

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

SEPTEMBER 2017

Volume 43, Number 9

Fairlington's first-ever outdoor movie night to be held September 8

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Bring your blankets, chairs, and favorite theater snacks to Fairlington's first-ever free family outdoor movie night Friday, September 8, for a screening of "The Princess Bride." A large screen will be set up behind the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) at 3308 S. Stafford St. for this early fall community gathering under the stars.

The movie is set to begin at sundown (around 8 pm), but those attending are encouraged to come early and create a picnic. Limited refreshments will be provided by FCA Board member Chris Weathers and The Reef Team at TTR Sotheby's International Realty—Arlington. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

Though there are floodlights behind the FCC, the further reaches of the field will be much darker when the movie ends around 9:45 pm. Residents are encouraged to bring flashlights, camping lanterns, or phones equipped with a flashlight setting to navigate their way home after the show.

There is plenty of space to set up with friends and family, and additional trash and recycling bins will be provided for your convenience. Please pick up your trash before you leave. As those who have attended other outdoor movie showings can attest, bug spray is always a good idea.

Subtitles will be provided throughout the film, which is approximately 98 minutes long.

Though we are hoping for a beautiful September evening, there is always a chance the event will have to be rescheduled because of inclement weather. In the event of cancellation, an announcement will be made on the FCA website and Facebook page. A make-up date will be announced in the October *Bulletin* or on social media.

FCA is looking forward to sponsoring this first-time event, and celebrating the close of summer with our neighbors in Fairlington. We hope to see you there!

—Lindsay Willmann

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 13

Special presentation: Elenor Hodges will discuss the work of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.

Regular board business:

- Approval of August minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Meeting minutes: Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
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www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
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Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy.

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

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Calendar

Family movie night

Friday, September 8, dusk
Field behind FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, September 9, 12:45 pm
water taxi (Alexandria)
McCormick & Schmick's at National Harbor
145 National Plaza, Oxon Hill, MD

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Hometown Habitat screening

Monday, September 18, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 23, 9 am to 2 pm
The Church of St. Clement,
1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria

Fairlington Diners

Monday, September 25, 6:30 pm
Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub
2800 S. Randolph St. (Shirlington)

Book Group

Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Street improvements



The S. Columbus St. circle gets new asphalt as part of the repaving of S. Columbus St. in late July. Photo by Pat Teske.

Contributors this month: Dana Andy, Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Evan Harvey, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Carol McCaffrey, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Lindsay Willman.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fairlington residents often express a strong interest in fostering environmental sustainability. Several of our condo associations have created rain gardens to slow stormwater run-off, the various grounds and landscaping committees are emphasizing the use of native plants, and North Fairlington has won an Audubon at Home designation for a site on their grounds.

Many Fairlington residents volunteer time as Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, while others focus on promoting composting in the community.

September brings several opportunities to advance the conversation about sustainability.

Our featured speaker for September's FCA meeting is Elenor Hodges, the long-time head of Arlingtonians for A Clean Environment (ACE). With a wide range of programs, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, and the Tree Canopy Fund, ACE has helped drive the discussion of sustainability in Arlington for several decades.

Her remarks will suggest ways residents can make their lifestyles more green.

Then on September 18, we are partnering with several local organizations to offer a free screening of the award-winning movie "Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home." The movie illustrates how and why native plants are vital to the survival and vitality of our local ecosystems.

The film will be followed by an informal discussion with local experts on native landscaping, biodiversity, and water conservation. The event is jointly sponsored by the FCA, the Fairlington Villages condo association, Parkfairfax, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Plant NoVA Natives.

We view this as something of a pilot in which we offer residents the chance to learn more about a specific topic and make expertise available at no charge to Fairlingtonians. We also see it as a good way to extend and strengthen our partnerships with other organizations in the area.

Finally, September 23 brings the annual Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale just across Quaker Lane from South Fairlington. It's a chance to translate some of the lessons of the film into new perennials or shrubs for your patio. This volunteer-run sale is the largest native plant sale in the DC area.

Looking to October, we are hoping to host another fall plant and grounds walk. See next month's *Bulletin* for more info.

We believe these opportunities can help increase environmental sustainability in Fairlington. We encourage you to check them out.

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



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-Fred DeVito

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ACE leader joins FCA September meeting

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) executive director Elenor Hodges will lead a discussion on the state of our local environment, the efficacy of volunteer engagement, and the various ways that Fairlington residents can step up to create a greener world at FCA's monthly meeting, on Wednesday, September 13.

ACE was founded almost 40 years ago by the Arlington County Department of Public Works as a part of the "Keep America Beautiful" campaign. Today, the organization promotes a variety of ways residents can make their lifestyles more green including recycling, sustainable landscaping, and energy efficiency. ACE also works with the business and school communities.

Hodges has led ACE since 2000. Prior to that, she was an environmental consultant for DynCorp, Wal-Mart, and the National Wildlife Federation, among others.

ACE connects families with a variety of resources so they can become healthier, happier and more sustainable over the long term. These resources include a variety of community programs such as the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel program, the Arlington County Tree Canopy Fund, the Arlington County Home Energy Rebate Program, and the Arlington Solar Co-Op.

Over the years, Fairlington condo associations have

received dozens of trees worth thousands of dollars through the Tree Canopy program, which provides trees for planting on private property.

Last year, ACE trained 31 "Energy Masters" to help families implement more efficient energy and water solutions in their homes. This award-winning program, which trains volunteers in energy efficiency, water conservation, and community education and outreach, is now seeking volunteers. Volunteers work to improve the lives of families living in affordable housing communities by reducing energy costs and promoting behavior change for sustained environmental impact.

ACE made news last year when it committed to partner with the *Ready for 100* campaign, a Sierra Club initiative designed to promote fully renewable energy usage by 2035. "We strongly support a goal of 100 percent clean energy," Hodges told ARLNow at the time. "Arlington County has already set a high bar for Virginia, but we can do even better. I think this is an effort many residents will get behind."

The meeting will begin at 7 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

—Evan Harvey

Police and community celebrate National Night Out



Arlington Police Capt. Adrienne Quigley, along with other members of her Third District team, visited with roughly 100 North Fairlington residents as part of National Night Out festivities in early August. The event was sponsored by Associa, the management company that manages the Fairlington Villages condo association. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. Photos by Guy Land.

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Abingdon School project nears completion

The Abingdon Elementary expansion and renovation project is on schedule and within budget, Project Director Aji Robinson of Arlington Public Schools (APS) told about a dozen attendees at a July 31 briefing and listening session jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association.



Carol Dabbs and Cindy Kunz visit with Jeff Chambers of APS at July's Abingdon briefing and listening session. Photo by Guy Land.

"It's a tight schedule," he said, noting the goal of having all the major classroom work completed by the time school begins in September. As a precaution, APS will leave 10 portable classrooms ("relocatables") on the playing field in case the renovation work is not entirely complete in some of the classrooms. Other relocatables were removed from the property earlier in the summer.

The two major activities remaining that are likely to have the most impact on Fairlington residents are the installation of a raised crosswalk on S. Abingdon St. and the renovation of the playing field. Work in August focused on the raised crosswalk, which leads to the walkway to the new entrance to the school.

Part of the crosswalk project includes narrowing the width of the street at the crosswalk. This will not affect the driving lanes, but the curb will be extended into the street, creating a visual narrowing. Robinson projects that this will result in the loss of two or three parking spaces on each side of the street.

Arlington County is also looking into replacing some water main pipes underneath that part of the street as part of the crosswalk work.

Renovation of the playing field will not occur until this

fall, once all the relocatables have been removed. Major aspects of this work include stormwater management projects, the addition of 16 permanent parking spaces next to S. 29th St., planting new trees, and installing a new asphalt track.

Robinson projects that the new track will not be ready for use until November or December. Construction of the track is weather dependent, as the asphalt cannot be poured during cold temperatures. The track is being relocated slightly to accommodate the redesigned shape of the field.

No additional tree removal is planned as part of this work. The new trees that will be planted along the playing field will be varieties that will grow to 10 to 12 feet in height. "They will not grow to be huge," Robinson said.

Other off-site activities scheduled for late summer include additional concrete work and installation of handicapped ramps at the intersection of S. 29th and S. Abingdon Sts. (the county completed some of that work in July). Additionally, improvements will be made on S. 29th St. at the entrance to the school and the entrance to Courtbridge II.

APS will also be installing lighting on school property on part of the trail that runs from S. 31st St. to the school.



Workers put on a new roof. Photo courtesy Arlington Public Schools.

In his briefing, Robinson emphasized some of the major stormwater management work that had been done onsite, including the installation of a drainage and filtering system underneath the new parking lot. The lot will have a permeable surface for capturing water.

Robinson noted that the overall project remains within budget, and that APS had not reduced the scope of the project to make this happen.

—Guy Land



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Fairlington Park renovation approval likely in October



The Fairlington Park playground is popular with young Fairlingtonians. The county's renovation plans would continue to feature sand, swings, and slides. Photo by Guy Land.

A contract for renovating the Fairlington Park playground, exercise area, and walking track is expected to go to the Arlington County Board in October, according to Aaron Wohler, the county's landscape architect who is coordinating the project. A proposal for the work went out for bid in August.

Key aspects of the playground part of the project include removing the amphitheater and replacing it with a play area for five- to 12-year-olds, creating a new play area for children ages two to five, installing new playground equipment (with a rope climbing element), and providing a large sand play area with a water spigot.

The playground design calls for a set of bucket swings for younger children and another set of traditional swings for older children. Wohler said that an additional traditional swing has been included in the design in response to comments from residents at community briefings on the renovation last year.

The playground will also include a ruler for kids to measure themselves and a bulletin board for community notices.

The playground will be handicapped accessible, with more of the equipment available for children with disabilities. Handicapped parking is expected to be located closer to the playground entrance.

Other components of the renovation work include new exercise equipment to replace the current equipment near the end of the field. Generally, the new equipment will be outdoor versions of equipment that is frequently found

in gyms. The track around the field will get new asphalt, though an earlier plan for installing a softer, more shock-absorbent surface was dropped because of cost.

The project includes improved stormwater management, with the installation of a swale, or shallow trench for capturing rainwater, near the northwest corner of the field.

Last year, FCA expressed its general support for improvements to the park and noted the importance of meeting the needs of younger children and preserving standard swings.

In meetings with the community last year, Wohler noted the popularity of sand, swings, and slides among Fairlington families. The final plan maintains key elements of those. It also recognizes the need for shade throughout the playground area.

—Guy Land

Fairlingtonian named to WMATA Riders' Advisory Council

Fairlington Villages' resident Paul Meissner was recently appointed to the Riders' Advisory Council (RAC) for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). As part of this group, he conveys neighborhood transit/transportation issues to RAC and to the WMATA Board to consider in their decision-making. Meissner notes that issues of concern to Fairlington residents have recently included the frequency of buses, changes to bus routes, and WMATA fare increases.

A real estate attorney by day, Meissner has lived in Fairlington Villages since 2005. He is a member of the Fairlington Villages Grounds Committee and, with his wife, fosters animals for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

As a life-long transit rider and advocate, Meissner applied and interviewed to join the RAC during its 2016 membership drive, and represents the City of Alexandria. As changes to Fairlington's bus routes and fares affect riders in both Arlington and Alexandria, Meissner is expected to be a voice representing the needs of all Fairlingtonians.

FCA Director Kent Duffy has been working closely with WMATA and Arlington County on changes coming to the Route 22 Metrobus route and schedule. Going forward, Duffy will also reach out to Meissner to offer Fairlington's input on this issue.

—Christine Chirichella

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Farmers Market open every Sunday through November 20

Fall is coming, but summer continues at the Fairlington Farmers Market, with an abundance of fresh and delicious seasonal fruits and vegetables, along with eggs, salads, soups, chicken, beef, pork, breads, pickles, pies, cheese, flowers, and much more!

Don't forget, the market is open every Sunday through November 20, from 9 am to 1 pm. Stock up on snacks for school and work, along with healthy ingredients for busy weeknight dinners.



for cattle out in the pasture. We don't use any antibiotics or growth hormones. Yes, it takes longer for us to raise our calves, but it's done naturally."

Sandy Bottom Acres also sells eggs, and they have about 400 laying hens that run free in pastures with the cows. In addition, Joan and her sister, Judy, raise flowers that are popular at the market—be sure to check out their beautiful arrangements.



South Fairlington resident Jeni Hornback visits with Chris and Joan Farrell of Sandy Bottom Acres. Photos by Guy Land.

Our market is fortunate that many vendors have been with us since the start, including Sandy Bottom Acres, a family farm owned by Chris and Joan Farrell in Charlotte Hall, MD. They offer beef, pork, chicken, eggs, and flowers, and they are well-known for their friendliness and enthusiasm!

Joan grew up on a 400-acre farm that raised tobacco, grain, hogs, and cattle. It's a fourth-generation farm that is still a working farm today, though tobacco is no longer grown. Chris and Joan have been married for 33 years and have two sons, Michael and Kevin.

As the boys grew up, they got involved in 4-H programs, and took care of hogs, sheep, and cattle that they showed at county fairs and the Maryland state fair. After the kids grew up and left 4-H, Chris and Joan decided to start selling meats at farmers markets.

"We have always had a love for animals and they get treated as family" says Chris. "We have fans in the show barn on hot summer days as well as plenty of shade

Michael helps his parents on the farm and at markets when needed. He also runs a farmers market on his own. Kevin is married, lives in Kentucky, and runs a cattle operation named Double Diamond Farms.

Giving back to their local community is very important to Chris and Joan, and they donate a percentage of profits from Sandy Bottom Acres to the local 4-H organization every year. "As a 4-H family we're still involved as leaders, and we really enjoy supporting the youth in 4-H," notes Chris. "We feel it's important to give back to this program that has benefited our boys so much. We really appreciate your business, and the youth in our county do as well." Michael and Kevin also give back by serving as coaches for state livestock judging teams, and judging local shows.



A steady stream of shoppers checks out the Sandy Bottom Acres' stall on a recent Sunday.

Chris and Joan love being part of the Fairlington market and encourage you to stop by and say hello. "We always have time for a visit and enjoy it," says Chris. "If you have any questions about our business, don't hesitate to ask!"

—Lynne Blasi

Fall briefing planned on I-395 sound walls

FCA is working with VDOT and Transurban, the partners for the I-395 express lanes project, to host a community briefing on the sound wall options. An engineering study last summer concluded that sound barriers were "feasible and reasonable" in Fairlington.

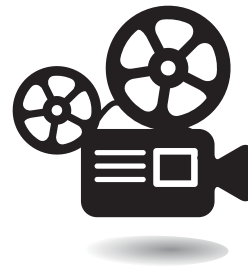
The study identified the homes along the corridor that would be affected by the possible increase in noise. Those residents will vote on whether they want sound walls.

FCA is hoping to schedule a briefing in October. See next month's issue of the *Bulletin* for more information.

Young entrepreneurs



A lemonade stand in Fairlington Commons took advantage of the summer heat to do a thriving business. Photo by Guy Land.



Come see *The Princess Bride* at Fairlington's first-ever free family movie night, Sept. 8.

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Raccoon attacks prompt action and new trash procedures

On July 12 and 19, two residents in North Fairlington near the areas of S. Abingdon St. and S. 28th St. were attacked by raccoons, causing injury. This is not the first time raccoon attacks have occurred in the neighborhood. Last year, similar incidents were reported in roughly the same areas, prompting a community briefing by the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) and the Humane Society of the United States-Urban Wildlife Management.



New trash bins were installed along S. Abingdon St. Photo by Guy Land.

One of the main takeaways from that meeting was that trash is a big source of the neighborhood's raccoon problems. With six-days-a-week trash pickup and curbside disposal in plastic trash bags, Fairlington offers a virtual smorgasbord of food for animals. Several other factors have contributed to the problem, including the destruction of habitat surrounding nearby construction projects, as well as the feeding of birds or pets outdoors.

Since that meeting, the Fairlington Villages board of directors and management office have increased trash pickup frequency in community trash cans, published articles in North Fairlington News, pursued trash violations, investigated trash receptacle options, and asked for volunteers to serve on a Trash Ad Hoc Working Group.

Fairlington Villages President Terry Placek says, "The Board is very concerned about these raccoon attacks and is seriously researching various options to ensure the safety of our residents and their pets."

With input from the AWLA, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), and the Virginia Department of Health, Fairlington Villages condo association was notified that it needed to implement changes immediately to its trash policies.

In a memo dated July 21 to residents in the areas affected by the attacks, Villages' General Manager Colin Horner issued new, temporary trash procedures, as a Trash Working Group (TWG) is taking a broader look at trash issues in order to find a permanent, workable solution. All residents in the affected areas are now required to bag and place trash in just-purchased 97-gallon receptacles in adjacent courts or parking lots.

The TWG is tasked by the board of directors with a variety of items to evaluate current trash policies and procedures and recommend changes. It will make recommendations to the board on new containers by the end of August, and other issues including policy communication and enforcement by the end of September. The board has the final say on what changes are implemented.

Horner's letter also informed residents about traps set up around the areas of the attacks. While

many residents have expressed concern and dismay on Facebook about the traps, and debated whether trapping in Virginia is illegal, in this situation, everything is being overseen by the VDGIF and AWLA.

According to Horner, "The VDGIF agreed with the need to reduce the number of animals by trapping (a concession on their part) and advised us that eliminating the access to food by the placing of trash in bags at curbside (the regular trash disposal practice) was imperative. They felt that was the primary contributory factor causing the problem we were having."

The association has contracted with two companies for raccoon abatement. Between them, eight traps have been placed in Wards III and IV. Both companies use the "Havahart" traps and any raccoons that are captured will be euthanized as required by Commonwealth of Virginia law. According to Horner at press time, six animals have been trapped, all within close proximity to the recent attacks.

There is still work to be done, but significant strides have been made so far to ameliorate the situation and hopefully prevent future incidents between raccoons and residents. The AWLA requests that any sightings of raccoons out in the common areas or encroaching on the property in any way be reported immediately to Animal Control at 703-931-9241.

For tips on preventing raccoons and raccoon encounters, please refer to the August and September 2016 issues of the *Bulletin* in the archives on the FCA website.

—Christine Chirichella

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Screening of movie on native plants set for Fairlington

Have you seen the award-winning movie “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home”? Attend a special free showing at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Abingdon St., on Monday, September 18, and discover how beautiful native landscaping is a win-win-win proposition—for the earth, for biodiversity, and for HOAs! Doors open at 6:30 pm and the film starts at 7.

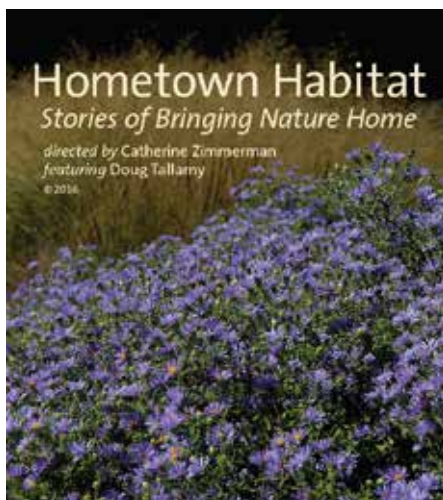
This event is provided through a special partnership between the Fairlington Citizens Association, the Fairlington Villages condo association, Parkfairfax, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Plant NoVA Natives.

Did you know that native plants do not require the use of chemicals like herbicides and pesticides to maintain their beauty? That they’re made to thrive in our climate and don’t require extra watering or special care like non-natives do? Did you know that pollinators and birds need native plants to survive? Creating beautiful native plant landscapes will help save the earth and money, too.

A film for our times, “Hometown Habitat” illustrates

how and why native plants are vital to the survival and vitality of our local ecosystems, and to our own survival!

Renowned educator Douglas Tallamy shows how landscaping with non-natives has caused habitat and species loss worldwide, and how we (individuals and communities) can turn the tide for the better—right now—in our own yards and neighborhoods.



For two years, Catherine Zimmerman traveled the country to film educational and inspiring stories of communities committed to conservation landscaping. Her message will inspire you—all of us have the power to support biodiversity, and bring natural beauty to our patch of the Earth.

Following the film, several local experts in native landscaping, biodiversity, and water conservation will be present for Q&A and to share local best practices and resources.

For more information contact Carol McCaffrey at carlamp@earthlink.net or Scott Knudsen at sknudsen@earthlink.net.

—Carol McCaffrey

Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale, September 23

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

When: Saturday, September 23, from 9 am to 2 pm

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

Vendors are listed on the sale website at <https://northernalexandriannativeplantsale.wordpress.com/>. The sale is entirely organized and run by volunteers. Questions? Contact Scott Knudsen at 571-232-0375 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.



A rain garden in North Fairlington features native plants and captures stormwater run-off. Photo by Guy Land.

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Do you WalkArlington?



As the weather transitions to autumn and temperatures cool down, it's a great time to get outside. Arlington is known for its walkable communities and plentiful trails. The county has been designated as a Gold Level Walk Friendly Community by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, a designation reserved for just 15 communities nationwide.

In an effort to build a "walk-friendly culture," Arlington County created WalkArlington, a walking education and encouragement program. Through this initiative, residents can engage in WalkArlington's mission to promote a culture of walkability and active transportation for all ages and abilities.

One feature of WalkArlington is the Walkabout, consisting of 25 self-guided walking tours of Arlington. Each Walkabout is presented in the format of a map, and highlights the beauty and history of the county's vibrant neighborhoods.

Fairlington, with its winding, tree-canopied sidewalks, is featured as a Walkabout. The flat and easy route in South Fairlington spans almost three-quarters of a mile starting outside the Fairlington Community Center, past Utah Park (Arlington's first community canine area), and out the S. 34th St. bridge to the Fairlington Fire Station and back, ending at the Bradlee Shopping Center.

Look in next month's *Bulletin* for the Shirlington Walkabout map, featuring North Fairlington. For more information on the program, visit www.walkarlington.com.

—Rebecca Sayres

Wakefield music program seeking donations

Students from the Wakefield High School Music Department may be knocking on your Fairlington door in their annual door-to-door "Tag Day" campaign on Saturday, September 16.

Wakefield band, orchestra, and chorus students will travel throughout South Arlington to collect much-needed funds for the school's music program. Last year, South Arlington residents donated nearly \$20,000 to the program during Tag Day. Generous Fairlington residents donated nearly \$2,000 of that amount!

All proceeds go toward the purchase and repair of instruments and uniforms and help pay travel expenses for music festivals and competitions. The Wakefield Marching Band also leads the annual Abingdon Elementary School Halloween parade through North 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.



Members of the Wakefield High School Band played in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia in April. The Wakefield Orchestra and Chorus also performed. Photo by Dana Andy.

Monetary donations are welcome online at www.SupportWakefieldMusic.org or via the mail at Wakefield High School, Attn: Music Department, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St., 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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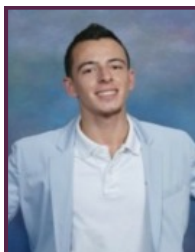
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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners generally 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 lingered over our hamburgers at Ramparts for a couple of hours, having a great chat! Later in the month we went to PING in Shirlington.

Here's what's planned for September:

Saturday, September 9, lunch at McCormick & Schmick's at National Harbor, 145 National Plaza, Oxon Hill, MD 20745, 301-567-6224, www.mccormickandschmicks.com. 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 Sts. in Old Town, or online.

We'll plan to head back later in the afternoon, probably on the 4 pm or 4:40 pm water taxi, which will give us time for a little shopping, a ride on the Capital Wheel (\$15 or \$13.50 seniors, plus taxes), or to explore the MGM casino.

Monday, September 25, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22206, 703-379-0122, www.samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

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

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in September to discuss *Putin's Kleptocracy*, a timely work by Russian scholar Karen Dawisha.

"The raging question in the world today is who is the

real Vladimir Putin and what are his intentions. Karen Dawisha's brilliant *Putin's Kleptocracy* provides an answer, describing how Putin got to power, the cabal he brought with him, the billions they have looted, and his plan to restore the Greater Russia." —Amazon.com

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, September 26, at 7:30 pm, in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Card Players Welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. 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 coordinator at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Fairlington MOMS Club®

The Fairlington MOMS Club® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The Fairlington MOMS Club is the local chapter of MOMS Club International.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Back-to-school gardening tips

With the kids back in school and vacations over, let's re-focus on the garden. Though September still is hot, nights are cooler, meaning there is less water evaporation from a plant's root zone. So now is a good time to plant. But what do you plant that will survive? Here are some guidelines.

Sun vs. Shade: "Full sun" means a minimum of three hours of direct (not filtered) sunlight. Of course, "full sun" also means all-day sunlight, something a Lilac, Rose of Sharon, Juniper or Crape Myrtle prefer. If such a specimen is planted in shade, it won't flower as profusely, if at all. With high heat indexes in our area, even a "full sun" specimen could be fine with, say, five hours of sun.

"Full shade," means zero sun tolerance. If it gets blasted by sun, its leaves turn lime-green or yellow. A plant wanting "part shade" means it's adaptable but not tolerant of total shade or total sunlight.

Soil: The most important element is the soil structure, not so much the pH level. Most plants prefer a neutral (7) pH. Evergreens—such as Boxwood, Holly, Azalea, Rhododendron, Yew, Pieris, and Cherry Laurel—prefer acidic soil. Few plants want an alkaline base in the root zone.

Thus, focus on the soil's components. While digging a hole for the new plant, remove any clay clods, old tree or plant roots, and rocks. Leave any earthworms, as they are natural soil tillers. Then add soil conditioner around the root ball. If the backfill (soil you've removed from the hole)



Summer's casualties need pruning.

is malleable, this can be used to partially fill the hole with the new plant. The nickname for soil conditioner is "super fine," which it is. It also has no fertilizing agents, which may burn fragile plant roots just exposed from the protective plastic container.

Root Ball: This is the support system of a plant. When removing it from the plastic container, look to see if it is hard or soft. If it collapses in your hands, just ease it into the hole. You never want the root ball to collapse since it's a plant's lifeline to nourishment. If the root ball is rock hard, use your fingers or a trowel to pry apart tightly wrapped roots. In so doing, you expose root tips, which allow them to readily take in water, oxygen, and minerals from the ground.

Don't situate the root ball too deep. It's wise to be able to see the top of the ball above the soil line, since this is the way a root ball gets ground

water (after a rain). In the case of a small tree (with a larger root ball), set the root ball so its top is two inches above the soil line. When you're trying to soften the root ball of a tree, use a spade fork. Lay the tree on the ground, place your foot on the ball, ease the spade fork into the ball three inches from the bottom, and pry apart the roots. Sometimes, the very bottom of a hard root ball will fall off in a hard cylinder, leaving a very soft bottom to the ball. This way, the roots directly contact the soil in the planting hole.

Irrigation: It all depends on the season and temperature. The hotter the climate, the more water is lost from your garden. Water evaporates from the root zone and transpires from the tip of a plant's leaves. In a drought, trees will prematurely drop their leaves (like the Sycamore tree) in order to conserve energy, depleted by a lack of water.

So, in our summers and into September, plants need regular watering. Established plants (those that have been in the ground for a year or more) need less than newly planted specimens. Aim the water hose (with a good stream) around the base of the plant—about 10 seconds per plant. Overhead watering with a sprinkler isn't as effective but works if it operates for a while. Soaker hoses are effective only if operative for long periods, since this "drip method" may not be enough irrigation in our summer heat/humidity.

—Bill Sullivan
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Renovation almost done!



Students will return to a new three-story classroom addition. Photo Photo courtesy Arlington Public Schools.

Abingdon students will return to school this fall to an exciting new learning environment, as the temporary trailers have been removed and construction is almost complete. Outside, a brand-new entrance will greet students as they arrive. New playgrounds are being installed in the front (for pre-k students) and back (for kindergarten through 5th grade).

The new parking lot and drop off/car rider area will be open on the first day of school. Parents will receive information about the updated traffic pattern in packets sent home at the end of August.

Inside, bright colors, fresh paint, and new carpet will welcome students to the 2017–18 school year. The school's hallways each feature a theme based on the eight intelligences: performer, composer, creator, designer, innovator, leader, researcher, and collaborator.

A “tower” addition houses three floors, with four large, bright class-

rooms and one smaller instructional space on each floor. The library has been updated with glass walls and new shelving and carpet.

All of the interior spaces have been refreshed with new paint, flooring, or carpeting, and new, large windows. Classrooms that were previously open (without walls or doors) have been enlarged and enclosed.

The Abingdon staff are excited to welcome students back, and are

looking forward to a great year in the new space.

Legacy Wall

An exciting new feature of the renovation is the “Legacy Wall” designed by the Abingdon class of 2017. The 60'-long panel is installed on the outside wall of the new gymnasium facing the new parking area, and includes 160 tiles.

To create the wall, students and staff chose one of the eight intelligences featured in the school and created a clay relief symbolizing that intelligence. After researching their ideas, last year's fifth-graders practiced their sculpting technique by creating a small version of their clay tile.

They drew 8" x 8" drawings of their ideas and traced those outlines on a clay slab. Those sculpted slabs were then welded to another background slab and details were added to their tiles with coils and molded pieces of clay. The slabs were fired in a kiln and glazed and used by the contractors to make the Legacy Wall.

—Carrie Lewis



Creation and installation of the Legacy Wall was a team effort. Photo by Lauren Muscarella.

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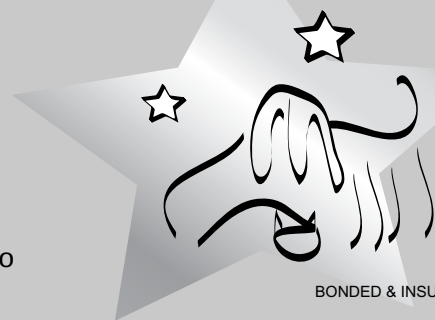
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<div><div></div><div>Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.</div></div>		



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

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

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

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SOLD:



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3368 Martha Custis Dr,
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5456 Barrister Pl, Alexandria, VA

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and patience. You are truly amazing at what you do!

- Kari (client)



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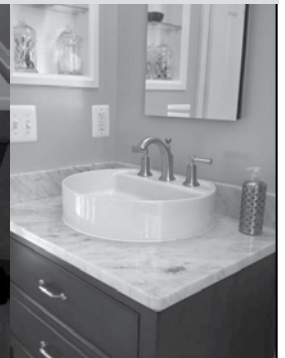
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