

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

Volume 46, Number 9

## *Park Shirlington redevelopment virtual briefing set for September 3*

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*Entrance to Park Shirlington. Photo by Guy Land.*

The owners of the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St. will brief the community in a virtual session September 3 on their latest plans to redevelop the property by preserving affordable housing and adding market rate townhouses and condominiums.

The briefing will be streamed live over FCA's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/>

FCAcivic, beginning at 7 pm. Residents will be able to ask questions through the chat box feature.

The proposal, which has been informally submitted for preliminary review by Arlington County staff, builds on a general plan they outlined at an FCA briefing for the community in November 2019.

The plan calls for the preservation of affordable housing on the site, but it would almost double the total number of units on the property. The remaining units are expected to be market rate.

Park Shirlington is a 294-unit garden apartment complex built in 1956. Standard Communities and Foundation Housing jointly purchased the market affordable complex in December 2017 with the assistance of a \$6 million loan from the county's Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

A condition of the three-year loan is that all the existing units be maintained as committed housing affordable to households earning up to 80 percent of Area Median Income. Earlier this year the county and the owners agreed to an extension of the terms of the loan for another year.

Under the plan unveiled last fall, the proposal would add approximately 420 more units to the site, though the final number of units would be determined later in the design and permitting process.

The plan showed all 294 affordable units clustered on the eastern side of 31st

*Continued on page 13*

## 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.

**Special presentation September 3:** The owners of the Park Shirlington Apartments will provide a virtual briefing on preliminary plans to redevelop the site.

### FCA monthly meeting September 9

There will be no presentation at the September 9 meeting. The Board will hold a virtual meeting, which can be viewed live on FCA's Facebook page and later on FCA's YouTube channel.

#### 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](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Citizens Association.

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

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#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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

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

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## Calendar

### Park Shirlington Briefing

Thursday, September 3, 7 pm  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Labor Day

Monday, September 7  
FCC Closed

### Fairlington Knits

Monday, September 7, 6:30 p.m.  
See page 29 for details

### FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 7 pm  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Family Movie Night

Saturday, September 12, 8 pm  
FCC Field

### Book Group

Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 pm  
See page 29 for details

### Fairlington Diners

Thursday, September 24, 6 pm  
FCC Field

## Camp Fairlington



*With COVID-19 limiting camping opportunities this summer, young Fairlingtonians improvised and created a camp at the corner of 34th and Utah Sts. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Contributors this month:** Lynne Blasi, Julie Butler, Leslie Cameron, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Beth McGinn, Jillian Oberfield, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, Jackie Winklevoss.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The response of the larger Fairlington community to the COVID-related needs of our neighbors this summer has been simply amazing. Individual residents, private businesses, nonprofits, and informal organizations have pitched in to do grocery runs for seniors, make and distribute masks, provide meals for people, and equip students with school supplies.

In mid-August I watched a group of folks from FCA, Abingdon Elementary, and the Abingdon PTA provide fresh produce to families at Park Shirlington, a number of whom lost their jobs when businesses scaled back because of COVID. You couldn't help but be touched by the gratitude of the recipients and the passion of the volunteers.

Fairlington residents Jenn Davies and Deb Staren-Doby have coordinated the food relief efforts for five months. They've received terrific support from local businesses such as Great Harvest Bread (owned by Fairlington residents Megan and Brad Hurst) and Fairlington Pizza, both in the Fairlington Centre shopping strip.

Even the customers and vendors of the Fairlington Farmers Market, particularly Pleitez Produce Farm and Spring Valley Farm and Orchard, have stepped up to boost the supply of produce going to families who are facing food insecurity.

Park Shirlington residents have needed not just food and school supplies, but also rental assistance and eviction relief. The lapse of supplemental unemployment benefits at the end of July exacerbated this challenge. Fairlington Meadows resident Michelle Woolley has been on point in working with county and state leaders to find solutions.

County board members, school board members, human services staff, and Arlington police have been valued allies in all of these efforts to provide food, housing, and supplies for our neighbors.

What has struck me this summer is how generous and caring Fairlington residents are. That's part of why this is such a great community. It's also a reason FCA has created a nonprofit, Fairlington Cares, to provide a vehicle for ensuring that resources donated by people in our neighborhood are deployed to help families in the larger Fairlington area.

A number of you have told me you are interested in this work, and we look forward to engaging with you. This fall we will be doing some strategic planning to map out the best way we can have an impact without duplicating the work of other nonprofits in the area. We would welcome your ideas.

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



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Until this crisis is over, we will continue to monitor the developments set by the CDC and our local governments and will make any necessary adjustments to our practices to keep you safe.

We support our community and feel that it is everybody's job to limit risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and in that light, we encourage you to take advantage of telephone, Facetime, and video consultations for all your home improvement needs.

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# Lindsay Automotive plans dealership expansion

Lindsay Automotive Group is proposing to redevelop their property in Alexandria just off of Quaker Lane and add a new brand to their suite of vehicle sales and service. Company representatives briefed the FCA Board at its August 12 virtual meeting.

The proposal calls for demolishing the existing office building on Osage St. and developing a Volvo dealership with sales and service on that site. The company would also demolish the existing Cadillac sales building and parking garage off of Kenwood and Fern Sts. and replace it with a new Lexus dealership with separate sales and service buildings.

The Cadillac business will be relocated to the site of the existing Lexus dealership at King St. and Quaker Ln.

The project would include undergrounding utilities along the perimeter streets and installing new streetscapes, with street trees and larger sidewalks.



*A new Volvo dealership would be located along Osage, Bradford, and Quaker.*

The current Cadillac facility was built in 1949 and was purchased in the 1960s by the grandfather of the current company president, Michael Lindsay. The Lindsay business has been part of the neighborhood since that time.

For a number of years the company has been a sponsor of the youth soccer league for which many Fairlington children have played.



*Lindsay Automotive proposes to redevelop three parcels across Quaker Ln. from Fairlington. Graphics courtesy Lindsay Automotive Group.*

The redevelopment will be a phased project to be carried out over three years. The details of the phasing are still being worked out.

Company representatives noted that the Lindsay property goes to the center of the Fairlington Centre parking lot, but an easement dating to the 1950s will ensure that the property will continue to share the parking spaces with the shopping center.

The proposal is expected to go before the Alexan-

dria Planning Commission and City Council in November, but City staff caution that because of COVID-19, there is a backlog of matters to be considered by those bodies and the timeline for consideration of the Lindsay proposal could slip.

The conversion of the current Lexus business to Cadillac dealership is not part of the proposal, as it will all be done within the confines of the existing property and will not require zoning considerations by the City.

—Guy Land

## FCA considers sponsoring fall concert

In the wake of many postponed concerts, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has shifted to outdoor performances. FCA is hoping to collaborate with the ASO to bring such an event to the community this fall.

For those who enjoy live music, the event would feature a small ensemble performing a 45-minute program. The audience would be required to maintain proper social distancing and appropriate mask wearing. Venues and dates are being explored...stay tuned!

In a 2019 online survey, residents expressed an interest in seeing FCA do more to promote the arts in the community.

—Rebecca Sayres



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# ***“Trolls World Tour” set for September 12***

Fairlington’s third outdoor family movie night is slated for Saturday, September 12. Despite COVID-19 difficulties, the FCA will host its third free outdoor movie night to encourage Fairlington residents to get out and enjoy the company of their community—socially distanced, of course.

Taking advantage of the neighborhood’s lovely facilities, a large screen will be set up on the field behind the Fairlington Community Center. Residents are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and their favorite theatre snacks to set up a socially distant picnic on the FCC field and enjoy a viewing of “Trolls World Tour” under the stars.

Residents must wear masks when they arrive and when they leave. During the movie they must remain with their family group. Hand sanitizer will be available.

The movie is set to begin just after sundown (around 7:45 pm), but those attending are encouraged to come early to set up. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on FCC grounds and that your picnic space will need to be 6 feet away from anyone else not in your household. Masks are required if you are within



*Photo courtesy  
universalpictures.com.*

6 feet of anyone not living with you.

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 flashlight settings to navigate their way home after the show. Since we live in Fairlington, bug spray is always a good idea.

Subtitles will be provided throughout the film, which is approximately an hour and a half long. Though we are hoping for a beautiful September evening, there is always a chance that such an 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 then be announced in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. FCA is looking forward to sponsoring this event, and excited to screen a movie that didn’t get its big screen debut due to COVID. We hope to see you there!

—Julie Butler

## ***Last taste of summer***



*The sound of Mr. Softee’s ice cream truck drew a steady stream of happy customers across Fairlington during August. Photo by Guy Land.*

## ***Wanted:***

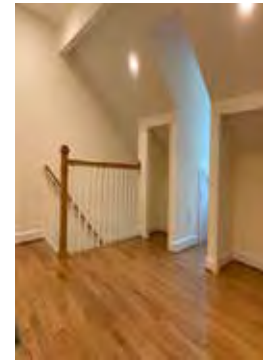
### ***All Fairlington Bulletin Editor***

The Fairlington Citizens Association seeks an editor for the *All Fairlington Bulletin* to manage the production of the monthly print publication that is delivered to more than 3,400 Fairlington households. In this role, you’ll edit the content, select photos to accompany the stories, write headlines and captions, write articles as needed, take photos as needed, and ensure the publication is error-free before sending to the printer.

This is a part-time, paid position that is ideal for anyone with a journalism or communications background. If you are detail-oriented, a good writer, and a solid editor, you’d be a great fit. The ideal editor wants to highlight the wonderful things the residents of Fairlington are doing to help their community, and bring to light news that impacts Fairlingtonians as well.

Candidates should submit a resume and brief cover letter to [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).





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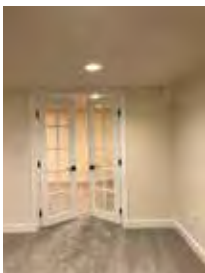
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# Fairlington 5K goes virtual, race set for October 3

Over the last six years, the Fairlington 5K has become one of the neighborhood's most popular and beloved events—bringing together 700 runners and walkers to support Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn, a young girl born with a rare brain and spinal cord condition called LBSL. The race also yields funding for programs at Abingdon Elementary.



*Last year's 5K drew more than 600 runners. Photo by Guy Land.*

Usually held each April, the event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to kick start and support research into a cure for LBSL at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore.

With less than 100 known cases of LBSL in the world, scientists are racing against time to find a cure for the degenerative condition which slowly robs children of their ability to walk, then stand, then coordinate all movements.

"The race brings hope to our family and others around the world who also suffer with this disease," explained Ellie's mom Beth. "The love and support of our Fair-

lington neighbors is the reason we believe a cure will be found within the next five years."

Because of the COVID-19 health crisis, organizers of the race had to cancel the in-person event that is traditionally held the third weekend in April. After exploring options, they decided to host a virtual 5K that will kick off Saturday, October 3. Participants will have one week to complete the challenge on their own and will be encouraged to submit their times via an app and share their support for Ellie on social media.

People who already registered for the in-person Fairlington 5K will receive an email giving them the option to switch to the virtual event, receive a refund, or make a donation.

For more information on how to register for the Fairlington 5K go to [www.Fairlington5K.com](http://www.Fairlington5K.com) or email [bfrigola@gmail.com](mailto:bfrigola@gmail.com).

—Beth McGinn

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## Local MOMS Club shifts to new structure

The MOMS Club of Fairlington, a chapter of the umbrella organization MOMS Club International® (Moms Offering Moms Support), has voted unanimously to separate from the national organization, of which it has been a part since 2007.

In light of MOMS Club International's requirements of holding daytime meetings and their idea of a singular family structure, in early July the current Fairlington leadership surveyed members about possibly shifting to a different format. Another format would ideally match the Fairlington club's membership versus MOMS Club International's suggested focus on at-home moms and setting limits on evening and weekend activities, with their overarching philosophy that during those times, women can stay home and take care of their families.

(As a point of reference, at least 73 percent of the Fairlington MOMS Club members work full time; about 11 percent work part-time; and about 16 percent are stay-at-home parents.)

While the survey was being conducted, the Fairlington club's leadership learned of some statements by MOMS Club International in relation to racism and social justice that they found disturbing. A chapter in California asked MOMS Club International to share their anti-racism photo collage on social media with the message "We stand with all moms and pledge that racial discrimination will stop with our kids."

MOMS Club International did not post the collage and, when asked why, eventually gave this answer: "The MOMS Club is a 501(c)(3) public charity, as such, we cannot and do not participate in political activities. Unfortunately, situations with the police and racism in general have been politicized by others outside the MOMS Club. Any statement we make could be considered political because of that. And, graphics like that collage and the statements/resources that we've been requested to post imply that our members have been

*Continued on page 27*



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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# ***FCA Subcommittee on Inclusivity and Diversity—ideas for the future***

Four FCA Board members and two residents met virtually to discuss ways in which the community could be more inclusive while at the same time celebrating and highlighting its diversity. Residents Lydia Redway (Villages) and Shelly Ann Sinclair (Green) joined FCA Directors Julie Butler, Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, and Chris Weathers. After a flurry of ideas and exchanges, the group focused on several different approaches; some easier implemented than others, given COVID 19 restrictions.

Central to the conversation was the concept of mindfulness and how a conscious effort to learn more about our neighbors can help gain a better appreciation/perspective regarding different backgrounds or life experiences.

In terms of immediate actions, the group agreed that the *All Fairlington Bulletin* and FCA's Facebook page could provide a good platform to learn more about residents—from observed cultural traditions and holidays to varying perspectives around an issue or topic, such as looking at the Park Shirlington re-development proposal through the eyes of Park Shirlington residents.

Some ideas included more deep dives into local Black history, food and meal traditions, and experiences of LGBTQ members living in Fairlington. The group decided to launch a community survey in order to generate more ideas and input from neighbors (see story below for more details).

There were also many great ideas on how to learn about our neighbors and celebrate different cultures once gatherings and socializing are permitted. Obviously, a lot will depend on what a post-pandemic world will look like.

## ***Community survey about diversity and inclusion***

We want to hear your perspective on diversity and inclusion in Fairlington. Do you have observations to share? Do you feel the community could be doing more to be more welcoming and inclusive? What would you recommend?

FCA will be posting a survey on our Facebook page and website at the beginning of September. Please be on the lookout for it. The FCA-sponsored working group is seeking additional feedback, ideas, and initiatives residents would like to see the community consider.

There was consensus that food could be a great unifying theme! Ideas discussed included the following:

- Sharing recipes and dishes (this could start in the AFB);
- Inspired by Abingdon's international night and the success of the FCA's home remodel expo at FCC, hosting a community event that includes information on different cultures and backgrounds that are represented within FCA's service area, which includes Park Shirlington and Shirlington House;
- Sponsoring a public/group art project.

The group also discussed ways in which FCA could encourage greater attendance, participation and engagement at its monthly meetings. Continuing to promote livestreaming with the option for residents to post comments was resoundingly supported, even when meetings eventually return to "in person" events. When in person meetings do resume, there was agreement that FCA could look to foster more time for socializing. There was a suggestion to have, on a quarterly basis, designated time for open-ended discussion(s) on topics based on resident interests.

The group looks forward to meeting monthly and getting started. Please take the time to complete the survey and help direct the conversation.

—Jennifer Davies

## ***Learning the ropes***



*Rope-based play equipment has become one of the most popular aspects of the playground at the Fairlington Community Center. The ropes were added as part of last year's renovation of the county-owned playground. Photo by Guy Land.*

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# For the love of nature

*A column by Fairlington grounds committee members and gardeners*

Fairlington is full of open spaces for walking, playing, sitting, and walking dogs. It's part of what we love about Fairlington.

A lot of this open space is covered with lawn, or turfgrass. To achieve the velvety, uniform expanses of green we have come to expect, we use lots of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. In fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says "homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops."

Runoff during rains carries these chemicals into our waterways, and synthetic lawn chemicals can harm the microorganisms in soil as well as insects. For example, fireflies live underground as larvae in the two years it takes to get from egg to adult. Lawn chemicals can kill them. And while the synthetic pesticides we use today are safer (if used precisely according to the label) for people than those used in the past, no pesticide is 100 percent safe.

A lawn that is healthy as well as beautiful is possible. Healthy soil is alive with the microorganisms that feed and support the grass and plants. Reducing or eliminating synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides supports healthy soil. Leaving the grass clippings (free fertilizer!) after mowing returns nitrogen to the soil and reduces the need for added fertilizers.

Mowing at a height of 3 ½ to 4 inches, never cutting grass by more than a third, and keeping mower blades sharp to minimize damage to leaf blades (which invites disease) encourages deeper roots and stronger grass. Regular soil tests and adding organic matter improves soil and increases water holding capacity. Practices like these encourage thick, healthy stands of turf grass, which helps grass outcompete weeds, reducing the need for herbicides.

If synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are reduced or eliminated, white or Dutch clover will naturally grow. Clover is good for the grass. It adds nitrogen to the soil and is drought-resistant (it will grow in areas that grass



*Members of four Fairlington grounds committees looked at grass in the Meadows Court 14 and the Mews Court 15. The Meadows, Mews, and Villages are using organic fertilizer and non-toxic herbicides. You can drop by to see how it's working! Photo by Tina Byrd.*

will not). In fact, bags of grass seed used to regularly include clover seed. (In mid-20th century, manufacturers of synthetic herbicides began to market clover as a "weed," and shifted how we see it.) Clover also provides food for bees. Rethinking clover is another healthy lawn idea.

"Weeds" like clover or violets support the bees and butterflies, which depend on them for nectar. Violets (which are native) are a host plant for fritillary butterflies. While many plants supply nectar, most insects rely on native plants in a particular family

(or even a particular species) to lay eggs, so there is a next generation. Our decisions about how we manage our lawn can make a big difference in protecting our ecosystem, and ourselves.

Members of the grounds committees of several Fairlington condominiums are meeting to discuss ways of ensuring that their grounds contracts and contractors give priority to these considerations, for the benefit of us all.

—Leslie Cameron

---

*Park Shirlington from page 1*

St. (the side closest to I-395). Last year's plan showed a new seven-story apartment at the back of the property, adjacent to the VDOT right-of-way and directly next to Fairlington Villages units.

A zoning ordinance passed by the county last year prohibits new developments from towering over existing residential units. As a result, the Park Shirlington owners have reportedly shifted the site of the residential tower away from Fairlington Villages and further down the hill toward Shirlington.

The apartment buildings on the west side of 31st St. would be demolished and replaced with a combination of townhouses and condos.

—Guy Land



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# Alexandria affordable housing project set to begin construction

Work is slated to begin this fall on The Waypoint at Fairlington, an 81-unit affordable housing complex on the site of the current parking lot of Fairlington Presbyterian Church at 3846 King St. in Alexandria. The project reflects a partnership between Wesley Housing Development Corp., Fairlington Presbyterian Church, and the City of Alexandria. The building will be four stories with an underground garage.

The project responds to affordable housing needs as identified by City of Alexandria and social mission goals of Fairlington Presbyterian. Wesley, which will own and manage the complex, briefed the community on the construction plans in late July.



*The affordable housing will be built on part of the current parking lot at Fairlington Presbyterian. Graphic Courtesy Wesley Housing Development.*

The first phase, which began in August, will see the relocation of the playground from the side to the front of the church, followed by parking lot construction on the two sides of the church. When the project is complete, the public will have access to the playground after school hours.

The second phase, which will begin next spring, will bring the construction of the apartment building itself, with completion scheduled for spring of 2022. Wesley expects to begin leasing that spring, with the building fully leased by summer of 2022.

The apartment building will have three studio units, 12 one-bedrooms, 49 two-bedrooms, and 17 three-bedroom apartments. Apartments will be affordable for families at 30 percent, 50 percent, and 60 percent of Area Median Income, which is slightly more than \$87,000.

During construction, the overflow parking lot at Fairlington United Methodist Church will be used for construction parking.

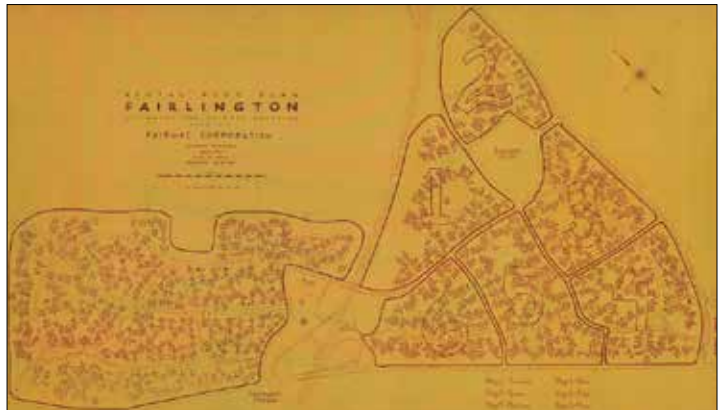
When the application for the project was before the City of Alexandria, FCA expressed its general support for the goals of the project.

Wesley is an affordable housing non-profit that has been in business in northern Virginia for 46 years, sponsoring over 2500 units of affordable housing, primarily multi-family rental housing.

—Guy Land

## Fairlington architect's map reproduction—now available

Perhaps you have noticed the sepia toned map of the Fairlington community hanging in the North Fairlington Community Center. The original map was probably prepared c. 1943 by the architect Kenneth Franzheim for the Defense Homes Corporation and subsequently revised for Fairmac, the firm that managed the post-World War II rental community from 1947–1972.



*Architect's map of Fairlington. Courtesy Fairlington Historical Society.*

The map was updated by CBI Fairmac, the firm that oversaw its conversion to condominiums in 1972-1978, and later revised by the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) to better define the villages.

FHS is now making 36" X 24" reproductions available for purchase for \$40.00 each, postage included.

Go to [fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org) and select 'Publications and Tours.' Download the 'Fairlington Architect's Map' order form and mail your form and check to FHS, 2776 Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, VA 22206.





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## Plan now for November 3 election

The election on November 3 will be unprecedented in many ways. The big questions are how to vote and have the ballot counted. Before voting, register to vote or check your registration to make sure it is current at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>.

The last day to register or update registration information is October 13. Any eligible U.S. citizen who will be 18 years old by November 3, 2020, is eligible to register.

Federal elections on the November ballot will be President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives. Voters will also consider a constitutional amendment concerning how legislative districts are drawn. Arlington residents will also be voting on a member of the county board and for two seats on the school board.

Because of the concerns for the welfare of voters and election officials during the Covid-19 pandemic, state and local governments and civic groups recom-

mend voting by mail. It is not too soon to apply for an absentee ballot. Using the Department of Elections link above is the easiest way to apply, although application forms can be printed out from the website and are available at the public libraries and the office of elections. In Arlington the office is at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. In Alexandria it is 132 North Royal Street, Suite 100.



Ballots will be sent to voters starting September 18. The last day to request a mail ballot is October 23 (5 pm for a paper application and 11:59 pm online).

Early voting begins September 18 at the elections offices and satellite locations, Monday through Saturday, until October 31. The Arlington County board was scheduled to determine satellite locations in late August. The satellite location in Alexandria is Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street.

To research what is on the ballot, the nonpartisan League of Women Voters provides a tool, [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).



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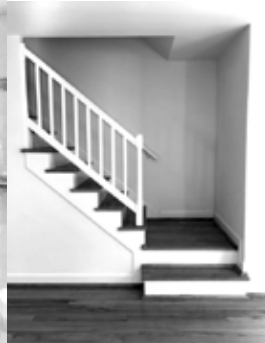
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# Help people in need through the farmers market



Fairlington residents and vendors at the Fairlington Farmers Market have always generously supported families and individuals in need of supplemental food, and this continues during COVID-19.

While the pandemic is affecting everyone in different ways, it has hit people struggling to afford enough food for their families particularly hard. Since our market opened in May, two vendors have made it possible for shoppers to purchase additional produce and fruit through pre-orders or buying items onsite, that is then given to people in need. Vendors have donated additional food as well.

Between May 31–August 2, Pleitez Produce Farm has collected 1,621 pounds of food for the food pantry at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington. Since May, Spring Valley Farm and Orchard has provided an average of 15 charity boxes a week from Fairlington

for families at the Winchester Church of God Food Pantry and Community Fellowship Church.

Special thanks to Pleitez and Spring Valley, who have been with our market since the beginning, for coordinating these much-needed community efforts.

Here's how you can help:

**Pleitez Produce:** Donate a Produce Box or purchase any kind of produce to feed families in Arlington. [pleitezproducefarm.com](http://pleitezproducefarm.com)

**Spring Valley:** \$30 Charity Box. [springvalleyfarmandorchard.square.site](http://springvalleyfarmandorchard.square.site).

Thank you!

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

## Special thank you

Special thanks to the volunteers who are helping to keep our market running safely and smoothly each week. We continue to follow established health and safety guidelines for farmers markets, including ensuring shoppers maintain physical distancing while waiting in lines, wear face coverings, and follow a one-way traffic pattern while in the market.

# Impactful COVID-19 relief efforts pivot to the fall

Since the beginning of April, a dedicated group of Fairlington residents, Abingdon Elementary PTA and staff, as well as Arlington County Police Department school resource officers, have formed a team to provide food, meals, resources, and supplies to some of South Arlington's most vulnerable communities.

Fairlingtonians and Abingdon families generously donated to rent relief initiatives, bought school supplies, and dropped off books and clothing. Over 20 organizations and agencies have helped to support these efforts. County Board member Matt de Ferranti, School Board member Monique O'Grady, and Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director for the County's Department of Human Services, have all come to visit the distribution sites and were moved by the level of commitment by volunteers as well as the obvious need in these communities.



*FCA Vice President Jennifer Davies (right) and Abby Rafael, co-chair of Coalition for a Hungry Free Arlington (and former school board chair) discuss plans for free and reduced meals for students while at Park Shirlington. Photo by Guy Land.*

Over the past 20 + weeks, volunteers have staffed distribution sites in Park Shirlington, Columbia Grove, and Wildwood Park Apartments, all of which fall in Abingdon's attendance zone.

Sometimes numbers do speak more than words. In summary:

- ~9000 meals have been provided, 1000 of which were donated by Fairlington Pizza
- ~2000 masks have been distributed
- ~2200 loaves of bread have been donated by Great Harvest Bread
- ~1400 books have gotten into the hands of children that need them
- \$45,000 has been raised to help 33 families cover rental needs until connected with long-term housing assistance



*Arlington County Board member Matt de Ferranti helped out at Wildwood Park Apartments. Photo by Deborah Staren-Doby.*

- \$3,700 in grocery store gift cards have been donated
- Thousands of pounds of produce and groceries have been distributed (PTA and AFAC donations)
- Thousands of snack bags and breakfast bags have been distributed (Claremont PTA sharing collection with Abingdon)
- Hundreds of toiletry kits and feminine hygiene products have been distributed
- Hundreds of school supplies, from crayons to paper, have gone to eager students

In mid-August a strong fundraising effort was underway to support Real Food for Kids, the nonprofit supplying the majority of meals at the distribution sites. The fundraising push would allow the nonprofit to continue these operations through September 4. In addition, former School Board Chair Abby Rafael, who now co-chairs the Coalition for a Hungry Free Arlington, helped secure a grant to provide bags of fresh produce to all three sites through September 4.



*Arlington School Board member Monique O'Grady joined the food distribution effort at Columbia Grove Apartments. Photo by Deborah Staren-Doby.*



With the start of (virtual) school after Labor Day, Abingdon PTA will shift its focus to primarily supporting students' learning experience and helping specific families as identified by the school social workers. At an August 13



Abingdon PTA president (and former Fairlington resident) Jackie Winklevoss and Fairlington Court resident Deborah Staren-Doby help distribute food to Park Shirlinton residents on a drizzly August morning. Photo by Guy Land.



Abingdon teachers Kathi Aagaard (left) and Laura Graham prepare a bag of fresh vegetables for a Park Shirlinton resident. Photo by Guy Land.

School Board work session, APS announced that Abingdon would be among 21 meal distribution sites across the county. In addition, 10 additional remote sites will serve hard hit communities by providing school meals by bus.

*Continued on page 23*

## Park Shirlinton residents express appreciation

Several Park Shirlinton families were willing to share what these distribution sites and volunteers have meant to them.

*Buenas tardes, soy Jessy. Vivo en Park Shirlinton y ha sido de mucha ayuda el apoyo que los maestros de Abingdon y de los voluntarios de la comunidad nos han brindando. Dedicando su tiempo en estos tiempos difíciles sin importar la lluvia y el calor de estos días. No tengo más que agradecimiento a ese grupo de personas que de manera desinteresada están ahí cada día para brindarnos una mano amiga. Muchas gracias y que el señor los bendiga por su humana labor al igual que a usted señora Branco que es nuestro enlace para esta mano amiga.*

[Good afternoon, I am Jessy. I live in Park Shirlinton and the support that the Abingdon teachers and community volunteers have given us has been very helpful. Spending your time in these difficult times regardless of the rain and heat of these days. I have nothing but thanks to that group of people who are disinterestedly there every day to offer us a helping hand. Thank you very much and may the Lord bless you for your humane work as well as you, Mrs. Branco, who is our link for this helping hand.]

*Gracias, les agradecemos porque en los momentos mas difíciles y están hasta hoy luchando por nosotros, este grupo*

*es muy lindo no les ha importado mojarse, estar en el solaso pero allí han estado como ángeles que han llevado comida a park Shirlinton. yo e llorado de verlos por que son ángeles que Dios preparo para este tiempo. Dios me la bendiga. Este grupo es muy especial Amén.*

[Thank you, we thank you because in the most difficult times you have been fighting for us, this group is very nice, even in the rain or sun they have been like angels who have brought food to Park Shirlinton, and I have cried to see them because they are angels that God prepared for this difficult time. God bless you. This group is very special. Amen.]

*Agradezco a todo este maravilloso equipo que tuvieron el tiempo y la dedicación para ayudar a la comunidad en estos tiempos tan difíciles en los que en una sonrisa, un buenos días. Han hecho que estos tiempos de pandemia sean más llevaderos, llevándonos cada semana provisiones para nuestras familias.*

[Thank all this wonderful team that they had the time and dedication to help the community in these difficult times when, with a smile a good morning they have made these times of pandemic more bearable, bringing us supplies and food for our families every week.]

—Translation by Caty Branco, Abingdon Elementary Bilingual Liaison Coordinator

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Abingdon PTA and staff plan accordingly for the fall.

Everyone who has worked at the distribution sites recognizes that the needs will not be going away. Efforts will be made to find ways to continue supporting the neighbors and provide assistance to connect them with County resources. FCA will remain committed to helping as well.

—Jennifer Davies

## Park Shirlington residents face COVID-related evictions

Many residents across Arlington County are experiencing economic hardship as a direct result of the pandemic. In addition to food security, housing security remains a concern for the County's Department of Human Services (DHS), including a focus on the needs of Park Shirlington residents that may be at risk of eviction because of the loss of income.

Governor Northam announced a \$50 million rent relief program at the end of June, funded out of the CARES Act. On August 8, the Virginia Supreme Court granted a temporary moratorium on evictions related to the failure to pay rent from August 10 through September 7, 2020. This stay was welcomed news for many in Arlington County concerned with the high numbers of pending evictions.

At a special meeting on the eviction crisis hosted by the Virginia Coalition to Repeal Right to Work held on August 7, the County Board's newest member, Takis



Park Shirlington residents line up as fresh food is dropped off during an August food distribution event. Photo by Guy Land.

Karantonis, noted that Park Shirlington accounted for some of the highest eviction rates in the County.

FCA had already been alerted to a number of pending evictions in Park Shirlington and reached out directly to the DHS Assistant Director, Kurt Larrick. He urged residents to call the County's general number for emergency assistance and advised that DHS staff would be in court starting July 30 to assist residents in obtaining a 60-day extension and trying to work out a solution with the property owner/manager. Abingdon PTA has been distributing flyers to residents when they come to food distribution sites, urging them to contact DHS or local non-profits that can help.

—Jennifer Davies

## Thanks for COVID response

Meeting the COVID-related needs of families in Fairlington, Park Shirlington, and the larger Abingdon Elementary area has been the product of a broad, informal network of private businesses, nonprofits, school

organizations, and committed community residents. FCA thanks them for their work in helping our neighbors overcome the challenges COVID has presented.

Abingdon Elementary PTA and Staff  
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Capital Area Food Bank  
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—Mary Thomasson,  
Former Fairlington owner



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# Gunston Middle School welcomes new PTA leadership

The virtual start of the 2020–2021 academic year will be uncharted territory for parents, teachers, and students alike. Fortunately for Gunston Middle School families, the PTA will be helmed by two proven PTA leaders in our community: Melissa Schwaber Hawkins and Jenifer Hornback.

Melissa, who has served as PTA President for Claremont, will be a Gunston parent for a fourth year with a 6th grader in the Immersion Program. She also has a ninth grader in the Immersion Program at Wakefield and a kindergartener at Claremont. Melissa currently lives in the Claremont neighborhood but lived in North Fairlington for 9 years.

Jeni Hornback will be in her second year at Gunston this year with a 7th grader in the Traditional Program. She was the PTA President at Abingdon for three years and has lived in South Fairlington for 20 years.



*Melissa Schwaber Hawkins (left) and Jenifer Hornback are the new leaders of the Gunston PTA. Photo by Jennifer Davies.*

Jeni and Melissa have worked together throughout the summer at meal and supply distribution sites across south Arlington.

One of the PTA's main goals this year is to develop and encourage a sense of community at Gunston. They think this is going to be especially challenging this year, so they have decided to set up a new online portal for all things Gunston using the Membership Toolkit website.

This is a dynamic one-stop-shop for everything from a student directory to membership resources to fundraising. Gunston families can find the site at <https://gunstonpta.membershiptoolkit.com/home>.

Melissa and Jeni are excited to work together to make sure that all families at Gunston feel welcome and connected.

—Jennifer Davies

## Fairlington Cares prepares to become operational

Fairlington's newest nonprofit, Fairlington Cares, is just about ready to kick off! Once they receive the Certification that they are approved to solicit funds, this new 501(c)(3) nonprofit will hit the ground running. You have to be registered with the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services before you can solicit from the public. The paperwork was mailed in a couple of weeks ago, but we haven't heard back yet (as of time of publication).

All the other paperwork has been completed.

Fairlington Cares will provide a broad range of assistance for humanitarian and educational purposes, including food, clothing, rental assistance, transportation assistance, school supplies and other educational resources, and financial assistance. While it is being created to respond to COVID challenges, it will also be able to respond to impacts created by major storms, government shutdowns, or other kinds of emergency situations. It will provide a ready vehicle to respond quickly to unanticipated crises within our community.

The moment that everything is finalized, it will be announced to the Fairlington community and ways to help will be advertised. The organization will be doing some strategic planning this fall and would welcome the

suggestion of Fairlington residents for priorities. Send your suggestions to [Fairlingtoncares@gmail.com](mailto:Fairlingtoncares@gmail.com).

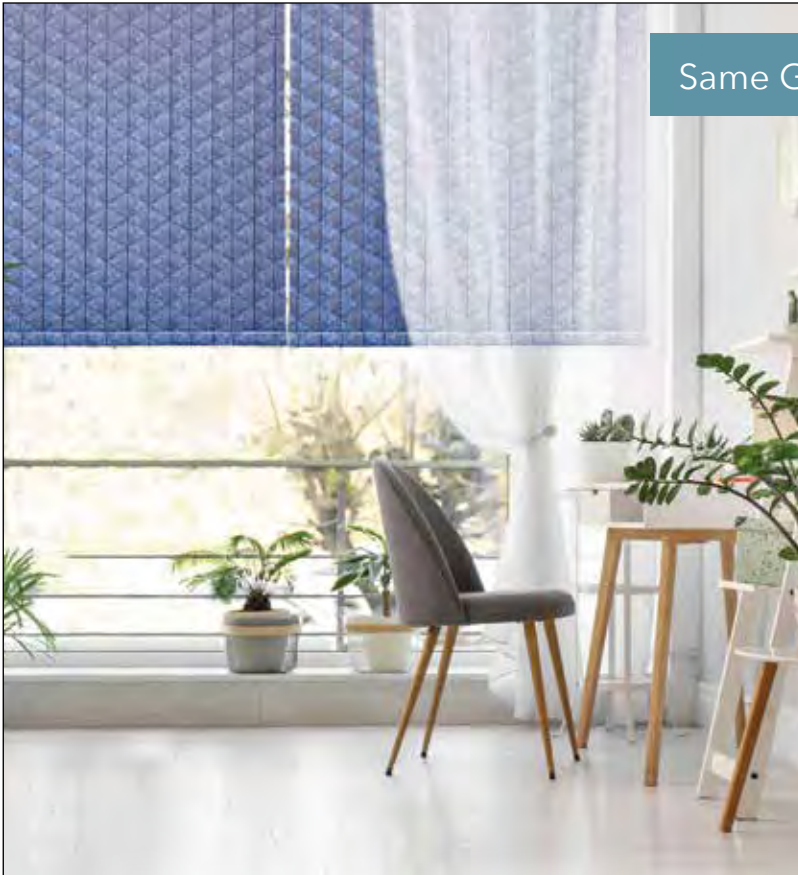
—Julie Butler

### Picnic time!



*The farmers market and the Fairlington playground make an irresistible combination for Fairlington families. Photo by Guy Land.*





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## Welcome back from the Abingdon Elementary PTA!

We are looking forward to the start of school this fall, even if it might look a little different than in past years. The first day of school for students in Arlington Public Schools will be on Tuesday, September 8. While there is typically a huge increase in activity on the streets and sidewalks of Fairlington with students waiting for the bus or walking to school, this year you won't be seeing that. It will be uncharacteristically quiet as all students begin the school year in a full-time Virtual Learning model.

Earlier this summer, families were given the option of a full-time Virtual Learning model or a Hybrid model where students would be divided into 2 groups that would each attend 2 days per week. APS's new Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán announced on July 14 that all students will start in a Virtual Learning model due to health and safety concerns related to the on-going pandemic.

As of this writing on August 13, the plan is to begin phasing in students who chose the Hybrid model beginning in October as conditions allow. The goal currently is to have all students who chose the Hybrid model back in school by the beginning of the 2nd quarter on November 4.

### Important dates for Abingdon Elementary

**September 8:** First Day of School

**September 16:** Back to School Night \*please note the change from the previous date on the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

**November 4:** Beginning of the 2nd Quarter and Target Date to have Hybrid students in the school buildings \*CURRENT AS OF 8/13/2020—THIS MAY CHANGE\*

### Latest information on the planning for school moves 2021

The APS School Board approved the plan to move several schools to plan for the opening of a new neighborhood elementary school at the Reed site on February 6, 2020. As part of that process, new elementary school boundaries will be drawn this fall to take effect in Fall 2021.

All elementary schools in Arlington will be included, which differs from the boundary process that took place in Fall 2018 when Drew became a neighborhood school. We will share more information as it becomes available later this month. Check the Engage with Us! Webpage on the APS website (<https://www.apsva.us/engage/>) for the latest info.

—Jackie Winkelvoss, Abingdon PTA President  
[abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com)

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### Local MOMS, continued from page 9

racists before now."

Since June, nearly 200 chapters of MOMS Club International have disbanded and are forming their own non-profit organizations, or are switching to other structures.

We are no longer the MOMS Club of Fairlington, a chapter of MOMS Club International. We are currently the Fairlington Moms' Club. Our listservs, including playgroup

ones, remain intact. Our private Facebook page remains intact (with the MOMS acronym being removed, and our name being updated). We have an impressive slate of new leaders who have volunteered to work with the outgoing board members in transitioning.

There are many options and ways for us to continue. These include forming our own nonprofit organization (particularly if we can get pro-bono assistance from a lawyer and other professionals); moving to more of a pay-as-we-go structure

for parties and activities as they are planned; and joining a new, more inclusive umbrella organization that is forming.

We want to continue to support stay-at-home moms, as well as working moms, and continue to help make our community stronger. We are simply no longer a chapter of MOMS Club International. If you are interested in joining, please email [fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com) for information.

—Jillian Oberfield



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-Shirley Z.



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- Blake and Kate N.



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- Steven K.

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# neighborhood news

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## ***Fairlington Diners***

The Fairlington Diners usually 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. There's no commitment to attend regularly; many people attend as their schedules permit, or based on the choice of restaurants.

Since social distancing set in, however, we've been Zooming. Our August Zoom cocktail hour was fun, and included a first-time attendee; we enjoy getting to know new community members. But in September, we'll take a small step towards dining together again.

On Thursday, September 24, at 6 pm, we will enjoy a picnic on the FCC grounds. The Fairlington Book Group discovered a great location for a relatively quiet, yet socially distanced seating arrangement behind the FCC building. If we each bring our own food and drink, we can have supper together and have a chance to visit, while we simultaneously enjoy what is likely to be very nice weather. Note the early start time to accommodate sunset at 7:01 pm; this way we can leave before dark. Please RSVP by email to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com), and directions will be sent about a week in advance.

If you have questions or suggestions about this group, call Carol at 703-379-6840 (leave a voicemail for a return call), or you can email her to be added to the email list.

## ***Book Group***

Please join the Fairlington Book Group at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 22, to discuss *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Jared Diamond.

"A major advance in our understanding of human societies, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history." —Amazon.com

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discussion, even if you haven't read the book. The location of our meeting will be provided by email. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to be added to our email list.

## ***Fairlington Knits! and Crochets***



Join Fairlington Knits! and Crochets for a virtual evening of knitting, crochet, and fellowship on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, from 6:30 to 8 pm via Zoom.

We're meeting on Zoom so we can share what we're working on, ask for help/advice, or for inspiration for a project. Log in from your home to talk with other like-minded people about projects that might interest you.

Email Turner for the Zoom information to join: [Turner-work@aol.com](mailto:Turner-work@aol.com).

## ***Fairlington Moms' Club***

The Fairlington Moms' Club is a group where moms can meet friends, form a support network, and create opportunities for children. The Club organizes a number of community service projects, routine playdates, craft days, family parties, and moms' nights out. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting with other Fairlington families, as well as our own classifieds listserv. We welcome all Fairlington moms! Please email [fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com) for further information.

## ***Plant propagation, virtually***

If you have had a garden for more than 5 years, chances are your plants need thinning, dividing, or splitting. Propagation techniques will not only give you more plants to sell, plant or give away, these practices are great for rejuvenating your plants and your soil at the same time.

Kirsten Conrad, the Agricultural Natural Resource Extension Agent for Arlington County and City of Alexandria, will discuss some easy plant propagation techniques like division, layering, and cuttings for use with both houseplants and common outdoor garden plantings. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive link to participate. The session is online Friday, September 4 from 10 to 11:30 am.





# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Getting down into the weeds*

Unfortunately, weeds can be the most popular conversation item in the landscape. They are free, comfortable in any setting, resist drought, need no fertilizing, reproduce quickly, and even appear in the tiny crevasses of concrete, brick or stone.

Frequently, I'm asked by customers how to control these unsightly invaders. Before we talk about new plantings or focus on the beautiful specimens in their gardens, we machinate about these party crashers.

In some quarters, weeds are tolerated by those who disdain maintenance or embrace Mother Nature's bestowments. Naturalists may welcome weeds which sometimes are termed wildflowers—plants that naturally occur with a colorful show. Those that grow locally are deadnettle (lavender), wild daisy (white with yellow eye), chicory (blue which you can see on the King St. median), dandelion (yellow), violet (purple), thistle (pink or white), green alkanet (blue), and morning glory (white or blue which needs a fence or tall tree in which to cling and meander). Thistle is a wildflower that attracts birds—Goldfinches, usually.

As for weed invasion in a Fairlington patio, here are some theories, suggestions, and remedies.

**Maintenance** is the answer if you don't mind gloving your hands, kneeling on a mat and troweling out soil. Dandelion and chicory are tap-rooted, which means the root is deep and vertical. You can't extract these with a hand pull. But by dip-

ping the trowel point deep beneath the plant, you will extract the fibrous root clump. I've seen many lush lawns with dandelion patches. But they grow "here and there" and are thus easy to eradicate.

When you decide to face off against the army of weeds, do so after a rain. The soil is softer and weed roots are malleable. The sooner you pull or dig out a root, the easier it will be. In time, weeds develop strong roots (like plants) either individually or in congested clumps.

Weed infestation typically is seen in neglected gardens. Then, the clean-up becomes a major project. It's even more tedious when you have to pull weeds or weed vines that have wrapped around the wooden fence panels, through vents in an a/c compressor, the brick of the building, or within the latticework panels around an a/c unit.

**Fabric** over the soil is one suggestion I no longer offer. Dandelion and other strong-rooted weeds pierce the fabric. In time, fabric wrinkles and buckles. After heavy rains, they bunch up. If laid on a slope, it unfurls into a clump. And no matter where fabric is laid, weeds always emerge on the edges, where the fabric meets the concrete patio, fence, edge of the hardscape (stone or brick) and along the a/c compressor.

**Plant roots** can invite crab grass. Liriope in masses and bulbous plants can be infested with this crawler. In these situations, loosen the plant with a shovel or spade fork and the

weeds will be loose and easier to remove. Once you remove this laterally growing grass weed by the root, simply re-situate the plant specimen and tamp down the soil around its base.



*Chicory growing in the King St. median. Photo by Guy Land.*

**Gravel/stone** spread across the soil will retard weeds but give your garden an industrial look while generating heat via radiation from the sun. To soften this look, you might place pots with flowers on the gravel. However, containers always look prettier when situated on a stone or brick patio, not in the beds. And once gravel or stone is spread over a soil bed, it'll be difficult to plant specimens (since you'll have to remove the gravel to dig a hole for your new plant). And if you do install a plant in a gravel bed, these stones will act as a speed hump in rainwater reaching the plant root.

—Bill Sullivan  
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## ***Metrobus boosts service***



*Metrobus returned to normal schedules on most of its routes on August 23. Photo courtesy Metrobus Info Twitter feed, @Metrobus info.*

As part of the phased Covid-19 recovery plan, effective August 23, Metrobus improved weekday service on 174 routes, with most routes operating close to normal. The restoration includes the resumption of 7A/F/Y service through North Fairlington, but with a modification. The 7A will do the Pentagon City loop on weekdays except during rush hour in peak direction. Previously 7As only served Pentagon City on weekends.

For South Fairlington, the 22A/F resumes seven-day service, with the 22A doing hourly service on weekdays.

Metro announced that temporary service suspension will remain in effect on “extremely low-ridership routes” in order to allocate resources to address crowding and provide more frequent buses on the busiest Metrobus routes. Because of this, there will be no service on the 22C route.

Covid-19 Safety Precautions for customers and employees will remain in effect:

- Rear-door boarding will continue and customers won't be charged a fare to ride Metrobus.
- Face coverings are still required to ride on transit.
- Follow social distancing as much as possible while on board.

## ***County outlines graffiti removal policy***

In July Arlington County outlined its policy for the removal of graffiti from public property, such as the

Abingdon St. bridge. Under the policy, county staff attempt to respond to graffiti complaints within three work days if that's feasible. Staff will remove all graffiti or unauthorized signs regardless of the message or content or medium (paint, chalk, plastic, paper).

County staff can exercise judgment on the effective use of resources when it comes to the permanence of the medium used to create the graffiti. For example, sidewalk chalk or traditional stick chalk is easily and quickly removed by rain. To conserve labor resources, staff may exercise judgment in removal of stick chalk, particularly when rain is forecast. On the other hand, paint or more persistent products such as spray chalk and roller chalk products will be promptly removed.

The policy applies only to graffiti on public property. County staff are not authorized to remove graffiti or signs from private property (such as condo association common area).

The public is encouraged to report gang-related graffiti to the Arlington County Police Department for further investigation.

## ***Police monitor white supremacy signs***

In August there were reports of Patriot Front flyers or materials for other white supremacist organizations being placed on vehicles in Fairlington or placed on public street signs. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) notes that this activity isn't necessarily criminal by itself, but the police department would like to be notified of these incidents, so that the police can document and collect some of the items as potential evidence should things escalate beyond the flyers.

The police also would like to have any available home security video that captures the events.

The police note that graffiti on public and private property is considered destruction of property and those responsible can be charged with a felony, depending upon the amount of damage incurred. If you notice graffiti in the community, you should contact ACPD so it can be properly documented. Regardless of the content, all graffiti cases documented by ACPD are forwarded to the Gang Unit for review.

The public is encouraged to report gang-related graffiti, including flyers and stickers, to the Arlington County Police Department for further investigation. Please call the non-emergency number; 703-558-2222.

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### MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

**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."
- Pay via PayPal at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.
- Send mini-ad copy via email, 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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