All Fairlington Newsletter

President's Message

October 2026

Last month, the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) welcomed officials from Arlington County's Board of Elections. We were briefed on how the County is working to ensure our elections remain secure, safe, and smooth. Early voting is now underway. Your voice matters, as does your vote, particularly on local issues.

Your voice matters here in Fairlington as well. FCA will be hosting County staff and County Board member Maureen Coffey at our Wednesday, October 14, monthly meeting to kick off a community engagement process regarding the future of former Fire Station 7. This is almost exactly eight years from the date it was closed. Join us or write to us to share your thoughts.

On a lighter note, but keeping on the voice theme… FCA is hosting its second Open Mic event on October 10 at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We'd love to see and, more importantly, hear you there!

—Jenn Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org

Photo by Guy Land.

FCA Briefing by County Staff on Fire Station 7's Future

After several years of requests and follow-up, FCA is pleased to welcome Arlington County staff to Fairlington to receive information on the next steps to determine former Fire Station 7's (aka "The Little House") future. Earlier this year, the building was decommissioned. County Board member Maureen Coffey has assisted in this process. County staff will attend the Wednesday, October 14, monthly meeting at the Fairlington Community Center at 7 p.m. in Room 118.

Built in the 1940s, Fire Station 7 was the County's only one-bay station, and the only station where the apparatus bay was located above a lower level. The weight of engines

were one of the responders to the September 11 attack on the Pentagon.

—Jenn Davies

From left to right: Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections; Dominick Schirripa, Electoral Board Secretary; and Tannia Griffin, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, Office of Voter Registration & Elections. Photo by Jenn Davies.

Election Information for Fairlington Voters

At FCA's September meeting, Arlington County election officials briefed residents on the November 3 election, including ranked-choice voting for the County Board race, election security, and voting by mail.

What to know:

- **Check your information:** Use Virginia's Citizen Portal to register, verify your information, or apply to vote by mail.
- **Review your ballot:** The sample ballot includes state constitutional amendments and Arlington County bond issues.

- **Vote Nov. 3:** Residents north of I-395 vote at Abingdon Elementary School; those south of I-395 vote at Fairlington Community Center.

Why it matters: Officials urged residents to rely on accurate election information. “It’s really hard to control disinformation on social media,” Electoral Board Secretary Dominick Schirripa said.

—Jenn Davies

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October Events Calendar

Interested in having your event included? Email afbeditors@yahoo.com

Outdoor Movie Night
Saturday, October 3, dusk (around 7 p.m.)
Fairlington Community Center field

Fairlington Diners
Saturday, October 10, noon
Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria (703) 998-6616
If you plan to attend, please email carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com at least 24 hours in advance so she can reserve the appropriate size table. To receive these notices early in the previous month, email Carol to be added to the list.

Fairlington Community Center

FCA Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center, Room 118

Fairlington Fall Pet Festival
Saturday, October 17, 1–5 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center terrace

Fairlington Book Group
Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center, Room 103
The group will discuss *The Day the World Came to Town: 9/11 in Gander, Newfoundlan*d by Jim DeFede. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

Halloween
Saturday, October 31, dusk
Fairlington's favorite holiday! Who will have the best decorations and costumes? We'll try to recap some photos next month.

Fairlington Grandmas Group
Calling all grandmothers—whether or not you have grandchildren currently living in the neighborhood. The group meets monthly, and sometimes more often, for happy hours, coffees, theater outings, and other social activities. For more information, contact Peggy Jondahl at pjondahl@gmail.com.

Fairlington Moms Looking for support, play opportunities for kids or a chance to connect with other moms? The club offers playgroups, family events, moms' nights out, meal trains and other support, plus a classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group. All moms are welcome! Email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for more information.

Fairlington Open Mic: The Sequel

FCA's second open mic event is coming to the Fairlington Community Center on Saturday, October 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. Please come join us! Want to perform? Email thomaskeith87@gmail.com to sign up for a slot.

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Movie Night on October 3 at the Fairlington Community Center Field

Couldn't make it last month? No worries! The threat of rain caused us to reschedule to Saturday, October 3. See the flyer for details. Fairlington Movie Night is proudly sponsored by Kay Houghton & Associates.

Fairlington to Host First-Ever Pet Festival

Fairlington is going to the dogs, and cats! Creative Impact Partners invites animal lovers to the free event on the Fairlington Community Center terrace on Saturday, October 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. The festival will feature seven animal rescue and shelter organizations, vendors, family activities, pet photography, live music, and more. A special Blessing of the Animals will take place at 1:30 p.m., followed by live music from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn more about the Fairlington Pet Festival.

Snow Buddies

Be a Snow Hero! When snow season hits, some of our most vulnerable neighbors aren't able to clear snow from their property, possibly preventing them and other pedestrians from traveling safely.

You can make a meaningful difference this winter through the pilot Snow Buddies Program through Volunteer Arlington and the County. Volunteers will be paired with neighbors who are older adults or homebound to help with snow removal.

Volunteer interest can be submitted through Friday, October 9. Learn more.

Photo by Guy Land.

Stumbling Stones Dedication at Fairlington Community Center

On Sunday, September 27, community members braved the weather to honor an

rendition of the spiritual “We Shall Overcome.” County Board member Susan Cunningham and Commonwealth’s Attorney Parisa Dehghani-Tafti were also in attendance. Jessica Kaplan from the Arlington Historical Society recognized Fairlington’s commitment to the initiative. Former NPR host and journalist Michele Norris, who introduced the program nationally, also attended to help observe the occasion. Dan Burd from the Fairlington Historical Society led a walking tour around the community center, highlighting aspects of what life might have been like in the late 18th century. More stumbling stone dedication ceremonies will be planned in 2027.

FHS' Dan Burd with journalist Michele Norris. Photo by Sharon Burd.

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Farmers Market

Fall Fun

Cool and crisp weather, colorful fall produce, pumpkins, gourds, and cider are sure signs it's time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market! Join us for free community events throughout October and our Halloween special event on Sunday, November 1. Show off your costume, do a craft, and talk with our

Farmers Market on Facebook, and subscribe to the weekly newsletter at www.field2table.org for updates.

Free Community Events –
October 4: Live music by The Two Peas; Fairlington Citizens Association; Just Move with Joy; Alexandria Schoolhouse; Active and Connected Family Therapy
October 11: Live music by John Kamman; Illuminate Montessori School; Henna by Houda
October 18: Live music by Patrice Olivon; Go Bananas Dancing
October 25: Live music by Pete Erikson; Art Cart
November 1: Field to Table's Jack-o-Looza!

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. through November 22.

Special thanks to returning sponsors Active & Connected, FCA, Fairlington Dental, Fairlington United Methodist Church, and Kay Houghton & Associates.

Parking is available on S. Utah St., S. 32nd Rd., in the community center parking lot, or on Quaker Ln. Please avoid parking directly in front of residences across from the community center. Dogs are not permitted, except for service animals.

—Charlotte Terry

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Fairlington maple in the fall. Photo by Sue Davis.

For the Love of Nature

The Gift of Leaves

When Native American storyteller Duane Hollow Horn Bear's son asked why a quaking aspen tree was used in the Sun Dance ceremony, Duane explained that the tree talks to us. The aspen leaves make sound to disperse negativity. His son listened, but heard nothing. Duane suggested he listen with his heart.

his boy, “Leaves Protect Him.”

Plants, and especially trees, have leaves that shade us, make food for the tree, and give us oxygen. In the fall, they drop their leaves, which decay and return nutrients to the soil. It’s really amazing.

Leaves, which most of us work hard to make disappear, are a gift from the tree. Consider letting the leaves rest on your patio garden this winter. You will be rewarded in the spring.

—*Sue Davis*

Reach Fairlington Customers with a Business Ad

Looking to connect with customers right here in Fairlington? Advertising in the *All Fairlington Newsletter* puts your business in front of an engaged, hyperlocal audience of residents who live, shop, and seek services in the community. Your advertising also supports the Fairlington Citizens Association and its work in the community.

Space is limited each month. View advertising options and rates.
Email fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com to inquire and reserve.

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