

# Julie Farnam

FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD

*Our Arlington. Our Future.*



Julie Farnam and her daughters helped clean Barcroft Park on February 10, 2024.

## Drugs in Our Community

### Part 2: Fentanyl

Recently I attended an engagement sponsored by the NAACP, the Hispanic Parent Teacher Association, VOICE, and others to discuss overdoses in our schools. While I was appreciative of the discussion, I was saddened that we needed to have an assembly such as this at all.

Many of the overdoses in our communities and communities across America are caused by fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid. It is a man-made version of an opioid that affects the brain like heroin or morphine, but it is significantly more potent in smaller doses, estimated to be 30-50 times more potent than heroin. Other drugs may be laced with fentanyl, unbeknownst to the user, making it even more dangerous. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) estimates that over 40% of illicit pills contain fentanyl.

Fentanyl and the precursor chemicals used to make fentanyl largely come from [China, Mexico, and India](#). The drug is most often produced outside of the United States and then smuggled into this country. You can read more about the drug trade hierarchy from my last newsletter [here](#).

Approximately [150 people die every day](#) in the United States due to a fentanyl or other synthetic opioid overdoses. Compare this to just over twenty years ago—from April 4, 2005, to March 28, 2007, there were [a total of 1,013 fentanyl-related deaths](#).

In 2023, in Arlington alone, there were 73 overdoses (of all drug types), 22 of which were fatal. This is an issue in our community and one that I will not shy away from addressing. Here in Arlington, I'd like to see, and would work towards, a more robust awareness campaign. As the Drug Enforcement Agency's [campaign](#) bluntly states, one pill can kill.

It does and has. In Arlington.

We also need additional youth programming and safe spaces for kids to go when they are not in school. I propose:

- More free and low-cost youth programming.
- Extended hours for community centers (especially on days when schools are closed).
- Mentorship program to pair Arlington adults with youth.
- Parenting classes (with online learning options) for parents of teens.

Although Arlington has requested and received money from federal, state, and private sources, we must request more. Virginia received approximately \$614M from the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA), of which 20% was distributed to Northern Virginia. Arlington

received \$352,885 in grant money from this fund in FY24. By comparison, Fairfax County received ~\$3.6M. This works out to Arlington having received an average of \$1.49 per resident and Fairfax \$3.17 per resident from the OAA.

There is also funding available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Department of Justice publishes a nearly 2,000-page [book](#) dedicated exclusively to information about federal grant programs pertaining to anti-drug and anti-alcohol efforts (coincidentally, this book is published in Arlington). The money is there, we just need to ask for it. I would ask as a member of the County Board.



The DEA has an exhibit open to the public entitled "The Faces of Fentanyl Wall," located at 700 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Visitors can view the wall Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit commemorates the lives lost from fentanyl.

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## What Arlington Can Do to Better

# Support People with Disabilities

When my mother was a teenager, she worked at a camp for those with Down Syndrome. As my mother grew up and had children of her own, we'd see her former campers in the community, and she always made a point to introduce us. This taught me respect and understanding, and it is why I endeavor to make sure those with disabilities feel included and supported.

Arlington offers many services to people with disabilities, however, there is more we can do as a community. As a member of the County Board, I'd advocate for:

- **More inclusivity in schools.** By having people with disabilities in classrooms with traditional students as often as possible, it offers benefits for both those with and without disabilities by fostering understanding, compassion, and life skills.
- **Modifying the requirements for housing grants.** Modification is necessary to allow for a live-in aid or caretaker. Housing grant recipients currently are not permitted to have another person living with them.
- **Creating a case manager position.** This is needed to help families navigate the system and to ensure they receive the services and benefits they need, particularly as individuals leave the public school system and transition into adult settings.
- **Designating a business advocate.** There are businesses willing to hire people with disabilities, but some may not know how to do that. Arlington needs someone who can connect people with disabilities who want to work with businesses who are willing to hire them.
- **Developing a volunteer or work program.** Those who receive Medicaid waivers are often forced to quit their jobs when a parent retires or passes away because having a job would exceed the permitted income for those receiving SSI benefits. But having a job, even one that makes minimal or no money, gives many meaning in their lives. Arlington should develop a program or partner with an organization that creates purposeful activities for people with disabilities who cannot work due to income limitations.

What else do you think Arlington should be doing to better support those with disabilities? Let me know at [julieforarlington@gmail.com](mailto:julieforarlington@gmail.com).

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## Write Postcards!

Postcard writing has been proven to boost voter interest and turnout. Help the Julie for Arlington campaign by writing postcards.

[Sign Up To Write Postcards Here](#)

VOTE JUNE 18TH:  
**FARNAM FIRST!**  
FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD

**Because we care about:**

- Keeping the community safe
- Being smart in how we grow and plan for our future
- Improving communication and transparency

**Julie Farnam**  
FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD  
Our Arlington. Our Future.

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julieforarlington@gmail.com

Paid for and authorized by Julie for Arlington

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## Endorsements



**Paul Friedman**  
Executive Director

Paul Friedman, Executive Director of the Prevent Gun Tragedies Political Action Committee, has endorsed Julie Farnam as the choice to fill the Arlington County Board seat being vacated by Libby Garvey.

Mr. Friedman has worked closely with neighboring communities to make them safer by raising public awareness of Virginia's red flag law, officially called the emergency substantial risk order.

Read the full press release [here](#).

Remember on June 18th vote :

# Farnam First!

## Upcoming Events



**Kabob Bazaar**  
February 25, 2024 at 6:00pm

Join Julie for a conversation to learn about her vision for Arlington at Kabob Bazaar (3133 Wilson Blvd.) on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 6:00pm.

[Sign Up](#)



**Café Sazón**  
February 29, 2024 at 6:30pm  
(en español)

Acompañe a Julie Farnam para un ayuntamiento en español en Café Sazón el jueves, 29 de febrero, a las 6:30 pm.

Join Julie for a town hall at Café Sazón (4704 Columbia Pike). This event will be in both Spanish and in

English.

[Sign Up](#)



## Wine Tasting Fundraiser March 3, 2024 at 7:00pm

Join Julie for a private wine tasting at Le Vintage in Old Town (1218 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314) on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 5:00pm.

[Get Tickets](#)



## McNamara's Restaurant March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm

Meet Julie to learn about her campaign and platform at McNamara's Pub (567 23rd Street S, Arlington) on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm.

[Sign Up](#)

*Julie Farnam is a mom and small business owner in Arlington. She previously served as the Assistant Director of Intelligence for the United States Capitol Police during one of the most tumultuous periods in this country's history. Prior to joining the Capitol Police, Farnam served with the Department of Homeland Security for over fifteen years. She is author of the book "[Domestic Darkness: An Insider's Account of the January 6th Insurrection, and the Future of Right-Wing Extremism.](#)"*



## Support Julie by Donating

I remain committed to helping Arlington thrive.  
Your donation makes that possible.  
Our Arlington. Our Future.

[Donate Today](#)

Julie for Arlington  
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