

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN

Fairlington Citizens Association

www.fca-fairlington.org

APRIL 2010

Volume 36, Number 4

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 7 p.m.

Fair Golds Business Meeting

Thursday, April 1, noon

FCC

Art Show and Sale

Fri., Sat., Sun, April 9, 10, 11

Varied times

FCC

Fairlington Diners Night Out

Monday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.

Pizzaiolo Café on Fern

MOMS Club Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 3:30 p.m.

FCC

Fair Golds Luncheon

Thursday, April 15, noon

Ft. Myer Officers' Club

Thirty Somethings

Thursday, April 22, 7:15 p.m.

Ramparts

Alexandria

Fairlington Diners Night Out

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Ramparts

Alexandria



Fairlington's Safety Should Not Be Taken for Granted

The good news is that Fairlington remains a very safe neighborhood—as AFB noted happily in 2008 and 2009 and as was confirmed recently by Arlington County Police Department Captain Michelle Nuneville, commander of the 3rd District. Citing crime statistics from July of last year to early March, Captain Nuneville reported one burglary and no robberies in the district, which is “excellent” for a nine month period. You can learn more about current crime trends, possible FY2011 county budget impacts on community policing, and warm weather crime prevention tips when Captain Nuneville speaks at the FCA meeting on April 14.



Captain Nuneville confers with Officers Bryan Morrison (left) and Brent Olson (right) at Fairlington's 2009 Fourth of July parade. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

Captain Nuneville will elaborate on recent crime statistics, but here are a few interesting details: During the last nine months, there have been 47 larcenies in the area (comparatively speaking, a small number); the majority are larcenies from autos; and the majority of these involve the now-familiar theft of GPSs—although it appears that the once-popular device is losing its appeal among smash-and-grab artists as prices come down and the resale value for stolen units declines. Breaking a vehicle window continues to be the favored method of entry. In a few cases, work vans have been broken into and power tools stolen, and a few cars have had wheels and/or hubcaps removed. Also stolen were Bluetooth devices, purses, and computers—because, despite warnings, people leave them in their cars.

Although Fairlington's reputation for safety is well deserved, Captain Nuneville cautions that we should not take it for granted. “Don't become complacent,” she warns. Lock your doors, shut and lock windows (even upper-story ones), and don't leave things outside. “If thieves discover that a neighborhood offers convenient and easy pickings, they'll come back—and bring their friends.”

“The best thing you can do is to remain vigilant—and continue to report suspicious activity. If you see something odd, give us a call. That's the kind of response that lets the bad actors know they're being noticed and reported.”

Continued on page 3

Coming Up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail fairlingtonisfun@yahoo.com or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting. You can find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and by logging on to Facebook and joining "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary Agenda

7 p.m. Special Program: Captain Michelle Nuneville, ACPD 3rd District commander and members of her team will discuss recent crime trends and remind our community about ways to stay safe. Fire fighters from AFD's Fairlington firehouse may join us for a discussion of fire safety, if their schedule of calls permits.

8 p.m. Regular Business Meeting

- Approval of March minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Old business
- New business
- Officer and committee reports

Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to sign up for neighborhood news delivered right to your inbox.

AFB on the Web

The AFB is posted online at www.fca-fairlington.org a week earlier than the hard copy hits your front stoop.

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USEFUL CONTACTS

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	800-552-7001
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	Colonel Steward Remaly
	Jeryl.Ludowese@jfhqncr.northcom.mil

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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

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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 703-243-1735 #1.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Calendar, cont.

Book Group

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on pages 22 – 23 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

With bulbs beginning to sprout, it makes perfect sense to paraphrase the opening lines of Robert Browning's *Home Thoughts, from Abroad*: "Oh, to be in Fairlington now that April's here!"

And here are a few more thoughts for this month:

Drive safely: We all were forced to deal with the trials of driving in snow and ice earlier this year. Now, with warmer weather and better road conditions, we're relieved to have open lanes and fewer bottlenecks on the streets. More pets are enjoying a walk on the leash; the kids are stretching their legs outdoors after a long day of school; and the athlete in all of us yearns to pound the pavement and improve his or her fitness level. In short, more of us are out and about on the sidewalks and pavements of Fairlington. Yet this community has experienced property damage done by drunk drivers and near misses caused by speeders. Our upcoming meeting with representatives of the Arlington County Police Department is a good opportunity for us to renew our attention to the rules of the road, and thereby make our community safer—for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Prepare for Fairlington Day: Saturday, May 15 is the day and I encourage you to make the time, gather your neighbors, and join us for the fun at our own Utah Park as we celebrate Fairlington Day, 2010. This is a chance to get outside, meet fellow Fairlingtonians, and experience firsthand the sense of community that makes our neighborhood so special. We will officially open the recently-built picnic shelter and serve up free hot dogs and cold beverages. You will have a chance to buy one of the coveted Fairlington T-shirts, and we'll have representatives from Fairlington social organizations hosting fun activities and sharing information about their groups. And the day would not be complete without some outdoor activities: I can use some able-bodied residents to help us that day with the grilling, leading the Frisbee-tossing, and refereeing the pickup volleyball matches. Let me know if you are interested.

Visit our FCA Web site: One of our strategic goals is to improve the communication and outreach of the FCA within the borders of Fairlington and with our neighboring civic associations and local governments. Vice President Christine Chirichella led the charge on this and the site is here for your benefit. Have a look and put it to use.

I remain,
Faithfully,

Sam Anthony

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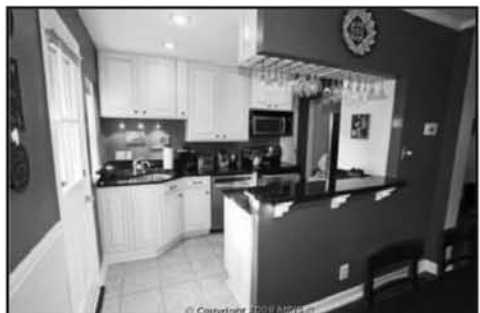


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2010 Census: Count Me In



Arlington County demographer Elizabeth Rodgers previews the 2010 census form for FCA president Sam Anthony. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

At the FCA meeting on March 10, Arlington County demographer Elizabeth Rodgers explained the 2010 census process. It was a timely presentation—most Fairlington residents had received in the mail that week a letter from the Census Bureau alerting them to watch for the official short-form census ques-

tionnaire that would soon arrive in mailboxes. Everyone will receive the once-every-ten-years, 10-question short form; a few people, forming a sampled population, will also receive a long form, which is the yearly American Community Survey. April 1 is Census Day—be sure that you have filled out your forms and returned them in the postage-paid envelopes provided.

The federal government uses census data to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. After the 2010 data is processed, Rodgers said, it is expected that several states will lose a seat (Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania), and several states are likely to gain a seat (Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington—and Texas will likely gain three seats). An interest-

ing result of the decennial census is that we all learn where the nation's population is growing, and where it's declining. By law, the Census Bureau will deliver these population counts to the President by December 31 of this year. By March of next year, the bureau will deliver redistricting information to the states.

Getting the numbers right is important. Arlington's population, it is estimated, was undercounted in the last census by almost 3,600 people. That amounts to about \$3.37 million in lost federal funds over the last ten years. What that "missing" money could have bought for the county: six fire trucks, three fitness centers, seven ART buses, more than 12,000 trees, or 3,000 summer camp scholarships. To prevent another undercount, the county is actively engaged in outreach efforts, through Web-based technologies and events with civic, social, and business groups.

County Board to Set Property Tax Rate this Month

At its traditional January 1 meeting, the Arlington County Board's newly elected chairman, Jay Fiset, described the year ahead as one that would be dominated by "a clear focus on our fiscal and environmental sustainability." Board members outlined their priorities for the 2011 budget season, noting that they would be balancing the need to make budget cuts with a determination to maintain the social safety net and invest in transportation, affordable housing, and energy efficiency. Board member Mary Hynes said that in the current economic environment "we must make choices among very worthy activities—choices of size or scope, and even whether some programs should be continued." She seconded Fiset's call for "aggressively looking for efficiencies and process re-engineering," and said the county

will be looking for new ways to tap the "people resources" of Arlington. At the same time, property tax rates were expected to rise.

In February, acting county manager Barbara Donnellan proposed a tax rate of 94.2 cents per \$100 of assessed value (for 2009, the tax rate was 86.5 cents, and an additional one cent was added for storm-water system maintenance). The County Board decided to advertise the higher rate of 96.5 cents per \$100—an increase of 10.3 percent—although they could eventually approve a lower rate. The board will set the property tax rate at the end of April.

To read complete press releases on budget issues, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Communications/PressReleases/ and search "FY2011 budget."

Whether or Not You Receive a Tax Bill... Pay, Please

Arlington County real estate assessments were sent out in mid-January; the tax rate will be set this month; and property owners should receive a tax bill around the middle of May. Under Virginia law, failure to receive a tax bill will not relieve the penalty and interest charge that must be applied to all past due bills. The postmark applied by the U.S. Postal Service to envelopes containing payment is used to determine timeliness for mailed payments. For more information, call 703-228-3920.

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State Budget Cuts Will Be Felt in Local Areas

Facing a \$4.2 billion budget shortfall this year, the Virginia General Assembly adopted a two-year budget that calls for cuts the *Washington Post* characterized as deep and wide: "No tax increase, but schools, public safety, and health care lose millions."

"The trade-off...was a spending plan that cuts deeply into virtually every area of state responsibility," the *Post* reported on Monday, March 15 (page A1). "Funding for schools will drop \$646 million over the next two years; the state will also cut more than \$1 billion from health programs. Class sizes will rise. A prison will close, judges who die or retire won't be replaced, and funding for local sheriff's offices will drop 6 percent."

"Employees will take a furlough day this year, the state will borrow \$620 million in cash from its retirement plan for employees and future employees will be asked to retire later and contribute more to their pensions. Medical care providers will see Medicaid payments from the state trimmed, and fewer poor children will be enrolled in health care although those health cuts could be tempered by anticipated federal funds."

Legislators "said residents will be dismayed when the consequences of the cuts become clear—after their local governments begin raising property taxes and eliminating programs to compensate for the loss of state funds." For more information about the Virginia budget, go online to the state Department of Planning and Budget, <http://dpb.virginia.gov>.

FHS Seeking Long-time Residents and Homes



Photograph by Guy Land.

On May 20, 2010 the Fairlington Historical Society will host a group of architects, historians, preservationists, and researchers from the Vernacular Architecture Forum, who are interested in Fairlington as an example of successful community planning and large-scale, publicly financed rental housing built for workers and families supporting the World War II effort. VAF will be attending their annual meeting in Washington, D.C., and will tour several representative neighborhoods,

including Fairlington. They would particularly like to see some homes and visit with residents who have lived in Fairlington since the 1940s and 50s, those who grew up here and have since returned, or those who remember the rental period.

If you are willing to be available to talk informally with our guests from the VAF and/or allow them to walk through all or parts of your home, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Patty Clark at 703-820-7328 or pattyclark2@comcast.net.

Fun and Games on Fairlington Day, May 15

Plans for Fairlington Day continue to develop. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Utah Park, where the FCA and county board members will officially open the park's new picnic shelter and christen the facility by serving free hot dogs and cold beverages. New Fairlington T-shirts will be available for purchase on site. Social and service organizations will be represented, including Fairlington MOMS, two dog rescue groups, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and more. Check the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, for the latest news on this fun day.

There's still time to join your neighbors and participate in Fairlington Day. You can grill hot dogs, assist the grill master, supply drinks coolers, or organize Frisbee tosses for the kids. Contact FCA president Sam Anthony by leaving a voice mail at 703-243-1735 or sending an e-mail to fairlingtonisfun@yahoo.com.



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Workshop for Urban Gardeners, April 7

Join specialists from Virginia Cooperative Extension for this hands-on day of horticultural education. The morning session from 9:30 a.m. to noon will cover small space intensive organic gardening techniques, tips on choosing vegetable varieties, and ideas for gardening in small spaces. Participants will also tour the Master Gardeners' organic vegetable garden and composting demonstration site, learn about maximizing food production while maintaining a beautiful landscape, and learn about management of irrigation and light needs for plants in small spaces. The afternoon session, 12:30 to 2 p.m., will cover shiitake mushroom production: Participants will create and take home their own oak log "seeded" with shiitake spawn. This is the second in VCE's Sustainable Urban Agriculture Lecture Series.

Participants choosing to stay for the entire day are asked to bring their lunches. Beverages will be provided. The workshop is open to the public and will be conducted at Potomac Overlook Regional Park Visitors Center, 2845 N. Marcey Road, Arlington 22207. The cost is \$30 for Master Gardeners, \$45.00 for others. Pre-registration is required. Checks should be made payable to "Arlington VCE" and mailed to or dropped off at the VCE offices in the FCC at 3308 S. Stafford St. Arlington VA 22206. For questions or directions please call 703-228-6414 or e-mail the Master Gardener Help Desk at ex013mg@vt.edu.

Master Gardeners Are Here to Help

The Master Gardener Help Desk is open year round in the Fairlington Community Center from 9 a.m. to noon for all your gardening, pest control, fertilizer, plant identification, and plant selection questions. Walk in to the FCC at 3308 S. Stafford St.; call 703-228-6414; or send an e-mail to ex013mg@vt.edu.

Master Gardeners' plant clinics and Tree Stewards' tree tables will return at the end of April to the weekly Farmers Markets at the Arlington Courthouse, in Del Ray in Alexandria, and at the Alexandria Courthouse. MG plant clinics also will be held at the Arlington Central Library on Thursday nights beginning at the end of April.

Arlington Home Show & Expo, April 10

The fourth annual Arlington Home Show & Expo will be held on Saturday, April 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S. Admission is free. Presented by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization in partnership with the county's housing division, the event offers one-stop shopping for residents interested in home improvement:

- More than 60 exhibitors offering information, advice, and services for adding beauty and value to your home.
- A wealth of information on the latest in green products and technologies for making your home more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
- Arlington County representatives to answer questions about permits, zoning, and inspections.
- Master Gardeners and Tree Stewards to answer questions about plants and tree care.
- Several area banks with attractive rates to help finance remodeling projects.
- A variety of free home improvement classes on topics of interest to residents.
- The popular landlord seminar, which examines the nuts and bolts of tenant law (pre-registration required).

For more information, call CPRO at 703-892-2776 or go online to www.columbiapikepartnership.com.

Parkfairfax Native Plant Sale, April 24

On Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the tennis courts parking lot at 3601 Valley Drive in Parkfairfax, 14 vendors from five states (VA, MD, PA, WV, and GA) will conduct the largest native plant sale in the Washington metro area. The crowds continue to grow for these twice-a-year sales (April and September). At the April 2009 sale, more than 800 people came to purchase plants from 10 vendors. Here you'll find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Several vendors specialize in such things as azaleas, fruiting shrubs, or wetland plants. The list of vendors can be viewed on the sale Web site, www.home.earthlink.net/~sknudsen.

The sale is organized and run entirely by volunteers—no one makes money on it except the vendors. Its purpose is to promote native plant gardening in our area to benefit our watershed and wildlife (especially birds) and to beautify our neighborhoods. Bringing together a variety of growers makes it easier for local gardeners to find quality plants and it encourages greater demand for natives in the nursery industry.



Let It Snow



December 18 – 19: The big snow the week before Christmas is just a memory, now. It started snowing Friday night, sticking and rapidly accumulating. It snowed all day Saturday, under gray skies, with temperatures in the teens and 20s, and occasional winds blowing the snow sideways. Metro suspended operations, flights in and out of National and Dulles were halted, and malls and stores that had managed to open at all closed early in the face of holiday shoppers that didn't materialize. Snowfall continued Saturday night, accumulating a record-breaking two feet before precipitation faded into flurries during the wee hours of the morning. Sunday dawned bright and sunny, and we began to dig out.

February 5 – 6: Repeat, but more so. (And that's not even counting the "dusting" that gave us six to eight inches of the white stuff the preceding week.)

February 9 – 10: Again. *Seriously?*

In the February AFB, we called for snow photos, and you responded with great pix of barely recognizable street scenes, cars mired in eight-foot drifts, and dogs cavorting. Here, a sampling of your pictures.



Shannon MacGregor



William Russell



Steve Andrews



Gretchen Fallon



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am writing partially in response to the letter from Rosiland Jordan in the [March] issue. There is another hazard on our streets—drivers of the behemoths of the road known as school busses. Many of these drivers seem to have no concern for other traffic and often no concern for such things as speed limits and traffic lights. On some occasions I have reported violations of traffic laws and common courtesy to the school supervisor (but I suspect nothing is done about it). I think the county government (or whoever is responsible) should pay attention to what their employees are doing on the job.

Ronald Umbeck
Fairlington Meadows

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

Three-Day Spring Art Show and Sale at the FCC

Arlington Artists Alliance will hold their third show and sale at the Fairlington Community Center on the weekend of April 9, 10, and 11. Called "Improvisations," the three-day event features oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, and sculpture. The walls of the FCC's main multipurpose room will be covered with more than 90 paintings, in styles ranging from traditional to abstract, and there will be a variety of tabletop and shrink-wrapped items. You can join the artists at a reception on Friday evening, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; the show continues Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Ease Into Warm Weather Activity

As warmer and longer days call us out to the gym and onto the sidewalks with a renewed interest in fitness, the experts advise, "Take it easy." If you haven't been active for the last few months, don't try to make it up all at once by going overboard with spring workouts. To avoid injury, keep the following in mind:

Gradually increase your intensity. You may think that your indoor winter workouts were sufficiently demanding to simply take them outdoors now. But it's wise to make the transition more slowly. You need to ease your body back to the outdoors and into different activities.

Focus on flexibility and range of motion. You may find that winter-month movements aren't the same as those you do in other months—which will require stretching muscles you haven't been working and moving body parts in unusual ways (golf vs. step aerobics, for example). So do a thorough warm-up and stretch the right muscles for your new movements.

Do something different. Now that community leagues are starting up and people are looking for sports "buddies," it's a good time to consider a new activity or sport. Trying something new can help develop both body and mind and supply motivation.

Be mindful of nutrition. Increased outdoor activity may tempt you to eat more, and outdoor and social events offer opportunities to overeat or eat poorly (company picnics, baseball/softball games, etc.). Plan ahead and make healthy substitutions.

Get enough recovery time. Since spring brings longer days, it's easy to neglect getting enough rest. If you have an established routine for sleep, continue it despite the temptation to stay up later. Recovery time is vital for your body to rejuvenate itself.

—By Martha McIntosh, Health Psychologist/Wellness Specialist, www.designyourhealthylife.com.



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Take a Peek at the Plumbing Check for leaking faucets or sweating pipes, clogged drains. Check under the kitchen sink for leaks.

Tackle the tiles Pay attention to worn grout between floor tiles in the bathroom or kitchen.

A small crack in the grout can lead to an expensive repair later.

FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Spring classes at the FCC

Registration for spring classes at the FCC began in March. You can get the complete class descriptions online or pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington* at the center. Questions? Call the registration office, 703-228-4747.

FREE classes at the FCC in April

For adults

Cosmetic acupuncture

340805A Wed., Apr. 28, 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Bio-detoxification

340802A Wed., Apr. 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For tots

Parent Child University preview

310201A Wed., Apr. 7, 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.

310201B Fri., Apr. 9, 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.

310201C Fri., Apr. 9, 10:45 to 11:20 a.m.

310201D Sat., Apr. 10, 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.

310201E Sat., Apr. 10, 10:45 to 11:20 a.m.

Workshops at the FCC

For adults

Meditation plus

340813A Sat., Apr. 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$68

New! Ten principles of positive discipline

310209A Mon., Apr. 19, 7 to 9 p.m., \$25

Basic beading

340150A Sat., Apr. 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$44

New! 19th and 20th century art: The Cliff Notes

340102A Thurs., Apr. 22 and 29, 7 to 9 p.m., \$49

Try yoga once

340899A Sat., Apr. 24, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., \$25

Senior Center Events

Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for residents 55 and older. Call 703-228-7791 for more information.

April 6 Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

April 9 Art project

April 16 Virginia Cooperative Extension workshop

April 20 Assessing your life values

April 23 Building a better budget (Arlington Community Federal Credit Union)

Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup

Monday and Wednesday, or Tuesday and Thursday, or Fridays only, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For tots 12 to 36 months (1 to 3 years old). Contact: prfairlingtonplaygroup@fastmail.net

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Help Desk 703-228-6414.

Open Play in the Gym for those 13 and older

Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

FCC Hours and Contact Info

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, closed.

Hours were effective February 1 but are subject to change. For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588. The center manager is Patrick Mallon, 703-228-6590, Pmallon@arlingtonva.us.

FCC Programs

The FCC has six multi-purpose rooms, art studios, a gymnasium, a state-of-the-art fitness room, day-lockers, accessible pre-school and school-aged playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, a fitness trail, a playing field, a picnic shelter, and accessible public restrooms. There is indoor open play for children 13 and under in the multi-purpose gym on Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 3 p.m.—children must be supervised by an adult (18 and older). In addition, there are a Senior Program, a creative pre-school (three to five years old), parent/child Co-op Program for children one and two years old, and summer camp.



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— Edward Getterman,
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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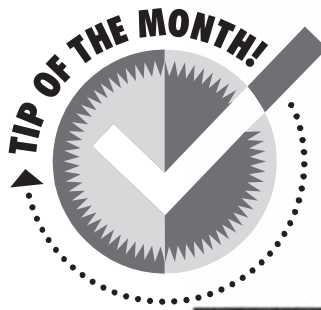
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APR



A/C DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

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Spring is here and summer is coming soon. Soon all of us in Fairlington will be hearing all those outdoor units running and this means all of the drainage systems that accompany these a/c systems will be in use. Fairlington has a high percentage of these drainage systems above conditioned spaces, e.g., attics. Secondary drainage systems on most of these systems are not functioning properly or have never been installed at all. **Regular maintenance**, including cleaning of the drain with a chemical, **is necessary to prevent water damage to ceilings, floors, and carpeting**. All water produced by your air conditioning system should be piped outdoors or into a drain. There should NEVER be any visible water around your unit or in the secondary drain pan. If there is any evidence of water, please TURN OFF YOUR SYSTEM, which will stop the production of water, and have your system looked at by a professional. The following is a list of products and/or services which Frosty's offers to combat these problems.

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2 ASK ABOUT THE NU-CALGON CLEAN COIL PROGRAM

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3 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

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FCA Launches New Logo and Web Site!

www.fca-fairlington.org

The FCA is excited to announce a new logo and an updated Web site that will better connect the community. You can still find us at www.fca-fairlington.org, but the site has a new look and features that will make it easier for residents to access helpful information and get updates about life in Fairlington. Some highlights of the new site are:



Calendar – View all Fairlington events together in one place! If you have an event you'd like us to post, e-mail communications@fca-fairlington.org.

Sign-Up for Monthly Updates – Simply enter your name and e-mail address and receive monthly updates from FCA. We promise we will never sell your name or solicit donations through this list. (If you already receive our updates, you do not need to sign up again.)

Photo Gallery – Residents can post photos to share with other Fairlingtonians. Go to www.flickr.com and create an account. Post your photos to the FCA-Fairlington group.

Community Links – Get quick links to all condo associations, local governments, local blogs, and more.

Bookmark **www.fca-fairlington.org** and check back monthly for fun new features like photo contests, chances to win Fairlington t-shirts, and more! What would you like to see on the new site? E-mail communications@fca-fairlington.org and let us know!

DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Winter's Leftovers: Damaged Trees, More Mulch

Never before have I seen the extent of tree and shrub damage in and around Fairlington as was evident after this winter's storms. (Hurricane Agnes in 1972 seemed to cause more flooding than tree devastation.) Whatever street you visited in the aftermath, branches and limbs were piled high for the county or grounds keeping contractors to gather and remove.

If there's an upside to the damage, it's this: The piles of dead limbs will mean larger piles of free mulch for the public. After all, mulch is made from tree bark, mainly pines. It's organic and serves as compost for the planting zone or as a more "natural" mulch spread atop the soil. Big branches take longer to decompose into humus, but the lighter branchlets of arborvitae, Leyland cypress, and red cedar can be laid on or mixed into your soil. They will break down into beneficial compost bearing micronutrients that plant roots need for photosynthesis.

Leyland cypress, pine, red cedar, arborvitae, white pine, and hemlock are specimens that suffered most from the snow and ice, and there's a reason why certain trees more than others were damaged. The affected ones have light, wispy branches that cannot bear the weight of snow mounds or ice coatings. Even the central trunk was susceptible, given that it's only four to five inches thick as it rises to its apex. Leaflets of the arborvitae, red cedar, and Leyland are fan-shaped and emerge off very thin branches—they are flimsy and pliable.



Winter storm damage was easily visible all over Fairlington. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

Even though a tree might have thicker limbs, it is still susceptible to breakage if those leaders grow out horizontally from the trunk. The Southern magnolia and Japanese black pine are examples of the type, since their limbs can reach 20 to 25 feet from center. You can see black pine around the fence at Utah Park.

Among stronger trees generally, you won't find limbs cracked and hanging. In Fairlington alone, there's a wealth of the stronger trees: hickory, oak, maple, poplar, dawn redwood, catalpa, American holly, sourwood, honey locust, ash, sweet gum, crape myrtle, sycamore, and deodar cedar. A walk through Fairlington's common areas revealed that most of these were damage-free. Their spreading branches are thick, strong, and angled upward. This leads to a

tall, balanced (weight-wise) habit. Just by virtue of their lower "centers of gravity," shorter trees are more sturdy—like hawthorn, crab apple, cherry, black locust, and linden.

Correcting limb damage is easy. Never pull the hanging limb from the trunk, since the collar (where branch meets trunk) never should be ripped or torn. This allows moisture, pests, and the sun's ultraviolet rays to contact tender plant tissue. Instead, use a hand saw or tree saw (with half-inch-long teeth) to slice through the crack. If a "stump" remains, re-cut it closer to but not at the collar. Or just leave the damaged branch for woodpeckers. They love to "drill" for bugs in dead wood.

—By Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

Pet Rules Make Fairlington a Better Place for All

Spring is finally here and no one is happier than me not to have to bundle up and lace up my boots every time I take my dogs out for a walk. I admit, this winter was challenging for dog owners. Dogs frequently won't do their business if they can't smell any vegetation, walking through partially-shoveled sidewalks became an Olympic event, and dog poop was often hard to reach and pick up.

Luckily, that's all changed, and it's time for dog owners to get back into the swing of being responsible and picking up after their pets. Local ordinances require that dog owners pick up after their pets; however, the problem of dog poop became so pervasive this year, and so obvious as the snow melted, that there were multiple articles in the *Washington Post* on the topic last month. What's going on in Fairlington is just a reflection of the larger picture.

Fairlington prides itself on being dog friendly. Everywhere you look there are people walking dogs. Just



Photograph courtesy of www.fetchdog.com.

think of how messy and unsanitary this neighborhood would be if dog owners stopped picking up after their dogs. No one would be able to enjoy the beautiful open areas that make Fairlington such a great place to live. Not only is dog poop unsightly, but also it can spread germs such as E.coli and salmonella and cause environmental problems.

The abundance of dogs in the neighborhood also can pose a problem if dogs get off leash. Each spring there is a rise in complaints about off-leash dogs, and last year the AFB highlighted a few dog bite cases to encourage dog owners to follow local ordinances and keep their dogs on leash. All dogs are required be on leash and under control for everyone's safety. Off-leash dogs could injure other dogs and people, get lost or injured in traffic, or get into people's yards and destroy belongings.

Owning a dog is both a privilege and a responsibility. Let's all start fresh this spring and remember that pet rules are here to make sure that Fairlington remains a wonderful place to live. I encourage all dog owners to renew their sense of responsibility: Keep your dogs on leash and pick up the poop!

—By Christine Chirichella, AFB
Assistant Editor

AWLA low cost rabies clinics: Shots, \$10

Bring proof of a prior rabies shot (a certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot. Without the rabies certificate, your pet will receive a one-year shot. All clinics are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates: April 22, May 27, June 34, August 26, September 23, October 28, and December 2.

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Abingdon Kindergarteners are having so much fun they don't even realize they're learning. Learn more about Kindergarten at Orientation on April 8.

Photograph by Michelle Marston.

First Budget Hurdle: A Success

On February 23, Arlington Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Patrick Murphy presented his budget proposal for the upcoming school year. And Abingdon fared pretty well. In fact, our exemplary program, Project GIFT, remains funded. The Superintendent's budget proposal has this to say about exemplary programs like Project GIFT:

"APS encourages school communities to augment strong instructional programs with distinctive educational offerings called exemplary projects. The School Board's adopted policy regarding exemplary projects provides the potential for every school to have an exemplary project, and for schools to receive support in developing exemplary projects. "

—page 98

Clearly, the Superintendent not only heard but understood our message that Project GIFT's approach to teaching has benefitted our students far more than any cookie-cutter approach ever could. Of course, this is only the first step. The School Board still needs to approve the budget. So we need to continue to press our case. Public comments on the budget will be taken during the public meetings held on the evenings of April 8, April 22, and April 29.

Abingdon's parents, teachers, and students are so grateful for the support that we received from our neighbors in the effort to make our case to Superintendent Murphy. Thank you, Fairlington!

Final Kindergarten Orientation, April 8

If your child is preparing for Kindergarten next fall or you're starting to think about that big step for your pre-schooler, Abingdon will host a Kindergarten Orientation in the school library on Thursday, April 8, from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the average day for a Kindergartener, as well as about how they integrate architecture, communications, and other Project GIFT "wheel" classes into the regular curriculum. You'll also have the opportunity to meet with our Kindergarten teachers and take a tour of the facilities.

Learn More about 21st Century Communications Classes, April 27

Only two more PTA meetings this year, and at the next one on Tuesday, April 27, our 21st Century Communications Teacher, Kerry Abbott, will give a presentation about all the exciting work she does with Abingdon students. Come join us from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Abingdon Library for a free pizza dinner and learn more about how we integrate the arts into our students' learning. And then stick around from 7:15 to 8 p.m. to find out what else the PTA is up to as we wind down the school year.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president

neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month, with the exception of the months of July and August when there is only one meeting on the third Thursdays of those months. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

In April, the Fair Golds will have a business meeting on Thursday, April 1, and a spring luncheon at Ft. Myer Officers' Club on Thursday, April 15. We always welcome guests and/or new members. The only requirement is that you be over 55 years of age. Please feel free to join us at one or more of our meetings and see if Fair Golds is a group you would be interested in joining. We try to arrange a special program or engage a speaker for the second Thursday meeting of the month. If you would like more information about Fair Golds, feel free to call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernetta Kukulich at 703-548-8571.

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 Diners

We're a diverse group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month, and focus on having a good meal in great company. This month, we'll try out a new restaurant across the street from our old standby, and then return to Ramparts as we do almost every month for our usual—half-price burgers.

Monday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Pizzaiolo Café on Fern, 1623 Fern St., Alexandria (where Ernie's Crab House used to be), 703-717-9324. Let's check out this addition to our neighborhood. The menu reveals a selection of salads/antipasto, sandwiches, pizza, and pasta dishes at reasonable prices.

Monday, April 26, 7:30 p.m., half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we visit almost every month, usually with a good turnout.

Please call Carol to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Prior to the day of the event, please call at 703-379-6840. On the day of the event, please call by 6 p.m. at 202-647-2624 (*Note new number*). Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly at either number—include your name and a phone number for contact on the day of the event in case of a change in plans.

If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Fairlington Thirty Somethings

In March the Fairlington 30-Somethings stepped out of the neighborhood for a happy hour at the 11th Street Lounge in Arlington and organized an afternoon of board games at the Alexandria Pastry Shop. The April happy hour will be on Thursday, April 22, at 7:15 p.m. in the restaurant side bar at Ramparts. Just off Quaker Lane at 1700 Fern Street, Ramparts is our neighborhood tavern with good food and a long beer list (just ask Kevin). Please let Jeff know you're coming. This is a small bar, so it should be easy to find the group, plus they'll have the little yellow sign.

Fairlington 30-Somethings is a social group for people who live in Fairlington. Members range from their mid-twenties to their mid-forties. Singles and couples are welcome. The F30s have monthly happy hours that tend to alternate between Shirlington and another local neighborhood in Arlington or Alexandria. They also sometimes organize other activities, such as attending concerts or plays, inner-tubing, or beach trips. Kavita Kalsy and Jeff Hewitt would love your help with organizing events. If you'd like to be on the e-mail list or to help organize, please e-mail kkalsy@hotmail.com or j.b.hewitt@verizon.net.

neighborhood news

Continued

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

The Fairlington Babysitting Co-op is currently accepting new applications. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families that exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Babysitting Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

The Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and can use them to "pay" for sittings. Sittings may be requested during the day, evenings or weekends. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made.

The Co-op holds quarterly social events where children play together, parents converse, and a few business items are discussed. Anyone who is ready for some time away from the kids but who worries about the extra expense, or who doesn't know someone with whom to trust their children, should consider joining the Babysitting Co-op. Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. For an application or more information, contact Alison at fourlawrences@verizon.net.

Book Group

We will meet on Tuesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center to discuss *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham. We will not meet in May. For further information, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Looking to meet other parents in Fairlington? Join the MOMS Club® of Arlington-Fairlington, VA chapter of the International MOMS Club® (MOMS Offering Moms Support) designed for stay-at-home and part-time at-home parents (moms and dads) in Fairlington. Members and their children participate in monthly meetings, weekly age-specific playgroups, member planned outings, community service projects, family meal support,

Parents' Night Out and much more. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions.

For more information, contact Lorna Loring at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com or call 571-217-2094. Or join us for our general meeting on Wednesday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center (please walk if possible due to the construction).

Cherry Blossoms Return

National Park Service horticulturalists say that despite the harsh winter, Washington's famed cherry trees weathered the snow storms well, will reach peak bloom around April 3 to 8, and will continue through April 11.

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Shirlington Library News

Focus on food this month with the library's Arlington Reads Films series:

Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.: *Food, Inc.* (2009). Rated PG, 94 minutes. Featuring Gary Hirshberg, Michael Pollan, and Eric Schlosser.

Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.: *Fast Food Nation* (2006). Rated R, 116 minutes. Featuring Greg Kinnear.

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.: *Julie and Julia* (2009). Rated PG-13, 123 minutes. Directed by Nora Ephron and featuring Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, and Stanley Tucci.

Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.: *How to Cook Your Life* (2008). Rated PG-13, 94 minutes. Featuring Edward Espe Brown.

Shirlington Library News: For complete program descriptions, please see the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx.

Food Safety Questions Answered

Question: How long can you keep raw eggs in the fridge before it is time to throw them away?
Answer: About three to five weeks. We all know the importance of proper refrigeration when it comes to preventing food poisoning. But do you know the safest way to stuff a chicken? Or what to do with perishables when the power goes out? Get the answers to all your food safety questions online at foodsafety.gov, a one-stop resource from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and others. The site regularly updates a list of food recalls and offers tips for safely storing, preparing, and cooking everything from strawberries to emu. —from Lindsay Minnema, Health & Science section, *Washington Post*, Post Points, November 10, 2009

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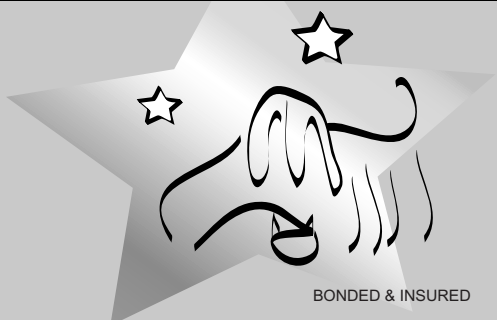
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Chrissy O'Donnell 703.626.8374 Chrissy@ChrissyAndLisa.com

Lisa DuBois 703.350.9595 Lisa@ChrissyAndLisa.com
www.ChrissyAndLisa.com

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<p>DOUBLE JOG STROLLER. For sale. Gently used In-Step Jog Stroller. \$50. Call Mary 703-820-9260.</p>	<p>MAY ISLAND RESTAURANT. Chinese, Japanese, Fusion specials. 1669 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302. Phone 703-575-4455. mayisland1.com</p>	<p>SPRING HAS SPRUNG! Time to get that garden done! Award winning gardens at reasonable prices. Design, planting, pruning, mulching, cleanup, patios, and more. Call Wendell of Environs 703-623-9625. MisterFixAlot@gmail.com.</p>
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<h2>Services</h2>	<p>CAREER DEVELOPMENT. Certified coach in Shirlington area. For more information, visit www.creativechangecareers.com or call Shela, 571-225-4062.</p>	<p>HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.</p>
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<p>REFLEXOLOGY. Experience Happy Feet for personal pampering-gift certificates. 703-671-2435 www.moorethanyoga.com.</p>	<p>NANNY SHARE. Looking to share our wonderful nanny with a new family. Part-time/full-time acceptable. Prefer new family to start in April timeframe. For additional information, please contact Erin@efriestaylor@yahoo.com or 703-354-9888.</p>	<p>HOME INSPECTOR. Biff Henley, Senior Craftsmen, Inc. American Home Inspector Training Institute Certified. 703-403-5354.</p>
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<p>COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767 - jandgonline.com.</p>	<h2>Gardening/Landscaping</h2>	<p>PAINTING. Greg the painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.</p>
<p>HEALTH INSURANCE. Paying too much! We offer affordable plans for individuals and families. Call DiGennaro Health Insurance Brokerage 703-402-6633. Ask for Terry.</p>	<p>SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Ready for a new look in your patio? How about a clean-up, pruning and mulching? Then email or call Bill at SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING, INC. billsullivan41@gmail.com or 571.213.9567. My prices are affordable and my customer service is proven. Interested in learning about landscaping? Visit my site to register for my class: www.sullivanslandscaping.net</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT. We can help with all your interior/exterior needs. Remodeling, painting, plumbing, electrical, masonry, decks/patios. Reliable, experienced, good references, flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. Licensed/insured. Please call Mark at 703-581-5603.</p>
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<h2>Pet Services</h2>	<p>HOME ALONE FELINES. Loving, professional in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com.</p>	<h2>Real Estate</h2>
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<p>DOG WALKER & PET SITTER- REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.</p>	<p>PET LOVERS. Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving and responsible care for pets in your home. Mid-day dog walking, cat sitting, vacations and holidays. Excellent references, bonded and insured. 703-941-6113.</p>	<p>DOMINION. Full size 3 bedroom 1,800 sq. ft. Dominion model-beautiful hardwood floors-replaced windows-white on white kitchen. Listed thru Long & Foster. Call Nancy. 703-887-4099. \$494,900.</p>

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Payment: BOTH payment and ad copy must be received by the 10th. Make checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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BOB & THE GUYS!

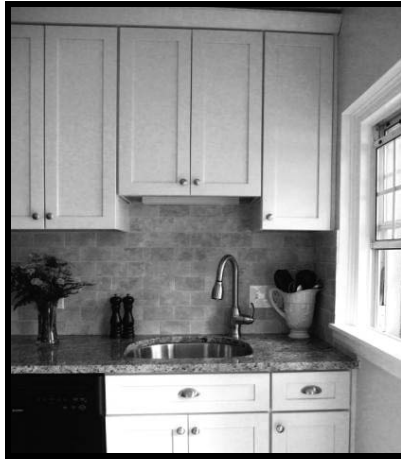
DHI employs three full-time crews who will rotate through your home depending on the skill set required at various points. You'll meet Mike, Jay, Bill, Dave, Benjamin and Carlos. These are our employees, not unknown subcontractors and not day-laborers. When you hire DeLong Home Improvement you receive the benefit of our crews' 100+ years of combined experience in the construction industry.

WHAT WE DO:

KITCHENS, BATHS, BASEMENTS!

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-Total Kitchen & Bath remodels,
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Chevy Chase/Uptown

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Clarendon II – 2880 S Buchanan St
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Barcroft – 4212 S 36th St, #A-2
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Fairlington
Arlington, VA
Dominion

3 BRs/2 BAs
Sq ft: 1,800

Price: \$494,900
MLS# AR7272974

Fairlington
Arlington, VA
Clarendon

2 BRs/2 BAs
Sq ft: 1,500

Price: \$419,900
MLS# AR7269703



Parklawn
Alexandria, VA

3 BRs/1.5 BAs
Sq ft: 1,170

Price: \$349,000
MLS# FX7268609

Skyline Square
Falls Church, VA

1 BR/1 BA
Sq ft: 758

Price: \$199,000
MLS# FX7272530



Bella Vista
Arlington, VA

2 BRs/2 BAs
Sq ft: 1,408

Price: \$499,900
MLS# AR7266083

Finwick Park
Falls Church, VA

4 BRs/3 BAs
Sq ft: 2,210

Price: \$499,000
MLS# FX7269640



Old Town
Alexandria, VA

2 BRs/1.5 BAs
Townhome

Price: \$499,000
MLS# AX7263003

The Chatham
Arlington, VA

1 BR/1 BA
Sq ft: 819

Price: \$219,000
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