

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



OCTOBER 2023

Volume 49, Number 10

[www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

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## Alexandria considers mobility improvements on King Street near Bradlee



*The portion of King St. between Fairlington and Bradlee Shopping Center is the focus of a new transportation study.*

The City of Alexandria is seeking community feedback on mobility, safety, access, and stormwater issues along King Street between N. Quaker Lane and Menokin Drive. The purpose of this project is to evaluate existing safety issues and develop concept designs for future improvements.

Sara Brandt-Vorel, Transportation Capital Project Manager with the Alex-

andria Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, will brief Fairlington residents on the King Street project at the October 11 meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

The bulk of the study area is the portion of King St. that borders the Bradlee Shopping Center on one side and Fairlington Glen, Fairlington Arbor, and Fairlington Mews on the other.

The first component of the project is a public online survey launched in mid-September to gather community feedback on resident and visitor experiences navigating the study area. The feedback form is seeking input on experiences walking, biking, driving, or taking public transportation in the study area and opportunities to identify improvements.

Responses to the survey will help inform the recommendations the city will outline to guide subsequent design work. The survey will close in mid-October.

This portion of King Street was identified for multimodal improvements in the City's 2021 Alexandria Mobility Plan and is a priority location to install enhanced bicycle facilities and additional sidewalks to complete gaps in the City's existing bicycle and sidewalk network.

Safety improvements along this corridor will help the city reach its Vision Zero goal of eliminating all fatal and severe crashes.

*Continued on page 17*

# 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 11

**Special Presentation:** Sara Brandt-Vorel, Transportation Capital Project Manager with the Alexandria Department of Transportation & Environmental Services, will brief Fairlington residents on the King Street project.


### 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

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Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

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

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

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## Calendar

### Columbus Day

Monday, October 9  
FCC Closed

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 7 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center

### Family movie night

Saturday, October 14, 6:30 p.m.  
FCC field

### Fairlington diners

Thursday, October 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Ramparts  
1700 Fern St.  
Alexandria, VA 22302

### Free clothing swap

Saturday, October 21, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Fairlington Villages Community Center  
3005 S. Abingdon Street

### Fairlington book group

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Fairlington Community Center  
3308 S. Stafford St.

### Halloween trick-or-treat

Tuesday, October 31

## A beautiful place to bike



*The recently renovated Glebe Rd. Bridge features new artwork and a state-of-the-art bike lane. The bridge was closed and under construction for nearly two years. It reopened in Summer 2023. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Tina Byrd, Kirsten Ann Conrad, Sue Davis, Todd Delp, James Harlow, Guy Land, and Alexis Mahoney.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Early voting is now open for the November 7 general election, which will yield a significant number of new officials serving Fairlington.

For the first time in years, Arlington voters will elect two new members to the Arlington County Board. This is the body that FCA most frequently interacts with on behalf of our community.

Our engagement with them ranges from things like the preservation of Park Shirlington, to questions of increased density, to the difficulty some residents are having in securing permits for interior improvements to their units.

It's important that the new board members understand our community. FCA will be reaching out to them after the election and will invite them to attend one of our meetings, stroll through the Fairlington Farmers Market, or consider attending some sort of town meeting with our residents.

The two Democratic candidates, Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham, are well known to many Fairlingtonians. Both dropped by our Fourth of July celebration. Independent Audrey Clement has visited Fairlington occasionally, as she has run for the county board multiple times. The other independent candidate is Juan Carlos Fierro.

Because Abingdon Elementary is our neighborhood school and a growing number of Fairlington students go to Gunston and Wakefield, the Arlington School Board has become more important to our residents.

The school board will also see a new member, as Reid Goldstein did not seek re-election. Miranda Turner is the active candidate.

Because of redistricting, most of Fairlington will have new voices in Richmond. We have less engagement with our delegation there, but we always invite them to an FCA meeting, and we occasionally need their help on things like highway and transportation issues.

For the state Senate voters will choose between incumbent Democrat Barbara Favola and Republican David Henshaw. Favola has not represented us in Richmond, but she was on the county board back when it considered the original plans for the redevelopment of Shirlington.

The Arlington part of Fairlington will have a new representative in the House of Delegates. Democratic incumbent Del. Alfonso Lopez faces independent Major Mike Webb.

FCA does not endorse candidates. We encourage you to consider all the candidates carefully. Most importantly, we urge you to vote.

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



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# Fairlington residents get update on pedestrian traffic and safety

On September 13, FCA hosted a community discussion regarding pedestrian and traffic safety in Fairlington. As part of this discussion, FCA welcomed participation from Christine Baker, project manager for Arlington County's Vision Zero program, and three officers from the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD).

Baker's presentation focused on Vision Zero's programmatic goals and the school zone retrofit process for Arlington County schools. Vision Zero's overarching goal is "to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all."

Baker shared that Vision Zero staff recently finalized Arlington's school zone guidelines, which include specifications for setting speed limits in school zones. Per the Vision Zero Action Plan, staff recently updated the county code to allow for permanent 20 mph speed



*The intersection of Abingdon St. and 29th St. has been a point of concern for many parents and students walking to school. Photo by Guy Land.*

limits on neighborhood streets within 600 feet of a school access point.

Also, Baker said that Vision Zero recently wrapped up discussions with Abingdon Elementary School staff regarding the planned (2024) school zone retrofit process that will commence to evaluate safety concerns or needs for the area around Abingdon Elementary.

She shared that the school zone retrofit process almost always results in

the deployment of some safety enhancements, which can include signage, crosswalks, and other enhancements, depending on the current safety needs of the school zone.

A point of concern raised by residents and FCA board members was the intersection of Abingdon St. and 29th St., specifically during the morning school drop-off and

*Continued on page 23*

## Voting begins for November 7 general election

Early in-person voting began in late September for the November 7 general election. Arlington voters will choose two new members of the Arlington County Board and one new member of the school board, as well as selecting members of the State Senate and House of Delegates.

For the Arlington County Board, Christian Dorsey chose not to run again, and Katie Cristol resigned in July to take a position with a new economic development group in Tysons. She was replaced on an interim basis by Tannia Talento, who is not a candidate.

In June Democrats selected Maureen Coffey and Susan Cunningham as their candidates for county board. They are joined on the ballot by independents Juan Carlos Fierro and perennial candidate Audrey Clement.

In the school board race, Reid Goldstein is not seeking re-election. The two candidates for that slot are Miranda Turner, who won the May endorsement of Arlington

Democrats, and James Vell Rives, who suspended his campaign in late summer. In Virginia, school board races are non-partisan.

Redistricting put most of Fairlington into new state House and Senate districts. Control of both bodies in Richmond is at stake, though the races in the Fairlington area are not viewed as being as competitive as some in other parts of the state.

For the House of Delegates, Democratic incumbent Del. Alfonso Lopez is being challenged by independent Major Mike Webb. While Lopez has represented most of Arlington before, this is the first time his district has included Fairlington.

For those voters living in Alexandria, incumbent Del. Charniele Herring is unopposed.

Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, who has represented

*Continued on page 15*



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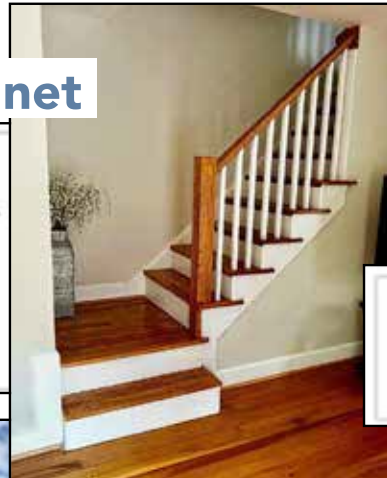
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# Fall fun at the farmers market



Cool and crisp weather, an abundance of colorful fall produce, and pumpkins and cider are sure signs that it's time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market! The market is open through Sunday, November 19, so there's

plenty of time to pick up your favorite foods for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, along with beverages, desserts, and snacks.

We hope you're enjoying the live music this season while you shop and catch up with friends and neighbors.

The always-popular Arlington Art Truck is back on October 29 with Good Neighbors: Fences into Benches. Meet transformative artist Michael Verdon and a representative from the County Manager's Office of RACE, and view a long modern fence

made of wood invoking separation and privacy.

Then, you can write and share your ideas on what it means to be a good neighbor directly on the fence. Once the community has inscribed their thoughts, the fences will be built into 48 linear feet of community-decorated public benches for all to gather.

Mark your calendar for other events this month:

**October 1:** Music by Anthoney Kever

**October 8:** Face painting by Cristina

**October 15:** Music by Swingology

**October 22:** Music by John Kamman

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

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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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# For the love of NATURE



## What does Indiana Jones have to do with pollinators?

If you are a fan of the Indiana Jones movies, you will remember Harrison Ford's character was afraid of snakes. Ironically, the actor has just had a snake named after him. The official name of Harrison Ford's slender Peruvian snake is *Tachymenoides harrisonfordi*.

In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Mr. Ford stated, "In all seriousness, this discovery is humbling. It's a reminder that there's still so much to learn about our wild world—and that humans are one small part of an impossibly vast biosphere. On this planet, all fates are intertwined, and right now, one million species are teetering on the edge of oblivion. We have an existential mandate to mend our broken relationship with nature and protect the places that sustain life."

A biology professor from Illinois Wesleyan University, Edgar Lehr, was part of the team who discovered Harrison Ford's slender snake on an expedition to Peru.

In an interview with NPR, Professor Lehr when asked about the loss of biodiversity stated, "we as humans are part of biodiversity and if the surroundings are suffering—let's say frogs are disappearing, fewer insects, fewer pollinators—it goes back to us. So we are risking our own survival when we do not care about the health of nature."

If you are a regular reader of this column, you will have read the many articles addressing landscaping practices to support biodiversity. However, if you are not a regular reader, you may be surprised to hear that one practice to support biodiversity that is germane to fall is to leave the leaves.

Each fall the leaf blowers come out to blow away the leaves. The leaf blowers dislodge the leaf litter that is so



*Leaving the leaves under this oak tree would provide protection for luna moths and swallowtail butterflies who disguise their cocoons and chrysalises as dried leaves to blend in with real leaves. The red-banded hairstreaks lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars when they emerge. Photo by Tina Byrd.*

essential to insect life and insect life is so essential to birds and other wildlife. 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. Native bees burrow into the earth to hibernate and an extra thick layer of leaves protects them from the elements. Lose the leaves and lose the next generation of some pollinators.

Turf grass covers the majority of the land in Fairlington and is certainly one 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. Leave the leaves 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.

How can you protect the places that sustain life? Leave the leaves in your patio and ask your HOA Board to leave the leaves in foundation beds and around trees. The leaves will provide the next generation of pollinators with a nesting and overwintering habitat. Email [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) with questions or for planting recommendations for your patio, and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Tina Byrd

Kay  
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PRESENTS  
THE 7TH ANNUAL

# FAIRLINGTON FALL FESTIVAL

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OCTOBER  
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# FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

## *Fancy that! English bulldogs love Fairlington*

Pet Profiles was delighted to meet another English Bulldog who enjoys life in Fairlington. The dog's name is Fancy, if you can fancy that! She is a lovely, active and gracious girl who lives with her Mom and Dad in North Fairlington. Fancy is very well behaved and has perfect manners. She could hardly wait to show *Pet Profiles* her wide array of toys and how nicely she can sit and behave for a treat.

Bulldogs don't really tolerate high temps and humidity and Fancy has spent much of this summer inside waiting for cooler weather. She does take short walks and enjoys long hikes in the spring and fall. Motivated by food, she weighs a trim 42 pounds and is very agile for a large dog.

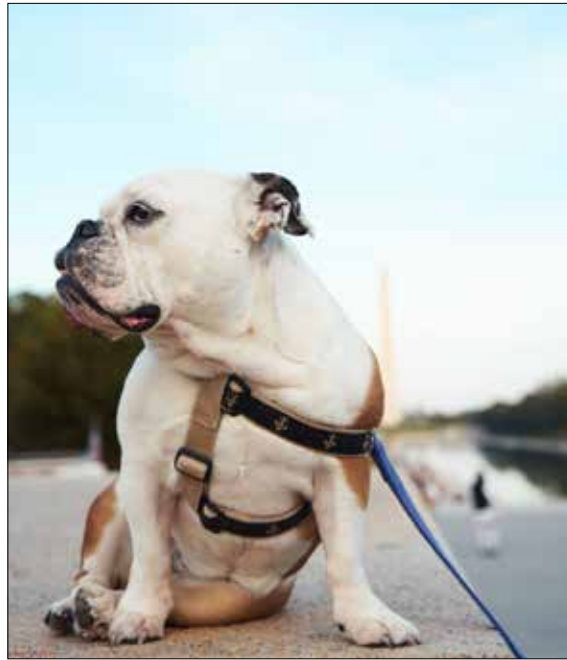
She is so well-behaved that she can join her family on shopping trips and vacations, and she recently had a birthday party in Shirlington with her canine and human friends to celebrate her ninth birthday.

*How did you get your name? Are you a fancy dog?*

I got my name from my parents. They got inspired by the song Fancy by Iggy Azalea. My parents always say I am beautiful and sassy. I love people and my mom and dad tell me they love me all the time.

*You like to watch tennis and pickleball. And you have a chew toy shaped like a racquet. What intrigues you about these sports?*

I got a love of watching tennis and pickleball when I moved to Fairlington with my parents and we would walk around all the tennis courts and see all my neighbors playing. I got to love how people run for the ball,



*Fancy is as fancy does. Photo courtesy of Lorena Aranda.*

something I enjoy doing myself. I also love this sport because my grandma and parents started playing it this year and I quickly realized I was the athlete of the family.

*You look quite pampered. Do you have a beauty routine? Who does your pawdicure?*

I get a blueberry facial along with my nails and a bath once a month at the spa. I also love to sunbathe to keep my tan. I like to watch my curves so my favorite treat is watermelon.

*What advice would you give someone who wanted to have an English Bulldog like you?*

We need someone to give us love and attention and some cuddles at night. And in summer time let us use the AC all the time as we get hot pretty easily. Researching about our breed and budgeting for our expenses is a must. Of course, beach trips and nice walks in the fall would not hurt.

*Will you be doing anything special For Halloween? Costume?*

I will! I plan to attend the dog trick or treating in Shirlington and Alexandria and hope I win the best costume this year! I will probably be Barbie or a mermaid this year.

—Barbara Berti



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most of Fairlington for the past two years, was redistricted into an adjacent district, where she is running unopposed.

For the Senate, Democratic incumbent Barbara Favola faces Republican David Henshaw in a reconfigured 40th District. Favola has not previously represented this part of Arlington in the state Senate.

Voters in the Alexandria part of Fairlington face a Senate choice between incumbent Democrat Adam Ebbin and Republican Sophia Moshasha. Ebbin previously represented all of Fairlington.

For all of the other county offices, the Democratic candidates face no opposition.

October 16 is the last day to register to vote or change your registration.

October 27 is the last day to request a mail ballot. All voters are eligible to vote by mail. Applications must be received in the Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m. Applications may 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).

Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked on or before November 7, 2023 and received by 12 p.m. November 13, 2023.

—Guy Land

## Annual free clothing swap is back in October

Join us on Saturday, October 21. Please drop off your good condition (no tears or strains), FALL/WINTER appropriate clothing (including Halloween costumes) for men, women, children, and babies between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. the morning of the swap. Please do your best to organize your clothing by size and gender so our fabulous volunteers can get the clothing quickly hung up on racks for everyone to shop!

You do not have to donate to shop! All are welcome!

—Alexis Mahoney



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## FCA asks county for zoning amendment

FCA has written the Arlington County board asking for a zoning amendment that would address the obstacles a number of Fairlington residents have encountered in seeking permits to make improvements to their units. These range from installing egress windows to opening up Clarendon kitchens to building out attics.

Recently when residents have sought permits to make these sorts of improvements, they have been required to go before the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and seek a variance from a county zoning requirement that buildings be set back a specified distance from each other.

Although the zoning code was adopted after Fairlington was constructed, it does not contain an exemption for Fairlington. The setback requirement is unrelated to the renovation work homeowners want to do.

Getting a variance adds time and expense to the renovation projects. The BZA now is routinely hearing multiple Fairlington variance requests each month, with owners expected to appear before the body to respond to questions about their request.

At its September meeting, the BZA considered six requests from Fairlington. It approved them by a narrow 3-2 margin, with some BZA members questioning the legal ability of the group to consider the Fairlington applications.

Expressing frustration with being asked to consider a growing number of applications from Fairlington, one BZA member urged Fairlington residents to write County Board members.

FCA's letter, on behalf of the Fairlington community, asks the county board to consider a comprehensive zoning ordinance amendment for the Fairlington area. This amendment should aim to establish guidelines that "align with the character and modernization of condominiums in our community," the letter says.

"By proactively updating the zoning ordinance to accommodate the unique needs of our neighborhood,



*Recently, many Fairlington residents have encountered permitting obstacles in attempting interior renovation; a process that had been relatively simple in the past.*  
*Photo by Guy Land.*

we can reduce the need for frequent variances and ensure a smoother permitting process for property owners while maintaining the overall integrity of Fairlington," it says.

FCA believes that a zoning ordinance amendment is the best approach to address the issue because of the need to ensure consistency, predictability, preservation of community character, community engagement, and long-term vision for the community.

According to FCA's letter, a zoning ordinance amendment will not only alleviate the burden on the BZA, but also provide a more transparent and predictable framework for homeowners and contractors alike.

FCA Board member Dianna Bentley, a local realtor, has taken the lead in working on this issue with county staff and county board members.

FCA President Guy Land was scheduled to raise this issue with the county board in the public comment section of its September 23 meeting.

—Guy Land

---

*Alexandria from page 1*

The project will also consider stormwater drainage improvements and enhanced landscaping. FCA had written city officials about the need for drainage work in 2020. "The area suffers from poor drainage, frequent trash, and damaged trees. It is both unsightly and a potential health hazard," the letter said. "It's not a very welcoming introduction to the City of Alexandria and our community."

According to the city the general timeline calls for community engagement and issue identification in fall 2023 and spring 2024, conceptual design from spring 2024 through spring 2025, and detailed design from spring 2026 through 2027, followed by construction.

—Guy Land

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## *The 2023–2024 school year is in full swing.*

Hundreds of families visited their teachers and explored their new classrooms at the open house event. The Kona Ice truck also was on hand with refreshing treats. Kona Ice doubled as a PTA fundraiser (netting nearly \$300) and a staff appreciation event (with PTA offering free cones to all staff).

On September 6, Abingdon parents returned to the building for back-to-school night. They took their turn visiting classrooms, hearing from teachers, and learning about PTA volunteer opportunities.

On September 12, two local Dominos restaurants hosted fundraising nights for Abingdon PTA. Thanks to everyone who participated. We'll continue to announce these community-wide opportunities to support Abingdon via the Fairlington-area social media groups and in these pages.

Next, we turn our attention to an annual favorite: Trunk or Treat! On October 28, stop by the Abingdon parking lot to see lots of cute ghouls, goblins, witches and superheroes gather candy and enjoy some fall fun.

### ***Eagle Scouts support Abingdon***

Broader community engagement continues to benefit Abingdon students and families. Eagle Scout candidates from Scouts BSA Troop 106 have supported a range of projects at Abingdon over the past year.

Last school year, projects included building a garden shed and painting a USA mural on the back playground. This year, Faris Kiamie created signs in multiple languages to position throughout the school. The signs, produced in Amharic, Arabic, English, Mongolian, and Spanish, help to guide students and families to major rooms, mark major rooms, provide important school-related information, and direct families to the Abingdon website in these languages.

Faris, who has a love of learning languages, designed the project with the support of the school leadership and PTA, hoping that these signs will help families to be more comfortable in and familiar with the school while ensuring students feel seen and included in the school community. Way to go, Faris!



*First grader Josephine Bush enjoys a sweet treat courtesy of Kona Ice. Photo courtesy of Maggie Bush.*

### ***We need you!***



We're looking for volunteers of all kinds to ensure our year-long programming is fun and successful. Please

scan the code and fill out our survey to let us know we can count on your help.

—James Harlow

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

When it originally opened in 1950, Abingdon had ten classrooms, a multipurpose room (which served as a gym, cafeteria and a meeting place), as well as a front office, a principal's office, and a teacher's lounge. All ten original classrooms still serve as classrooms today! The multipurpose room has since been divided into two classrooms currently used by preschool students.

### ***Abingdon School Dates***

**Mon, 10/9**—No School (staff development)

**Thurs, 10/19**—Elementary Early Release (parent/teacher conferences)

**Friday, 10/20**—No School (parent/teacher conferences)

**Sat, 10/28**—Trunk-or-Treat



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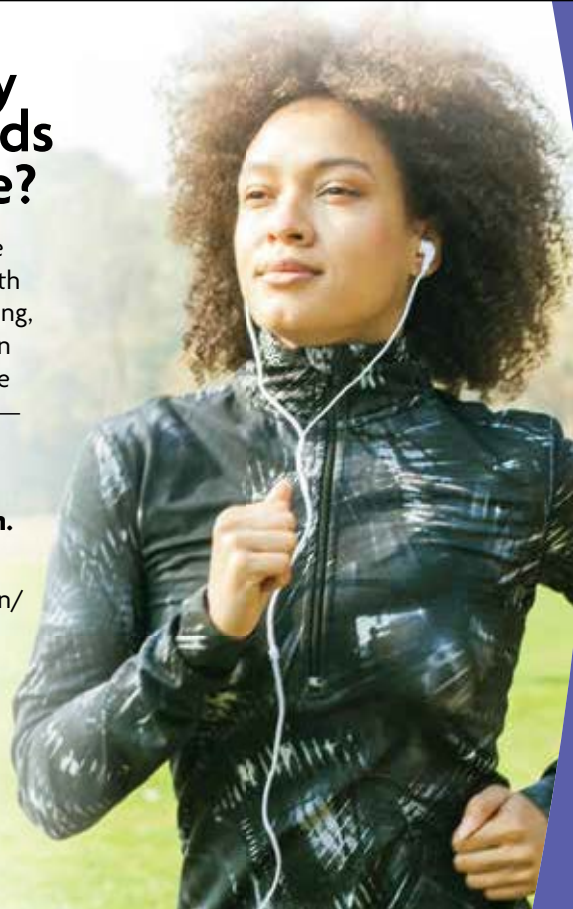


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# FROM THE PILE

## 10 small-sized woody shrubs for Zone 8

Here on the border of Arlington and Alexandria we straddle the 7b-8a hardiness zones. From suburban McLean and Falls Church above the fall line, to Old Town Alexandria, we can see as much as a 4-6 week difference in frost-free dates along with significantly warmer temperatures in our urban heat islands.

This list of a few small-sized native woody plants that are commonly found in or suitable for USDA Hardiness Zone 8 will do well for you and most have extensive write-ups on the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia *Tried and True Plants for the Mid-Atlantic* list online.



*Itea virginica* *Virginia sweetspire* 'Henry's Garnet' at the Glen Carlyn Library Demonstration Garden. Photo by Elaine Mills.

- **Dwarf yaupon holly** (*Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana'): this native evergreen shrub stays small and compact, making it a good choice for small gardens or as a low hedge. For a funky and distinctive upright version of this try weeping yaupon holly (*I. vomitoria* f. *Pendula*).
- **Dwarf palmetto** (*sabal minor*): a native palm that forms small clumps and is well-suited to Zone 8 climates. For a bit of the tropics in very protected locations.
- **Sweet Pepperbush, Summersweet** (*Clethra alnifolia*): a pollinator magnet that naturalizes readily in shady, damp places as well as coastal landscapes. Prefers wetter soils.
- **Dwarf Fothergilla** (*Fothergilla gardenia*): native to southeastern coastal areas, Dwarf Fothergilla shines three seasons of the year.
- **Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*): this species has bird friendly berries and good fall color.
- **Native Azaleas** (*Rhododendron* spp.): there are

several native azalea species that are well-suited to Zone 8, such as the Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*). Be sure to mind the pH of the soil for these.

- **Dwarf Wax Myrtle** (*Morella pumila*): a compact version of the native Wax Myrtle, this shrub provides aromatic foliage and berries that attract birds.
- **Virginia Sweetspire** (*Itea virginica*): a deciduous, spreading shrub with fragrant white flowers and excellent fall foliage color. Also found at entrance to Fairlington Community Center.
- **Lil' Ditty viburnum** (*Viburnum cassinoides*): a good replacement for your hydrangeas that hate our heat and drought.
- **Sugar Shack® Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*): this plant has very cool flowers and prefers wetter soils.

—Kirsten Ann Conrad

Kristen is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Arlington County and the city of Alexandria. The Cooperative Extension offices are located in the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St.

### *Tips and Tricks for Making the Most of your Landscape!*

- For optimal plant performance choose plants that are suitable for your site conditions instead of planning to change your soil or light levels.
- "Full Sun" equals 8+ hours per day and the difference between "Part Sun" or "Part Shade" is huge depending on whether you have afternoon or morning shade. If you aren't sure what you have, do a home sun study.
- Changing soil chemistry is hard. Know your soil's pH level and drainage capacity BEFORE choosing a plant.
- Plant with a goal of having 70 percent of your landscape in native plants
- Group plants that like similar growing conditions together.

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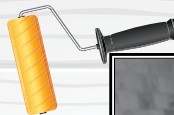


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—Mary Thomasson,  
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afternoon pick-up times. Baker shared that this type of intersection is difficult to address with safety measures, in part because the intersection experiences high traffic volumes primarily during only two times per day and has normal volume throughout the other times of day.

Arlington police have occasionally been monitoring that intersection to improve safety during peak school use hours.

Baker encouraged residents and FCA members to report concerns to Arlington County to help with data tracking and to potentially request an evaluation of the reported area by county staff.

In addition to the Vision Zero presentation, the ACPD Community Engagement Division had officers on hand to answer questions. One question posed to ACPD was regarding school crossing guards for Abingdon Elementary. ACPD shared that current demand and staffing only allows for one crossing guard located at the school crossing on 31st St. (near Park Shirlington).

ACPD informed residents and the FCA that more crossing guards are needed and interested residents are welcome to apply. ACPD noted there are currently 21 crossing guards to serve 23 schools and 35 crossings. More information about school crossing guards and how to apply can be found on the Arlington Public Schools website (<https://www.apsva.us/transportation-services/school-crossing-guards/>).



*Many residents have complained about the lack of adherence to stop signs and crosswalks, especially during school hours. Photo by Guy Land.*

Baker reported that the county plans to deploy cameras in some school zones, but she cautioned that these would not be deployed at all schools. Instead, they would be rotated among school zones. “We don’t know the locations yet,” she said. The program calls for 10 cameras.

The county is currently negotiating over a potential vendor, with the goal of being able to implement the program later this fall.

More information about the school zone retrofit process can be found on the Arlington Vision Zero website (<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Vision-Zero/Tools-and-Guidelines#section-3>).

FCA plans to continue working with county staff, ACPD, the Abingdon PTA, and interested residents in an effort to reduce the risk of accidents in the community.

—Todd Delp

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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

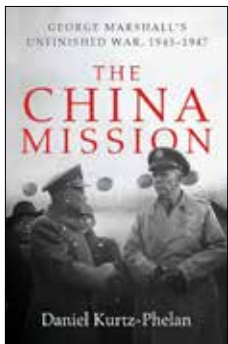
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In September, we enjoyed trivia night at Clyde's in Mark Center, despite our less-than-stellar score.

Thursday, October 19, 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 Thursday, which is Smokehouse night. The rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 not later than 24 hours in advance 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 China Mission: George Marshall's Unfinished War 1945-1947*, by Daniel Kurtz-Phelan. We will meet Tuesday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

*"Kurtz-Phelan has written a marvelous narrative about General George Marshall's valiant effort to bring Chiang*

*Kai-shek and Mao Zedong together at the end of WW II. ... It draws the reader into the life of a truly great American, reminding us of a different time in America's odyssey when a sense of modesty, service to mankind, and duty to country were enthroned and esteemed."* —Orville Schell, Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations

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.

## Second attempt at movie night

Sporadic showers and a muddy field caused FCA to cancel September's Family Movie Night. But plans are underway to try again at the same location (FCC field) on Saturday, October 14.

The movie is still *Encanto*, but showtime will be 6:30 p.m., which is roughly sunset time that day.

FCA is still nailing down all the details, so the date and time are tentative. Check FCA's Facebook page closer to the date to confirm the plans.

## 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>.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Discussion Group

The FCA Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosts a monthly article discussion group. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center to discuss an article on a DEI topic.



This month we will be discussing "Creating Communities that Help Support Neurodiverse Children" on Wednesday, October 18 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join, even if you don't read the article. For a link to the article, please scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Redway at [lydia.redway@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.redway@gmail.com).

Shopping will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

# Mini-ads

*Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.*

## Services

**VIOLIN LESSONS:** Classically trained violinist teaching Suzuki and traditional violin lessons in Parkfairfax. Kids & adults, all levels welcome! Individual or partner lessons. [www.annaweddington.com](http://www.annaweddington.com), 859-948-4765 for more info.

**WELLNESS with MOORE THAN YOGA offers:** Yoga, Meditation, Breathing Techniques, Infant/Children's Massage, Reflexology, Reiki & more. Private session or create a class. [www.moorethanyoga.com](http://www.moorethanyoga.com). 703-671-2435.

**IRS ENROLLED AGENT** can prepare your individual, business, amended and prior year income tax returns, and respond to IRS and state tax letters. Bookkeeping services also available. Flexible time and place appointments. Please visit [www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com](http://www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com) for more information or call Christine at 703-407-7545 or email: [christine.atb3@gmail.com](mailto:christine.atb3@gmail.com).

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**NEED A BABYSITTER?** Contact Katelyn: responsible, experienced, and Red Cross Certified high school student. Rates start at \$5/hour. Please text 703-201-3847.

## Home Improvements

**JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS:** Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turnaround time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

**IS THERE A FIRE HAZARD IN YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM?** Dryer vent hoses in Fairlington homes need to be inspected regularly to ensure they are clear from accumulated lint, which can cause fire. Often, the whole system needs to be cleaned out, and in some cases, replaced entirely. Call Juan today for a free inspection 703-307-4022 or [angelvillanueva33@gmail.com](mailto:angelvillanueva33@gmail.com).

**HARDTIMES HANDYMAN SERVICES.** Home and office repair, rental maintenance, painting, drywall repair, pressure washing, minor electrical and plumbing, to do lists and more. Free estimates, fair pricing and friendly service. Since 2008. Fairlington references available. Tim Miles cell 443-995-3825. Please, no texts. [timmiles74@gmail.com](mailto:timmiles74@gmail.com).

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**ODD JOBS.** Help for all your "odd-job" home needs is back in town for the season. Renovations, repairs & all sorts of odd jobs such as painting, handrail installations, closet build-outs... hanging pictures, small carpentry projects, dry-wall repair and many other miscellaneous items. I'm a retired remodeling contractor / civil engineer available for free estimates, advice & quality work. Call or text David @ 703-732-1534 or e-mail: [dacdac3027@gmail.com](mailto:dacdac3027@gmail.com). A Fairlington resident with many local references.

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## MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

**Email:** [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com)

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

**Drop Box Location:** Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

**Cost:** 50 cents per word.

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



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