



All Fairlington Newsletter

President's Message

September 2025

After a hot and humid summer, I think many of us are welcoming the change of season.

Now that school has started, Fairlington's roads will once again include multiple school bus routes across the community. Please drive slowly and carefully. Last month's community engagement meeting by the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and Vision Zero at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) highlighted the importance of all of us helping keep residents safe: look both ways before crossing at marked crosswalks, wear a bike helmet, and never pass a school bus while stopped and lights flashing (it's also illegal). We can all do our part.

This month, FCA will coordinate two events. We will hold our annual Outdoor Movie Night on the FCC field on Saturday, September 27. All Fairlingtonians are invited to bring blankets, chairs, and snacks and watch together.

At our monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10, FCA will host Arlington County Board Member JD Spain, who will speak to residents about county issues. The county is facing challenging economic headwinds while contending with a rise in unemployment, high office vacancy rates, and the possibility of losing federal funding.

Lastly, FCA will also host a table at the Fairlington Farmers Market on Sunday, September 21. We are excited to launch some new Fairlington-themed gear and gifts for sale. Residents are welcome at all events. Stop by if you can.



– Jennifer Davies, president@fca-fairlington.org

FCA's Fairlington Outdoor Movie Night Returns!

Saturday, September 27, 7 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Sponsored by Kay Houghton and Associates

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Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

Fairlington Community

Julius D. “JD” Spain, Sr., will speak to the Fairlington community at the FCA monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 10, at 7 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Spain was elected in the 2024 November County Board General Election, the first to use Ranked Choice Voting. He visited Fairlington recently for the July 4th Parade.

Spain is a decorated retired combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps with 26 years of service. He has held operational and diplomatic roles overseas and for key U.S. officials, including the U.S. President. Spain served in other capacities for the U.S. Senate, Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs, and DoD Office of Inspector General.

With deep civic roots in Arlington and a commitment to fostering equitable communities, Spain was appointed by the County Board to serve on the Civil Service Commission to advise on county policies. He was elected president of the Arlington branch of NAACP, as well as regional VP for Virginia NAACP. He and his wife of 32 years have lived in Arlington since 2009; their three children are graduates of Arlington Public Schools.

Spain will speak on county-related issues of interest to Fairlington, as well as take questions and listen to concerns. All Fairlington residents are welcome.



[Photo courtesy of Vlad Chețan.](#)

September 27: Outdoor Movie Night Returns!

**Kay
Houghton
& Associates**

Join us for the annual FCA Outdoor Movie Night on Friday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m. on the FCC field. This much-loved community tradition is hosted by FCA and generously sponsored this year by the Kay Houghton Real Estate Team.

Families are invited to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and snacks to enjoy an

Don't forget your bug spray and flashlights!

This year's feature film will be chosen from a selection of family favorites, including "Lilo & Stitch," "How to Train Your Dragon," "Freaky Friday," "The Parent Trap," and "Percy Jackson." No matter which film is shown, the evening promises to be full of laughter, fun, and memories made with family and friends. Admission is free, and all are welcome to come and share in this special event. Please, no alcoholic beverages are allowed.

Since there's always a chance of inclement weather, check for day-of updates on the [FCA website](#), by email, and on the [FCA Facebook page](#).

– Julie Butler



Meet New FCA Director Elizabeth Lyons

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Lyons has lived in Fairlington since moving to Arlington from the Boston area in 1991. Elizabeth spent much of her 26-year career as a special event coordinator at a small Federal agency, before retiring last year. Both of her children attended Abingdon Elementary School, where she was an active member of the PTA and a Girl Scout troop leader. Elizabeth is currently serving on the executive board of the Wakefield Athletic Boosters as special events co-chair. A lifelong animal lover, she and her late husband met while volunteering at the National Zoo. She now has a zoo of her own, consisting of a dog, four cats, and two Guinea pigs.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davies.

ACPD & Vision Zero Brief Community on Safety

On August 7, ACPD's [Community Engagement Team](#), led by Sergeant Sarah Butzer, and representatives from the County's [Vision Zero](#) through the Department of Environment (DES), presented jointly on transportation safety and other public concerns. This new community outreach initiative will occur quarterly countywide and replace neighborhood or civic association briefings, as ACPD no longer has adequate staffing for smaller meetings.

Vision Zero focused on back-to-school safety tips and measures including speed cameras in certain school zones (Abingdon is not currently one), wearing a biking helmet (it is the law for 14 and under), looking both ways before entering marked crosswalks, and using designated school pick-up and drop-off zones. Presenters also reminded residents that using a hand-held communication device while driving is illegal in Virginia and e-scooter riders must be 18 years or older.

ACPD cautioned residents about scams, particularly those using texts. Common ones circulating now involve requests to pay unpaid tolls and send upfront money to contractors. Residents should always be suspicious if messages include demands or pressure to send money or gift cards quickly.

ACPD also warned against "spoofing" calls that look like official county telephone numbers including those impersonating ACPD officers. ACPD will never request money in lieu of an arrest warrant.

In response to resident concerns about immigration enforcement in Arlington, ACPD stated they do not participate in these procedures. ACPD will always be clearly identified with names and badges. If residents are concerned about enforcement without clearly identifiable credentials or are concerned for their safety, they can call 911.

– Jennifer Davies

Interested in having your event included? Email afbeditors@yahoo.com.

[Rosslyn Jazz Fest](#)

Saturday, September 6, 1–7 p.m.
Gateway Park, Rosslyn

Abingdon PTA/General Membership Meeting

Monday, September 8, 7 p.m.
Abingdon Elementary School

EcoEmbassadors' Happy Hour

Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m.
Departmental Progressive Club, 411 Gibbon St, Alexandria
This is a chance for prospective volunteers to learn about the program. [RSVP required](#).

FCA Monthly Meeting: JD Spain

Wednesday, September 10, 7 p.m.
Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Advance Arlington September Program

Wednesday, September 10, 7 p.m.
Lubber Run Community Center, 300 North Park Dr.
Your Vote, Your Voice: Understanding Ranked Choice Voting in Arlington. A brief presentation on how ranked choice voting works will begin at 6:45 PM, followed by the main conversation at 7:00 PM.

[Rock-N-Recycle](#)

Saturday, September 13, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Arlington County Trades Center, Shirlington
Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Solid Waste Bureau and explore the world of recycling, trash-to-energy and other key environmental services. Explore dozens of hands-on learning stations, take-home art, and close-up looks at trucks and machinery.

2025 Green Community Tour & Celebration

Sunday September 14, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Arlington Central Library & across Arlington
Tour sustainable homes and gardens in Arlington. \$20 individual, \$35 two people, \$40 per carpool. Sponsored by EcoAction Arlington, Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, Arlington Public Libraries, Arlington County's Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management. No registration required for the Welcome Event at Central Library; [Buy Tickets](#) to receive map of the tour.

[Arlington Native Plant Sale](#)

Saturday, September 20, 1–4 p.m.
Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St.
[Order online](#) starting September 13, pickup on September 20. Starting September 2, 1 tree per household available via link, separate dates and locations for ordering and pickup.

Fairlington Book Group

The next meeting of the Fairlington Book Group will discuss the book, *James*, by Percival Everett. Please join us at the FCC, Room 103. All are welcome, even if you have not read the book.

EcoEmbassadors' Ice Cream Social Fundraiser

Thursday, September 25, 3–6 p.m.

Jeni's, 4150 Campbell Ave, Shirlington

25% of all sales will be donated to EcoAction Arlington

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, September 27, 12:00 p.m.

[Del Ray Café](#), 205 E Howell Ave., Alexandria

The Café has an extensive brunch menu and describes itself as “an innovative local eatery that melds the best of French country cuisine and American country products.” Neighborhood street parking is available. If you plan to attend, please email **carol_dabbs at yahoo dot com** not later than 24 hours in advance, so she can get the right size table. If you would like to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send her your email to that effect.

Fairlington Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, September 27, 7 p.m.

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Sponsored by Kay Houghton and Associates

Fairlington Moms

Are you a Fairlington Mom looking for more support, play opportunities for kids, or a group of friends in the same period of life for some fun? The Fairlington Moms' Club is the place for you. We offer:

- Playgroups for different age groups, accommodating all moms & schedules
- Family holiday-themed events
- Moms' nights out
- Meal trains and support for when you need it most
- Our very own classifieds listserv and WhatsApp group

All moms welcome! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for further information.



Artist Tenley Brady beautifully captured the spirit of our market!

Fairlington Farmers Market

Farmers Market Open Through November 23

Visit the Fairlington Farmers Market in September and stock up for fall! Many of our vendors offer healthy, ready-made meals for quick and easy breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Don't forget snacks for after-school activities, sports practices, and football games. If you or your kids have questions about how foods at the market are grown and produced, ask our vendors—they love to talk with shoppers!

Mark your calendar for this month's activities:

- **September 7:** Music by Mike Setti
- **September 14:** Arlington Public Library, music by The Two Peas
- **September 21:** Market sponsors Active and Connected Family Therapy and Fairlington Citizens Association, music by John Kamman
- **September 28:** Music by Swingology

The market is open every Sunday from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. To learn more, visit [Fairlington Farmers Market – Field to Table](#).

– Lynne Blasi



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Vesey White.

Abingdon School News

Welcome Back to School!

The Kindergarteners got a head start last month with a meet and greet playdate.

Abingdon's PTA would love your support. If you're a parent looking to joining, or a member of the community looking to support your neighborhood school, [follow this link](#) to join or make a donation.

Members: PTA meetings will be the second Monday of the month with the first General Membership Meeting Monday, September 8, at 7 p.m.



Some not-as-famous Fairlingtonians celebrate at the historic marker ceremony, 1999.

Photo courtesy of Fairlington Historical Society.

Fairlington Historical Society (FHS)

Famous Fairlingtonians

Which of the following lived in Fairlington?

1. **Callista (Bisek) Gingrich** – wife of former House speaker Newt Gingrich

3. **Edwin “Punky” Meadows** – rock guitarist
4. **John McCain, Sr.** – U.S. Navy Admiral and Sen. John McCain’s grandfather

The answer is: All of them! To find out more, go to the Fairlington Historical Society webpage. If you know of someone we should add to the list, please [contact us here](#).

Share Your 9/11 Stories

The Fairlington Historical Society is looking for stories from people who were living in Fairlington on September 11, 2001, as part of an online living history project available in time for the 25th anniversary next year. If you would like to share your story, please contact secretary@fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.



Fairlington Villages installed rain gardens to collect and absorb rainwater, filter pollutants, and prevent flooding and erosion. Photo courtesy of Angela McNamara.

For the Love of Nature

Fairlington Villages Leads the Way in Sustainable Condo Landscaping

Fairlington Villages is a [leader among area condo associations](#) in the use of environmentally friendly landscaping practices. The Villages adds native trees each year via Arlington’s Tree Canopy Fund, installed 10 rain gardens to manage stormwater, discontinued herbicides on lawn, uses organic compost tea as fertilizer, added native plant gardens in common areas, and leaves snags (partial trunks of dead trees left standing) where safe and feasible, to support birds and wildlife. In 2014, the Villages was even certified as an Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary.

Other Fairlington associations are adopting more sustainable practices too. A few highlights include:

- The **Commons** pulls invasive species, installs native trees and plants in common areas, and leaves snags where safe and appropriate.
- The **Glen** does not use herbicides.
- The **Green** mulches grass clippings back into turf for a natural slow-release fertilizer.
- The **Mews** uses organic herbicides and fertilizers.
- The **Meadows** uses an organic iron chelate to manage weeds in turf.

– *Leslie Cameron*

Government Updates

Voter Registration & Early Voting

The next important Virginia election is Tuesday, November 4, and all eligible adults are encouraged to vote. Voter registration is easy: Register on the [Virginia Voter Information – Citizen Portal](#), using your Virginia DMV-issued ID, or check your registration status. If you moved since the last time you voted, you must update your registration with your current address. **Voter registration ends on Friday, October 24, which is also the last date to request a ballot by mail.** (If you miss the deadline, you can go to your polling place, register, and cast a provisional ballot.)

On November 4, Arlingtonians will be voting for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, three House of Delegates members (district-specific), one County Board member, and one School Board member.

Alexandria races will include Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff

In-person early voting starts Thursday, September 19. Please check full details and times/places to vote early: [Arlington](#) or [Alexandria](#).

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