

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Local police, fire leaders to address FCA meeting on February 7

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Arlington County Police Department Third District Commander Captain Adrienne Quigley will talk to Fairlington residents at the February 7, 2017, Fairlington Citizens Association meeting at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Capt. Quigley will discuss crime trends and traffic concerns and then open up the floor to any questions attendees may have.

Capt. Quigley has over 20 years with Arlington's police force and has served as the Third District Commander since 2015. Her past service includes patrol, the detective bureau, crime scene investigation, internal affairs, and, before her current appointment, tenure as acting Deputy Director of the county's Office of Emergency Management.

Capt. Quigley last spoke at a Fairlington Citizens Association meeting in November 2015 and reported then that Fairlington remained a very safe community despite a rash of car break-ins.

Also in attendance at the February FCA meeting will be Capt. Thomas Shamblin of Fairlington's own Fire Station 7. Capt. Shamblin will speak briefly to introduce himself and his crew and offer tips on fire safety.

Note that this meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, rather than FCA's normal Wednesday meeting date.

—Michelle Woolley



Capt. Adrienne Quigley visited with FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley and then-FCA board members Carol Dabbs and Mark Jones at the November 2015 FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

FCA monthly meeting February 7

Special presentation: Arlington County Police Department Third District Commander Capt. Adrienne Quigley and Capt. Thomas Shamblin of Fire Station 7 will make remarks and answer questions.

Regular board business:

- Approval of January minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business



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 Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Global Thinking, Alexandria, VA, www.globalthinking.com.

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Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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

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1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Shirlington Playground listening session

Saturday, February 4, 10 am – noon
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 6, 6:30 pm
Samuel Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St.

FCA monthly meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

President's Day

Monday, February 20
FCC Closed

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, February 23, 6:30 pm
Los Tios Grill, 2615 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Home improvement seminars

Saturday, March 4, 9 am – 4 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Where are the squirrels?



Lexie, the Lhasa Apso, explores early January's dusting of snow. Less than two inches fell in the Fairlington area. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Robert Dietz, Jeni Hornback, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Renee Powlette, Joe Reed, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers, Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Residents often ask about business activity and real estate developments in the general vicinity of Fairlington. One of FCA's roles is to help keep the community informed about these and to offer answers to questions Fairlingtonians often have about them.

A series of lively exchanges on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page in the fall discussed the number of business closures and vacancies in Shirlington. We asked North Fairlington resident Rob Dietz, who has informally monitored Shirlington activities over the past couple of years for us, to check this out.

As his article on page 5 notes, Federal Realty Investment Trust, which owns and manages most of the retail space in Shirlington, remains pleased with the business environment in Shirlington, and several new businesses are slated to open in 2017.

Federal Realty points out that it is selective in the businesses that it chooses for Shirlington, with the goal of providing a good diversity of stores that will maintain the general character of the shopping district. But that also means that sometimes a storefront will sit vacant for longer than it otherwise might.

The big development activity in our area now is in Alexandria's West End. Sharing a border with Fairfax and Arlington counties, the West End is the City of Alexandria's largest and fastest-growing submarket and is getting major attention from the city council. The area is undergoing various revitalization efforts, with the future redevelopment of Landmark Mall and Beauregard Town Center, as well as the construction of the BRAC 133 office complex at Mark Center.

The Alexandria Gateway project, at the intersection of King and Beauregard Streets, is very much part of that special West End focus. The city council approved the final permitting for the project in late 2015, and construction is now getting underway.

Coupled with the construction of the Gateway development are major improvements to the intersection of King, Beauregard, and Walter Reed. Work on this project, particularly the utility relocation, is also getting underway. This will no doubt result in traffic congestion and disruption, but officials plan to keep the intersection open to traffic during construction.

The Gateway developer will address the community at the March 8 FCA meeting, and we may have a briefing by Alexandria staff later in the year on the bigger picture of activities in the West End. FCA will continue to monitor these nearby activities.

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

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New businesses coming to Shirlington

Changes are set for The Village at Shirlington in 2017 as new establishments are moving in to fill recent vacancies. In January Federal Realty Investment Trust, the company that owns and manages most of the real estate in Shirlington, announced several new retailers for the shopping center.

Two prominent closures occurred in 2016. The restaurant Luna Grill & Diner shut its doors in the fall. Representatives from Federal Realty indicated that there is interest in the space going into 2017.

Medi, Mediterranean Grill & Pitaria, closed in the fall as well. Expected to open in its place is Moby Dick House of Kabob. The restaurant is a D.C.-area chain focusing on Persian cooking with Mediterranean flavors. The business is expected to begin operations in the spring of 2017.

Additional openings in Shirlington will include Dudley's Sport & Ale, a bar and restaurant that plans a rooftop entertainment area. Taking over the old Bungalow space, Dudley's is expected to open in the middle of 2017 and is currently waiting on construction permits to improve and modernize the space.

Massage Forever, a high-end therapeutic massage spa facility, is expected to open its doors in the space previ-



Dudley's Sport & Ale is slated to take the space vacated by Bungalow Sports Grill. Photo by Guy Land.

ously occupied by CakeLove and Periwinkle in early 2017.

Finally, Adara Skin Care and Spa will open in the winter of 2017 where Mill End Shops was previously located. It will feature facials, waxing, and eyelash extensions, while a retail boutique within the spa will offer a range of skincare and makeup products.

Other vacancies, including the space previously occupied by Johnny Rockets, have received interest by potential new businesses.

Daniel Corwin of Federal Realty noted, "Retailers are doing well and sales are strong overall. And we're excited about the new businesses that are choosing to locate in Shirlington."

In a visit to FCA in October 2015, Mickey Papillon, Director of Asset Management for Federal Realty, emphasized that the company takes a strategic approach to filling vacancies in Shirlington, which can sometimes result in spaces being vacant for longer periods.

Rather than just slot any store into any available storefront, he explained, the company's goal is to "Find different and unique businesses that change and elevate the offerings for Shirlington."

—Robert Dietz

Registration for the April 29 Fairlington 5K now open

It is hard to believe with the freezing temps and salted streets, but spring is just around the corner. And with it comes the annual Fairlington 5K & Silent Auction sponsored by Abingdon Elementary and the Fairlington Citizens Association.

Now in its fourth year, the Fairlington 5K brings together over 700 people from the local community to run and walk for two great causes—support for our neighborhood school and a cure for Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn. Ellie is a third-grader at Abingdon who suffers from a rare and degenerative brain disease called Leukodystrophy-LBSL. The condition slowly robs children of their ability to walk, and then to coordinate all fine and gross motor skills.

A portion of the funds raised also go to support reading and physical education activities at Abingdon Elementary.

This year's race will be held Saturday, April 29, and will begin at 8:30 a.m. The race starts near Abingdon Elementary; crosses the 395 overpass; winds past the South Fairlington Community Center; and then ends back at the school. There is also an optional "1K Walk & Fun Run" for families with small children. Dogs and strollers are always welcome.

The Silent Auction will be held Friday evening, April 21, in the North Fairlington Community Center. Last year's auction featured incredible items, such as a one-week beach rental in the Outer Banks; a weekend getaway at a ski condo in White Tail Resort; tons of local merchandise; Nationals tickets; and much more.

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—Joe Reed



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Seminars to feature Fairlington home remodeling options



Arlington County staff were on hand to answer questions about the county's permitting process at last year's home remodeling expo. Photo by Guy Land.

The second Fairlington Home Improvement Seminar will showcase the advice and expertise of remodeling and repair contractors who are well-versed in the fun and foibles of improving a Fairlington home. The day-long event will feature up to eight seminar sessions at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC), 3308 S. Stafford St., starting at 9 am on Saturday, March 4. Attendees will also have a chance to consult with contractors on a more personal basis after each session.

The seminar format will be slightly different from last year's home improvement showcase, but it builds on the popularity of last year's event and provides an opportunity for more in-depth discussion of home renovation issues and options. Sessions will start on the hour and will be limited based on classroom occupancy. Those interested in attending a session will be let in on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fairlington homeowners can find solutions to several different home improvement challenges. Remodeling contractors and repair and upgrade service providers, who are familiar to *Bulletin* readers, and neighbors who have used those contractors' services will host seminars in the FCC large multipurpose room. Topics can include kitchen remodeling, bathroom makeovers, window replacement, electrical and lighting upgrades, flooring upgrades, and effective landscaping.

Contractors currently committed to the event include DeLong Home Improvement and Nova Installations. If you have any recommendations for contractors who have done exceptional work in your home, please don't hesitate to contact FCA board member Chris Weathers at Chris.Weathers@SothebysRealty.com or 703-402-4648.

A final seminar schedule will be published March's *Bulletin* and on the FCA website, and posted outside the FCC's large meeting room on the day of the event. The seminar event is free and open to all residents and visitors.

—Chris Weathers

Seeking Home & Garden Tour homes

The Fairlington Historical Society's (FHS) biennial Home & Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017. This very popular event showcases the architecture, grounds, and unique homes in our community.

We are seeking nominations for tour locations. Since many who attend the tour are looking for renovation ideas, we are especially interested in including homes and gardens that have had major renovations. As in past years, we hope to include at least one home from each of the Fairlington neighborhoods, with examples of each floor plan type (Brad-



dock, Clarendon, Edgewood, etc.).

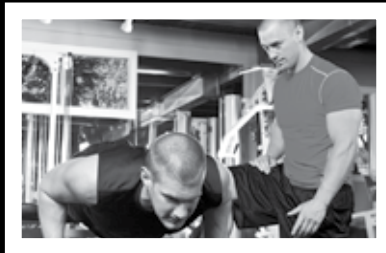
The FHS is also inviting neighbors who can dedicate a little time to help with planning, advertising, fundraising, and ticket sales, as well as serving as guides and helpers on the day of the tour.

If you would like to nominate a home or garden—or would like to volunteer—please contact Patty Clark (pclark620@gmail.com) or 703-820-7328.

—Cindy Kunz



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4MRV planning looks at park improvements in Shirlington/Nauck area

Highlighted by a series of popular hands-on public visioning workshops in December, a citizen working group and county staff are crafting a Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) Parks Master Plan that includes the Shirlington Dog Park, the Jennie Dean Park and playground area, and the Shirlington Park exercise area south of Four Mile Run along Arlington Mill Dr.

Fairlington residents frequently use these park facilities. Although it is not part of the formal working group, FCA is informally participating in the discussions with county staff about improvements to these public facilities. All working group sessions are public and are held at the Trades Center Conference Center. Fairlingtonians are encouraged to attend.



Shirlington Civic Association President Edie Wilson (and Snowy) and FCA President Guy Land compare notes at the Shirlington Dog Park. Photo by Kari Klaus.

The Parks Master Plan will guide the replacement and realignment of existing park features and the addition of new amenities to meet the growing demand for active recreation and cultural resources, as well as enhancing

“Drop-in” session on Shirlington playground, Feb. 4

Come share your ideas about how to improve the Shirlington playground. FCA and the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are jointly hosting a drop-in listening session at the Fairlington Community Center on Saturday, February 4, from 10 am to noon.

Kate Thomas, the DPR staffer who is coordinating the planning for the playground and other aspects of Shirlington Park and Jennie Dean Park, will be on hand to get Fairlington residents' ideas on how to enhance the playground's value. She welcomes the chance to hear from children as well as parents.

Note that this is for the playground in Shirlington, not the Fairlington Park playground at the Fairlington Community Center.

natural resources. The Plan will be phased and incorporated into the county's Capital Improvement Program.

According to Kate Thomas, Principal Planner and Project Manager for the 4MRV Parks Master Plan with the county's Department of Parks and Recreation, the visioning workshops revealed broad support for balancing a variety of interests in the park area. “For example, there's strong interest across the board in natural resource preservation and better access to Four Mile Run itself,” she says, with people viewing the stream as a key asset for the area. “Workshop participants want to ‘do right’ by the stream.”

There was also strong support for the dog park, but there is a need as well to address streambank erosion,

stormwater runoff, and soil compaction, with workshop participants noting the need “to allow the space to heal.” The working group will be examining multiple options for maintaining this popular dog exercise area while implementing a program that will help preserve and enhance the natural resources in the park planning area and allow better public access to the stream.

For Jennie Dean Park, workshop participants flagged the need to improve the existing diamond fields, which show the effects of thousands of hours of play each year. Their location in the park may shift, however. In addition, participants voiced support for the addition of a rectangular playfield in the parks master plan area.

Thomas is also actively seeking ideas for the new playground that will be built at Jennie Dean Park. FCA will be hosting a drop-in listening session on February 4 from 10 am to noon at the Fairlington Community Center for Fairlingtonians to speak with staff and offer suggestions for improving the playground.

Other ideas being explored for the 4MRV area include a potential community center that could serve as a venue for meetings, arts, and sports and recreation.

Continued on page 15

ARE YOU THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING A HOME THIS SPRING?

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(3005 S Abingdon Street)**

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**Tuesday
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Buyer Seminar
**Wednesday
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Both events run from 7 - 8 PM - Refreshments served at 6:30 PM
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A FiOS update from the Mews

Editor's note: The installation of conduit and PVC pipe in several South Fairlington condos has sparked a lively discussion on Facebook and around the community about the Verizon FiOS project. The Bulletin asked Renee Powlette, President of Fairlington Mews, for the perspective of one condo association on the process so far.



Workers for Verizon install conduit for FiOS in Fairlington Commons in late December. Photo by Guy Land.

When I heard FCA was sponsoring a meeting with Arlington County and Verizon to discuss bringing FiOS to Fairlington back in January of last year, I knew the Mews had to attend to get the scoop. After years of people complaining about Comcast on the FCA's Facebook page, it was time for some competition to take the monopoly away from Comcast and potentially lower our costs in the Mews.

We learned that Verizon had signed an agreement with Arlington County back in 2006 stipulating that the company had 10 years to make FiOS available to all of Arlington County. We heard that FiOS was supposed to be superior to cable because of its potential for faster internet speeds. We also found out that Arlington County has a specific office to deal exclusively with Comcast and Verizon about service issues. Anyone who has a complaint should not bother talking to Comcast or Verizon but should contact the county staff and let them deal with it for you. It was all good news.

At our first opportunity, the Mews Board met with the Verizon contractor, and then later with several Verizon contractors to walk the property. We then signed the agreement to move forward with installation. We currently have the PVC pipe installed inside the fences of each individual unit and about a third of the outside

digging has been completed to install the backbone of what is needed to start service.

Verizon hasn't been the greatest with communication and we were surprised when they just showed up one day and started digging—and when they recently stopped digging and then started back up again. We had a few bumps along the road when people saw that the PVC pipe wasn't attractive attached to the fences inside the patios. However, everyone agreed to have it installed because installation at a later date would cost \$450 per unit. And in the Mews, we intend to bury the pipes within the next year, as we are slated to replace our privacy fences, where the PVC is currently attached.

Once the remainder of the digging is completed, the last step is to add our addresses to be eligible for service. I am hopeful we will see this before the end of January.

—Renee Powlette, Fairlington Mews President

County board endorses 395 HOT lanes concept

At its December meeting, the Arlington County Board endorsed in concept the proposed I-395 HOT lanes project to reduce congestion, provide additional travel choices, improve travel reliability, and improve roadway safety.

The county board particularly focused on aspects of the overall project that would enhance the movement of people, and not just vehicles, through the corridor by facilitating carpool and transit access to the Pentagon and by supporting new and expanded transit. The HOT lanes plan calls for at least \$15 million annually for transit alternatives.

The county board's resolution also asked the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to ensure that the final design of possible noise barriers "not unduly or negatively impact cultural or natural resources." Some residents in Fairlington will be asked to vote on whether they want sound walls installed. VDOT projects that the sound barrier decision will occur this fall or early in 2018.

—Guy Land

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Construction to begin on Alexandria Gateway



Site of future Alexandria Gateway development and intersection improvements. Photo by Guy Land.

Construction work was slated to begin in late January on the Alexandria Gateway project at King and Beauregard Sts., along with utility work that is associated with improvements of the intersection itself.

Excavation of the site is expected to continue for 10 to 11 months, with an average of 300 truck trips per day to take away the excavated soil. The site will then begin to be built out. Construction is expected to reach ground level about six to nine months after completion of the excavation.

The utility relocation work, which will precede the actual construction, will likely result in traffic disruption. However, the intersection will continue to be open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Plans call for two apartment buildings, both of which will have ground floor retail, and an office building that also will have ground floor retail. Parking for the three buildings will be provided in a two-level underground garage.

The intersection improvements will include the undergrounding of utilities (the part of the project that will be occurring this spring), widening of King St., new medians, and the installation of wider sidewalks along both King and Beauregard Sts.

Major changes slated for Landmark Mall

The slowly declining Landmark Mall could be reborn as a thriving mix of restaurants, shops, and apartments under a proposal being crafted by the developer of the property.

Plans call for demolition of the two-story central area of the mall and replacement of this portion with a mixed use residential and retail complex that has a traditional street grid, sidewalks, trees, and open space.

In January, Macy's announced that it would be closing its Landmark location, and *The Washington Post* reported that the Howard Hughes Corporation, which already owned the central part of the mall, had purchased the Macy's property. The Sears store is under separate ownership and is not among the stores Sears recently said it would close.

The Howard Hughes Corporation envisions a walkable, mixed-used urban village that will offer 317,000 square feet of modern shops and restaurants, along with up to 400 new residential units and an updated parking structure.

In addition to the new retail and residences, the new Landmark will be an open-air community destination featuring multiple plazas and green spaces, outdoor seating, seasonal entertainment, and public art. The developer plans numerous full-service and fast-casual dining options, along with a 10-screen luxury cinema.



Macy's announced plans for closing its Landmark store in January. Photo by Guy Land.

The company has not yet said how its acquisition of the Macy's property could change its overall plans for the mall. *The Washington Post* also reported that existing tenants in the mall had been asked to vacate by the end of January.

The Alexandria City Council approved an amended site plan for Landmark in June 2015. The Howard Hughes Corporation took over Landmark Mall in November 2010, and received initial rezoning approval for the redevelopment in 2013.

—Guy Land

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Alexandria plans for school enrollment growth

Like Arlington County, the City of Alexandria is experiencing a significant growth in school enrollment, prompting plans for a new West End elementary school and major school redistricting. The result could eliminate some of the overcrowding at John Adams Elementary, which serves the Alexandria part of Fairlington.

This past school year, John Adams' K-5 enrollment was 890, compared with official capacity of 634. In percentage terms, it was the most overcrowded elementary school in Alexandria.

According to Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), enrollment in Alexandria's public schools has been growing an average of 500 students per year since 2011 and is expected to continue growing through 2030. Across the school system, only two schools are not currently at capacity.

To accommodate this growth, ACPS has developed a long-range educational facilities plan to address capacity issues and building condition needs. The system is also developing options for redrawing school boundaries. That redistricting process is in its final stages. A decision on new school district lines was expected in late January.

Under the options currently under review, Fairlington

students would continue to be assigned to John Adams, so redistricting would result in no new school assignments for them.

In December, the school board approved funding to buy and renovate a building at 1701 and 1705 N. Beauregard St. to serve as a new West End elementary school. The estimated purchase price of the building and adjacent garage (which would be converted to outdoor space for students) is \$15 million. School officials estimate that it will cost an additional \$23.2 million to retrofit the building. These funds have already been budgeted.

Creation of the new West End school would help add 638 seats to school capacity in that part of Alexandria, relieving enrollment pressure on John Adams.

Both the new West End school and the new redistricting lines are likely to be implemented in time for the start of the 2018 school year.

—Guy Land

4MRV planning, continued from page 9

Thomas notes a near-universal call for additional parking for users of the park areas. The challenge, she says, is how to provide that without "gobbling up" valuable park space.

Edie Wilson, President of the newly formed Shirlington Civic Association, applauds the county's focus on the Four Mile Run Valley. "This project is vital to our future. Shirlington residents are in these park areas all day long, strolling, walking dogs, and exercising. We pitch in to pick up litter and keep an eye on things. We are working hard to ensure that the final result honors the diversity and history of our valley and balances natural resources and stream restoration in the flood plain with recreation facilities that everyone can enjoy. Additional parking in the 4MRV project area is essential—new programs will increase visitors, and we can't have them all parking in Shirlington."

The current timeline calls for the county board to consider the policy framework for the 4MRV initiative this summer, with the adoption of the Area Plan and Parks Master Plan to occur early in 2018. For more information on the Parks Master Plan, including photos and diagrams, go to 4mrv.com or email Kate Thomas directly at kjthomas@arlingtonva.us.

—Guy Land

Expanding Abingdon Elementary



A new gymnasium rises at the west end of Abingdon Elementary as part of the renovation and expansion project. Photo by Guy Land.

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Sidewalk improvement projects move forward



A sidewalk is proposed for Abingdon St. between 31st St. and 31st Rd. Photo by Guy Land.

Several street and sidewalk improvement projects in the Fairlington area are nearing approval as part of the county's Neighborhood Conservation program.

In December, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) endorsed plans to install a sidewalk along the east side of S. 31st St. from the bus shelter across from the Shirlington House apartments to S. Randolph St. Currently there is no sidewalk on that side of the street.

As part of the improvements in this area, the NCAC also recommended the replacement of the existing Cobra street lights with Carlyle lights along S. 31st St. from S. Woodrow St. to S. Randolph. That will make those street lights consistent with the style of street lights used in Shirlington and other parts of Arlington.

FCA indicated its support for these two projects back in the fall. The Arlington County Board is expected to approve these plans at its February meeting.

With those projects moving forward, the next Fairlington item on the NCAC agenda will likely be a proposal to install a sidewalk along the north side of S. Abingdon St. between S. 31st St. and S. 31st Rd. This improvement was included in the Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan update, which the county board accepted in 2013.

The need for a sidewalk in the area has also come up in discussions over the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary.

County staff met with Fairlington Villages condo staff and NCAC members in late December to discuss options for installing the sidewalk. In recent years, the Fairlington Villages condo association installed and maintained plants and landscaping on that side of the block.

While the condo's landscaping would not be significantly affected by the sidewalk installation, two existing parking spaces would be eliminated from the street to make room for the sidewalk, which would be built at street level next to the small hillside in that block.

The Fairlington Villages condo board approved the sidewalk installation at its January meeting, and FCA gave its endorsement in January as well. The project will be slated for consideration in the spring round of NCAC projects.

—Guy Land

County board chair highlights Master Gardeners' work

In her report to the Arlington County Board at its December meeting, Board Chair Libby Garvey highlighted the work of the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and their plans to install a tribute bench and garden on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center.

FCA sent a letter supporting the bench to the county in September, and county staff signed off on the proposal later in the fall.

"I love the way the Master Gardeners share things with everybody," Garvey said, noting her particular pride as a Fairlington resident that the bench and garden would be located in her neighborhood.

Fairlington resident Anne Wilson, joined by Master Gardeners from across Arlington, made a short presentation to the board, stressing the group's work on sustainable landscaping. "We're here to work with the communities...to ensure that everyone has the health, including mental health, benefits of a sustainable landscape throughout the county."

The work is expected to be done this spring. The project is funded by private donations.

—Guy Land

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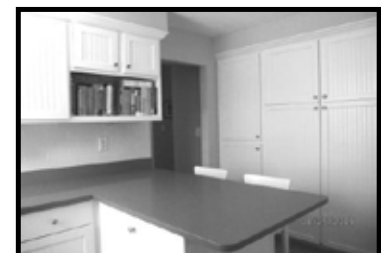
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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In January, we enjoyed welcoming new attendees as we returned to Ramparts, one of our most-visited local establishments.

Here's what's planned for February:

Monday, February 6, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22206, 703-379-0122, www.samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Thursday, February 23, 6:30 pm, Los Tios Grill, 2615 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301, 703-299-9290, www.lostiosgrill.com. We enjoyed our visit last year; they describe their dishes as "Fine Tex-Mex & Salvadorean Food." The friendly staff will start you off with tortilla chips and salsa, and a variety of fun cold drinks—Margaritas are a specialty and you can choose from multiple varieties. There is also a good Mexican beer selection. The house specialty is fajitas, with your choice of protein.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 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@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in February to discuss *Sweet Tooth: A Novel* by Ian McEwan.

"McEwan has pulled off something remarkable here: *Sweet Tooth* is a suspenseful plot-and-character-driven novel with an unexpected postmodern twist. It's Jane Austen meets John Le Carré meets John Barth . . . [Its] delights turn out to be considerable." —*The Boston Globe*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-

ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Card players welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. No previous experience is necessary to enjoy this card game. We are happy to teach you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators Elizabeth Shea, and Monica and Jeremy Wedemann, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Arlington Neighborhood College

Learn how to become a neighborhood advocate and effect change through Arlington County's free Neighborhood College program, which will meet on eight consecutive Thursday evenings beginning March 16, 2017.

The program, launched in 2000, develops civic engagement and leadership skills, and is geared toward Arlingtonians who want to become more involved in neighborhood and county-wide issues. Participants will learn about all aspects of Arlington County government. Fairlington Arbor resident Samantha Levine-Finley is a co-facilitator for the course.

Applications due Monday, February 6. Contact ml@arlingtonnc.info or call 703-575-8152 for more information.

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Abingdon names Employees of the Year

Each year the Abingdon staff select a Teacher and Support Staff of the Year from among their ranks. This year, Ms. Jacqueline Firster was selected as the Teacher of the Year. Ms. Firster has been at Abingdon since 2005 and currently works as the Resource Teacher for Gifted Services.



Ms. Jacqueline Firster.

Ms. Firster loves the Abingdon community so much that her younger son currently attends Abingdon and her family lives in The Arlington, right next to Fairlington. Ms. Firster's older son currently attends the University of Mary Washington. Ms. Firster says that she chose to live and work in the area because she feels like it has such a wonderful sense of community.

She also says that loves working at Abingdon because the staff is very dedicated and works hard to ensure that the students are successful. She also appreciates how involved Abingdon families are and that they don't hesitate to participate in school activities.

Ms. Donna Felipe was chosen by her peers as the Abingdon Support Staff



Ms. Donna Felipe.

of the Year. Ms. Felipe has been a staff member with Abingdon since 2014. Prior to that, she was the PTA president for 2 years. For the past three years, she has been assigned to follow one class to provide additional classroom support.

Ms. Felipe has lived in Fairlington since 1997 and her three children have attended Abingdon. Her two daughters currently attend Wakefield and her son is at Virginia Tech. Ms. Felipe cites her love for the sense of community, the green space, and the convenient location as just a few of the reasons her family enjoys living in Fairlington.

When asked about what she likes most about Abingdon, she says that she "can feel a positive energy throughout the building from the students, teachers, and staff." She also loves the diversity that Abingdon has in every class.

Abingdon welcomes in 2017

Abingdon welcomes in 2017 with a full calendar of exciting events and by moving into the newly reno-

vated north wing. This winter, students will enjoy movie nights and an International Night at Abingdon in the new cafeteria, which will feature large new windows to allow in daylight and a beautiful wall with tiles created by the students and staff.

Students came back from winter break to new classrooms and bathrooms in the renovated north wing. The new rooms feature large windows that let in ample daylight, as well as amazing views of the area, including the Washington Monument. The wing also includes a new drinking fountain that has a water bottle filling station.



The newly renovated north wing of the school includes a new water fountain, complete with a water bottle filling station.

Students and staff are excited to see what comes next, including the new gymnasium and three-story classroom addition.

—Jeni Hornback

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Cultivating a winter garden

February is the most challenging month in landscape design. There's nothing on the nursery lots but gravel and heated bubbles which house evergreen plants. A garden's soil usually is frozen, so if one wanted to plant, there'd be digging through four to five inches of frozen tundra before reaching malleable dirt.

Annuals have been spent for two months, perennials are in dormancy and Pansy flowers are alive but wilting and shriveled. Rosebushes finally have dropped their leaves and now offer only thorny woodwork.

For residents who want a 12-month presence in their garden, there are plants to incorporate that will make it worthwhile to sit outside in your patio, nurse a mug of coffee, and admire a winter landscape.

Dwarf Nandina: It has the shape of a large, busy egg and the leaves of some cultivars turn a vivid red in cold temperatures. 'Firepower' is the classic cultivar that will catch your eye from 50 yards. Don't believe me? Drive through Shirlington (near the post office and the gas station) and notice a bank of these planted near the gas station sign. Whether it's below zero with the wind chill or snowing, Dwarf Nandina leaves remain erect and persist in color. And they're practical for a Fairlington patio since each one is 16 inches tall with a 10-inch spread.

Nandina Domestica: If fruit is what you want, plant one of these. This specimen grows six-feet tall with a

four-foot spread. It's evergreen and bears huge clumps of red fruit with maturity. When color is devoid in the winter months, this plant's fruit is showy. There is a cluster planted at the traffic circle where S. Stafford St. meets S. 36th St. in South Fairlington.

Winter Creeper Euonymus: This ground cover evergreen grows laterally and fills the vacant space in your garden. In colder months, the small, oval leaves become pink on the margins. It gets leggy and sometimes tangled but may be easily pruned so its vines don't ramble onto other plants.

Dwarf English Boxwood: This small, stately evergreen that stands tall in winter but is only 20 inches with a 14-inch spread. The tiny, oval leaves are tightly formed in a dense habit the shape of an egg. Boxwoods look pretty when planted in a row or in a cluster.

Thread Leaf Falsecypress: The flimsy branches are delicate and lace-like. The 'Filifera Aurea' cultivar offers muted yellowish foliage. Purchase the dwarf version, which grows less than two feet tall with a similar spread. The pendulous habit is quite unlike any other specimen—most of which have stiff branches growing upward.

Camellia: 'Japonica' is the winter-blooming cultivar. It bears four-inch-long, shiny leaves year round and shows a rosette-like flower in winter. Varieties bloom in different months during winter. Flower colors come in red, pink, and white. Each 'eye'

(flower center) is yellow. Before the flower blooms, notice the one-inch-thick bud (like the Rhododendron) that clings to a woody stem.



Camellia buds on S. Columbus St. in mid-January. Photo by Guy Land.

For a fall-blooming Camellia, look for the 'Sasanqua' variety, which has a smaller, two-inch-long leaf. Camellia is a stiff-branched specimen that has the shape of an open hand. So it situates well against a patio fence or the brick wall of a Fairlington building. Camellia will reach five to six feet tall with a narrower spread.

Rug Juniper: This cultivar is a clumped plant growing only 8 to 10 inches tall with a wider spread. It is evergreen and has a 'Wedgewood' blue foliage, similar to that of a Blue Spruce tree. Rug junipers take up little space in a garden and are extremely heat tolerant key in our hotter weather (May into October).

—Bill Sullivan
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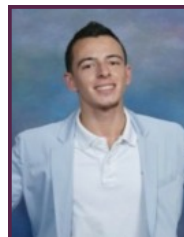
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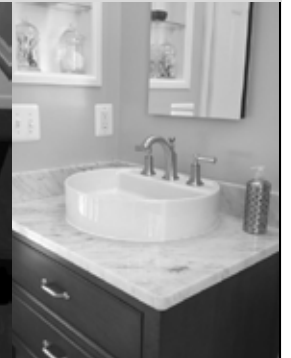
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Mini-ads

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

Room Wanted

ROOM WANTED. Responsible "20-something" would like to rent room in Fairlington in order to be closer, and on bus line, to nanny job in Del Ray. Former Wakefield HS student. Kitchen access desired. References supplied. Please call or text (908) 247-1548.

Services

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. Fairlington home-owners our specialty for over 30 years. Convenient Mark Center / N Beauregard Street office, with evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for an appointment with a FREE Retirement Check-up included. (703) 931-3290.

WELLNESS with MOORE THAN YOGA offers: Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage (monthly classes), children's massage, reflexology (personal pampering, pregnancy & labor induction), Reiki & more. Private session or create a class. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767.

FRESH FLOWERS & BEAUTIFUL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS. Made to order with care! For your Home, Business, Celebrations & Events. Every day can be a special day! Think Valentine's Day and order early. Free Delivery in Fairlington. Call Eva at Floral Focus By Design, LLC at 703.829.5527 or contact me via www.floralfocusbydesign.com

Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Now is a good time for removing annuals, pruning perennials, gathering leaves and spreading mulch. Some evergreens still may be planted this month. Contact Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping: 571.213.9567 or billsullivan41@gmail.com. Visit my site at www.sullivanlandsclaping.net.

Home Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. E-mail vsison0117@yahoo.com.

BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS. NEW WEBSITE. www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

KITCHEN CABINETS AND COUNTERTOPS. We found a supplier with quality cabinets and countertops at really affordable prices. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 571-212-4151. Visit us on the web: www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

DOOR SOLUTIONS. A Fairlington doors expert. 1,000's of pleased customers. For contact, scheduling, and useful door information, please visit: www.doorsolutions.biz

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 turn around time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, 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 experience. Professional, clean, neat, reliable. Licensed, bonded, insured. References available. Free estimates. Steve Chute. 571-216-9338/703-912-1450. Chute285@aol.com.

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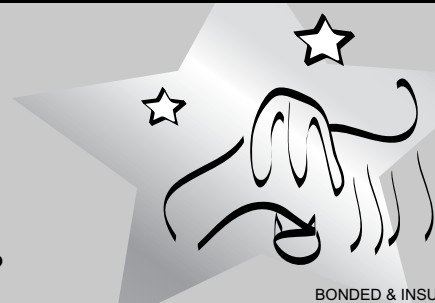
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Mini-ads

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MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS. 18 years experience, kitchen and bath granite counter top remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, panel replacements, painting, wallpaper removal, drywall. Call Mario 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com

HANDYMAN/MASTER CRAFTSMAN. Built-ins, cabinets, closets, carpentry, drywall, interior doors, crown molding, chair rail, tile, sinks, faucets, disposals, toilets, ceiling fans, lighting, painting, bathrooms, kitchens, plumbing, electrical. Damon Blackburn 703-966-7225. www.firststatehandyman.com. Damon.blackburn@yahoo.com

GRACE & ALBERTO. Alberto Matias Construction. Serving Arlington and Alexandria since 1989. New patios. Sidewalks: stone, natural brick, or pavers. gracedelcarmenmatias@gmail.com 703-795-4506.

GIT-R-DONE SERVICES. Interior, kitchens, baths, ceramic tile, hardwood flooring. Exterior: brick work and fencing. Free estimates. Call John @ 703-395-2121.

House Cleaning

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. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. 703-820-8635. We are family owned and operated serving Fairlington since 1978. Your neighbor is our best reference. Call for a no obligation free estimate and detailed explanation of our service.

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable and experienced. Good references. Flexible scheduling. Reasonable rates. We are licensed, insured, and employees covered through Worker's Comp. We bring our own equipment. Weekly, biweekly, monthly, occasionally, one-time, move in/out, offices. For free in-home estimate, call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

Pet Services

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC. Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call 703-379-7719.

HOME ALONE FELINES. Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services. homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504 www.hafr.org



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (Feb 10 for Mar issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

Email: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

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

30% Discount on Tax Preparation

We can prepare your Federal & State income taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for 25 years. Convenient Mark Center / N. Beauregard St. office.



Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information. Call today to schedule an appointment and get a **FREE** Retirement check-up!

Charles Coker, CPA 703.931.3290
charles.coker@cpa-coker.com

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Free Estimate

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WE are your neighborhood experts!
4800 S. 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22206
office # 703.998.3111



♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥



\$315,000

****NEW PRICE****

2911 Dinwiddie St #A-2
1BR+ Den/2BA Hermitage
Bill Groom 703-283-2596



\$459,990

****NEW PRICE****

3344 Wakefield St #A
2BR/2BA Clarendon (End)
Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



\$438,700

****NEW PRICE****

4827 28th Street, S #B
2BR/2BA Clarendon II
Rob Chamberlain 202-486-5930



\$375,000

****NEW PRICE****

2911 Dinwiddie St #A-1
1BR+ Den/2BA Hermitage
Barbara Kirkland 703-405-5920



\$334,900

2930 S. Buchanan Street #B-1
2BR/1BA Richmond
Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



For rent \$2500 a month

3017 Columbus Street, S. #A-1
1BR/2BA Monticello
Julie Flory 703-599-3111



For rent \$1650 a month

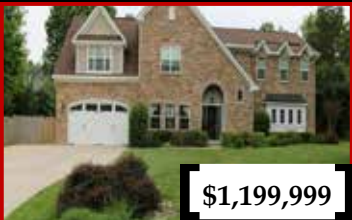
4811 30th Street, S. #B2
2BR/1BA Richmond
Julie Flory 703-599-3111



For rent \$2050 a month

2951 S Columbus St
2BR/2BA Clarendon (End)
Nancy Kozlowski 703-820-1620

Looking for a change in location? Check out these listings.



\$1,199,999

1209 Cedar Dale Lane
Alexandria, VA 22308
6BR/4BA/ 1HBA SFD
Doug Luzik 703-304-7969



\$455,000

5627 Harrington Falls Lane #T
Alexandria, VA 22312
3BR/2BA/ 1HBA TH
Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



\$444,000

5753 Heritage Hill Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
3BR/2BA/ 2HBA Interior TH
Julie Flory 703-599-3111
Joanne Ritchick 571-215-3350



**Did you know? We have an on-site notary. Monday-Friday 9-5pm
Call 703.998.3111 to schedule an appointment.**