

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2022

Volume 48, Number 9

[www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

## Outdoor family movie night set for Sept. 17

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Join us for a night under the stars on Saturday, September 17 for a family movie night featuring the 2021 release *Jungle Cruise*.

The movie is rated PG-13 and stars Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt.

Taking advantage of the neighborhood's lovely facilities, a large screen will be set up behind the Fairlington Community Center (FCC). Residents are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and their favorite theater snacks to set up a picnic on the FCC field.

The movie is set to begin just after sundown (around 7:30 p.m.), but those attending are encouraged to come early to set up and visit with friends and neighbors. Please note that alcoholic beverages are not permitted on FCC grounds.



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

There is plenty of space to set up with friends and family, and additional trash and recycling bins will be provided for your convenience.

Since a host of other creatures will probably be out enjoying the evening air, bug spray is a wise idea. Subtitles will be provided throughout the film, which is approximately 127 minutes 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 *Bulletin*.

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

—Regina Bethencourt

# Coming up

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings that 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 have three minutes to address the board on matters affecting the community.

## FCA monthly meeting September 14

The FCA Board will hold a virtual work session. There will be no special presentation.


### Regular board business:

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

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

### Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website [www.fca-fairlington.org](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.

Web design by Avatar Tech LLC, Alexandria, VA, [www.avatartech-llc.com](http://www.avatartech-llc.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-746-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
571-403-1943 • [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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### — DEADLINE —

6 p.m., **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Editorial announcements, story suggestions, and letters to the Editor should be sent to: [afbeditors@yahoo.com](mailto:afbeditors@yahoo.com).

Ad payment can be sent to: FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182, locally dropped-off at the drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington VA 22206 or pay via PayPal to [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com). Ad file(s) should be included with payment and emailed to the Ad Manager at [fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com](mailto:fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com).

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
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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**Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District**

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

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Designed and printed by More Vang.

## Calendar

### Labor Day

Monday, September 5  
FCC closed

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.  
Virtually on FCA Facebook page

### Fairlington diners

Thursday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Guapo's  
4028 Campbell Ave.

### Book group

Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.  
FCC Room 103  
3308 S. Stafford St.

## We scream for ice cream



*Residents enjoy free ice cream sponsored by Kay Houghton & Associates at the Fairlington Farmers Market.*

**Contributors this month:** Barbara Berti, Regina Bethencourt, Lynne Blasi, Sharon Burd, Leslie Cameron, Jenn Davies, Guy Land, Sara Rasmussen, and Bill Sullivan.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the first part of its longer-term plan to make Shirlington modern and competitive, Federal Realty, the owner of much of the Village at Shirlington, has outlined a plan for major streetscape improvements along Campbell Ave. This follows through on the commitment Federal made in 2020 when it asked Arlington County for increased density in Shirlington.

FCA board members expressed general enthusiasm for the streetscape proposal when it was presented to us last month. The key thing is that Federal recognizes the special character of Shirlington, particularly the importance of the tree canopy and sidewalk dining, and they want to foster easier pedestrian access to the businesses along Campbell.

Federal did a good job in working with the county and the businesses to help them survive during COVID. But businesses and customers alike have commented that Shirlington has become a bit run-down and drab, with some major maintenance issues. The new streetscape plan is designed to address these problems.

When it went before the county board in 2020 to seek significantly greater density, Federal argued that additional density was needed to give it an adequate financial return that could support the new investment required to keep the commercial aspects modern and competitive. The added density was important, as well, to strengthen the customer base for the retail businesses.

FCA had concerns about increased density, but we understood the need for Federal to have a financial return that could support major streetscape improvements, and we stressed the importance of maintaining Shirlington's special character. We also encouraged Federal then, as we did during their presentation last month, to try to respect the historic aspects of Shirlington.

One key component of the request for additional density was the plan to develop the parking lot that lies just north of Campbell Ave. along Arlington Mill Dr. Federal is in negotiations for a senior housing development on that site. They hope to be able to announce a deal later this fall.

The other development that is already happening is the expansion of WETA's facilities, which will enable the station to relocate its production studios to its main building.

A vibrant and attractive Shirlington is in Fairlington's best interest, both as a place to shop or eat and as a component of overall property values. Federal has presented a solid plan for accomplishing that.

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

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# Shirlington slated for major streetscape improvements

Shirlington is set to get a street-level make-over next year under plans unveiled by Federal Realty, the owner of the Village at Shirlington. Geoff Sharpe, Federal Realty's Vice President for Creative Planning and Development, along with members of the design team, briefed the Fairlington community at FCA's August meeting.

Noting that Shirlington suffered from deferred maintenance and has a "tired and dated" feeling, Sharpe said the upgrades would make Shirlington more competitive with places like Mosaic in Fairfax County and the Wharf district in D.C. "Right now we're being outcompeted," he said.

While there will be important changes, Sharpe promised that they would not change the character of Shirlington. "That's what people like," he said, emphasizing the importance of the tree canopy and outdoor dining.

Underlying the changes will be the goal of making Shirlington more friendly to pedestrians, a major shift from the original design of the Village at Shirlington. "Twenty years ago the emphasis was on cars, not pedestrians," Sharpe said.

The current design provides insufficient space for pedestrian movement, exacerbated by unsafe conditions along the curb and sidewalk.

Key changes that will reflect this shift in emphasis to pedestrians include eliminating some parallel parking, extending the sidewalk further into the street, raising the street to the level of the sidewalk in the eastern block of Campbell Ave., and removing some of the hedge median that separates the sides of the street along Campbell.

Raising the street level, and using brick pavers for the street, will make the area feel more like a plaza, Sharpe said. It will also result in traffic calming. The street will ramp up at either end of the eastern block of Campbell.

Removing some of the median will facilitate easy movement back and forth between both sides of the street.



*Changes to the downtown Shirlington area will focus on making the area more attractive and pedestrian friendly. Photo by Guy Land.*

The fountain on Campbell will be relocated to the north court on the lower level of the Village. The breezeway between the upper and lower levels will be reworked, removing the roof and adding wall murals.

The overall goal for Shirlington is to "bring it up to date with current values," said Kim Jacobs, the landscape architect for the project. That includes increased green space, the use of local stone, and a more environmental focus.

The plan will also see an overhaul of the intersection of Campbell and Randolph, narrowing it and creating additional space for sitting and for groups to gather. "That intersection acts as moat" between the east and west blocks of Campbell, Sharpe explained. Narrowing it will make it more comfortable for pedestrian and improve customer access to businesses in the west block.

The plaza in front of the library and Signature Theatre will get major work as well. Sharpe describes it as "underutilized and visually cluttered."

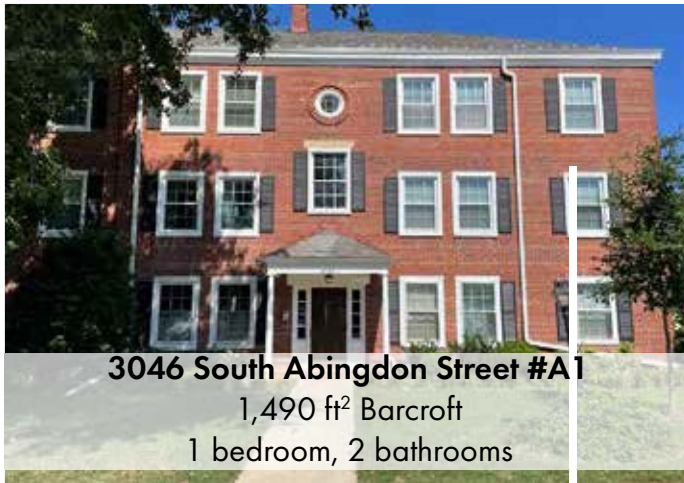
He says that the design challenge comes from the fact that during the day it feels "empty and harsh" but when there are performances at Signature, the area has to easily accommodate hundreds of people.

The currently inoperable fountain in the plaza will be removed. Instead, a different kind of water feature will be installed, similar to one that now exists in City Center in D.C. It can easily be turned off during events.

The overall plan is designed to strengthen the Village's connection to the greater Shirlington neighborhood (such as the bike trail, recreation area, and dog park) and the Four Mile Run ecology.

Federal expects the proposal for the package of improvements to go to the county board later this fall, with formal permitting received in the spring and construction beginning the summer.

—Guy Land



*"The best decision we made about selling our Fairlington home was to choose Lauren as our agent. We met her when we bought our place years ago — she was the seller's agent, but we were impressed by her. When we decided to sell, we went straight to her. Throughout our work together, Lauren was efficient, responsive, supportive, and collaborative. She took care of necessary/effective home improvements below our budget and staged the property beyond our imagination. We got an offer well above the asking price even before the open house! We truly appreciate her expertise as well as her friendly and encouraging ways!"*

*~ Paul and Kazue W.*

# COMING SOON

## Fairlington



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*~ Lindsay and Tony C.*



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# Farmers market open through November 20



September is a busy month with school activities, football season, and busy work weeks. Let the Fairlington Farmers Market make your week easier with prepared foods for quick lunches or dinners, and fresh fruits and sweet treats for snacks. The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until November 20.

This month, we spoke with vendors Felicia Brewster and Dexter Bradshaw, who founded the Bradshaw Sauce Co. in December 2019.



*The Bradshaw Sauce Co. offers a variety of sauces from mild to hot. Photos by Guy Land.*

"My journey with all things spicy started with an early memory of my parents feeding me kung-pao chicken as a toddler," said Bradshaw. There was always a bottle of hot sauce and crushed red peppers in the kitchen to bring the right amount of heat to any meal.

Although he didn't start making his own sauce until much later, he began as many others do, by mixing different hot sauces together to bring about more complex flavors.



"It wasn't until I was much older and a bit more seasoned in my culinary skills that I was comfortable making hot sauce from scratch," he said.

Brewster said their goal is to always provide flavor and different heat levels.

"We have a sauce for everyone," she said. "We like to have monthly releases and often bring something new each week."

Core sauces include Hot Honey Bourbon, Thai Chili, Mambo, Sweet Pepper, Spooky Wagons & Gambit (in order of heat) and there's also a summer BBQ line up.

Brewster and Bradshaw enjoy meeting their neighbors and seeing friends at the market.

"We are grateful to be a part of the community and we could not do this without the support of our customers and our great staff. If there is something you like or want to see come back, let us know!"

Follow Bradshaw Sauce Co on Instagram to see what they're sampling and learn about end-of-summer and fall releases.

**Mark your calendar for this month's events:**

**September 11:** READ Book Bus

**September 18:** Face painting with Creatives by Cristina, LLC

**September 25:** Virginia Master Gardeners activity

—Lynne Blasi

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Because your safety, health, and peace of mind is our top priority, you can rest assured we are taking every precaution to ensure your safety and well-being. We have asked all members of our team to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the day and requested they do not come in to work if they feel sick or if they have a fever. They have also been instructed to be extra vigilant to wipe down all surfaces before, during, and after their shifts, to wear protective gloves and masks, and to support the social distancing guidelines with homeowners and co-workers.

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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# The Fairlington blood drive is back on October 13



On Thursday, October 13, a blood drive will be held at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC), for Children's National Hospital (CNH), sponsored by FCA and Fairlington Cares.

Blood donations for CNH have been down for the last three years. The Fairlington community has been stepping up to help with that, donating enough blood to help more than 100 children last year.

It normally takes less than an hour to donate a unit

of blood. One unit of blood donated can help 4-5 children.

All blood collected will remain at the hospital to support children with cancer, sickle cell disease, surgeries, and other chronic illness.

## To Make An Appointment

**Step 1:** Read eligibility requirements.

Learn about CNH basic blood donor eligibility at: <https://bit.ly/3QwCAAt>.

**Step 2:** Register for an appointment.

Call 202-476-5437, or Register online: <https://www.cnmcblooddonor.com/index.cfm?group=op&expand=7092&z=22206>.

**Step 3:** Please notify CNH if you need to cancel your appointment.

We try to have some subs lined up. A day or even a few hours notice will help us fill your slot.

If you have questions about eligibility or other items, contact the CNH at 202-476-5437.

If you have general questions or would like to sign up as a possible sub for the blood drive, please contact Sara Rasmussen at [srazzz@aol.com](mailto:srazzz@aol.com).

—Sara Rasmussen

## Fairlington FINS wraps up first post-COVID season



*FINS swim team gather one more time at the conclusion of the last swim meet at the Glen pool.*

The neighborhood swim team wrapped up its first season after a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last swim meet, held at the Glen pool, featured lots of laughs, celebratory swims, and ribbons. Kids from across Fairlington participated in the three-week swim program.

While the practices are held at the Mews, Glen, and Arbor neighborhood pools, the FINS are open to all Fairlington residents who live anywhere in North or South Fairlington. Participants must be between the ages of five and ten years.

For more information and to stay tuned for next years' FINS program, visit <http://www.fairlingtonfins.org>.

—Jenn Davies



*Rising Abingdon second graders Eavan McGinnis and Abby Chen show off their ribbons. Photos courtesy of Stacey McGinnis.*



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## Arlington seeks comments on natural resources plan

Arlington County is seeking resident feedback through October 3 on its draft Forestry and Natural Resources Plan, a master plan that will serve as the guiding document for the county's management practices related to trees, plants, and wildlife.

An update to the 2004 Urban Forest Master Plan and the 2010 Natural Resources Management Plan, the draft plan considers impacts and opportunities related to Arlington's tree canopy, natural lands, urban development, wildlife, recreation, public education, and stewardship.

According to the county, to assure that future generations of Arlingtonians enjoy the benefits of nature, the county must identify what needs are urgent, and what are aspirational—and how each can be addressed



*The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan will identify pressing needs regarding local trees, plants, and wildlife. Photo courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.*

through both long-term, incremental change and immediate action.

The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan is designed to address this challenge through policy recommendations, innovative best practices for public and private development, application of new science, and public outreach.

To read the draft plan and review supporting documents and offer comments,

go to <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/FNRP>.

The final version of the plan is expected to go before the county board in early 2023.

—Guy Land

## New food program seeks participants and volunteers to support Wakefield students

Arlington County's Department of Human Services is partnering with Food for Neighbors, a local non-profit that collects community donations to supply middle and high schools with snacks and food to ensure student teens don't go hungry. The Herndon-based nonprofit is expanding its program across Northern Virginia and will include Wakefield High School this fall.

Based on pre-pandemic numbers (the last time data was collected), approximately 49% of students qualified for free or reduced lunch.

The Fairlington community is invited to sign up to participate in the "Red Bag Program" scheduled food collection five times throughout the school year; September 10, October 29, January 14, March 11 and April 29. Residents can sign up to be a donor and a Food for Neighbors red



*Non-profit Food for Neighbors supplies local middle and high schools with snacks and food. Photo courtesy of Arlington County Department of Human Services.*

bag will be dropped off at your doorstep to fill with requested items. Items include granola/energy bars, fruit cups, and shelf stable milk drinking boxes. Bags will then be collected, sorted, and distributed to students at Wakefield, the Career Center, and Arlington Community High School.

If Fairlingtonians (individuals or groups) want to get further involved, Food for Neighbors is recruiting volunteers to help coordinate the pick up and delivery of items. This would be a great service activity! Any

inquiries about signing up to make food donations or be a volunteer for Fairlington can contact [karen@foodforneighbors.org](mailto:karen@foodforneighbors.org).

—Jenn Davies





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# For the love of NATURE



## Welcoming pollinators to fall gardens

By late summer, many flowers are winding up their blooming season, but pollinators and other insects and wildlife still need food, nesting sites, and cover. A working pollinator garden doesn't bloom all at once, but it has something blooming from early spring to late fall.



*Orange or Spotted Jewelweed is a native annual that blooms until frost, and it self-seeds. Photo by Teresa Cordova.*

Welcome insects and other wildlife to your gardens well after summer by planting fall-blooming native plants. To keep taller fall-blooming perennials shorter and bushier, you can cut them back by a third up to early July.

From tall to short, below are some fall-blooming plants to try, for sun (6+ hours of sun), part shade (2-6 hours), or shade (2 hours or less):

- **New York Ironweed** (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)—Grows to 8 feet. Blooms brilliant reddish purple, prefers sun to part shade and moist soil.
- **Rough-stemmed Goldenrod** (*Solidago rugosa*)—Grows to 6 feet. The 'Fireworks' cultivar is a shorter variety, growing to 3 feet. Blooms yellow, prefers sun to part shade and moist soil. Goldenrod is not to be confused with the allergy-inducing Ragweed, a different plant.
- **New England Aster** (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)—Grows to 5 or 6 feet. Blooms purple, prefers sun to part shade and moist soil.
- **Woodland Sunflower** (*Helianthus divaricatus*)—Grows to 5 or 6 feet. Blooms yellow, prefers sun, part shade, or shade and dry soil. It can tolerate drought.
- **Orange or Spotted Jewelweed** (*Impatiens capensis*)—Grows to 5 feet. Blooms orange on slender stalks, prefers part shade to shade and moist soil. This native annual self-seeds.

- **Coastal Plain Joe Pye Weed** (*Eutrochium dubium*)—Grows to 4 or 5 feet. Blooms a dusky pink, prefers sun to part shade and moist soil.
- **Autumn Sneezeweed** (*Helenium autumnale*)—Grows 2-5 feet. Blooms yellow, prefers sun and moist soil. The common name is based on the former use of the leaves for making snuff.
- **White Turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*)—Grows to 3 or 4 feet. Blooms white, prefers sun to part shade and medium to wet soil.
- **Obedient Plant** (*Physostegia virginiana*)—Grows to 3 or 4 feet. Blooms white or pink, grows in sun, part shade, or shade, and in moist or average soil.
- **Letterman's Ironweed** (*Vernonia lettermanii* 'Iron Butterfly')—This Ironweed cultivar grows to 3 feet. Blooms purple, prefers sun and dry to medium soil, and tolerates drought.
- **Blue-stemmed Goldenrod** (*Solidago caesia*)—Grows to 3 feet. Blooms yellow, prefers sun or part shade, and tolerates dry shade. This is lower growing and more compact than some other Goldenrods.
- **Aromatic Aster** (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)—Grows to 3 feet. Blooms blueish purple, prefers sun to part shade, and tolerates dry to moist soil and drought.
- **Short's Aster** (*Symphyotrichum shortii*)—Grows to 3 feet. Blooms blue, prefers part shade to full shade and medium to medium dry soil. It is a special value to native bees.
- **Orange Coneflower** (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)—Grows to 3 feet. Blooms yellow-orange, prefers sun to part shade, and tolerates dry to moist soil.

For more information see *Tried and True Plants for the Mid-Atlantic* at <https://mgmv.org/plants/native-plants/>

Feel free to send us questions or comments at [fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com](mailto:fortheloveofnature@googlegroups.com) and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook!

—Leslie Cameron

Kay Houghton & Associates Has Exciting News!

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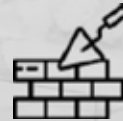
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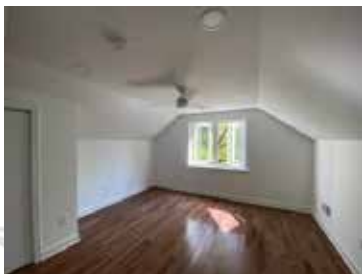
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# FAIRLINGTON *pet profiles*

## *Culpepper Virginia Queen: A true Virginia native*

Culpeper County in Virginia was named for Lord Thomas Culpeper, who was an early Colonial Governor of Virginia from 1680-1683. It's also home to Dove Hill Labradors where English Labradors are bred.

Pet Profiles had a long visit with Culpepper Virginia Queen, also known as Ginny, a 14-month-old Chocolate Brown English Labrador who lives in South Fairlington with two cats and until recently a big brother Labrador named Gage.

Gage passed away in June at age 14. Young dogs can learn a lot from their older "siblings" and we found out a lot about life, death, and things to do in the neighborhood.

*You recently lost Gage, your older dog brother. How are you coping? What advice can you give to people and dogs losing someone they love?*

It's been "ruff"! I really miss my buddy. I stay close to my people for snuggle time, hugs, kisses, and treats. I think it's ok to be sad. Playtime with my people and other dog friends has been helpful. I also have a really cool house (crate) with a comfy bed that I can snooze in anytime I want to or get away for some quiet time.

*What did you learn from having an older sibling, and how has that helped you?*

My big brother taught me how to be a professional napper, where the food bowl is, and how to be a good dog. I'm very well rested, I'm growing big and strong, and I get along with everybody.



*A mashup of Ginnie's favorite poses. Photos courtesy of Garon King.*

*What is it like living with two cats? Do you like them? Do you get along?*

Well, they are very interesting and I want to play with them but they run away. They can jump really high where I can't get them. One of them, Uni, is like a ninja with sharp claws. We play and even nap together sometimes. The other one, Cali, is very good at hiding so I don't see her much.

*Can you tell us what the differences are between an American Labrador, and an English Labrador?*

That's tricky because we're all different and special in our own way. Americans seem to be taller and thinner than me with long skinny tails. I'm a chunky English with shorter legs and a fat

bushy tail that my people call an "otter tail" but I have no idea what that means - I'm a dog, not an otter!

*What is your favorite thing to do in Fairlington?*

Oh, that's a good one! I love going on walks and smelling all the good smells, seeing doggies, squirrels, and birds. If I find a stick I try to eat it. I get really excited when I see little kids because they like to play like me. They yell and laugh and that makes me happy.

—Barbara Berti

Interested in sharing your pet with Pet Profiles?  
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## Art truck features biodiversity

The popular Arlington Art Truck made a return visit to the Fairlington Farmers Market in late July with a collaborative activity (“Interconnected Roots”) that helps participants to understand how being stewards for local biodiversity is interconnected with supporting communities.

Edgar Reyes, artist and educator from Baltimore, led interested Fairlington children (and their parents) on an exploration of what is native and non-native—not only in plant, bird, and insect species, but also about his own journey as an American with Indigenous and European roots.



*The colorful wooden blocks designed by artist and educator Edgar Reyes, represent the connection between nature and community. Photos by Guy Land.*

Representatives of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia were on hand to assist with the education about native plants and provide free packets of seeds when the kids finished their work.

Children added their artistic touches to wood blocks designed by Reyes that represented plant and animal species and the connection between nature and community.

This fall the individual components painted by the community during the summer, including those painted by children visiting the farmers market, will be united into one large temporary indoor mural at Kenmore Middle School. This work could be thought of as a “community quilt” where layers of different ideas and personal expressions come together to create the final piece.



Interconnected Roots will be on display at Kenmore on October 21 and November 8.

The Arlington Art Truck, sponsored by Arlington Cultural Affairs, is a curated mobile tool box for artists-in-residence to engage the public from April to October in interactive art projects designed to blur the line between participant and presenter, citizen and government.

—Guy Land

### Ad Manager Wanted

The *All Fairlington Bulletin's* ad manager, Katarina Lesandric, will be leaving at the end of October. Lesandric has held the position for three years, and her contributions to the mission of *Bulletin* will be greatly missed. The FCA Board thanks her for her dedicated service.

The AFB is looking for a motivated professional to take on this role. This is a paid position with compensation on a commission basis. Responsibilities include coordinating with existing advertisers, identifying new sources of advertising revenue, and working with the editorial team to ensure advertisements are placed correctly.

If interested, please contact Guy Land at [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).

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## *Cardinals fly back to school*

The first day of school for new and returning Cardinals at Abingdon is Monday, August 29.

Over the summer, rising kindergarten families joined the Abingdon PTA for summer popsicle playdates on the school playground.

A couple veteran Cardinal volunteers (thank you Iris and Sebastian!) mingled with our new Cardinals and helped answer questions about the school day. Rising kindergarteners also enjoyed scoping out the school garden and harvesting cherry tomatoes.

We also hosted a summer work day cleanup at the Abingdon Community Garden. Twenty-four volunteers – students, parents, and neighbors – generously gave their time to help plant, weed, compost, harvest, prune, and water the garden.

Many Cardinals were excited to see the watermelons, tomatoes, squash, and other plants growing in the school garden. Additionally, thank you to our summer watering team - Pat Carroll, Lauren Shaub, Amy Flynt, Matt Smith, and Karen Olson Weaver - for being our garden guardians.

In other news, Abingdon fifth grade teacher and Fairlingtonian Ms. Kerry Abbott was recently distinguished as an Arlington Public School (APS) All Star for her hard work and dedication to Abingdon for over 20 years of service.

APS's press release from July 28, 2022, stated:

"Her commitment to the Abingdon community has



*Many volunteers help tidy up the Abingdon Community Garden for fall planting. Photo by Sharon Burd.*

never wavered; she seamlessly integrates technology in meaningful ways and treats students like her own children. Ms. Abbott creates an inclusive community where her students become family. She recently attended the wedding of a former fifth-grade student! This summer, she welcomed students from several other schools into her classroom with the same warmth and dedication she provided to Abingdon students for years."

We are overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation to our staff, families, and volunteers who continuously support the Abing-

don community.

Please visit [www.abingdonpta.org](http://www.abingdonpta.org), or contact [abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com) if you would like to give an hour to support our neighborhood school's Cardinals.

We're looking for volunteers with various skills such as translation (Spanish, Mongolian, Amharic, and Arabic), woodworking, and graphic design. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood's flock of Cardinals.

—Sharon Burd

### ***APS September Calendar:***

**Friday, September 2 & Monday, September 5:**

Holiday—Labor Day, NO SCHOOL

**Monday, September 26:**

Holiday—Rosh Hashanah, NO SCHOOL

3120 South Abingdon Street Arlington VA, 22206



MONDAY  
TO FRIDAY

2:40-  
5:45PM

AGES PRE-K-  
5TH GRADE



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- \$85/day drop-in option when APS/ACPS are closed and STEM is open.
- 3:15pm Snack
- 3:45pm - 5:45pm Activities Rotation - Arts & Crafts, Outside time, Science projects, and Specials.
- 5:45pm Latest Pickup
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Visit [www.stempreschool.com](http://www.stempreschool.com) to purchase tickets or donate.

11am-3pm Friday, September 2nd. Location- Fairlington Community

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**SOLD** - 803 C St SE, Washington DC 20003 - \$1,365,000

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**SOLD** - 6957 Cromarty Dr, Alexandria, VA 22315 - \$575,000

We represented the seller.

**SOLD** - 2765 Centerboro Dr #148, Vienna, VA 22181 - \$415,000

We represented the sellers.

**SOLD** - 6328 22nd St N, Arlington, VA 22205 - \$1,835,000

We represented the buyer.

**SOLD** - 837 31st St S, Arlington, VA 22202 - \$975,000

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# neighborhood news

## Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In August, we visited Hank's Oyster Bar in their new location in north Alexandria.

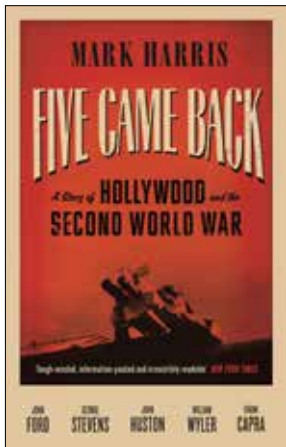
Here's what's planned for September: Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m., dinner at Guapo's in Shirlington, 4028 Campbell Ave, Arlington, VA 22206, (703) 671-1701.

This family-owned restaurant is among the largest in Shirlington, but one we have not visited since 2018. Their extensive menu can be seen at [www.guaposrestaurant.com](http://www.guaposrestaurant.com).

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend. Leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in September to discuss *Five Came Back: A Story of Hollywood and the Second World War*, by Mark Harris. The book will be introduced this month by Lisa.

*"Now a Netflix original documentary series, also written by Mark Harris: the extraordinary wartime experience of five of Hollywood's most important directors, all of whom put their stamp on World*

*War II and were changed by it forever."* —Amazon.com

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! Join us for our discus-

sion, even if you haven't read the book. We are meeting on Tuesday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St in Room 103. We hope you'll join us.

## 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 several 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 [fairlington-momsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fairlington-momsclub@gmail.com) for further information.

## Friends of the Abingdon Community Garden

Abingdon Elementary would love your support to create a successful, sustainable community garden. It is our goal to enrich students' and families' knowledge of environmental sustainability and to be good stewards of our Earth, while providing first hand experience in learning about our food supply and our pollinators. To sign up, please scan the QR code or check out: <https://tinyurl.com/2p82y7rv>.



## Annual STEM Preschool Fair

The STEM Preschool in Fairlington is having its annual fair on Friday, September 2, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be food trucks from Rockland's, carnival rides, movie characters, musical acts, a dunk tank, and more.

Money raised by the STEM Preschool Fair will help counterbalance a student's monthly tuition for families who qualify for tuition assistance.

For more information on the fair or for volunteer and sponsorship information, please email [nonprofit@stempreschool.com](mailto:nonprofit@stempreschool.com).

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# DOWN TO EARTH *patio gardening*



## **Q&A: Common Fairlington patio and garden questions**

As we exhale over the recent heat waves, let's go to the landscaping audience. Following are the most common questions I receive from Fairlington homeowners.

*My Crape Myrtle tree branches have a blackish stain with white dots. What is this and what can I do? —Marion*

The black stain is sooty mold and the white specks are scale. The sooty mold is a fungus which grows on a honeydew substance excreted by sucking insects. Scale is the infestation from a multitude of insects that feed on the honeydew or sap from a tree. What I've done is scrub the branches with water and detergent. Then I power-hosed (water) off the suds. In some cases, the water will blow off the white scale. A day or two later, I returned to spray neem oil on the branches. Neem oil is an extract from the neem tree. One of its components, Azadirachtin, kills pests by interfering with the insect's hormones, prohibiting an insect from growing and reproducing via egg-laying. This explanation is courtesy of the National Pesticide Information Center.

*Does radical pruning or shearing damage a plant?—Karen*

No, it just makes the specimen look butchered. It gives a plant a "Bonsai" look where plants are cropped into spheres for a miniature form. Frequently, shrubs are seen pruned into square, rectangular or circular shapes, which isn't what I prefer. I like the natural look, where a specimen is pruned in a subtle manner (so



*The crape myrtle is a popular tree in Fairlington. It flowers in late summer with pink or purple blooms. Photo by Guy Land.*

the cuts aren't obvious to the eye). At Disney World, plants are cropped into cartoon character figures. If Fairlington residents want to prune their own specimens in front of their homes, they may insert a reflector in the garden. This alerts condominium contractors to leave the plants.

*Do the roots of a shrub have an adverse effect on a building's foundation?—Steve*

Not really since a shrub's root system isn't grandiose. Each extended root of an azalea or rhododendron is no wider in diameter than your thumb. What may be a problem is planting a tall tree at the building. A tree's roots obviously have a wider spread and each root arm (underground) can be as wide in diameter as your arm or ankle.

*How long does a perennial plant live?—Monica*

It varies, depending on the plant. In school, we were told a perennial's

average lifespan is 3-to-5 years. But think about bulbous plants (iris, tulip, daffodil, daylily, hyacinth, and crocus). They live forever. Other perennials such as lenten rose, liriopse, fern, bleeding heart, sedum, and hosta also have a much longer lifespan than five years. Some perennials are referred to as "tender," meaning their lifespan is shorter most likely due to winter's cold temperatures, snow, and ice. One tender perennial is coral bells.

*Is it smart to spread fabric over the soil to keep weeds away?—Tracey*

To an extent, fabric suppresses weeds. But strong weeds like thistle and dandelion will poke through the fabric and continue to grow. In time, fabric wrinkles due to weeds, is pulled aside by squirrels hiding acorns, or becomes "bare" when heavy rains displace mulch spread over the fabric.

—Bill Sullivan  
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