

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2018

Volume 44, Number 9

www.fca-fairlington.org

Free outdoor movie night rescheduled for September 8

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The FCA has selected a new date, time, and location for its free outdoor movie night: Saturday, September 8, around 7:30 pm, on the field at Abingdon Elementary School. The original May 18 date was rained out. The movie title will be Disney's *Moana*, the film selected for the May screening.

The location was changed due to ongoing Fairlington Park construction at the Fairlington Community Center. A large screen will be set up on the field, so join your neighbors for this end-of-summer community gathering under the stars.

The movie will begin at sundown (a little after 7:30 pm), but those attending are encouraged to come early and create a picnic. Bring your blankets, low chairs, and favorite theater snacks. Bug spray is always a good idea. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not allowed. 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.

Residents are also encouraged to bring flashlights, camping lanterns, or phones equipped with a flashlight setting to navigate their way home after the show.

Subtitles will be provided throughout the film, which is roughly two hours long.

Though we are hoping for a beautiful September evening, there is always a chance the event will have to be rescheduled again because of inclement weather. In the event of cancellation, an announcement will be made on the FCA website and Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, as will selection of a make-up date.

The FCA launched its first-ever movie night last September, after an online poll indicated that activity was of interest to many Fairlington residents.

FCA is looking forward to sponsoring this family-friendly event and winding down the summer with our neighbors in Fairlington.

—Christine Chirichella



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: Arlington County Fire Department Capt. Justin Tirelli, with Station Commander Capt. Craig Brightbill, will speak to residents about Fire Station 7 capabilities.

Regular board business:

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511

www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm

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

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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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:
admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Labor Day

Monday, September 3
FCC Closed

Abingdon Back-to-School Picnic and Potluck

Monday, September 3, 12 to 2 pm
Abingdon Elementary School

Family Movie Night

Saturday, September 8, 7:30 pm
Abingdon Elementary School Field

FCA monthly meeting

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

Wakefield Tag Day

Saturday, September 15

MOMS Consignment Sale

Saturday, September 15, 9 am to 1 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, September 15, 12:30 pm
Mi Vida Restaurante
98 District Square SW
Washington, D.C.

Affordable housing briefing

Thursday, September 20, 7 pm
Fairlington Presbyterian Church
3846 King St., Alexandria

Fairlington Diners

Monday, September 24, 6:30 pm
Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub
2800 S. Randolph St.

Book Group

Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 29, 9 am to 2 pm
The Church of St. Clement
1701 N. Quaker Ln., Alexandria



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The arrival of Labor Day launches the new school year across Arlington. For the past five years, FCA has worked to strengthen its ties to Abingdon Elementary School and the Abingdon PTA. With the school's renovation and expansion now complete, it's a real treasure in Fairlington.

We have focused attention on Abingdon for several reasons: a strong local school can be an important element of property values; literally dozens of Abingdon students live in Fairlington, and the number continues to grow; at least a half dozen Abingdon faculty and staff call Fairlington home. It is truly our neighborhood school.

This fall we're featuring a new activity to support Abingdon. We are joining with the PTA in sponsoring a school supplies drive to ensure that all Abingdon students have the supplies they need for a successful school year. FCA board member Lindsay Willmann, a Fairfax County teacher herself, first proposed this to us a couple of years ago, and I'm pleased that we're able to join forces with the PTA on something they were also planning on doing.

Whether you have a child at Abingdon or not, FCA hopes you'll consider making a donation. Supplies can be dropped off at the South Fairlington Community Center, the Fairlington Villages condo office, or the school. We'll also have collection boxes set up at the movie night on September 8.

FCA is committing money to help address any gaps in needed supplies that the donations don't cover. Making a cash contribution is another option for you.

We also plan to boost FCA's focus on Wakefield High School. Fifteen years ago there were very few Wakefield students in Fairlington. But that number has grown as families with kids have decided to stay in Fairlington rather than move elsewhere. Students from Fairlington are compiling strong records there, as evidenced by a recent special Signature Theatre award to Wakefield graduate (and Arbor resident) Devin Andy.

On September 15, Wakefield band, orchestra, and chorus students will be circulating through Fairlington as part of their Tag Day campaign to raise funds for the school's music department. If you've ever enjoyed the Halloween parade through Fairlington (and the short concert following the parade), you've seen the remarkable talent these students display.

FCA will continue to explore ways we can partner with the schools that serve so many Fairlington students.

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

Contributors this month: Lucy Beadnell, Lynne Blasi, Christine Chirichella, Donna Felipe, Jeni Hornback, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, and Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.

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Fire Department to brief FCA on Station 7 capabilities September 12

Arlington County Fire Department's (ACFD) Fire Station 7 has been a part of Fairlington's history since it opened in February 1944. But how many of us really understand everything that the station offers and the specialized training undertaken by its four full-time personnel?

To shed light on the ever-expanding capabilities of the fire station, Captain Justin Tirelli and Station Commander Captain Craig Brightbill will offer an eye-opening presentation at the September 12 meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA). The meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

As we celebrate the neighborhood's 75th anniversary this year, we recognize how lucky we are to have our very own fire station as part of our community. Station 7 regularly participates in neighborhood events like Fire-truck Santa and the July 4th parade and offers an annual Open House in October during Fire Prevention Week to engage the community.

Capt. Tirelli notes his favorite thing about working in Fairlington: "The community is great. I love seeing people, seeing all the kids go to school next door," referring to the STEM preschool that opened in 2015.

But beyond these warm and fuzzies, and infinitely more important, the station is one of our first lines of defense in an emergency situation. Whether it's a fire, medical emergency, HAZMAT, or the threat of an act of violence (such as an active shooter situation), Station 7 personnel are trained and ready to respond. The station was the lead agency for the response to the September 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon.

We all know that fire personnel are trained to fight and prevent fires, but today the ACFD and Station 7 must be prepared for all kinds of situations. Their high threat response training has been in place for about eight years. Capt. Tirelli notes, "We have to remain flexible to adapt



Capt. Justin Tirelli (second from right) joined other fire department staff in celebrating the retirement of Station 7 crew member Floyd Lee Walters (right) earlier this year. Photo by Guy Land.

to emerging threats and trends. The threat of acts of violence is increasing, and we need to be ready for something that hopefully will never happen."

To that end, Capt. Tirelli welcomed the chance to address Fairlington: "We want the community to understand the station has advanced preparedness, but there are things that need to be done by everyone. Let's start thinking and talking about it now before an incident occurs."

Another important thing Capt. Tirelli has done is start a deeply coordinated

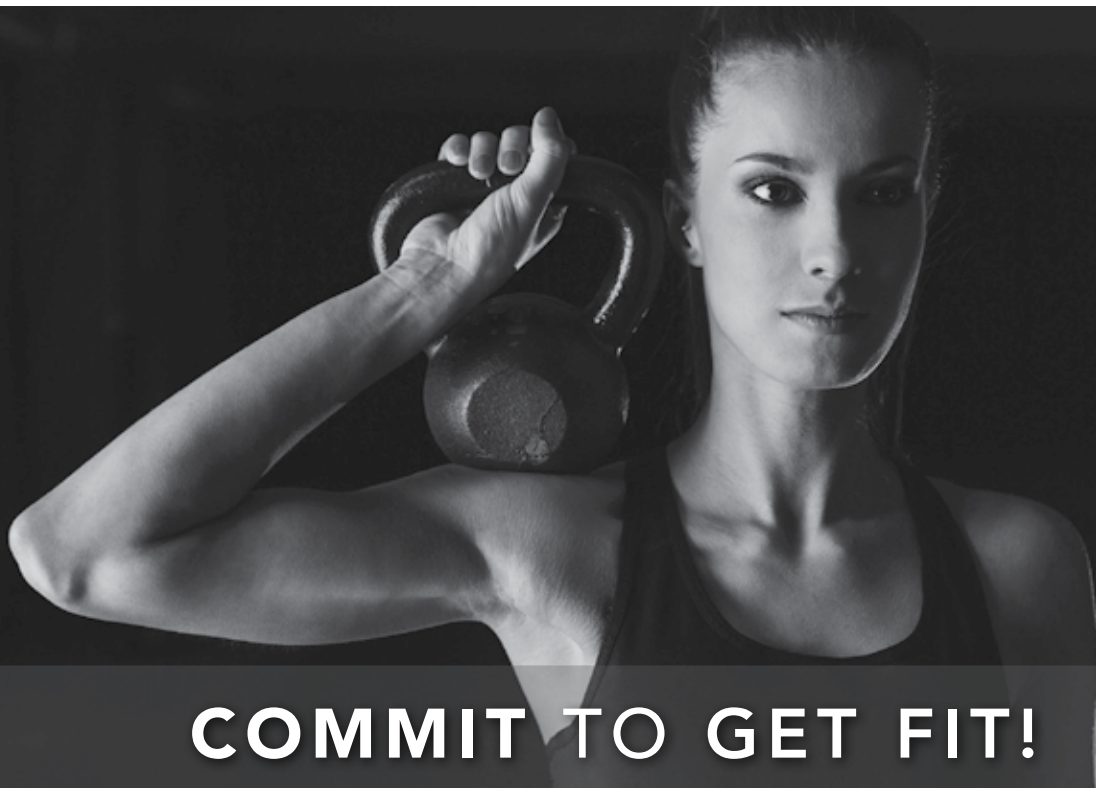
effort between the police and fire departments, for example by creating and teaching a "FD101" class to help bridge any knowledge gaps. This has helped break down traditional barriers between the departments to encourage cooperation in the interest of public health and safety.

The ACFD also coordinates with the Alexandria Fire Department to provide mutual coverage, again in the interest of the public.

Capt. Tirelli has been with ACFD since 2000, and in Fairlington's Fire Station 7 for almost five years. He's filled a variety of roles, including paramedic, hazardous material technician, office of emergency management coordinator, and special events coordinator. Capt. Tirelli holds an M.S. in Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management from the George Washington University, and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Mary Washington. He is accredited by TEEX as an ICS Instructor and by the Pro Board as a Fire Instructor I.

Join us September 12 to learn more about this hidden gem and valuable resource found in Station 7, and learn how you can be prepared as part of our vibrant historical community.

—Christine Chirichella



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Join us October 20 to celebrate Fairlington's 75th anniversary

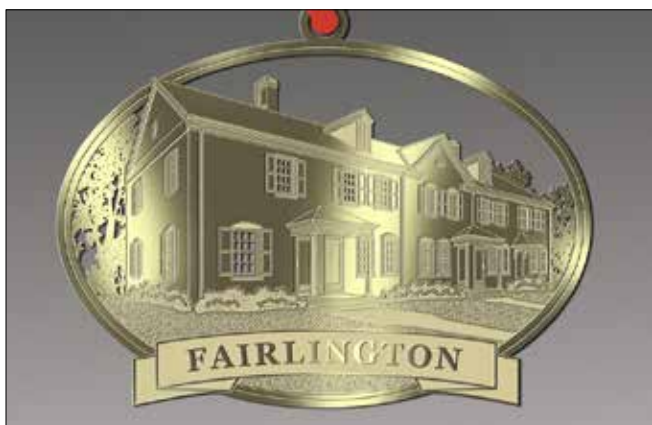
The Fairlington Citizens Association and the Fairlington Historical Society invite you to a special celebration to commemorate the community's 75th anniversary year.

All residents and owners in North and South Fairlington are invited to attend a reception on Saturday, October 20, from 5 to 7 pm at the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

This adults-only event will feature a short program in honor of the anniversary, including a reading of the Virginia General Assembly's special resolution to commend Fairlington in its anniversary year. The featured speaker for the evening will be Arlington County Clerk of Court Paul Ferguson. Ferguson lived in Fairlington as a child, has owned units in both North and South Fairlington, and was FCA President. He served on the Arlington County Board from 1996 to 2007, including three terms as Board Chair.

Invited guests include Arlington County Board Members, Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin, and other officials.

Don't miss out on your commemorative ornament!



The FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) are taking orders for this special Fairlington brass-plated ornament to commemorate Fairlington's 75th anniversary this year. The price for each ornament is \$10. To order, email FCA Board Director Rebecca Sayres, rsayres@yahoo.com, to indicate how many you wish to purchase. Come to an FCA monthly meeting to pay and pick up your purchase (next FCA meeting is September 12). For now, we will accept cash or check only (payable to FCA). By next month we expect to be able to accept payment by PayPal.

The book *Fairlington at 50*, which traces the history of the neighborhood (\$20), and the Fairlington commemorative ornament (\$10) will be available for sale.

Abingdon School supply drive

The FCA is partnering with the Abingdon Elementary School PTA this fall to ensure that all students have the school supplies they need for a successful school year. Abingdon is a diverse school serving the Fairlington community, as well as surrounding communities.

The school serves a sizable population of lower income families, with over 40 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. The dedicated Abingdon staff work very hard to make sure every student has what he or she needs to excel in school.

Fairlingtonians wishing to donate supplies can drop them off in collection boxes at Abingdon, the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.), or the Fairlington Villages (North Fairlington) office (3001 S. Abingdon St.). FCA will also have collection boxes at its upcoming movie night on Saturday, September 8.

Monetary donations are accepted via the Abingdon PTA store at <https://squareup.com/store/abingdon-elementary-pta>. Cash or checks (payable to Abingdon PTA) can be dropped off in the school's main office. FCA has committed up to \$200 to ensure a good mix of the items needed.

Student supplies needed include backpacks, crayons, markers (thin point), folders with prongs, folders with pockets only, #2 pencils, black and white composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, scissors, dry erase markers, Ziploc bags, glue sticks, 3"x3" Post-it® notes, pencil sharpeners, and earbuds for iPads.

—Carrie Lewis

Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale, Saturday, September 29

Find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade at the annual Northern Alexandria Fall Native Plant Sale, Saturday, September 29, from 9 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Ln. in Alexandria.

A dozen or more vendors from three states will participate in this event, the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region. Vendors are listed on the sale website at www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org. For information contact Scott Knudsen, 571-232-0275 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.



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Fairlington's 75th lookback: Where we go...

Today's Fairlingtonians have a large array of commercial, shopping, and service amenities available to them. The first Fairlingtonians, however, were not so fortunate:

"By the summer of 1943, nearly 1,000 families were already in residence, with another 150 moving in every month. They arrived to find no schools, no stores, no paved streets, inadequate garbage pickup and almost no public transportation... The proposed shopping center was nowhere to be seen.... 'No matter how you plan, you forget an item or two,' one Fairlington resident complained. 'I even bought a bike to ride back and forth to the store – but there isn't any store to ride to.'"



*A historic view of Quaker Ln., Route 7, and 36th St.
Courtesy National Archives.*

The Shirlington Shopping Center, designed with the intent to serve the new residents of Fairlington and also of Parkfairfax, then being built across Shirley Highway, began construction in 1943 and opened its first store a year later.** Following shortly after was the Fairlington Shopping Center, along Fern St. and Quaker Ln. in South Fairlington, and, more than a decade later in 1957, the Bradlee Shopping Center along King St.***

As Fairlington's conversion to condominiums approached in the 1970s, office and commercial centers along Leesburg Pike were built: Skyline, built when Metro plans called for a westward line under Columbia Pike—the line was ultimately located along I-66—and Bailey's Crossroads, where Hachaliah Bailey, of the circus family, bought land in 1837 as the winter home for his circus animals.****

In 2000, the Shirlington center was reinvented as an 'urban village,' and an arts enclave, with mixed-use apartment and commercial construction, the Arling-



Fairlington circa 1950. Courtesy The Washington Post, reprint permission D.C. Public Library.

ton Public Library branch, and the Signature Theater. A decade later, the Bradlee center was updated and a new Safeway grocery store added.

And, there is more to come. The construction of the new West Alex mixed-use commercial and residential project at King and Beauregard Sts. is expected to open next year and plans have been announced for the residential re-development of the Park Center office buildings along Ford Ave., across King St. from North Fairlington.

With the built environment around us constantly evolving and changing, Fairlington continues to be an oasis. Our buildings and grounds, though renovated, reinvented, and converted from rental to condominium homes, are still used for their original purposes.

—Cindy Kunz

*Catherine D Fellows, *Fairlington at Fifty: May 1943–May 1993* – The Catherine D. Fellows Memorial Edition. The Fairlington Historical Society, 2012.

**Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan, FCA, 2013.

***"After the War Alexandrians Flocked to Shopping Centers," *Alexandria Times*, May 23, 2013.

****"Skyline House: The History of Bailey's Crossroads (Adapted from a History by Susan Flimmer)". Falls Church, Virginia: SHUOA: Skyline House Unit Owners Association. June 2, 2014.



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for Fairlington's 75th
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Saturday, October 20.

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Fairlington MOMS Club consignment sale, September 15



The semi-annual MOMS Club consignment sale attracts moms or moms-to-be looking for a good bargain. Photo by Guy Land.

As fall approaches, bargains are in the air! The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is holding its semi-annual consignment sale on Saturday, September 15, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

The event, which has been a MOMS Club tradition for many years, is an opportunity for local moms to sell new and gently used baby clothing, shoes, books, toys, and maternity wear. The sale will also feature a separate room for baby gear, including high chairs, bouncy seats, swings, feeding supplies, baby carriers, and more.

Items are typically priced at a small fraction of their original retail cost and it is easy to find steals on designer baby items. The MOMS Club donates proceeds from the sale and unused items to local charities.

Savvy shoppers normally get there before 9 am to stand in line. At noon, most items will be reduced to 50 percent off until the close of the sale. Credit cards are accepted. Sale information will be updated routinely at www.facebook.com/FairlingtonMomsClubConsignmentSale.

—Lucy Beadnell

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 15.

Wakefield band, orchestra, and chorus students will travel throughout South Arlington to collect much-needed funds for the school’s music program. In the past, 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.

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.

—Donna Felipe

APS releases school boundary process schedule

In July the Arlington Public Schools (APS) administration released the preliminary schedule for their 2018 Elementary School Boundary Process. They also announced that they plan to adjust the boundaries across 11 elementary schools, including Abingdon. APS then plans to initiate a second boundary process in the Fall of 2020 that will involve 14 elementary schools, including Abingdon.

APS is planning to host a “Getting Started” Community Meeting on September 26 from 7 to 8:30 pm at Kenmore Middle School. Residents are invited to come review the initial boundary scenarios. The meeting will be presented online via the APS website.

The school board plans to vote on the revised boundaries at their December 6 meeting. For more information visit the APS website at www.apsva.us/engage.

—Jeni Hornback

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Fall fun at the farmers market

September is a great time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market. Come for the colorful seasonal produce and delicious foods, get ideas and inspiration for fall cooking, stay to catch up with neighbors and friends, and take part in our special events.

Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate National Farmers Market Week in August! Visitors of all ages enjoyed the scavenger hunt, photo booth, raffle, giveaways, and food guessing game, while showing our vendors how much we support and value having them at our market.

It seems like the crowds get a little bigger each Sunday, and our vendors are excited and pleased to see so many new faces. Many of our visitors are young Fairlingtonians



shopping with their parents. Visiting the market is a fun family activity, and a great learning experience for kids. In addition to teaching them that fruits and vegetables are key to good nutrition and part of a healthy diet, you can involve your kids in picking out new foods to enjoy at lunch or dinner, or as an after-school snack. Older kids may want to look up recipes before coming to the market, pick out ingredients, and help you prepare a meal.

If you or the kids have questions about how foods are grown or produced, ask our vendors—they are more than happy to talk about their work, and they like getting to know all members of our community. By coming to the market each week, you're showing your kids the importance of supporting local family farms and other businesses that are part of our market family. Don't forget to stop by the Market Information Booth for

coloring sheets, stickers, and magnets. The kids also have a great time dancing to the live music!

If you're new to the neighborhood, the market offers fresh produce, grass fed meats, poultry, cheese, eggs, coffee, honey, jams, pastries and baked goods, pickles and kimchi, donuts, flowers, hot breakfast sandwiches, and other prepared foods, including vegetarian and vegan. We even have dog treats and catnip for



The market celebrated National Farmers Market Week in August with a raffle for adults and a food passport for kids.



Market vendors help Arlington neighbors in need

A big thank you to our market vendors for generously donating 1,754 pounds of produce to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in May, June, and July. AFAC provides supplemental groceries to Arlington residents who cannot afford to purchase enough food to meet their basic needs. Each week, AFAC distributes groceries to over 2,300 families, and more than 35 percent of the people they serve are children. Our market manager, Aisha Salazar, is the Cooking and Nutrition Coordinator at AFAC.



Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) volunteer Rick Morris picks up donated produce from market vendor Pleitez Produce Farm in July.

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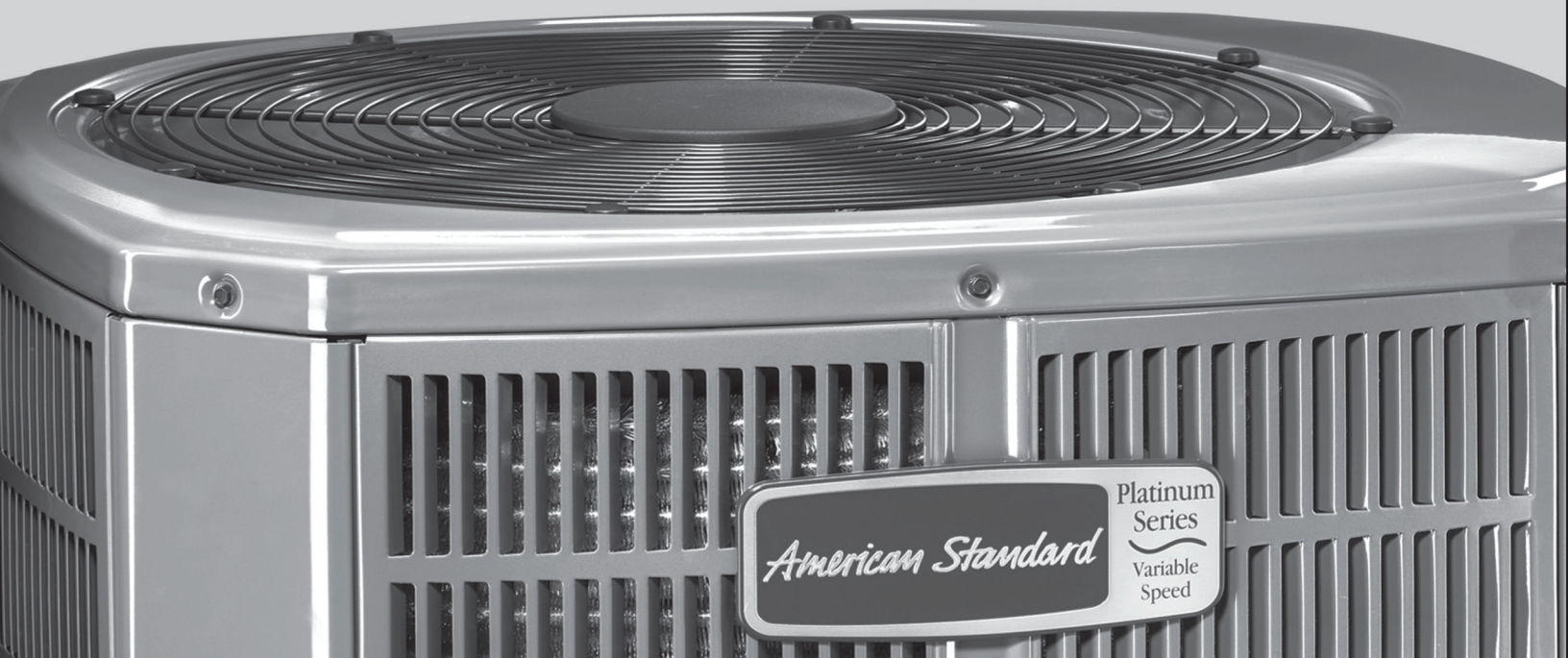
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Arlington Art Truck visits the farmers market



Focusing on native flora and fauna, the Arlington Art Truck visited the farmers market earlier this summer, with artist Kate Samworth guiding young Fairlingtonians in drawing or coloring Arlington plants and the species they support.

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arlington Art Truck is a curated mobile tool box packed with digital and traditional tools, featuring interactive pop-up galleries and workshops at neighborhood events. *Photos by Guy Land.*

your furry family members. There really is something for everyone!

We're open every Sunday through November 18, from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

See you at the market!

—Lynne Blasi



The market offers a great Sunday morning excursion for the whole family. Photos by Guy Land.



Join us for these upcoming events:

September 9: The Alexandria Library will join us for Library Card Sign Up Month. Arlington residents are also eligible to get an Alexandria library card. You can fill out an application on-site; remember to bring an ID card.

September 16: The Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners are back to talk about fall topics of interest.

September 23: Ed Girovasi will provide music while you shop.

September 30: The Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing will be at the market to talk about their programs and volunteer opportunities.

If you work or volunteer for a nonprofit or community group and would like to have a table at the market to share information, please stop by the Market Information Booth to let us know.

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Presbyterian church plans housing briefing

Fairlington Presbyterian Church, along with partner Wesley Housing Development Corporation, will brief the community on Thursday, September 20, on their revised plans to convert a portion of their parking lot to roughly 80 units of affordable housing. The meeting will be held at the church, 3846 King St., Alexandria, at 7 pm.

"The shortage of affordable housing is the number one driver of real human need in the City of Alexandria," Fairlington Presbyterian Pastor Juli Wilson-Black told FCA when she briefed Fairlington last summer.

The plan calls for the construction of rental units at the back of the current parking lot, with underground parking for the units.

All of the units would be reserved for low-income households, with the maximum household tenant income not to exceed roughly \$66,000 per year for a family of four.

Paul Browne, Vice President for Real Estate Development for Wesley Housing, has noted that this would be housing for people who earn a "true working wage."

The project is anchored in four site priorities: protecting

the playground and greenspace, improving circulation (drop-off and pick-up) at the site, providing sufficient parking for the users of the site, and mitigating traffic impacts in the neighborhood.

The mix of apartments is likely be 60 percent two-bedroom and 20 percent each of one-bedroom and three-bedroom units. The building would have four stories, but because of grading, the bottom of the first floor of apartments would be lower than the grading in the adjacent Fairlington Towne.

The project would be financed by a combination of a loan from a private lender, a subordinated loan from the City of Alexandria, and the allocation of federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

The church and developer held "table talk" briefings for the community in June and July. The proposal is expected to come before the Alexandria City Council for approval in November. For more information see <https://www.wesleyhousing.org/fairlington-presbyterian-church.html>.

—Guy Land

County acquires Shirlington Road property

The Arlington County Board has approved the acquisition of three parcels of land along Shirlington Rd. to use as the storage and operational site for the county's Arlington Rapid Transit (ART) bus fleet.

The county already had been using the largest parcel of land, 2.52 acres at 2629 Shirlington Rd., to store ART buses through a rental agreement, paying the landowner roughly \$60,000 per month. Unanimously approved at the July 14 county board meeting, the purchase comes with a small piece of undeveloped land, currently used for stormwater drainage, and a .94-acre lot at 2633 Shirlington Rd., most recently used as storage by a towing operator.

According to a county press release, the \$23.86 million purchase, made with funding from state, regional, and dedicated local transportation sources, will help solve a pressing facilities challenge as the county's bus transit system continues to expand.

The Shirlington Rd. properties would complement the



The county has been renting the property for ART bus storage. Photo by Guy Land.

ART light-maintenance facility on S. Eads St. in Arlington, and the heavy maintenance facility site in Fairfax County that the county may acquire.

Conceptual plans indicate that the property is sufficient for up to 90 ART buses, bus operator parking, and an operations facility. According to the county manager's report to the board, a permanent operations location is needed for ART to provide the support necessary for

the system's growing needs. This growth was envisioned in the county's 10-year Transit Development Plan.

"The existing leased ART bus storage at Shirlington is ideally located within the ART service area and presents the best location to develop as a base for ART operations," the manager's report stated.

The county's acquisition continues the board's recent focus on the Four Mile Run Valley and Nauck areas.

—Guy Land

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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 had a change of plans and enjoyed a tasty dinner at nearby Rabieng.

Here's what's planned for September:

Saturday, September 15, lunch at Mi Vida Restaurante at the newly-opened Wharf on the SE waterfront, 98 District Square SW, Washington, D.C. 20024, 202-516-4656, <https://mividamexico.com>. We'll plan to take the 11:45 am water taxi from Alexandria, with lunch at 12:30 pm. You are also welcome to get there on your own. Round trip tickets for the water taxi are \$20 for adults (12-59) or \$18 for seniors (60+), 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 on the 3:05 pm or 4:25 pm water taxi, to give us time to explore.

Monday, September 24, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., 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 month preceding the event, email carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group meeting in North Fairlington this month only!

Join the Fairlington Book Group in September to discuss *Between You and Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen* by Mary Norris, longtime copy editor at *The New Yorker*.

"Mary Norris has spent more than three decades in *The New Yorker's* copy department, maintaining its celebrated high standards. Now she brings her vast experience,

good cheer, and finely sharpened pencils to help the rest of us in a boisterous language book as full of life as it is of practical advice." —Amazon.com

"Hilarious...This book charmed my socks off." —Patricia O'Conner, *The New York Times Book Review*

Please note our change of location for this month only. We're meeting at the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St., on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:30 pm. 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 fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to join.

Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® 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 MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.



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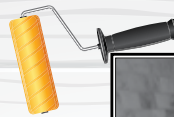
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Young Scholars Innovation Academy

Abingdon Elementary School hosted its second Young Scholars Innovation Academy this summer during the month of August. The Academy is a federally funded enrichment program designed to provide rich and unique learning opportunities for students in grades 1–5.

The Academy promotes real-world thinking with a strong emphasis on science and technology. Students increased and developed critical and creative thinking as well as problem-solving abilities through meaningful, authentic learning experiences.

The Academy was taught by Abingdon staff and was well-aligned with Abingdon's Project GIFT (Guiding Instruction through Fine Arts and Technology) goals as they strived to integrate fine arts and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education throughout the summer and school year.



Summer learning excites students at Abingdon's Young Scholars Innovation Academy. Photos from Abingdon Twitter Feed @AbingdonGIFT.



Mark your calendars!

The annual Abingdon Back to School Picnic and Potluck is scheduled for Monday, September 3, from 12 to 2 pm. All Abingdon families, staff, and alumni are invited back for our annual picnic on the Abing-

don grounds. This is a great opportunity for students to see old friends and welcome new ones. For more information, contact the Abingdon PTA at abingdonelementaryPTA@gmail.com.

—Carrie Lewis



Abingdon School Supply Drive

The FCA is partnering with Abingdon Elementary School this year to ensure that all students have the school supplies they need for a successful school year. To read the full story and see how you can help with a donation of money or supplies, see page 7.





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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Real-life garden Q&A

Since I aim to make this a reader-friendly column, below I'll share common questions I'm asked by Fairlington homeowners. The names are omitted but the questions are actual.

We're thinking of putting in a brick or flagstone patio. Shouldn't we first break up and remove the existing concrete patio?

Actually, no. The concrete patios—installed during the condominium conversion in the early 1970s—are four inches thick, which takes a lot of jack-hammering and hauling away to remove. And that cost is steep. Any new hardscape situates best when laid over an existing aggregate. This makes it stable as opposed to laying brick or flagstone on bare dirt or all-purpose sand.



Fairlington camellia. Photos by Guy Land.

Our patio is in total shade. Isn't it hard to grow anything here?

No. There are many specimens

which thrive in heavy shade. And remember, with our humid summers and 100-plus heat indexes, even sun-loving plants need a break from the heat. Here are shade-loving specimens. Shrubs: Camellia, Mahonia, Euonymus 'Green Spire,' and Aucuba. Ground Cover: Periwinkle, Pachysandra, and Lamium. Perennials: Astilbe, Coral Bells, Bleeding Heart, Lungwort, Fern, Lenten Rose, and Mazus. Vines: Star jasmine and Carolina jessamine.

What can we plant to hide the eyesores in our patio, specifically the metered power box and downspout?

Oftentimes, there is scant soil space in this corner of the patio. Try planting these evergreens, which will mask the eyesores with a "green" feel: Euonymus 'Green Spire,' Juniper 'Skyrocket,' Sky Pencil Japanese Holly, or Camellia. These specimens are narrow and situate perfectly in a tight corner.

What can we do with an old tree stump?

To remove one takes a special saw to cut out the core of the stump. In addition, there are root arms underground. To save money, either mulch over it (if it doesn't protrude far out of the ground) or set a figurine on the stump. Popular decorations I've seen are rabbits and frogs.

What's wrong with my Hosta? It has crumpled or yellowing leaves.

Hosta foliage is susceptible to drought and heat. When overex-

posed to the sun and in prolonged droughts, the foliage becomes brittle and yellow. But this does no damage to the plant, which is a perennial and germinates in early May. (A side note: Sometimes slugs can chew on Hosta foliage, leaving holes in the leaves. Try pruning away leaves that lie on or drag the ground to make it harder for the slug to crawl onto the plant and chew.)



Fairlington patio hostas.

I like Crape Myrtle trees and see them everywhere. Which type should I plant in my patio?

Crape Myrtle trees grow from six-feet to 30-feet tall, so for a Fairlington patio, purchase a dwarf. These cultivars mature at six- to 12-feet tall, which is more manageable for a patio. A dwarf also has less spread (width). Some dwarf Crape Myrtle cultivars are: Tonto (fuchsia), Zuni (lavender), Hopi (light pink), Pecos (medium pink), and Acoma (white).

—Bill Sullivan
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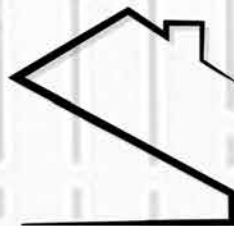


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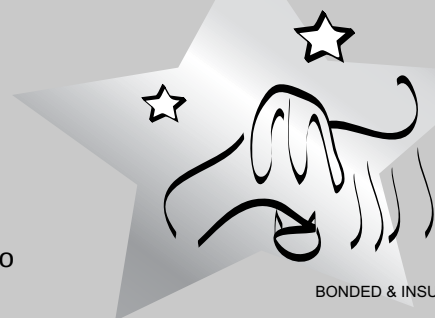
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Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (September 10 for October issue).

- 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.

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

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Barbara Kirkland 703-405-5920