

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

Volume 49, Number 9

Fairlington family movie night is happening this month

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All Fairlingtonians aged 0-99 are invited to enjoy a showing of *Encanto* on Saturday, Sept. 9 on the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) field.

Bring your own blankets, chairs, and favorite theater snacks to set up a picnic and enjoy a movie under the stars.

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 the grounds of the FCC.

Though there are floodlights behind the FCC, the further reaches of the field will be much darker when the movie ends around 9:30 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 1 hour and 42 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 beginning of a new school year for our young residents.

—Regina Bethencourt



Fairlington residents voted for Encanto on the Fairlington Facebook page. Make sure to like FCA on Facebook to learn more about voting for next time.

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 13

Special Presentation: Representatives from Arlington county's Vision Zero program will present on pedestrian safety in the neighborhood.


Regular board business:

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

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

Online resources:

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

 Find us on Facebook at Fairlington 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.

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
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
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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.

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. Ad file(s) should be included with payment and emailed to the Ad Manager at fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.

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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 fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com.

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Calendar

Labor Day

Monday, September 4
FCC closed

Outdoor movie night

Saturday, September 9, 7:30 p.m.
FCC soccer field

Fairlington diners

Monday, September 11, 5:30 p.m.
Clyde's
1700 N Beauregard St.
Alexandria, VA

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 7 p.m.
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington book group

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

Native plant sale

Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
The Church of St. Clement
1701 N. Quaker Lane.
Alexandria, VA

A stormy summer



An old Fairlington tree topples during violent storms in July. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Regina Bethencourt, Barbara Berti, Lynne Blasi, Jenn Davies, Sue Davis, Todd Delp, Jill Faya, James Harlow and Guy Land.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The beginning of the school year brings new energy and excitement to Fairlington, thanks to the large number of students, teachers, and staff who live in our neighborhood.

Several kinds of “new” mark the new year: families with school-age children who recently moved into Fairlington, students who are going to different schools this year, new teachers and principals serving those schools, and new PTA leadership providing support.

This year there will be new principals at both Gunston Middle School and Wakefield High School. And there's a new leadership team at the Abingdon PTA.

Twenty years ago there were very few Fairlington residents at Wakefield. Now there are dozens—a consequence of the fact that families who once would have moved out of Fairlington for larger houses a little farther out have chosen to stay here.

Traditionally FCA has focused largely on Abingdon Elementary, which is our neighborhood school. But as more of our kids have moved on to Gunston and Wakefield, we are hoping to expand our coverage of the activities at those schools as well, as they have become more important to the life of our community.

The arrival of the new school year also brings the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents and injuries.

Because the school bus staging area is just down the hill in Shirlington, a number of bus routes run through Fairlington. It's not unusual to count 6 buses going through the Abingdon and 31st St. intersection within about 15 minutes. And groups of kids wait for the bus at 34th and Wakefield or in front of the Fairlington Community Center in South Fairlington.

Last year we received complaints about drivers trying to dash around buses and stopped vehicles—or even ignoring the bus stop signs. We also heard about parents who were dropping off kids on neighborhood streets, sometimes blocking in residents.

Led by FCA Board member Todd Delp, we are devoting our September meeting to a discussion of pedestrian and traffic safety with county staff. We encourage you to attend this in-person community forum. This is a chance to raise your concerns, learn what solutions are viable options, and participate in a broad conversation about how, together, we can get the new school year off to a safe start.

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

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Vision Zero program representative to present at monthly meeting

As mentioned in the July article on pedestrian and traffic safety, the FCA will be hosting a member of Arlington County's Vision Zero Program at the monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center. The Vision Zero representative will present on the planned 2024 school zone retrofit process for the community areas surrounding Abingdon Elementary School.



Vision Zero is a national program that works to reduce traffic fatalities. Graphic courtesy of arlingtonva.us.

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session for residents and board members to pose questions or related discussion points. The FCA has extended an invitation to the Arlington county police department and is hopeful that an officer will be available to join the Q&A portion of the event to address any pedestrian/traffic safety related questions.

Vision Zero is a national network of organizations and describes itself as “a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.”



The Abingdon St. crosswalk has been the subject of much discussion surrounding pedestrian safety as many parents and students use it coming to and from school. Photo by Guy Land.

The program is built upon 5 core tenets:

1. Build and sustain leadership and collaboration
2. Collect, analyze, and use data to understand trends
3. Emphasize equity and engagement

Continued on page 27

FCA board drafts letter on county permitting

The FCA board is preparing a letter to the Arlington County Board calling attention to the problem some Fairlington owners are facing in obtaining a routine building permit for structural improvements to their units.

In recent months a number of unit owners seeking these permits have been required to request a variance from a county code requirement that buildings be set back a specified distance from each other. This provision was adopted after Fairlington was built but it doesn't contain an exception for Fairlington. The setback requirement is unrelated to the renovation work homeowners want to do.

As a result, residents who want a permit to move an interior wall or install an egress window are having to go before the county's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and seek a variance from the setback requirement. This has the effect of adding time and expense to the renovation project.

BZA members have expressed frustration with having to consider these Fairlington variance requests and have suggested that FCA raise this problem with the county board.

The letter, which was still being drafted at press time, is expected to ask the county board for a comprehensive zoning amendment for the Fairlington area.

Pointing to Fairlington's historic significance, the draft letter notes that updating the zoning regulation to accommodate the unique needs of our neighborhood could reduce the need for frequent variance requests and ensure a smoother permitting process for property owners while maintaining the overall integrity of Fairlington.

FCA board member Dianna Bentley has led FCA's examination of this issue. FCA is expected to raise the matter at the county board's September meeting.

—Guy Land



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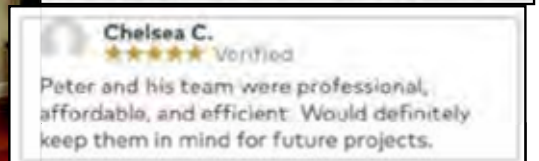
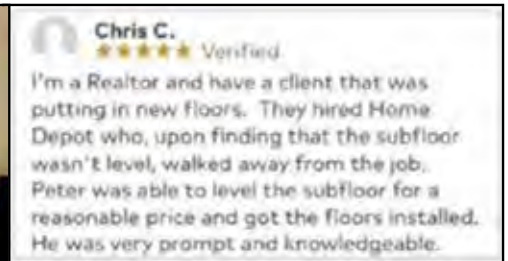
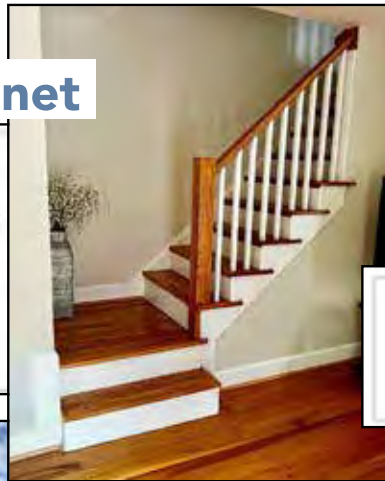
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New head of Wakefield high school meets with parents

At the end of July, Wakefield High School opened its doors to families for the first of a series of “Principal Chats” led by the school’s new principal, Peter Balas. It was an opportunity for parents and students to learn more about Balas and his administrative leadership team.

Families could also ask questions ranging from academics to campus safety. Balas was accompanied by Wakefield’s grade level assistant principals as well as the assistant coordinator for clubs and athletics.

Balas opened the meeting by emphasizing the sense of community he felt at Wakefield.

“Everywhere I go, someone at APS tells me how caring Wakefield is,” he said.

He went on to say that the school district was providing a lot of training as well as listening and learning sessions with staff as he gets to know Arlington.

Balas spent the last 22 of his 23 years in education at Alexandria City Public School (ACPS.) Most recently, he was head principal at Alexandria City High School, the largest high school in Virginia. Balas brings a depth of experience and perspective.

During the meeting, Balas said his top two priorities were getting to know the kids, staff and families that make up the Wakefield community, as well as “tightening up” attendance and tardies.

Balas said students can expect more hall monitoring at the start of school while his team looks into additional safety and security policies.

Families were then given time for questions. One parent asked if anything in particular surprised him about Wakefield. Balas responded that what stood out to him was actually how much schools have in common with respect to concerns surrounding mental health and instruction.



Fairlington sophomores Josephine Van Hoey (left) and Halcy Smith (right) meet WHS new principal Peter Balas. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

He commented that there had been a paradigm shift in education as a result of the pandemic and the challenge now is how best to meet the needs of the students.

Wakefield PTSA asked Balas about standards based grading, a system used by several APS elementary and middle schools. While some classes, particularly languages, used this system, it is currently not uniformly applied. Balas said that APS central office would be providing further direction. Parents requested that any changes or updates to the grading system be clearly communicated.

Additional questions ranged from balancing upperclassmen privileges of having lunch off campus with campus safety to new platforms for better parent

communications, including something called Parentsquare that automatically translates messages into the recipient’s preferred language.

Anna Harvin, a Fairlington Villages resident and an educator at ACPS for 21 years, remarked after the meeting; “Balas was my principal for 5 years at Mount Vernon Community School. He’s an amazing leader. He is by far the best principal I’ve ever worked with. He grows leaders and listens. While I hate to see him leave ACPS, I’m thrilled he is going to be my daughter’s principal at Wakefield. As she starts 9th grade, I have full confidence in the administration team.”

Balas’ appointment comes on the heels of what has been a difficult year for the Wakefield school community, after a 14-year-old student overdosed in a school bathroom and later died in the hospital.

The incident inspired county-wide awareness of how to help prevent overdose deaths and caused APS to change their response protocols in order to get help for students faster.

—Jenn Davies

Meet Pasta Ilgatto and visit the market this month



September is a great time to visit the Fairlington Farmers Market! Our vendors have everything you need to make this busy time of year easier. For breakfast, there's coffee, juices, eggs, baked goods, and a variety of ready-made foods you can heat up for a quick meal before work or school.

Enjoy a nutritious lunch with fresh bread and cheese, soups and salads, and a variety of prepared foods. Grab some mushrooms, pasta, fish, meat, or chicken for your favorite dinner recipes, or save time and heat up empanadas, borek, or quiche. Fruit is a healthy choice for an after-school snack or dessert, and don't forget some cookies and other delicious treats.

Our weekly newsletter can help you plan your weekly meals – sign up at the market information tent or at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org.

This month we talked with a new vendor this season, Chef Leo Rebollo of Pasta Ilgatto, to learn more about their homemade pasta and sauce, a big hit with Fairlington residents.

Born in Uruguay to a family with Italian roots, Rebollo has fond memories of the aromas and flavors from his grandmother Irma's kitchen.

This early influence inspired his passion to create homemade pasta using the traditions and recipes of his grandparents.

After graduating from culinary school in Uruguay, he worked at several renowned restaurants and catering companies in the DC area before establishing Pasta Ilgatto in late 2020.

"Our products are made from scratch, using top quality ingredients such as semolina durum wheat flour, soft wheat flour, and fresh eggs," said Rebollo. "Our filled pasta and flavored dough are made with fresh vegetables, cheeses, and premium quality meats."

They avoid using preservatives and source as much as possible from local producers to make their flavored pastas and sauces. Each week, shoppers can find two types of ravioli flavors, vegan pasta like spinach pappardelle, basil spaghetti or pepper fettuccine among other shapes and flavor, and egg pasta including egg bucatini and egg pappardelle.



Pasta Ilgatto offers meat, vegetarian, and vegan sauces to complement the pasta, such as pomodoro, arrabbiata, pesto, caponata, bolognese or caruso.

“In the farmers market I get the chance to be outside and share some time with colleagues and clients, and this creates a unique atmosphere that is almost impossible to achieve in other places,” said Rebollo. “We are very happy and grateful to all Fairlington residents for such an amazing welcome that motivates us to keep up with our main objective: being able to open a small store in the local area with fresh pasta.”

For more information, visit pastailgattochef.com.

A big thank you for making our first food drive for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) a success! AFAC collected 345 pounds of fresh market produce and non-perishable food items, and AWLA collected 300 cans of wet food, 100 pounds of dry food, and 80 pounds of cat litter. Both organizations also collected monetary donations.



The farmers market hosted a food drive for the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Animal Welfare League of Arlington in August. Photo by Guy Land.

If you're enjoying live music at the market, don't miss Swingology on September 10 and some other performers this month. The market is open through November 19.

—Lynne Blasi



Photos by Guy Land.

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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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For the love of NATURE



Milkweed: nothing common about it

The meeting had turned deadly. After all, it took place in the “bored” room. Fortunately I was facing the window, and what should flutter by but a monarch butterfly followed by more. I never expected to see a monarch ten stories above the ground. Obviously, the August migration to Mexico was underway. The DMV was a favorite egg laying stopover. These monarchs were looking for milkweed.

Fairlington has done a good job planting milkweed for these amazing insects. There are many varieties of milkweed, but the three kinds to find here are swamp, butterfly weed, and common. The first two have upright seed pods that look like candles on a cake. Common has pods covered with spikes.

Common is the easiest to identify. Tear off the end of a leaf and look for a white, milky sap to appear. All parts of the plant are toxic to some degree, but not to monarchs. For monarchs, eating the leaves imparts poisons to the butterfly making it inedible to predators. Common is also the milkweed that should be planted in a field. The other milkweeds seem content in one space, but common milkweed spreads quickly through rhizomes (lateral shoots from the roots).

It may be called common, but it is not. Milkweed is well known to many Native American communities and is used for treating a variety of medical problems from pleurisy to warts. Native practitioners, and later the medical profession, knew how to use the healing properties of milkweed. Butterfly weed root was listed as an approved medicine in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia until the 1900s. Among the Forest Potawatomi, the flowers and



Magnified look of a swamp milkweed seed pod. Photo by Sue Davis.

buds are used to flavor and thicken stews.

Fiber, however, is the biggest bi-product. Stalks collected in the fall are boiled in wood ash (lye) making it easier to remove the fibers from the stems. These are then spun into cordage. The end result is a lightweight and strong cordage that does not stretch. These were and are made into fishing nets, bags, and sashes. Learn about milkweed material culture here: <https://learninglab.si.edu/collections/milkweed-material-culture/SE7ICWkDR3lpM6u2>.

During World War II milkweed would again come to the rescue, this time as stuffing for life jackets. Kapok, a Japanese fiber, was no longer available, but the silky threads and seeds inside milkweed pods were. Two 20-pound bags of pods made one life jacket. The call went out to America’s children to begin collecting these, with the distribution points being public schools and 4-H clubs.

Today, children observe monarch caterpillars outside for school projects. “Save the monarchs, Plant MILKWEED” messages surround us. Who knows what role milkweed will play in our future? Where to find milkweed in Fairlington: Mews—behind Court 6; Arbor—corner of 34th and Utah and the community gardens in Court 7; Commons—Utah Hill garden by the stairs and at the bottom of the hill by the vegetable gardens. Please send questions and comments to fortheloveofnature@google-groups.com and follow Fairlington Gardening Community on Facebook.

—Sue Davis



WHERE YOU LIVE!

Fairlington to Fort Hunt Edition

There is so much to **LOVE** about Fairlington — there's the charm, the green space, the sense of community, and the amazing location — but sometimes you just need more. My *Life After Fairlington* journey led me to Fort Hunt, and I'm always thrilled to share my neighborhood with my clients!

WETA

"If You Lived Here," you would **LOVE** it! Join me on my first television adventure as I guide John and Christine through Fort Hunt and Mount Vernon on their popular PBS show. View it online at WETA.org!



Find out what I **LOVE** about Fort Hunt! Follow me @IHeartFortHunt on Facebook and Instagram as I introduce local businesses, highlight family-friendly activities, and showcase upcoming events and open houses!

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~ The Ungers



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pet profiles

From the southern stray life to Fairlington

When he was two years old, Burt was picked up off the streets of South Carolina as a stray. With the help of Worthy Dog Rescue, he ultimately made his way to North Fairlington. Now seven years old, Burt has a loving home life and many friends, both canine and human, in the neighborhood.

Burt's DNA shows a mix of everything from spaniel to pit bull. His happy life reflects his happy disposition. He has his own bed and easy chair, lots of toys, lots of friends, his favorite foods (like salmon and peanut butter), and has gained 20 needed pounds. Pet Profiles had an enjoyable visit with Burt, who could not have been more welcoming.



Burt puts on his best "pleeease" face. Photo courtesy of Jeff Kost.

What was it like living as a stray in South Carolina?

It was lonely and scary. I never knew when I would find something to eat. I was dodging cars and trucks and sleeping outdoors in all kinds of weather.

You take three long walks a day. What do you like best living here?

I love Fairlington! I have met lots of friendly humans and the dogs are nice too. There are plenty of trees, bushes, hydrants, and light poles to sniff and grass to eat (even though I am not supposed to). I love having an outdoor patio to lounge on in the warm weather. I also have my own comfy chair and a dog bed in our living room. I think I have a pretty good life!

Do you think pit bulls get a bad rap?

Maybe. I don't know. I think I am very nice and I like the dogs I meet. We can be a misunderstood breed because I know some dogs like me are mean and bred for dogfighting, but that's not me. That's not any of my pittie pals,

either. It makes me sad when someone crosses the street when they see me on my walks because they feel afraid.

Would you recommend 'daycare' to other dogs and if so why?

Definitely! I go to daycare every Friday. I get to roam around with lots of my pals, meet new dogs, take naps, get treats, and share toys. I also get to spend lots of time with the people. They love me and I get a lot of love. Everyone should try it.

You're a pretty social dog.... who is your best friend?

Oh, that's a tough one. I do have a special friend at daycare, her name is Jupiter, a young female

Great Dane. We spend time together almost every Friday. I am also happy whenever I see daycare friends Lincoln and Peanut. We always have the best time!

What is your favorite time of year and why?

I would have to say my favorite seasons are spring and fall. I like it when the temperature is about 70 degrees, maybe a little cooler on my morning walks and a little warmer for mid-day and after dinner walks. Summer can be a little rough on my paws if we walk too long but my dad leads me to grassy areas to stay cool. When it snows in winter, I don't care much for the snow that sticks to my feet. And I don't like rain in any season!

—Barbara Berti



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Remembering Kristen Jacobs Johnson, a light of the Fairlington community



Kristen Jacobs Johnson, a beloved neighbor and a familiar face to many in Fairlington, passed away on August 10 at the age of 41 after a long battle with breast cancer.

She leaves her husband, Thomas, and six year old daughter, Norah.

Johnson was best known in the neighborhood both for her work as a local realtor and for organizing many community activities, including the popular free clothing swap.

The annual event, where donors bring gently used women and children's clothing to give and can shop for new things, attracted hundreds of local moms and tots and was a highlight of the fall season.

Johnson spent weeks organizing items, volunteers, and reserving space for the event.

She was also a frequent voice on the Fairlington Facebook community pages and mom's groups providing advice, items to share or sell, and support to any neighbors who were struggling.

Her friends and family describe her as a generous soul and a light to everyone she encountered.

A celebration of life service was held in the end of August.

—Regina Bethencourt

A note from friends:

Kristen Jacobs Johnson | March 18, 1982 - August 10, 2023

You are like light for the whole world your light must shine before people (Matthew 5:14, 16) and Kristen's light shined so brightly that it raised up everyone that had the chance to be a part of her life.

Kristen was first and foremost a mother and a wife. She shined her brightest when it came to raising her daughter Norah with her husband Thomas. Family was at the heart of everything that Kristen did.

To her friends, Kristen was the woman who would always be the first to lend a hand, a shoulder, or just get to work. Work might have been her job as a realtor finding the perfect home for families. It may have been advocating for minorities and making impassioned speeches to the county board. Or creating community events decorating our "Fairlington Bridge," organizing end of school popsicles for the neighborhood or organizing an incredible clothing swap.

Kristen was a connector, a bridge in the Fairlington community. Many friends and neighbors came together just this month to show Kristen and her family how loved they are by decorating the bridge with Kristen's name and messages of support as she continued her fight with metastatic breast cancer.

Kristen's warrior spirit fought her cancer for four years so that she could be with Norah and Thomas. While cancer stole Kristen from her family, friend and community—we will not allow it to steal her light. In Kristen's memory a fundraising effort has been created to ensure her greatest wish to keep Norah and Thomas in the community in which they are so loved. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/InmemoryofKristenJohnson?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>.

—Jill Faya



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Gunston middle school welcomes new principal

Carolyn R. Jackson joined Gunston Middle School this summer as its new principal, appointed by the Arlington county board in May.

The previous principal, Lori Wiggins, served for 11 years, leaving her post to become the new principal of Arlington Community High School.

Jackson wrote a letter to new students and families expressing her excitement about the coming school year and her new role.

“As we move into the 2023-24 school year, my priority will be building strong relationships with students, staff, families, and the community to ensure every scholar feels seen, heard, and safe,” she wrote. “We must all appreciate and celebrate the contributions, successes and unseen gifts that each student brings daily.”



Jackson has served in the Arlington public school system for 23 years. Photo courtesy of APS.

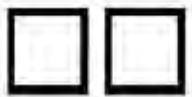
Jackson has been an educator in the Arlington public school system for 23 years, including many at Gunston, as a teacher, activities director, director of counseling services and assistant principal.

Her most recent position was assistant principal at Long Branch Elementary School.

It is a season of change for school-aged Fairlingtonians and their parents as Jackson's appointment comes at the same time as Wakefield High School welcomes a new principal, Peter Balas.

Fairlington's districted schools rank among some of the best in the state and have always been a high selling point for families considering the neighborhood as a place to live.

—Regina Bethencourt



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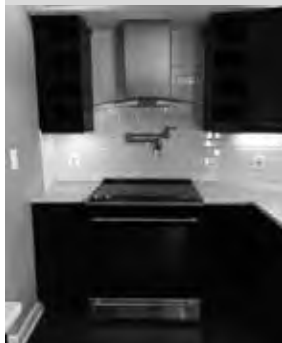
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Park Shirlington renovations begin

With the final pieces of financing falling into place earlier this summer, the owner of Park Shirlington apartments on 31st St. has begun a wholesale renovation of the complex, which includes 294 residential units.

The renovation was a component of the larger plan by which the owner acquired the property and committed to maintain it as affordable housing for 75 years. Arlington County's Affordable Housing Fund provided some of the funding for the transaction.



The renovation includes the installation of solar panels on the roof which will provide a third of the building's energy needs. Photos by Guy Land.

The extensive renovation will occur in sections, with all the residents in a particular section moving to a "swing" section for about three weeks while their units are being renovated. They would still be living on site.



The new owner is required to maintain Park Shirlington as affordable housing.

In addition to a complete overhaul of the units, the renovation will include the installation of solar panels on the roof. The panels are projected to provide roughly a third of Park Shirlington's energy needs.

The project will include the construction of a new community center and leasing office. The community center will contain a gym, computer center, and multipurpose room which can be used in part for programming for residents and for social gatherings. The resident programming could potentially include things like educational assistance for school-age children and financial and employment coaching for parents.

The renovation is expected to take two years.

—Guy Land

Letter to the Editor

Re: Local police present on countywide increase in crime

The August FCA bulletin reports an increase in neighborhood (and national) crime. How much of this is a consequence of the commonwealth attorney not prosecuting law breakers?

In Fairfax, for example, the CA is not prosecuting DUIs. Years ago I was a member of a counter-drug task force focusing on illegal drugs in the BWI corridor. Arlington County, said a DEA colleague, would not cooperate with DEA in rooting out the drug dealers in the Buckingham area by removing telephone booths.

Which brings up the question "What is the county government actually now doing to prosecute criminals? The broken window theory certainly applies, if

you tolerate small illegal acts you will soon get major ones.

—W. Layer

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



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Bob and Anne are original Fairlington homeowners with a 1977 townhouse Anne bought before they met. In 2005, they remodeled that home and soon found out that many Fairlington friends and neighbors were ready to **leave the 1970s behind**. Today, 90 percent of our company's business is in Fairlington, where we've worked in every neighborhood and every model, completing approximately 200 kitchens and 50 whole-house remodels. Multiple projects by Bob DeLong have been selected for the Fairlington Home & Garden Tours. Bob and Anne have bought – remodeled-and sold 5 other homes through the years and every one has sold on day one, above the asking price. As homeowners ourselves we have a long term stake in this wonderful community!



ABINGDON *school news*



It's back-to-school season at Abingdon!

The 2023–2024 school year is now underway! The lead up began on August 24 with the Abingdon Open House. During this event, hundreds of students and their families returned to the building—or entered it for the first time. Students met their new teachers, toured classrooms, and connected with friends old and new.



The Abingdon Cardinal is ready to greet new students in a few short weeks! Photo courtesy of Maggie Bush.

returned to the building for Back to School Night. They took their turn visiting classrooms, hearing from teachers, and learning about PTA volunteer opportunities.

The Big Day came a few days later on August 28. Parents sent off their children with words of encouragement (and maybe some mixed emotions). And Abingdon staff greeted those students with a spirit of enthusiasm and a message of welcome. Then the work—and the fun—began.

The following week, on September 6, Abingdon parents

PTA Membership Signups

Speaking of PTA, it's time to renew your membership for the 2023-2024 school year. The Abingdon PTA has two overarching goals. First, we support our students and staff by ensuring they have what they need to succeed during the school day. Second, we build community by hosting events like Trunk-or-Treat and Multicultural Night. The PTA Board strives for members to have a positive and fun experience, while always remaining free to choose their own level of involvement.

Individual PTA Membership



Family PTA Membership



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars now for PTA's first event of the year: Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 28. Abingdon staff and the PTA are working to make this year's Trunk-or-Treat the best ever. Stay tuned for more details!

—James Harlow

DID YOU KNOW?

Abingdon owes its existence to a 1947 survey of 2688 Fairlington families conducted by the Fairlington Civic Association. 97% favored construction of a new elementary school in the neighborhood over a school board proposal to expand the then-Fairlington Elementary School (now Fairlington Community Center). The board changed its mind and Abingdon was built.

Abingdon School Dates

Mon, 9/25—No School (Yom Kippur)

Mon, 10/9—No School (staff development)

Thurs, 10/19—Elementary Early Release (parent/teacher conferences)

Friday, 10/20—No School (parent/teacher conferences)

Sat, 10/28—Trunk-or-Treat



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FROM THE PILE

September starts fall planting and propagation of perennials

September's cooler nights and milder heat with lots of sunshine and more regular rainfall provides the perfect conditions for you to divide your perennials and do soil amendment to optimize growing conditions for next year's gardens. Propagating your perennials in September using easy techniques like root division, offset harvesting, and layering will allow for robust root growth and a nice sized plant for next year.



Dig a clump up and then, carefully cut it apart so that each division contains roots and a piece of the crown. Photo courtesy of Photos Host Divisions, Joseph Tessmer, 2020.

Clumping perennials like bee balm, black eyed susan, purple coneflower, cardinal flower, ornamental grasses, and many more can all be dug and divided by cutting apart the root mass vertically. Clumping perennials are best for small space gardens because their growth can be controlled a little better. Here's a list of **NATIVE** plants that have a clumping growth habit. <https://donnallong.com/clumping-for-neatness-tidy-native-plants/>.

Dividing these plants after 3-5 years is a good practice that keeps more vibrant, younger growth active. Generally younger growth will bloom better and crowded, overgrown clumps can decline in health too.

In the picture with this article is a clump of hosta—not native but an easy plant to demonstrate with. Dig a clump up and then, carefully cut it apart so that each division contains roots and a piece of the crown. Making sure that each clump has 3-5 eyes or growing points will ensure a nice-looking new plant the first year.

Offsets are new plants that are produced from growing points on either stolons (stem extensions) or rhizomes (root extensions). Plants like hydrangea, roses, brambles and strawberries, and many houseplants produce offsets. These new 'baby plants' with their own roots systems—can be separated from the 'mother plant' to make new plants.

Layering is a technique used with many native and



non-native woody shrubs and vining houseplants like azalea, cross vine, magnolia, and forsythia to name a few. This easy technique involves laying an attached, growing branch down on the ground, wounding the branch where it touches the ground, and covering or weighting it down with a brick or metal pin until

new roots are generated. After roots are produced, the branch can be cut and separated from the mother plant, potted up or replanted in the ground.

You can propagate YOUR native plants for a spring plant sale- or even a fall one—or just to give away to your friends and neighbors. Newly rooted divisions and offsets should be replanted into prepared beds. Fall is a great time to re-work your landscape beds, remove deep rooted weeds, tree seedlings, and work organic matter into your growing soil. These simple techniques will work on most perennial and woody plants that you have.

For information about these and more advanced techniques of grafting or air layering, contact our Extension Master Gardener Help Desk Hours: 9-12noon Weekdays, Phone: 703 228 6414 or Email: mgarlalex@gmail.com

—Kirsten Conrad

Fall Native Plant Sales

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Fall Native Plant Sale at Green Spring Family Festival Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA

Saturday, September 30, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale (Fall)

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Potowmack Chapter Native Plant Sale Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA

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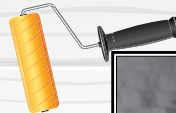


Greetings! My name is Angel Villanueva, and I spent 22 years working full time for the late **Victor Sison** of **FAIRLINGTON MAINTENANCE SERVICE**, learning construction and repair from the ground up. If you knew Victor, then you know me, and it will be my pleasure to serve you! I have worked in hundreds of Fairlington homes. Specializing in bathroom and kitchen remodeling!

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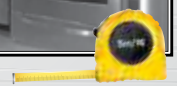


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"Angel updated our kitchen with a tray ceiling, recessed lighting, back splash, and new tile floor. He also patched, painted, reframed and generally spruced our place prior to sale in 2018. He does great work at a reasonable price and I highly recommend him."

—Mary Thomasson,
Former Fairlington owner



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We love to hear news and ideas from our youngest neighbors. Enjoy this letter from one of our elementary school aged pals about her summer:

Dear FCA,

This summer was a blast. Both me and my family went to California. We saw our uncle and aunt and their dog, Bun. In California, I went on a ropes course in the mountains and fed ostriches and emus. I also went to sleep away camp with some of my best friends. We made tie-dye shirts, went in hammocks, and swam in the pool. Although summer has been a blast, I can't wait for school to start.

—Isabel Harlow (age 8).

If you or your child is interested in contributing to the *Bulletin*, please email us at afbeditors@yahoo.com.



Isabel Harlow and her sister enjoying summer break. Photo courtesy of James Harlow.

Chicken **BBQ**



10:30 AM - 2 PM

SATURDAY, SEPT 9
 3900 KING STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302

 FAIRLINGTON UNITED METHODIST MEN

Vision Zero from page 5

4. Establish urgency and accountability
5. Prioritize safe roadways and speeds in all transportation planning and design

This meeting is particularly relevant for Fairlington as traffic and pedestrian safety have been at the forefront of community discussions, especially concerning the areas surrounding Abingdon school.

Many parents have expressed concern about drivers not stopping for students trying to cross the crosswalk, which has resulted in more than one injury over the past year.

Fairlington borders many major thoroughfares and can be used as a cut-through option for drivers looking to avoid congested traffic along King St. and Quaker Ln.

All renters and owners in the neighborhood are welcome to join and participate in the conversation with Vision Zero at the Fairlington Community Center, Room 134.

—Todd Delp

FREE SHAVED ICE!



Sat ■ Sept 9th ■ 4-5pm

STEM PRESCHOOL ■ 3120 S ABINGDON ST

Join The Chrissy & Lisa Team for our end of summer
SHAVED ICE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Let's embrace these last days of summer & welcome
the thrill of a new school year with free Kona Ice!

This event is generously co-sponsored by our friends at
KVS Title! I look forward to meeting you!



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

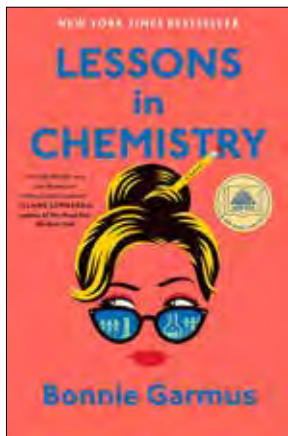
The Fairlington Diners generally gather monthly for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In August, we tried the new-ish Our Mom Eugenia in Shirlington, a favorite of many of our regulars.

Monday, September 11, 5:30 p.m., Clyde's, 1700 N Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA, (703) 820-8300. This is a local favorite, with plenty of parking. The crab cakes are a favorite with many regular diners, as are the hamburgers. Note the earlier gathering time than usual which will enable us to catch happy hour, which includes special prices on oysters; we'll also be able to get settled in time for the start of trivia at 6:30 p.m.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 not later than 24 hours in advance if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com.

Book Group



Join the Fairlington Book Group in September to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry*, a novel by Bonnie Garmus. We will meet Tuesday, September 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Set in the 1960s, the book is a “bold, smart, and often hilarious look at the value of so-called women’s work.”—Real Simple

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.

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 fairlingtonmomsclub@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>.



Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale

Saturday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of The Church of St. Clement at 1701 N. Quaker Lane.

Come find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade! About 10 vendors from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and D.C. will be hosted at this event, the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro region!

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

Mini-ads

Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.

Services

NEED A BABYSITTER? Call Katelyn: responsible, experienced, and Red Cross Certified. Rates start at \$5/hour 703-201-3847.

WELLNESS with MOORE THAN YOGA offers: Yoga, Meditation, Breathing Techniques, Infant/Children's Massage, Reflexology, Reiki & more. Private session or create a class. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

IRS ENROLLED AGENT can prepare your individual, business, amended and prior year income tax returns, and respond to IRS and state tax letters. Bookkeeping services also available. Flexible time and place appointments. Please visit www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com for more information or call Christine at 703-407-7545 or email: christine.atb3@gmail.com.

LOCAL & PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT. We know Fairlington! Leasing, comprehensive tenant screenings, online rent collection, property inspections, itemized monthly e-statements & more. Contact Allegiance Property Management - info@allegiancepm.com, 703-824-4704, or www.allegiancepm.com

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

Home Improvements

HARDTIMES HANDYMAN SERVICES. Home and office repair, rental maintenance, painting, drywall repair, pressure washing, minor electrical and plumbing, to do lists and more. Free estimates, fair pricing and friendly service. Since 2008. Fairlington references available. Tim Miles cell 443-995-3825. Please, no texts. timmiles74@gmail.com.

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

INTERIOR PAINTING. Chelsea Paint and Paper, Inc. Painting, wallpapering, and plastering. 25 years of experience. Professional, clean, neat, reliable. Licensed, bonded, insured. References available. Free estimates. Steve Chute. 571-216-9338/703-912-1450. Chute285@aol.com.

JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS: Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turnaround time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

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ODD JOBS. Help for all your "odd-job" home needs is back in town for the season. Renovations, repairs & all sorts of odd jobs such as painting, handrail installations, closet build-outs... hanging pictures, small carpentry projects, dry-wall repair and many other miscellaneous items. I'm a retired remodeling contractor / civil engineer available for free estimates, advice & quality work. Call or text David @ 703-732-1534 or e-mail: dacdac3027@gmail.com. A Fairlington resident with many local references.

MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS. 26 years of experience, kitchen and bath granite countertop remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, crown molding, painting, drywall, handyman services. Class A license. Call Mario 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com

IS THERE A FIRE HAZARD IN YOUR LAUNDRY ROOM? Dryer vent hoses in Fairlington homes need to be inspected regularly to ensure they are clear from accumulated lint, which can cause fire. Often, the whole system needs to be cleaned out, and in some cases, replaced entirely. Call Juan today for a free inspection 703-307-4022 or angelvillanueva33@gmail.com.

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MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. 703-820-1808. Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

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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: fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Cost: 50 cents per word.

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



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.



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



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- Jim, Fairlington Village

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- Natalia, Fairfax

As a teacher, working with an agent who is also an Arlington educator helped me to feel my requirements weren't just met, they were anticipated"
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Listing Agent
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