

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Volume 42, Number 9

I-395 HOT Lanes front and center at September FCA meeting

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A stretch of I-395 shown from the S. Abingdon St. bridge. Photo by Bob Bradley.

At the September meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association, representatives of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Transurban will conduct a briefing on the latest information about the proposed I-395 HOT Lanes project.

The meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, September 12, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, will take primary focus on possible noise issues and remedies—such as sound barriers—and proposals for traf-

fic flow contingencies at S. Eads St., according to Michael McGurk, a senior corporate relations associate at Transurban, the private partner charged with constructing and overseeing the project.

Other aspects of the project will also be discussed, and residents are encouraged to bring questions and concerns to the meeting.

"It will be important for folks to come out (to the meeting)," McGurk said. "And we want to get information out to people in the community."

McGurk will be in attendance, in addition to Transurban's Vice President of Corporate Relations Eric Sutton. It is also expected that VDOT will be represented by Amanda Baxter, VDOT special projects development manager; Susan Shaw, Megaprojects director for the agency; and Michelle Holland, director of Megaprojects communications for VDOT.

The HOT Lanes project, given the green light late in 2015, is designed to significantly reduce congestion in the I-395 corridor, increasing capacity along the route by adding an additional HOV lane to make three reversible lanes.

The project, slated to begin in the spring of 2017, with a target opening date of spring 2018, will begin where the current I-95 HOT Lanes end in Alexandria and continue eight miles north to the D.C. line. The additional lane would be added within the existing highway right of way.

Continued on page 7

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

FCA monthly meeting September 12

Special presentation: VDOT and Transurban representatives will provide an update on the proposed I-395 HOT Lanes project.

Regular board business:

- Approval of August minutes
- Office reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:



Find more information on the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.

Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Global Thinking, Alexandria, VA, www.globalthinking.com.

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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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Calendar

Labor Day holiday

Monday, September 5

First day of school

Tuesday, September 6

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, September 10, 12:45 pm
McCormick & Schmick's
National Harbor

FCA monthly meeting

Monday, September 12, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Club

Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, September 29, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St.
Alexandria

A talk in the park



Arlington County landscape architect Aaron Wohler, left, discusses the proposed playground changes with Fairlington parents at a meeting at the park in August. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Dana Andy, Lynne Blasi, Alana Ceesay, Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fairlington is enriched by a diverse assortment of community groups, formal and informal, that tap the varied interests of our residents and contribute in multiple ways to the quality of life that makes this such a great place to live.

The Fairlington Historical Society seeks to increase our knowledge of the history and heritage of our neighborhood. Its signature event, the popular biannual Home and Garden Tour, is slated for next spring. Building on last year's success, this fall the FCA and the historical society will host another Fairlington History Walk.

The Fairlington MOMS Club, a membership affiliate of an international organization, affords Moms (and Dads) the opportunity to share experiences and enjoy group activities. The spring and fall consignment sales are its major community-wide events, but the MOMS network marshals resources across the neighborhood, and it provides a voice for parents on local issues, such as the planned renovation of the Fairlington Park and playground.

Fairlingtonians' interest in plants can be seen in the significant number of Master Gardeners and TreeStewards that live in Fairlington. Both groups are supported by the Virginia Cooperative Extension office in the Fairlington Community Center. Fairlington's Master Gardeners have led the effort to expand the number of neighborhood rain gardens and secured Audubon at Home designation for a portion of North Fairlington. FCA has relied on our Master Gardeners and TreeStewards to host spring and fall plant tours. Another one is scheduled for October.

The Fairlington Farmers Market Committee guided the creation of the farmers market, vetting potential vendors and navigating the permitting process. Each week they welcome shoppers to the market and ensure that it is meeting our residents' needs. They've made this an important asset for the community.

Fairlington's interest in education matters is reflected in the Abingdon PTA, which for the last several years has been led by Fairlington residents.

Then there are the more informal groups. Each month the Fairlington Diners gather to check out local restaurants, while participants in the monthly Book Group meetings to share insights on leading works of fiction and non-fiction. And there is the loose network on dog owners, who are often known more by the names of their pets.

History, plants, food, books, kids, pets—whatever your interest, there's a Fairlington group for you.

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

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Arlington County staff outlines plans for Fairlington Park improvements



Preserving standard swings at the playground is a priority for a number of parents. Photos by Guy Land.

Sand, swings, and slides are the things users of the Fairlington Park playground are most interested in, Arlington County landscape architect Aaron Wohler told a group of roughly 50 residents in a briefing on the playground August 7. Wohler is coordinating the plans for overall improvements to the park, which is located behind the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford St.

In addition to changes at the playground, the plans include improvements to the walking track and the exercise area, as well as enhanced storm water management. Wohler was joined at the weekend meeting by Wilfredo Calderon, community relations manager in the Department of Parks and Recreation, and Peter Lusk, the facilities and operations unit manager in the department.

A number of Fairlington residents had expressed concern about an earlier draft of the plans, and the August 7 meeting was designed to encourage broader participation in the discussion and to update residents on revisions that have been made. Another briefing for the community is scheduled for September 15 at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center.

Recognizing the popularity of sand, swings, and slides, Wohler said that the plans would maintain key aspects of each of these. While the size and location of the sand area may change, he assured the group that there would still be a sand play area. He also noted that he had heard the community's interest in preserving standard swings, and the revised plans would have both "bucket" swings

for younger children and standard swings. Similarly, there would be a slide component to the playground.

He also highlighted the proposed rope climbing element, noting that it was safe, promoted the development of motor skills, offered greater variety for play options, and was a good way for children to interact with each other. He suggested that parents who had concerns about rope climbing should check out the one in Rocky Run Park on N. Barton St.

Wohler said the playground would generally be divided into two areas, one for children ages 2 to 5, and another for those ages 5 to 12. Some members of the audience emphasized the importance of meeting the needs of two- and three-year-olds.

During the discussion, some participants asked to have more equipment for children under age two, noting particularly that there's a morning class at the community center for one-year-olds and two-year-olds. Wohler said



Residents had an opportunity to examine drawings of the proposed playground improvements.

that the county doesn't design playgrounds for children under age two. "We're not putting in a day care center," he said.

Wohler cautioned that a number of components of the playground might need to be relocated to help preserve the trees on the site. "We want to preserve the tree canopy," he said, adding that that means key elements will need to be outside the drip line of the trees. He also stated that a few existing trees are already planned for

Continued on page 27



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Progress reported on installation of Verizon FiOS in Fairlington

Each Fairlington condominium and homeowners association finds itself in different stages of the implementation of Verizon FiOS.

Each of the seven condo associations has put pen to paper authorizing, at the very least, engineering studies that allow Verizon to figure the best way to hook up residents to the high-speed internet and television technology.

The Arbor has completed a signed Premises Access License (PAL), has approved a Detailed Engineering Design (DED), and has signed off on Verizon's DED checklist.

A Verizon contractor was to begin installing gray 1.25-inch PVC pipes at the base of Arbor backyard fences on Monday, August 15. The pipes will carry FiOS cables from the rear fence in the backyard fence to the rear wall of the unit/building.

There will be one pipe per unit. Also, a Verizon contrac-



Verizon technicians are slowly but surely heading Fairlington's way.

Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

tor was to begin installing the red-brick colored vertical conduit that will carry FiOS cables to the Arbor's second story B-Units.

The Arbor asked for more detail on the installation schedule and was awaiting the information. Verizon has told the Arbor it expected to "turn the system on" in the first quarter of 2017.

The Glen received the countersigned PAL from Verizon on August 11.

The Mews signed the final approval in late July and was waiting for Verizon to begin digging.

In the Villages, Verizon surveyed the site on July 14, but the condo had not heard back from the company as of publication of this *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

Fairlington Green has signed the PAL, and it was submitted to Verizon in June, a Green representative said. It has not yet received a countersigned agreement.

—Bob Bradley

I-395 HOT Lanes, continued from page 1

Unlike the I-395 proposal several years ago, no additional land will be required for the project. The earlier proposal had called for a major revamping and expansion of the Shirlington Circle, but there are no proposed changes to the circle in this proposal.

At a special FCA meeting in March about the project, many residents expressed concern over the possible increase in noise along the eight-mile stretch of highway.

VDOT is conducting a study of the possible noise impact; McGurk said preliminary results should be available by the September 12 meeting. An environmental impact study is also underway, and formal results of both are expected to be ready for public hearings on the project on October.

VDOT will also talk about possible solutions to noise impacts, such as sound barriers. At the March FCA meeting, Baxter said that residents who live within 500 feet of the VDOT right of way who are "impacted and benefited" would vote on whether they wanted sound barriers. Baxter also noted that it will be the individual

residents, and not their condo associations or the civic association, who will vote on the barriers.


As for traffic flow, McGurk said there will be simulations and maps available for public consumption at the September 12 meeting, with a keen eye toward S. Eads St.

McGurk said the basic concept in that area is using dual reversible ramps, which would be used to divert traffic, depending on which direction motorists are traveling, whether to the Pentagon or Army-Navy Drive. The ramps would be reversed for morning and afternoon traffic.

Also being looked at is signalization along S. Eads St. under I-395. McGurk and he said work is being done on a concept to signalize S. Rotary Rd., as well as redirecting the flow of traffic for buses. The Department of Rail and Public Transit is also heavily involved, informing the public where funds generated through tolls would be directed.

The next date to circle on the calendar will be in October, when environmental impact and noise studies will be completed and more public hearings and briefings are expected to be scheduled.

—Bob Bradley



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September will bring mix of construction and learning at Abingdon

Fairlington residents will confront the reality of the Abingdon School construction when school resumes in early September. Changes will include a new route to the school, students using portable classrooms, and reserved school parking in the North Fairlington Community Center parking lot.

Access to the school for bus and parent pickup and dropoff will now be via a new route through the temporary parking lot on the site of the former playing field. Ten cars at a time will be permitted to pick up or drop off students. For at least the first several days of the school year, Arlington Public Schools (APS) expects to have staff available to help direct parents as they navigate the new route.

The changes could initially create additional backups at the intersection of Abingdon and 29th Streets. APS hopes to have people with flags directing traffic at that intersection during peak before- and after-school hours, at least until new traffic patterns have been established.

In August, a traffic backup occurred at that intersection when a large truck carrying oversized storm water management equipment tried to navigate the turn down to the construction site. APS officials estimate that the intersection was blocked for 15 to 20 minutes until the truck had maneuvered its way to the proper location.

During July and August, the entire school site was closed to the public, but when students return after Labor Day, the property will be both a school and an active construction site. This will be the case throughout the coming school year.

To accommodate renovation work inside the school, the first-, second-, third-, and fourth- grades will be relocated to the classroom trailers that are located on the playing field. Kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, and fifth-grade classes, as well as special programs, will continue to be inside the building.

Under an agreement with the Fairlington Villages condo association, eight parking spaces in the parking lot next



An architectural drawing of what the front of Abingdon Elementary School will look like after construction is completed. Drawing courtesy of Arlington Public Schools.

to the condo community center will be reserved for APS parking during school days. The restricted spaces, four on each side of the lot, will be clearly marked. These spaces will not be available to residents or the public during school hours.

During the construction period, new taller temporary street lights will be installed along 29th St. These will be 30-feet high, compared to the normal 16 feet. These lights are a county requirement, and they will be

removed once construction is completed. Residents in the area may notice a significant difference between the temporary lights and the regular ones.

—Guy Land

For questions about the activities of the construction general contractor, contact Renee Adams Cooper, 202-510-6213, radams@heery.com.

Northern Alexandria native plant sale September 24

What: Find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade! A dozen or more vendors from four states (VA, MD, PA, & WV) will be hosted at this event, the largest native plant sale in the DC metro region!

When: Saturday, September 24, from 9 am to 2 pm

Where: The parking lot of The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane.

Vendors are listed on the sale website at www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org. The sale is entirely organized and run by volunteers. Questions? Contact Scott Knudsen at 571-232-0375 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.

Behind the scenes at the Farmers Market

It's been a great summer for the Fairlington Farmers Market, and the approach of fall means vendors will soon bring the seasonal fruits and vegetables we love to eat and cook with as the temperature falls. The market is open through November 20, so you have plenty of time to shop and enjoy the fall harvest! Each week the market e-newsletter tells you what the vendors are bringing that week and provides inspiration for meal planning; sign up to receive it at the market information table or at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

When the market opens at 9 a.m. on Sundays, the first stop for many shoppers is Café Los Sueños. Carlos Payes, co-founder of this specialty coffee roastery with a social mission, tells his story and why it's so important for him to share his company's success with the hard-working coffee communities who bring us our daily cup.



Carlos Payes, co-founder of Café Los Sueños, has been around coffee his entire life, qualifying him as a coffee expert. Photos in spread by Guy Land.

Q. How long have you been in the coffee industry, and how did you come up with the name of your company?

A. I've been around coffee all my life. I grew up farming and planting, and I always wanted to be part of the coffee industry in another way, like roasting or owning a café. I've been roasting for three years. When I moved to the United States I had the opportunity to save enough money to buy a farm in El Salvador, plant coffee, buy roasting equipment, get trained and do research, and then get started. The name of my company, Café Los Sueños, means hope and it means dreams.

Q. Where are you from?

A. I am from El Salvador; I grew up in the mountains

about two hours from the city, with no running water or electricity. The nearest house was about 25 minutes away.

Q. As a child, did you think you would achieve your dream of owning your own business?

A. My family was one of the poorest families in the village, so there were moments that it seemed so impossible. There were huge obstacles. I started school but had to leave to help my father farm, because we also grew our own food like corn, beans, rice, and vegetables. When I went back several years later, it was hard to adjust and I felt embarrassed because I was the oldest one in the class. But I finished and went to high school in the city, which was a hard transition from the mountains, and the country to the city. It was hard to make friends, and I had to travel an hour each way. After that, I had the opportunity through a friend to come to the United States, and that's where my dreams started coming true.

Q. Why is it important for you to help others through your business?

A. Helping my family, that's one of my biggest things. I also want to help others, so I donate some money from sales at the market and coffee tin donations to help schools in Guatemala through a non-profit organization, Pueblo a Pueblo (www.puebloapueblo.org).

Q. How long have you been running your company?

A. Three years. My wife and I run the business, but she has a job which keeps her busy, and we have a 10-month-old son. She does the social media, and I do the roasting, farmers markets, and deliveries. The first year we started selling at the farmers market in Glover Park, the second year we started the Fairlington market late in the year and developed our website so people can buy online. We also set up a subscription service and I deliver the coffee ordered. I love being here because I love being around the farmers. We also got an account in a coffee shop in Baltimore. Our next step is to upgrade to a large roaster and better computer system, and open our own storefront.

Q. Do you love what you do?

A. Yes, I love it. This was my dream and this is the only thing I want to do. I select the coffee, order the samples and roast them, and decide which coffees are the perfect fit for us. We want to offer quality and the best coffee. I

like all of our coffees—they all have their own characteristics, depending on how you roast them. I mostly like medium roasted coffee.

Meet Aisha Salazar, Market Manager



Every Sunday, Aisha Salazar helps set up and break down the market—and performs just about every task in between.

Aisha Salazar's passion for food and good nutrition is reflected in everything she does, from her work to her volunteer activities. In her first year as market manager, she talks about her role and commitment to helping people lead healthier lives.

Q. What do you do as the onsite manager?

A. I take care of day-of operations, which includes set-up and take-down of the market, managing volunteers, and making sure everything runs smoothly. So far I've kept tents from flying and brought a lot of rain! I also serve as a liaison of sorts between Field to Table (the nonprofit that oversees the market), customers, vendors, and the market committee. I've also been working on the weekly e-newsletter and brainstorming some ideas for the fall.

Q. What do you like most about this job, and about the market?

A. I like meeting new people and interacting with the farmers, bakers, and producers, which is why I wanted to do the e-newsletter. I'm hoping to provide more information about their backgrounds, as it obviously influences what they do and how they grow or make food. I also get to see what's in season and learn new ways to cook foods I may not always be familiar with, which I can apply to my regular job. As for the market, it has a great community feeling about it. Everyone's friendly and I get a kick out of toddlers running around in cute rain boots! I love that I run into people I know from different areas of my life (friends from high school, college, work, volunteering). But I'd like to know more about the

customers and why they come to the market. And I love the food! One of my goals was to gain experience in all aspects of the food industry, and managing a market was on my list.

Q. Why do you think it's important for people to shop at farmers markets?

A. For some farmers or small businesses, their livelihood depends on markets, so it's important to support them as they're starting out. It's a great way to stay connected to our food and understand where or how it's grown and how climate affects our food. It's easy to forget these things when shopping in a grocery store. And markets make produce accessible to people who don't live near a grocery store.

Q. Where do you work?

A. I'm the cooking and nutrition coordinator at the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), and the main goal of my job is to encourage families to eat healthy, try new foods, and learn easy ways to prepare the food they receive through AFAC. A lot of folks are from different parts of the world and have never had certain fruits and

Market vendors support AFAC



Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) volunteer Rick Morris picks up donated produce from market vendor Pleitez Farms.

If you're at the market near closing time, you may see volunteers from the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) collecting donations from vendors as part of their Plot Against Hunger Program. AFAC provides supplemental groceries free of charge to people living in Arlington who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs. In July, the market donated 1,178 pounds of food to AFAC. We thank our vendors for their generosity and support of the Arlington community. For more information, visit afac.org.



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vegetables, or can't always afford them, so I develop and often teach cooking and nutrition classes to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Q. What does a typical day look like?

A. I don't really have a typical day. I may clean in the morning, teach nursing students the lesson they will teach later in the day, prepare supplies for my classes, supervise the students as they teach classes, and wash a lot of dishes. Or I might have meetings, call people about a new program, develop training programs, and plan events. It's fun and there's never a dull moment!

Q. Where are you from, and what did you study in college?

A. I was born in D.C. to Ecuadorian parents and raised in Fairfax, and live in Parkfairfax. I received dual-degrees in biology and psychology with minors in Spanish and sociology. I also have an MS in biodefense/public health policy, which in some ways is related to what I'm doing now. I was pursuing a Ph.D. in food safety, and intend on finishing it, but took time off to figure out what I really want to write my thesis about.

Q. What are some of your hobbies?

A. Aside from spending time with family, anything to do with food, agriculture, science, learning, traveling,



Market volunteer Eliot Cruz-Kriviski and Cassidy Ricalde from Copperwood Tavern in Shirlington helped celebrate the start of Farmers Market Week with popcorn and restaurant gift cards. Photo by Guy Land.

and volunteering. I'm a Master Food Volunteer with Virginia Cooperative Extension, serve on several food-related working groups, and volunteer with Alexandria's Emergency Preparedness program and am a Community Emergency Response Team member.

—Lynne Blasi and Alana Ceesay



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With Zika now present in U.S., precaution becomes paramount

When Arlington County Health Director Dr. Reuben Varghese visited with the Fairlington Citizens Association in July to talk about the threat of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, there had yet to be a documented case of contraction of the disease in the continental United States.

That has changed.

As of the publication of the September *All Fairlington Bulletin*, the state of Florida has identified 25 cases—all in a section of Miami—while Texas attributed the

death of an infant in August to the disease. Those facts have sounded an even louder alarm for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), not to mention the Arlington County Health Department.

Public health officials maintain that outbreaks are likely to be limited to those two states and Hawaii, based on prior experience with similar viruses, but the threat is real. As Dr. Varghese said at the July FCA meeting, the key is to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes in the first place.

To date, there have been more than 500 cases of Zika in the continental United States. Florida is currently the only state where the virus has been spreading locally.

For pregnant women, Zika can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects, as well as eye problems, hearing deficits, and impaired growth. Zika is commonly spread by mosquitoes and can also be contracted through sexual contact.

The CDC recommends that pregnant women not travel to areas with Zika, and that if they live in a Zika area to strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites and to prevent sexual transmission.

Arlington County, according to its website, is using a phased, risk-based response that includes public health interventions appropriate to the level of Zika virus risk in the community. The county's response is based on



The Zika virus is now in the continental United States, and the best way to avoid any mosquito-borne disease is take all precautions to not get bitten in the first place. Photo courtesy of Centers for Disease Control.

guidance from the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because Zika is a relatively new public health concern, the county believes it is prepared to be flexible and adapt its response as we learn more about the virus.

There are several resources residents can use to protect themselves from mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit. It is worth noting a few here, and more can be learned at arlingtonva.us by searching for "Zika."

- Use an effective repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Follow label directions.
- Make sure door and window screens are intact to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.
- Wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors. And don't forget socks!
- Drain all sources of standing water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps and flat roofs.
- Make sure that lids are placed securely on garbage cans.
- If the lid or cart is damaged and collecting water, request a cart repair by contacting 703-228-6570 or filling out the online "Report a Problem" form.
- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week. Turn over or remove containers in yards where rain-water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, boats, buckets, and toys.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly, and empty water from corrugated downspout extenders.

—Bob Bradley

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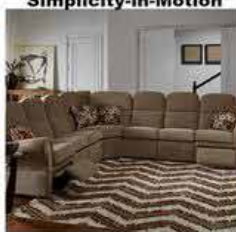


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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Patio magic carpet

Landscape designers refer to “outdoor rooms” or “vistas” when talking about an open outdoor space. In this “room” there can be carpeting, and it’s called ground cover.

Such ground covers are horizontal growers (by underground stolons). No ground cover plant grows much, vertically. Most stay eight inches or shorter. Thus, the carpet effect.

What’s wise about evergreen ground covers is they are low maintenance and provide 12-month interest. Pruning is seldom needed. Neither is dead-heading or fertilizing. Most have flowers to give this green carpet jewels to admire.

When planting ground cover in your patio, allow space for it to grow and mature. Try some different ground covers with open spaces between them. In this open area, spread fresh mulch twice a year. Let the ground cover grow just over the edge of the concrete patio for a softening effect. Sometimes, a little cutting here keeps the plant tidy while outlining the patio.

Below are ground covers you may purchase at any nursery:

Pachysandra: Grows about six to eight inches tall and will colonize. Its leaf has a scalloped edge. An ivory flower appears at the top of the stem in late April or early May. This plant prefers the shade of an understory (such as densely-foliated tree, be it tall or small). If pachysandra

grows in the sun, the leaves become lime-colored. In the shade, the leaves are a darker green. This may be the lowest-maintenance ground cover because if leaves fall on its carpet, they either lie on top of the plant or wiggle down between the stems and onto the ground—out of sight. This ground cover is thick and dense.

Liriope: This is also a perennial plant but cultivated en masse, becomes a thick green carpet. Liriope will reach 12 inches tall and its geyser-like foliage habit gives it a horizontal appearance. This evergreen plant bears purple, spiked flowers on thin stems from late July into September. It gets congested at the root, so in time, it can be dug out of the ground and split at the root ball. The divisions just become new plants for the landscape. There is some dieback with liriope. Long green leaf strands become brown but are easy to remove. In so doing, the plant looks healthier with nothing but green foliage.

Periwinkle: Offers a striking flower (size of a quarter) that is the color of its name. The plant’s leaf resembles a Japanese Holly or Boxwood—oval, shiny, and dark green. Periwinkle isn’t as dense as other ground covers so you will see the soil when looking down on the plant. That’s OK, just spread some mulch in these open areas to keep the look “fresh.”

Ajuga: This is an interesting plant due to its leaf. Each can be green, brown, or maroon. And it’s paddle-

shaped, curved, and glossy. Ajuga is a smallish plant so you need to plant a bunch of it to have a carpet effect. One idea is to situate some decorative stones in a pattern and then plant the Ajuga between the stones. Ajuga will colonize but not as rapidly as other ground covers. Usually, an Ajuga plant will stay in its place in a clumped fashion.



English ivy. Photo courtesy of USDA.

English Ivy: This may be the fastest-growing plant aside from bamboo. Yes, it will crawl everywhere, but with a little cutting here and there, it stays in its place. For some reason, nothing looks as handsome as a bed of dense ivy contained in a teardrop or circular-shaped bed. Like pachysandra, ivy “hides” fallen leaves. What doesn’t drop down to the ground will lie atop its carpet for easy removal. If you have a birdbath or figurine, situate it in the middle of ivy and it will look like it belongs there.

—Bill Sullivan
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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In August, we enjoyed the Fish Market in Old Town.

Here's what's planned for September:

Saturday, September 10, 12:45 pm. Lunch at McCormick & Schmick's at National Harbor. We'll plan to take the 12:45 pm water taxi from Alexandria, with lunch at 1:30 pm at McCormick & Schmick's. Round trip tickets for the water taxi are \$16, and may be purchased from the Potomac Riverboat Company, either at their office at Cameron and Union St. in Old Town, or online. We'll plan to head back later in the afternoon, probably on the 3:30 or 4:10 pm water taxi, which will give us time for a little shopping or a ride on the Capital Wheel (\$15 or \$13.50 seniors, plus taxes).

Thursday, September 29, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Thursday, when they offer a special on ribs with the purchase of any beverage. 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 an email to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in September to discuss *The Nightingale*, a novel by Kristin Hannah.

The author tells the story of two sisters in occupied France during World War II and the choices they have to make to survive. This book was originally chosen for our July meeting but has been rescheduled.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, September 27, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

Card players welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. No previous experience is necessary to enjoy this card game. We are happy to teach you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators Elizabeth Shea, and Monica and Jeremy Wedemann, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application

October dates to remember

The saying goes "All things must pass" and that, of course, includes summer.

So as we turn the pages on the calendar to the fall months, so we turn our attention to several Fairlington events on the docket in October.

Below are some dates to mark down:

October 1—North Fairlington Yard Sale
October 9 —Tree and plant walk
October 12 —Bus routes briefing
October 22 —History Walk
October 31 —Halloween festivities

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Faces of Abingdon as new school year kicks off



The Kim family. Photos by Jennifer Davies.

The Kim Family—Rebecca, Michael, Mia, Lorelei, and Alden: “We are so pleased with our daughters’ experiences at Abingdon. Lorelei (rising 2nd grader) and Mia (rising 4th grader) absolutely love going to school, in no small part because of the wonderful teachers and staff. The teachers are enthusiastic and nurturing and are always finding ways to support the students’ love of learning. We have particularly loved Abingdon’s Changing Education through the Arts (CETA) program and the Teachers College writing program. We are proud to be an Abingdon family and cannot wait for our youngest daughter, Alden, to start at Abingdon!”



The Gravelle family.

The Gravelle Family—Traci, Judd, Jameson, and Jackson: “Our children will start 1st and 5th grade this year. Since my older son entered kindergarten, Abingdon has been a fantastic experience. We so appreciate their teachers and enjoy being part of the PTA.”

Abingdon kicks off a new school year

It has been a productive summer of construction at Abingdon and the staff is busy making arrangements to welcome the students back to school. Parents and students are excited to return to school to explore the new relocatable classrooms and temporary gymnasium, and to see improvements already completed in the main building.

Abingdon has also unveiled a new website (<https://abingdon.apsva.us/>) with enhanced content, including a renovation blog. Families and the community can visit the website to learn more about Abingdon, the Project GIFT program, and the innovative Abingdon curriculum.

New PTA leadership takes the reins

Abingdon is pleased to welcome a new PTA Executive Board: Jeni Hornback, president; Rebecca Kennedy, vice president of fundraising; Nicole Knight, vice president of membership; Kim Mathis, treasurer; and Carrie Lewis, secretary. Past presidents Jen Davies and Andrew Vitols worked very hard to increase diversity within the PTA and provide support to teachers, parents, and the whole Abingdon community. The new board is looking

forward to continuing and building on these efforts to ensure a strong and thriving school community.

New staff joins the Abingdon family

We are excited to welcome these new teachers and staff to Abingdon: Blandine Liguidi, assistant principal; Debbie Staren-Doby, kindergarten assistant; Beth Romero, ESOL/HILT assistant; Maria Quihurango, special education assistant; Wendy Mastaler, math coach; Cassidy Nolan, technology coach; Luz Jaren, Spanish teacher; and Abigail Rember, Spanish teacher.

Mark your calendars

Back to School Picnic and Potluck, Monday, September 5, 12–2 pm. All Abingdon families, staff and alumni are invited back for our annual picnic on the Abingdon grounds. This is a great opportunity for students to see old friends and welcome new ones.

—Jennifer Davies and Carrie Lewis

Key Dates

First Day of School (K–5)—
Tuesday, September 6

First Day of School (Pre-K)—
Wednesday, September 7

Back to School Night —
Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 pm. Parents can meet staff and tour their child’s classroom. The Abingdon PTA will provide free babysitting.

September PTA Meeting—
Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 pm

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Animal Talk

Some questions and answers about raccoons

Back in early July, a special meeting was held on the subject of raccoons and how to reduce interactions between wildlife, pets, and people. At the end of the session, many residents asked pertinent questions. Some of the questions, answered by Senior Deputy Animal Control Officer Jennifer Toussaint and Director of Urban Wildlife at The Humane Society of the United States John Griffin, included:

1. **What doesn't animal control do?** We don't do nuisance removal from attics or other areas that require ladders due to safety risks.
2. **Can't you put out traps or cages?** No, the county will not remove an animal due to nuisance. This doesn't prevent the situation from occurring if the food source is not fixed. The population will just fill back up as long as the food supply exists; that's how the ecosystem works.
3. **Are fruit trees a problematic food source?** For every tree in Fairlington there are likely 500 bags of garbage. But it is not a bad idea to remove the waste that falls from the trees, as it is also a squirrel attractor.
4. **What are symptoms will a rabid raccoon display?** They look intoxicated—they are stumbling, incoherent. If rabies is suspected, the raccoon can be removed and euthanized at the officer's discretion.
5. **Is the frequency of raccoon attacks greater than in the past?** Yes, the number of attacks resulting in injury seems to have increased over the past five years. There were two last year.
6. **Do you work with Alexandria and other jurisdictions?** The AWLA has strong relationships with all neighboring jurisdictions, and has the authority to continue to pursue an animal into other areas as long as they let the jurisdictions know.
7. **If Fairlington fixes the trash problem, how long until the raccoon population decreases?** The raccoons will move to get a food source. It's hard to predict, but you can begin to see results in one season if the community is working together and being consistent in its deterrence.
8. **What about bird feeders?** People are allowed to feed the birds, but feeders create an open food source. It's best to clean up remains or put out less food.
9. **How many dens do raccoons maintain?** It's variable, but individual raccoons often use many dens of different types within a loosely defined home range of about two to four square kilometers.

—Christine Chirichella

Wakefield music program seeking donations

On Saturday, September 17, students from the Wakefield High School music department could be knocking on your Fairlington door in their annual door-to-door "TAG Day" campaign.

Wakefield band, orchestra, and chorus students will travel throughout South Arlington to collect much-needed funds for the school's music program. Last year, residents donated nearly \$20,000 to the program during TAG Day. Proceeds go toward the purchase and repair of instruments

and uniforms and proceeds help pay travel expenses for music festivals and competitions.

The Wakefield Marching Band also leads the annual Abingdon Elementary School Halloween parade through Fairlington in October.

When students visit homes, they will leave behind a brochure with information on the various music programs, including performance dates and concert information. If residents are not at home, students

leave behind a door "tag," which includes a brochure and envelope.

Monetary donations are welcome online at www.SupportWakefield-Music.org or via the mail at Wakefield High School, Attn: Music Department, 1325 S. Dinwiddie Street, Arlington, VA 22204. Donations of musical instruments are also welcome and appreciated; a receipt for your tax-deductible donation will be provided after appraisal.

—Dana Andy

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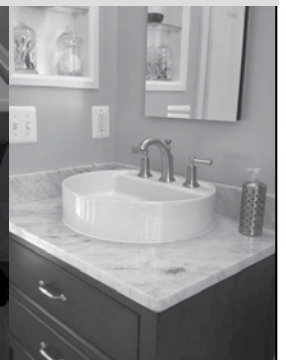
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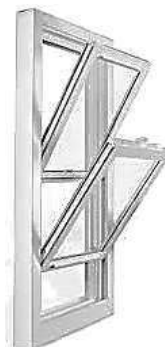
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removal because they are in declining health.

Because this will result on some of the playground equipment being more directly in the sun than it is now, the county will look at the use of umbrellas to provide more shade, particularly for the sand play area. But he warned that he would need to accommodate these kinds of improvements within the existing budget for the overall park plan.

Wohler noted that the playground will be handicapped accessible, with more of the equipment available for children with disabilities. Handicapped parking will likely be located closer to the playground entrance.

In addition to the playground improvements, Wohler pointed out that there would continue to be an exercise area in the park, roughly where it is currently located, but that it would get new equipment. The exercise equipment will be more like indoor exercise equipment, but it would be durable and designed for outside use. The walking track will be upgraded using a material that is more shock absorbent.

In August, FCA sent a letter to the Department of Parks and Recreation expressing its general support for improvements to the park, and noting the importance of meeting the needs of younger children and preserving standard swings. The letter encouraged the county to consider some form of staged construction so that the area would not be closed off for the full construction



Landscape architect Aaron Wohler reviews key elements of the playground as Wildredo Caleron, the community relations manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation, looks on. Photo by Guy Land.

period. FCA also stressed the importance of maintaining an exercise area, as well as designing an effective storm water management system. It also indicated the value of preserving tree canopy and using native plants wherever possible.

Based on feedback from the meeting and other communications from users, the county is revising and fleshing out the plans for the park. Construction is expected to begin next summer.

—Guy Land

Letter to the Editor

A huge “Thank You” to all the generous Fairlington families who supported the Bake Sale For No Kid Hunger on the morning of July 4.

Luckily the rain held off, a good time was had by all, and the raffle and bake sale was a big success! We raised \$1,916 to proudly send to the non-profit organization, Share Our Strength, which is dedicated to ending childhood hunger in this country.

Thank you to appreciated family and friends who volunteered to help set up and sell. Thank you to the Commons Council of Co-owners, who continue their yearly sponsorship of the event.

Thank you to the businesses who contributed to the bake sale and raffle baskets: Great Harvest Bread Com-

pany, Panera Bread Company, Atwaters Bakery, Acme Pie Co., Bonaparte Bread & Bakery, The Fresh Market, Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter, Trader Joe’s, Diversions Cards and Gifts, Fairlington Pizza, Greenstreet Gardens, Ramparts Tavern & Grill, and Carlyle.

—Cathy Malin

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

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COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767.

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Now is a good time to plant with the July & August humidity finally finished. Contact Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping for fall planting ideas. 571.213.9567 or billsullivan41@gmail.com.

Home Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS. NEW WEBSITE. www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

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Mini-ads

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A color version of this newsletter is available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.



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



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

For sale: Fairlington T-shirts

Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington T-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available.

To place your order: email president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

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•Braddock II

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For Sale **\$464,900**

3344 S. Wakefield St., #A

2BR/2BA

•Clarendon

Pat Shannon

571.237.4767



For Sale **\$280,000**

3460 S. Stafford St., #B2

1BR/1BA/1HB

•Modified Braddock

Barbara Kirkland

703.405.5920



Labor Day **Labor Day** **Labor Day** **Labor Day**

For Sale **\$324,700**

4715 S. 31st St., #B2

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•Staunton

Rob Chamberlain

202.486.5930



For Sale **\$350,000**

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2BR/2BA

•Hermitage

Bill Groom

703.283.2596



For Sale **\$369,000**

3059 S. Buchanan St., #C1

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Julie Flory and Joanne Ritchick

703.599.3111



Labor Day **Labor Day** **Labor Day** **Labor Day**

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1BR/1BA

•Fairfax

Lois Robinson

703.298.4881



For Sale **\$248,000**

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Alexandria, VA 22302

1BR/1BA

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As summer wanes and fall begins, we hope you enjoy a relaxing and safe Labor Day weekend with family, friends and neighbors. Labor Day is Monday, September 5, 2016

