equity Resolution adopted in 2019. Photo courtesy of arlington.va.us.*

Redway at [lydia.redway@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.redway@gmail.com).

For additional information on Arlington County's Dialogues on Race and Equity, please visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Equity/DRE>.

—Lydia Redway

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## STEM preschool hosts fall fundraiser in Fairlington

On Friday, September 2, the STEM Preschool held its first FUNdraising fair. With a better than expected turn-



*Local police officers hand out swag and offer public safety advice. Photo by Guy Land.*

out, the fair was a big success in raising money for those who need tuition assistance.

With appearances by Grammy-nominated performer Groovy Nate, Elsa and Spiderman, as well as food trucks from Rockland's, rides and carnival games, STEM Executive Director Portia Moore-Thomas was excited for what the future holds.

"It was such a joy to see so many children and parents enjoy the rides, food, and music," said Moore-Thomas. "STEM Preschool believes that every child deserves access to a challenging, nurturing, and rewarding early childhood education and we are beyond thankful for the Fairlington Community for their support. We are looking forward to our next event where the community can all come together and have fun."

Upcoming events that will benefit STEM include a pizza night at Nighthawk Brewery and Pizza in Pentagon City. For more information on how you can get involved, please visit [www.stempreschool.com](http://www.stempreschool.com).

—Mark Priceman

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Because your safety, health, and peace of mind is our top priority, you can rest assured we are taking every precaution to ensure your safety and well-being. We have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they do not come in to work if they feel sick or if they have a fever. They have also been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before, during, and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

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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# For the love of NATURE



## Skip the rake, leave the leaves

Have you heard the phrase “Leave the Leaves,” and did you ever wonder why? Aren’t there too many leaves? They smother the grass, they leave a slippery layer on sidewalks, and they clog sewers. What exactly do all of those fallen leaves do for nature? It turns out quite a lot!

Fallen leaves provide pollinators with nesting and overwintering habitats. Besides planting native plants and not using chemicals, the next most valuable step to support pollinators is to provide them the winter cover they need.

The monarch migrates, but the vast majority of butterflies and moths overwinter in the landscape as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, or adult. In our climate, the butterflies and moths use leaf litter (fallen leaves) for winter cover.

For example, the great spangled fritillary and woolly bear caterpillars tuck themselves into a pile of leaves for protection from cold weather and predators. Red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge.

Luna moths and swallowtail butterflies disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves, blending in with the “real” leaves. Lose the leaves and lose the next generation of some pollinators.

Bumblebees rely on leaf litter for protection. At the end of summer, mated queen bumblebees burrow only an inch or two into the earth to hibernate for winter. An extra thick layer of leaves protects the native bees from the elements.



*These fallen leaves covering the forest floor near the Fairlington playground are providing important overwintering habitat for pollinators and other insects. Photo by Tina Byrd.*

Many animals live in leaves: spiders, snails, worms, beetles, millipedes, mites, and more—that support the chipmunks, turtles, birds, and amphibians that rely on these insects for food.

Studies have shown that turfgrass is the largest crop grown in the U.S., and this disproportionate ratio of lawn to garden is certainly a reason leaves are raked, mowed, and blown. Too many leaves are not good for turf, but a thin layer of leaves on the lawn has no ill effects.

Leaves can be piled around trees, shrubs, and perennials. The leaves will provide nutrients and valuable organic matter to protect the roots and enrich the soil.

Using leaves as mulch for a planting bed is a free alternative to buying bark mulch. The space under a tree is a critical place to keep leaves in place since many butterfly and moth caterpillars drop down from trees into the leaf litter to pupate and overwinter.

The use of leaves for mulch may not be as tidy to you, but it is so much better for nature. There are several community gardens in Fairlington that do not have the leaves removed in fall. The leaves are the garden mulch. The garden on the hill on S. Utah St. leaves the leaves.

This year, leave the leaves in your patio gardens and forgo the bark mulch. In the spring, watch for a new generation of pollinators to emerge. Feel free to send us questions or comments at [forthe love of nature@google-groups.com](mailto:forthe love of nature@google-groups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Tina Byrd

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# Peach biscuits?

## Market vendors share wares, invent unique treats



It's October at the Fairlington Farmers Market, and that means it's time for pumpkins, gourds, cider, a bounty of colorful fall produce, and music and special events every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center.

We were sorry to see Number 1 Sons close their business at the end of August due to the loss of their commercial space.

"Number 1 Sons joined our market in 2018, and was a popular and well-liked vendor with long lines each week," said Tracey McGovern, a member of the farmers market committee.

"We know shoppers enjoyed the wide variety of pickled and fermented products they offered, and are looking for another vendor to fill this need."



*Shoppers enjoyed an energetic Zumba class and picked up some great fitness tips in August from Sherean with the Energy Club in Shirlington. Photo by Esmeralda Matthews.*

Our vendors are a friendly and close-knit group, and it's been exciting to see a number of collaborations arise this year. During the summer District Biscuit Company made peach biscuits using peach jam from Sandy Bottom Acres, and prior to that started offering their popular breakfast sandwiches with goat cheese from Fairie Springs Farm.



*More than 1000 people enjoyed delicious ice cream on a hot July day, compliments of market sponsor Kay Houghton & Associates—thank you to Kay and her team for the perfect treat!*

Peach jam was a new creation this year from Joan and Chris Farrell of Sandy Bottom.

"We started making apple butter jam last year with apples from Spring Valley Farm & Orchard, and started bringing it to the market in response to requests from shoppers who saw pictures on Facebook," said Joan. "We decided to make more jam this year with other fruit from Spring Valley, and it's been very popular."

The idea for the biscuit sandwich with goat cheese came about from a conversation between Tracey McGovern of the market committee and Kate Hemphill, owner of Fairie Springs.

"Tracey thought our goat cheese spread would be really good on District Biscuit's sandwiches, so we talked with Alex Rosenberg and the new sandwich launched soon after that," explained Kate.

She also makes goat cheese using ramps from Spring Valley, and uses their corn for her spicy corn salsa. We've heard anecdotally about some other collaborations among vendors, so if there's something you'd like to see please talk with the vendors or market managers.

Mark your calendar for this month's events, and be sure to check the market chalkboards and weekly e-newsletter for an updated schedule.

—Lynne Blasi





*Photos by Guy Land.*

## ***Coming up at the Farmer's Market in October:***

**October 2:** Arlington Art Truck, Flight by Greg Stewart. Learn about birds and trees of Arlington County and the importance of native plants and species.

**October 9:** Face painting with Creatives by Cristina, LLC.

**October 16:** Save Soil; Music from the Arlington Public School Orchestra

**October 23:** READ Book Bus; Project Peace as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

**October 30:** Extension Master Gardeners activity







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# ***Fairlington Presidents discuss traffic safety, noise violations in quarterly meeting***

Safety concerns at King St. and Taylor St. were a main topic of discussion at the recent meeting of the presidents of the various Fairlington condo association boards. They centered on drivers coming out of Bradlee who sometimes turn left onto King into oncoming traffic or do not give the right of way to drivers crossing from Taylor St. into Bradlee Shopping Center. Alexandria is responsible for signage at this intersection and will be asked to increase or adjust signs to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

There have also been individuals living in hidden areas outside the Fairlington fence line along King St. The encampment debris located in the area bordered by the Arbor was removed by Arlington County. Alexandria was also contacted by the Arbor as the grassy area bordering King St. belongs to Alexandria. The city is supposed to trim back the overgrown vegetation to make the fence line clearly visible and less attractive for “campers”.

There is a Limited Power of Attorney form that would allow the Arlington County Police Department to access private property to remove trespassers. The Mews has approved and submitted this form and will put up no trespassing signs as required. Some of the other Fairlington associations are considering doing the same.

Fairlington residents have complained of exceedingly loud vehicles along King St. and Quaker Ln. Current Virginia code allows jurisdictions to ticket drivers with excessive exhaust noise vehicles. Alexandria and Arlington will focus enforcement of the excessive noise violations on areas with the most complaints.

The VA legislature passed House Bill 1842 amendment that went into effect this year.

“This new law broadens the rulemaking authority of Boards of Directors. Condominium Association Boards



*Left turns at the King St. and Taylor St. intersection have been the subject of recent traffic disputes. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.*

of Directors will have authority to establish reasonable rules that restrict smoking in the Condominium, which includes prohibiting smoking in common elements as well as within the units. Property Owners' Association Boards will have the authority to restrict smoking in common areas and attached private dwelling units (i.e. townhouses). The bills further amend the Virginia Condominium Act by allowing unit owners,

by majority of votes cast at a meeting of the unit owners' association, to repeal or amend any rule or regulation adopted by its Board.”

Please contact your association's president if you have topics pertaining to Fairlington that the presidents might discuss at a future meeting.

—Thora Stanwood

## ***Seeking candidates for paid position with The Bulletin***

The *All Fairlington Bulletin's* ad manager, Katarina Lesandric, will be leaving at the end of October. Lesandric has held the position for three years, and her contributions to the mission of the *Bulletin* will be greatly missed. The FCA Board thanks her for her dedicated service.

The AFB is looking for a motivated professional to take on this role. This is a paid position with compensation on a commission basis. Responsibilities include coordinating with existing advertisers, identifying new sources of advertising revenue, and working with the editorial team to ensure advertisements are placed correctly. If interested, please contact Guy Land at [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).

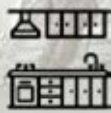


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## Helicopter noise complaint system created

A pilot system for reporting helicopter noise is now available for Fairlington residents. They can submit noise concerns via webform, an iPhone and Android-compatible mobile app, or by voicemail at a noise complaint hotline at 877-209-3200.

Residents are encouraged to provide as much information as possible when submitting a complaint. Using available flight track data, the system will accurately identify likely aircraft generating concerns and all associated data.

According to Cong. Don Beyer, who has long pushed for solutions to helicopter noise in the Fairlington area, the system was developed in collaboration with the Eastern Region Helicopter Council and the Helicopter Association International.

Beyer announced the new system in a press confer-



*Helicopters frequently fly over the Fairlington and Shirlington area. Photo by Regina Bethencourt.*

ence in June, where he was joined by Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey and Takis Karantonis.

“I am hopeful that this pilot program will prove to be a strong first step in carrying out recommendations developed with community input to reduce helicopter noise in Northern Virginia and across our region” Beyer said, “and I will continue to work with colleagues and regional leaders and agencies to reduce helicopter noise in our skies.”

The pilot will be evaluated by the FAA for potential permanent adoption.

The complaint system options can be accessed at [https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dc\\_noise\\_initiative\\_flyer.pdf](https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dc_noise_initiative_flyer.pdf)

—Guy Land

## Hazardous materials drop-off available Oct 8 at Wakefield

The fall Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE) for drop-off of household hazardous materials and old electronics is set for Saturday, October 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wakefield High School, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St.

Since this is the county’s first time using Wakefield as a drop-off site, metal items and bicycle donations will not be accepted. Vehicles should access the drop-off routing from South Columbus Street at South George Mason Drive.

Accepted hazardous materials include:

- Automotive fluids
- Batteries
- Car care products
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Corrosives (acids/caustics)

- Fire extinguishers
- Flammable solvents
- Fluorescent tubes
- Fuels/petroleum products
- Household cleaners
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Mercury
- Paint products (25-can limit)
- Photographic chemicals
- Poisons (pesticides)
- Printer ink/toner cartridges
- Propane gas cylinders (small hand-held or larger)
- Swimming pool chemicals

The E-CARE drop-off is only open to Arlington residents. For more information on the event and what sort of items will be accepted, visit: <https://bit.ly/3DuSPdD>.

—Regina Bethencourt

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# FAIRLINGTON

## *pet profiles*

### *This dog is no bull, just a lot of love*

Bulldogs are more complicated than you probably ever thought. From conception to birth and beyond they require a lot of care. They drool, they can be stubborn, they need air conditioning, and their wrinkly skin should be cleaned daily so bacteria and infections don't grow between the folds. They are considered high maintenance.

Not everyone can handle a bulldog, but Josephine (Josie for short)—adopted in October 2020—found her way to Fairlington where she is now properly cared for and adored. She is the quintessential English Bulldog, 55 pounds of solid muscle with an extraordinary personality.

*You came to Fairlington as a rescue. How is life with your new family? Do you like living here?*

Thanks for asking! I was rescued through an organization called "Bullies 2 the Rescue," and they specialize in rescuing French and English bulldogs. I was used as a breeder mom for much of the first five years of my life, so I didn't know much about what it meant to be part of a family. It took a lot of adjusting before I could trust people, and even now I have a pretty small circle of friends and family that I feel at home with. But I definitely love my family. I love giving my Dad kiss showers and letting my Mom rub my belly! I enjoy all the green spaces to sniff in Fairlington and I like to keep my Mom and Dad on their toes by always pulling them in a new direction.

*Has COVID affected your home life?*

I hear Mommy and Daddy talking about this COVID stuff a lot. Apparently, they adopted me right at the start of it, and I think it is the reason Mommy is able to work from home now, so I would say yes. It has affected my home life for the better. It has made me a little spoiled though, so I hope they never go back to the office full time!

*What do you think of French bulldogs? Are they much different than the English? Is there any rivalry there?*



*Bulldog rescue Josie dreams of pumpkin spice lattes. Photo courtesy Joanne Fiorilli.*

Like any rivalry, it depends on who you talk to. I think Frenchies are okay. They're a lot smaller than we English bulldogs and their ears seem a little pointy to me, but they are my cousins so I have to say they are pretty cute too. We don't speak the same language, but I think a lot of people here in Fairlington like them, and ! I hear they make great family dogs.

*What advice can you give to people meeting you for the first time?*

Please always ask before approaching me when I'm on my walks. I have come a long way with training and time but I had a pretty rough start in life, and because of that, I still have a fear of new

people and that might never go away. I don't like being touched by strangers, (but hey, who does?). It takes several meetings before I trust people to get close to me (and treats definitely help!), so crouching down and trying to pet me is unfortunately not something I like to see. Bulldogs can be loving and sweet to the right family. It just takes a little patience.

*You have quite the underbite. How do you manage your teeth? Do you visit the dentist often?*

In the bulldog world that is quite a compliment, and the underbite is what makes us so dang cute! It also makes it hard to eat sometimes but, as you can tell by my waistline, I have overcome that obstacle! My Daddy is my de facto dentist, and he is so good about brushing my teeth with chicken flavor toothpaste that I love and Mommy feeds me raw carrots I'm sure that help. I can't get enough of them! There is actually a video of me getting my teeth brushed on my Instagram page: @bulldog\_josie.

—Barbara Berti

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## A Recycling How-to

Recycling!?!? Are you confused and frustrated about what to do and what not to? Fairlington CAN has gotten to the facts by interviewing the frontline folks who manage our recycling. Our conversations dispelled the myth that our recycling just goes in the trash and we learned how to be better recyclers. We have summarized our findings in this month's F-CAN Action Info Sheet that includes a handy, half-page chart of what and how to recycle—perfect to put on your refrigerator for quick reference.

Access the document here:

Join us, Fairlington CAN (Fairlington Climate Action Now), to investigate more ways we each can make a difference on climate change! Contact us at fairlington-can@googlegroups.com

—Fairlington CAN



Fairlington CAN fairlington-can@googlegroups.com			RECYCLE OR TRASH? QUICK REFERENCE
MATERIAL			DISPOSAL METHOD
ALL CONSUMER PLASTICS (#1–7) ∞ EXCLUDING CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS			RECYCLE – WEEKLY CURBSIDE PICKUP OR AT RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES
PLASTIC CLAMSHELL CONTAINERS			RECYCLE – ONLY AT ARLINGTON RECYCLING SITES DO NOT RECYCLE IN FAIRLINGTON CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS
MIXED PAPER, CARDBOARD, CORRUGATED BOXES ∞ †			RECYCLE – WEEKLY CURBSIDE PICKUP OR AT RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES
SHREDDED PAPER ∞ #			RECYCLE – ONLY AT TRADES CENTER ON SHREDDING DAY, THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH (NOT IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS)
ALUMINUM ∞			RECYCLE – WEEKLY CURBSIDE PICKUP OR AT RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES
GLASS ∞			RECYCLE – ONLY AT GLASS RECYCLING DROP OFF SITES (NOT IN CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS) OR PUT IN THE TRASH
PLASTIC BAGS, PACKAGING FILM, BUBBLE WRAP, SHIPPING ENVELOPES			RECYCLE – ONLY AT GROCERY STORE PLASTIC RECYCLING BINS DO NOT RECYCLE IN FAIRLINGTON CURBSIDE RECYCLING BINS
BATTERIES - SINGLE USE AND RECHARGEABLE - RECHARGEABLE - SINGLE USE			RECYCLE – BATTERIES+BULBS @ BRADLEE SHOPPING CENTER RECYCLE – RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES ONLY @ HOME DEPOT/OTHER TRASH – PUT SINGLE USE BATTERIES ONLY IN THE TRASH
MATERIALS NOT LISTED ABOVE INCLUDING STYROFOAM & DIRTY FOOD CONTAINERS NOT SURE IF IT IS RECYCLABLE? PITCH IT!			TRASH

∞ DO NOT PUT YOUR RECYCLING IN PLASTIC BAGS

† IT IS HELPFUL TO BREAK DOWN BOXES

# DO NOT PUT SHREDDED PAPER IN CURBSIDE OR DROP OFF BINS

SEPTEMBER 2022

### More Recycling Opportunities

- **Clothing and household items.** Find a new owner—one person's trash is another person's treasure. In addition to charities such as Goodwill, you can sell or gift items on *Facebook Marketplace* (<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/>) or *Buy Nothing North Fairlington- Shirlington, Park Center, Northern VA* (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543963012631952>) For useful household items in good condition, donate to the Habitat For Humanity ReStore (869 S Pickett St., Alexandria, VA).
- **Electronics.** Recycle electronics at BestBuy, Staples, or Arlington County Household Hazardous Materials Facility/Electronics Collection and Recycling Center located at 531 31st St. South. Arlington charges a small fee to recycle old-style CRT TVs and CRT computer monitors. All other electronics are accepted free of charge.



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## Abingdon Elementary celebrates back to school and its 72nd birthday

On the first day of school, parents and guardians walked their students to their classroom, and then joined fellow Abingdon families for a Tears & Cheers Coffee celebration. It has been wonderful to connect with new and returning students and staff, especially at Abingdon's several community building events.

For example, at the Back-to-School (BTS) picnic on August 20, we celebrated Abingdon's birthday. Our school was dedicated 72 years ago on the same day in 1950. It was also heartwarming to see our fellow Cardinals make new friends at the picnic and at the rising Kindergarten Summer Popsicle Playdates.



*A fellow Cardinal paused for a quick photo at the Back-to-School picnic!  
Photo by Sharon Burd.*

In other exciting news, the Abingdon Cardinal brought home a few ribbons from the Arlington County Fair! We are incredibly grateful to the Eco Action Team and our teachers Ms. Upshur and Ms. Barnes for their garden leadership.

Thanks to our many volunteers—students, families and community



*The Abingdon Cardinal took a field trip to the Arlington County Fair and was in awe of seeing Abingdon's prize-winning okra! Photo by Dan Burd.*

members—who have graciously supported the school garden momentum too. We invite the community to stop by the school garden to check out our prize-winning okra, banana peppers, mint, basil, tomatoes, and zinnia.

As we continue building community at Abingdon, we're always looking for volunteers with various skills such as woodworking, baking, and translating (Mongolian, Amharic, and Arabic). As Elizabeth Andrew shared, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart."

Visit [www.abingdonpta.org/](http://www.abingdonpta.org/) volunteer to fill out the PTA's volunteer form to lend an hour to support our neighborhood school's Cardinals.

Exciting ways to help support our neighborhood school:

**K-cup coffee drive**—In appreciation of our exceptional educators, con-

sider dropping off caffeinated k-cup donations to the Abingdon main office (labeled "PTA") or ship to Abingdon PTA at 3035 S Abingdon Street, Arlington VA 22206.

**Grocery rebates**—Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Abingdon Elementary (5748). Friends, families, and neighbors are also invited to link their VIC card to Abingdon as well. Scan the QR or sign up here: [www.abingdonpta.org/fundraising](http://www.abingdonpta.org/fundraising).

**Coat drive**—Share the warmth. Abingdon is having a coat drive for Abingdon students K-5. We're collecting coats, mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves in the school's front office. For additional information contact [abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com).

—Sharon Burd

### APS School Year Calendar:

#### **Wednesday, October 5:**

Holiday—Yom Kippur

#### **Monday, October 10:**

No school for students (Countywide professional learning for staff)

#### **Thursday, October 20:**

Elementary early release for parent-teacher conferences

**Friday, October 21:** No school for elementary & middle school students—parent-teacher conferences

#### **Monday, October 24:**

Holiday—Diwali



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## Semi-annual Fairlington clothing swap set for Oct 9



*The annual clothing swap is a great time to stock up on new fall finds for women, men, and children. Photo courtesy of Kristen Johnson.*

Clean out your closets and mark your calendars - it's almost time for Fairlington's 5th Semi-annual Free Clothing Swap! The next swap is set for Sunday, October 9 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Villages Community Center in North Fairlington.

Organized by Kristen Johnson, the swap has become a fun community event where everyone gets a chance to get rid of unwanted clothing and pick up a few nice things - all for free!

Donations of fall clothing will be accepted starting at 8 a.m. that morning. Items can include clothing, shoes and accessories for women, men and children. Volunteers are needed to help set up the racks, sort, hang and organize donations.

All left over items are donated to local charities after the event.

If you would like to volunteer, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0449a4a82caaf58-fairlington> to sign up.

—Christine Philip

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*Paul Ferguson from page 1*

deeds and acting as a probate judge when a will is presented for probate of an estate. The clerk is also responsible for issuing marriage licenses, processing notary public commissions, and processing business name applications.

As a member of the county board, Ferguson championed environmental issues. He pushed for Fresh AIRE—Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions—a five-year initiative to reduce Arlington County government's greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by 2012, with annual progress reports.

Ferguson has lived in both North and South Fairlington. He continues to own a unit in Fairlington Arbor.

In speaking to FCA, Ferguson returns to one of the early venues of his community leadership. He was FCA President in 1993-94.

He is a 1992 graduate of George Mason Law School.

—Guy Land

### ***Interested in serving your community? Join the FCA board!***



FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2023 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 December 14 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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# neighborhood news

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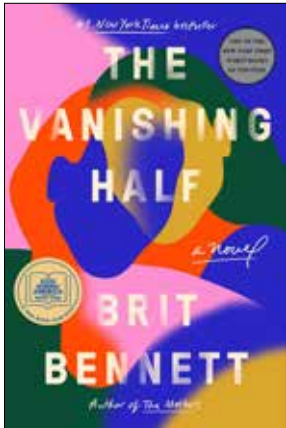
## ***Fairlington Diners***

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In September, we dined at Guapo's in Shirlington, a familiar favorite. Here's what's planned for October:

Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m., Ramparts, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, (703) 998-6616, <http://www.rampartstavern.com>. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Tuesday, which is Tacos and Tequila night. The rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her--include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## ***Book Group***



Join the Fairlington Book Group in October to discuss *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett. The book will be introduced this month by Gary.

"Bennett's gorgeously written second novel, an ambitious meditation on race and identity, considers the divergent fates of twin sisters, born in the Jim Crow South, after one decides to pass

for white. Bennett balances the literary demands of dynamic characterization with the historical and social realities of her subject matter."—*The New York Times*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St in Room 103. We hope you'll join us.

## ***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](mailto:fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com) for further information.

## ***Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden***

Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.



## ***Small space garden plant clinic***



The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia offer a small space plant clinic every Sunday, coinciding with the Fairlington

Farmers Market. The clinic staffed by VCE Master Gardeners, who answer general gardening questions as well as questions about pests, diseases, and plant identification. They also provide free soil test kits on request. It is located at the back of the Fairlington Community Center.





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# DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



## *Learning from decades of creative Fairlington patios*

In 32 years of landscaping Fairlington patios, I've seen some amazing creativity in various homeowners' gardens.

Here is a sampling, from both North and South Fairlington:

**Elisabeth**—In one of her side beds (18 inches wide by 10 inches long), there is a thick planting of periwinkle. It's a lateral-growing, lustrous evergreen ground cover with, yes, periwinkle flowers in summer. Hovering in the ground cover are two figurines—a rabbit and a cat.

**Sharon**—She has a dwarf crape myrtle inside a curved stone bed at the back fence. Around the tree are delicate ferns, mostly the Japanese painted cultivar. In a corner, she has an iron trellis draped with a clematis vine. In summer, the fragile tendrils produce star-shaped, lavender blooms, five-inches in diameter. On the fringe of her paver patio are pots filled with begonia and geranium.

**Larry**—Devoid of flowers, his evergreen garden still is lush and stately. In the back corner is a lyland cypress tree. Beneath it is a vigorous rhododendron. In another corner, there is a dogwood tree surrounded (at the trunk) by a dense planting of pachysandra, an evergreen ground cover showing white flowers in April and May. In one of his side beds, he has a row of nandina domestica 'Harbor Dwarfs.'

**Bonnie**—When she looks off her balcony, she sees three prominent camellias—two flowering in pink



*An ornamental pea vine hugs a lamp post in South Fairlington. Photo by Bill Sullivan.*

and another in white. Each one blooms from December to February. In the corner is a beautyberry which offers clusters of glossy purple berries in autumn.

**Paula**—In her side garden against the brick of the building is a row of forsythia, whose branches become ablaze with yellow flowers in February and March. Come summer, three dwarf crape myrtles show flowers in purple, red and pink.

**Mary**—Speaking of side gardens, hers is gorgeous. There is a dogwood tree, red cedar tree, Japanese maple dwarfs and a cluster of mahonia—the last featuring fragrant yellow flowers in winter. Setting the landscaping table on the soil is a blanket of lamium, a ground cover

with white frosting (variegation) on the leaves and magenta flowers in summer.

**Penny**—In front of her home, a lonely lamp post is now comforted by a snuggling ornamental pea vine. Beneath the post is a circular planting of petunia (in summer) and pansy (in winter). Surrounding the bed is a bracelet of decorative rocks.

**Tracy**—There is a swath of thick grass in the center of her large patio yard. At the back fence is a contained wildflower garden created by her father. On the opposite side of the yard is a curved garden framed by a dry stack stone wall. Inside the wall is a collection of flowering evergreen specimens.

**Marion**—Outside her patio fence is a dense planting of iris, which forms a flowing lavender shawl draping the wood facade in summer. In the off-season, the bluish-green, sword-like leaves stand tall at almost 3 feet. Around the edge of the irises is a 4-inch-wide, mulched bed that defines it from the vast lawnscape beyond.

**Karen**—An evergreen lover, when she looks out her dining room, she can't miss seeing her Juniperus virginiana 'Burkii', bursting in wedge-wood blue foliage all year long. It's a vertical specimen, reaching 7 feet tall with a modest width of 18 inches. The specimen fits neatly in the back left corner of her patio garden.

—Bill Sullivan  
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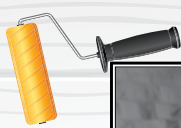


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