

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



APRIL 2012

Volume 38, Number 4

www.fca-fairlington.org

News of nearby real estate developments: Update meeting

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford Street

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 pm
Rabieng Thai
Falls Church

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, April 5, noon
FCC

E-CARE recycling event

Saturday, April 7, 8:30 am – 3 pm
Thomas Jefferson Middle School

MOMS Club

Wednesday, April 11, 4 pm
FCC

Fair Golds program meeting

Thursday, April 19, noon
FCC

Earth Day

Sunday, April 22

Fairlington Diners

Monday, April 23, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

Continued on page 3

Last November, the FCA held a special real estate development forum, at which board members addressed rumors of impending BRAC-traffic Armageddon and the coming of Walmart (neither has materialized to date) which had grown over the summer of 2011 by reviewing what was known at the time about ongoing construction projects and development plans in the area. At this month's FCA meeting on April 11, board members will again discuss these and other projects and provide updated information about any change or progress that has occurred over the winter.



From the developer's Web site, a Google Maps view of the commercial land parcel, outlined in black, on S. Abingdon Street that may be re-developed into the Battery at Fairlington.

Of particular interest to Fairlington residents last year were two nearby projects. For the most part, residents welcomed news of the planned closure and demolition of the King Street Safeway and its re-construction in the same spot as a "Lifestyle" Safeway store. Last year, the project was expected to start this summer and to be completed by mid-2013. Also, with somewhat less certainty, there was news of a proposed re-development of the commercial parcel on S. Abingdon Street, where Frosty's sits adjacent to the Fairlington firehouse. According to the project's eponymous Web site, the potential development would be called The Battery at Fairlington (www.thebatteryatfairlington.com). Last year, the owner envisioned a commercial condominium format in a new two-level building with underground garage, with construction to begin, possibly, this year.

As expressed by meeting attendees at the time, residents will be eager to hear more about these and other development possibilities in the Fairlington area, some of which are occurring just outside the neighborhood—indeed, outside Arlington and in the City of Alexandria. For example, two intersections on nearby King Street can look forward to improvements from the city's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services in the next couple of years. *See the story, page 13.*

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org 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 on Facebook at "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

April 11, 2012, 7 pm, special program: FCA board members will provide updates on local-area real estate developments, which may impact Fairlington residents.

Regular business meeting:

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

Sign up for updates

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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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	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
703-243-1735 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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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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E-mail editorial announcements 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 703-243-1735 #1.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
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For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Calendar, cont.

Native plant sale

Saturday, April 28, 9 am – 2 pm
Parkfairfax

See Neighborhood News on pages 23 – 24 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summertime is come: sing loud, cuckoo! The seed grows and the meadows bloom, and the woods turn green. Sing, cuckoo! —Traditional English song

The mid-Atlantic region had a very mild winter, but, as I write this, I'm basking in the warmth provided by my heat pump. Still, with spring now at hand, I'm spending more time outdoors.

The best way to enjoy the change of seasons, in my opinion, is to go for a walk around Fairlington. The landscapers have planted hundreds of purple and yellow pansies. Tulips and irises and daffodils are breaking through the soil. The first dogwoods are starting to blossom, and the birds' chatter is coming more rapidly and loudly. And yes, the sun isn't just pretending to warm my face—it's getting the job done!

However, I'm not doing anything unique. The coming of spring means many neighbors are spending more time outside, whether it's exercising, biking to work, or running errands on foot. Dog-walking is more diversion than necessary chore. If there's a stroller or a tricycle in your home, chances are it's getting more of a workout these days.

Nicer weather brings the road warriors out as well. Part of the American character is putting the top down, turning up the radio, and hitting the open road. In Fairlington, the speed limit is 25 miles per hour, so cruising is by definition a leisurely pastime.

Either way, it's really easy to get lost in the moment, to forget that you're not the only person on the road or on the sidewalk. Police—and your mother—will tell you, that's how accidents happen.

So, whether you're behind the wheel or hoofing it in Fairlington, a word of caution: Be aware when you're crossing the street, or when you're approaching an intersection. Practice good traffic manners—and pedestrian manners, too! A bit of courtesy and patience does make a difference. Let's be safe and enjoy these lovely days for years to come!

Best,

Rosiland Jordan, President
Fairlington Citizens Association
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County Board members on priorities at February CivFed meeting

—Guy Land

Refining “the Arlington Way,” managing the county’s infrastructure backlog, balancing the needs of schools and the larger community, and maintaining affordable housing were key topics addressed by Arlington County Board members at the February meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation. All four board members attended the hour-long Q&A session (the fifth board seat will be filled by the March 27 special election).

Chair Mary Hynes emphasized the county’s PLACE initiative (Participation, Leadership, and Civic Engagement), designed to reinvigorate citizen participation in county decision-making. She flagged a “community mapping” activity, to identify what groups are working in Arlington, what they are doing, how they are connected, and how they can be more involved in shared decision-making. The first mapping session was held in March, and the second will be May 17. Hynes encouraged civic associations to join the conversations and help identify groups and leaders in their communities.

The need to invest in Arlington’s physical infrastructure was a theme that ran throughout the session, with board members noting the need for additional classroom space, continued support of parks, and replacement of aging

sewer and stormwater management facilities (stormwater improvement plans were outlined in the March *Bulletin*). At the same time, the board expressed no interest in increasing the self-imposed limit on indebtedness as a percentage of the operating budget. (That limit is 10 percent; the actual indebtedness under the current infrastructure plan would be 9.2 percent in 2014).

While acknowledging the need to provide more classroom space for Arlington’s burgeoning student population, board members expressed a reluctance to convert community facilities and parks and recreation areas to school use. Hynes and Jay Fisette both stressed the importance of balancing the needs of the schools with the broader interests of the community in having access to these facilities, noting that school families constitute only 20 percent of Arlington’s population. (*See the School Board story, page 7.*)

In addition, the county will be moving to a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan process instead of the traditional six-year CIP. The new plan will be developed in May and civic associations are encouraged to participate in that conversation. Board members declined to address any detailed questions about budget priorities for the coming year, stating that the County Manager’s proposed budget would be available shortly. (*See page 7.*)

County conversations: Three ways to engage with Arlington

The County Board’s open-door Monday sessions, 7 to 9 pm at alternating locations, are part of the PLACE initiative (Participation, Leadership, and Civic Engagement) from board chair Mary Hynes. Arlington residents are welcome to attend any session to speak directly with board members on any topic. Just go to the scheduled session; you do not need an appointment (*below*, April dates/locations). Also as part of PLACE, you now can share thoughts about important county topics through a new online forum called Open Arlington. Users post their ideas and read what others are saying; county officials will read forum comments and incorporate them into their decision-making process. In addition, new this year, you can sign up to receive e-mail editions of “Notes from the County Board,” which describes what the board is working on and gives insight into recent actions. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us > county board.

April 9

Gunston Community Center
Conference Room
2700 S. Lang Street
Arlington, VA 22206

April 23

Fire Station #2, Ballston
4805 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22203

April 16

Langston-Brown
Community Center
Multipurpose Room
2121 Culpeper Street
Arlington, VA 22207

April 30

TBD

Engage with Fairlington: If you are interested in filling the vacant seat on the FCA board, please contact FCA president Rosiland Jordan, president@fca-fairlington.org. You would serve your community, while also learning about local politics, development, and quality of life issues.

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School board addresses capacity issue

—Guy Land

Coping with a surge in student enrollment is the major challenge facing Arlington Public Schools, School Board members said at the Civic Federation meeting in March. Enrollment is projected to grow from the current 22,000 students to almost 30,000 by 2021, according to board president Abby Raphael—that increase will require more than 7,000 new seats in the school system.



Arlington School Board members, from left, James Lander, Sally Baird, Emma Violand-Sanchez, Libby Garvey, and Abby Raphael. At far right, Civic Federation president James Schroll. Photograph by Guy Land.

Two key factors are driving the enrollment increases: The birth rate in Arlington has gone up and the rate at which families move out of Arlington has declined. In short, families here are having more children and staying in Arlington longer than they used to. The growing enrollment will impact the school board's proposed budget for FY13, resulting in \$8.3 million more in costs than in FY12. The overall proposed APS budget of \$493 million reflects a 3.9 percent increase over that for FY12.

To accommodate increased enrollment, the school board proposes increasing the average class size next year by one student per class. Raphael said maintaining the existing class size would result in another \$3.3 million in added costs in FY13. "Class size is *the* issue," she said, acknowledging that the board has heard complaints from teachers and parents about increases in the average student-teacher ratio. In addition, APS has already deployed a number of "relocatable" classrooms (trailers) to handle the growth in students and is studying sites on APS property and other county property to build new facilities.

Other increases in the proposed budget are designed to provide a 2 percent compensation adjustment for teachers and school staff and to offset the loss of some federal grant funding. "The teacher is the most important vari-

able in quality education," board member Libby Garvey said. "We must do what is needed to attract and retain the best teachers." But she noted that that means more than just pay scales; it includes professional learning and support as well.

Board members reaffirmed their support for widespread use of technology in Arlington schools, with Garvey stating that the goal is to get to a one-to-one student-computer ratio. The board is searching for an affordable way to achieve this goal and, at the same time, overcome significant infrastructure issues. Raphael pointed out that Arlington's schools are critical to the economic success of the county and help yield stable real estate values. Arlington's high schools rank in the top one percent of the nation, she noted.

APS, by the numbers

APS schools recorded 21,845 students in pre-K through grade 12 on September 30 last year—a growth of 604 students (2.8 percent) over the previous year. Growth has been concentrated at the elementary-school level, where 12 of 22 schools saw student enrollment increase by five percent or more over the past year. Ten of the 22 elementary schools now are at 95 percent of capacity or more, as are two of six middle schools, and two of four high schools. Total APS enrollment could hit 100 percent of available capacity within two years.

Enrollment remains below the "baby boom" peak of the early 1960s, when the school system had more than 26,000 students enrolled. But the school system also had much more capacity at that time. Enrollment began falling in the early 1970s, leveling out at about 15,000 through much of the 1980s. As a result, a number of school buildings were closed, sold off, or converted to other uses during the "baby bust" demographic era.

—excerpted from the *Sun Gazette*

From an Abington teacher: "I love my job! I get to teach the subject that I enjoy most while working with the great kids at Abington. I hope that by making science fun some kids will choose a career in science. Recently I heard from a former Abington student, who thanked me for making science fun. He's now a neurosurgeon in Pennsylvania. That's what this is all about." —Anne Sywilok, *Science Lab teacher*

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Build a better bus stop



Fairlington bus stops due for improvement (left to right): S. Buchanan St. near S. 30th, S. Wakefield near S. 36th, and construction underway in March on the S. Wakefield new location landing slab. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

This month, Fairlingtonians will notice improvements, constructed by the county, at two bus stops in Fairlington and at two others in the local area:

Fairlington Mews: West side of South Wakefield Street near the S. 36th St. intersection (project #14103, scheduled for March 30). Improvements include a landing slab, bench, and moving the bus stop closer to the intersection.

Fairlington Villages: North side of S. Buchanan St. near the S. 30th St. intersection (project #11206, scheduled for April 4). Improvements include a landing slab,

bench, ramp, and crosswalk across Buchanan.

Park Shirlington Apartments: East side of S. 31st St. across from 4527 S. 31st St. (project #10337, scheduled for April 4). Improvements include a new shelter with bench, new trash receptacle, and ramps on the sidewalk.

Village at Shirlington: North side of Arlington Mill Drive near the Campbell Avenue intersection (project #2148, scheduled for April 16). Improvements include a landing slab, bench, sidewalk to walking path, and ramp at crosswalk.

County Board advertises 2-cent increase in real estate tax rate

In February, Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan presented to the County Board her proposed \$1.026 billion budget for fiscal year (FY) 2013, which included a ½-cent increase in the real estate tax rate for calendar year (CY) 2012. Included in that calculation were a modest rise in residential property assessments, a 3.4 percent increase in water and sewer service charges, and the proposed ½-cent tax rate increase. Together with her proposed budget, Donnellan recommended that the board consider advertising a 1½-cent increase in the tax rate, to provide itself leeway to collect additional revenues for funding affordable housing and safety net programs. By law, the final tax rate may be at or below the advertised rate, but it cannot be higher than the advertised rate.

The following week, the board voted to advertise a property tax rate of 97.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value for CY 2012—a 2-cent increase over the CY 2011 real estate tax rate. The board's proposed budget is more than \$1.026 billion, a 2.1 percent increase from the FY 2012 budget of nearly \$1.005 billion, which includes

employee compensation increases, funding obligations for Metro, debt funding, contractual increases, an increase in the ongoing funding for affordable housing, library hours restorations, and increases to schools (4.8 percent). This month, the board will adopt a FY 2013 budget, as well as a CY 2012 real estate tax rate. FY 2013 begins July 1, 2012.

Potholes are in season

The county government is responsible for the repair of most secondary streets across Arlington, but county crews got a jump-start on the annual, springtime repair of potholes because of this winter's unseasonably warm weather. Even so, it is peak pothole repair season, and residents who wish to report potholes on Arlington streets can contact the county government at 703-228-6570 from 8 am to 5 pm, or go online to fill out a pothole-notification form on the county's Web site at www.arlingtonva.us.



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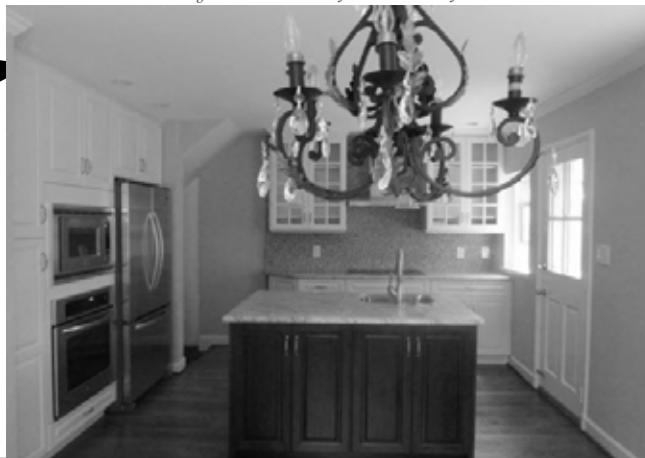
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Pictures depict an actual Fairlington
Village kitchen recently remodeled by GMG



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**Mark your calendar:
Fairlington Day, Saturday, May 12**



Fairlington Day coincides with Arlington's Neighborhood Day, celebrating the county's diverse communities. If you'd like to see what other neighborhoods are doing on May 12, you can go online to the Web site that the Department of Parks and Recreation has dedicated to tracking events and activities planned for this year: www.arlingtonva.us > DPR > Neighborhood Day. For Fairlington festivities, the fun begins at 11 am on the grounds of the FCC and continues until 2 pm. Stop by for a hot dog and soda. Bring the kids for face-painting and more fun and games. Meet up with the people you know from your courtyard, and greet newcomers. Fairlington Day, held every other year in May, is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors. You can become a participant by volunteering to help with any event-support activity; contact FCA president, Rosiland Jordan, president@fca-fairlington.org.

Master Food Volunteers training: If you love to cook and want to learn more about nutrition and wellness, while also making a difference in your community, Virginia Cooperative Extension offers Master Food Volunteer training. The 24 hours of training, in four sessions, on Fridays, 9 am to 3 pm, begins this month: April 27 and May 11 at 12011 Government Center Pkwy in Fairfax, and May 5 and 18 at the Fairlington Community Center. Complete the training and then reciprocate with 30 hours of volunteer service helping lead nutrition and cooking education programs. A \$95 fee covers lunches, training materials, apron, tote bag, and supplies. For more information or to apply, contact Jennifer Abel, jabel@vt.edu, 703-228-6417.

**Parkfairfax native plant
sale, Saturday, April 28**

Run and organized entirely by volunteers, the yearly sale is the largest native plant sale in the DC metro area. It will be held Saturday, April 28, from 9 am to 2 pm in the tennis courts parking lot at 3601 Valley Drive in Parkfairfax. You can find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade, from more than a dozen vendors from five states (VA, MD, PA, WV, and SC). Vendors are listed on the sale Web site, www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org. For questions, contact Scott Knudsen, 703-671-8416 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.



**Household hazmat
recycling, Saturday, April 7**

At the spring E-CARE event, at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, from 8:30 am to 3 pm (rain or shine) you can safely dispose of hazardous household materials (paints, solvents, garden chemicals), computer monitors (\$15 fee), and televisions (\$20 fee), as well as recycle small metal items, electronics, shoes, clothes, linens, eyeglasses, and durable medical equipment. In addition, serviceable bikes will be collected by Bikes for the World to be sent to countries where they are needed for basic transportation. E-CARE is open to Arlington residents only—take along ID. Commercial and/or business waste will not be accepted. For more information, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/recycle or call 703-228-6832.

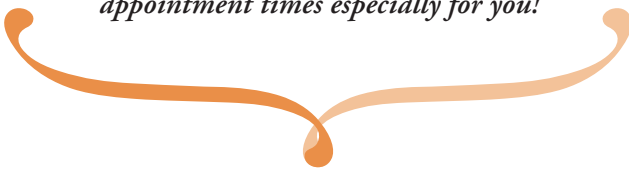
Eco-friendly plant disease and insect control, April 25: On Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, you can learn about the most common vegetable and garden diseases and insect pests and how to control them in environmentally friendly ways. To pre-register, contact Virginia Cooperative Extension at 703-228-6414.



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Improvements planned for King Street intersections



Courtesy of the City of Alexandria.

Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) is working on two traffic improvement projects at King Street intersections that affect the east and west ends of Fairlington. To the west, where King intersects with Beauregard Street/Walter Reed Drive, the proposed at-grade changes are designed to increase vehicle capacity and pedestrian safety—an additional left turn lane in each direction on King, medians, and a 10-foot shared-use path on parts of King and North Beauregard. The project is currently in the right-of-way phase (acquiring needed land and easements) and is expected to begin construction in spring 2013.

To the east, for the B/K/Q intersection (Braddock Road/King Street/Quaker Lane), T&ES held a public meeting in February at which staff presented final recommendations for improvements; another public meeting, for project updates, will be held later this year or next

year, but construction is not expected to begin until early 2015. Planned improvements include building additional left turn lanes for eastbound King at Quaker, eastbound King at Braddock, westbound Braddock at Quaker, and northbound Quaker at King. Also proposed: the partial closure of the service road (running parallel to King) at Quaker; enhanced bus shelters at Bradlee and at Safeway; and a traffic signal at the Bradlee Shopping Center driveway entrance (the traffic signal might be installed earlier than the projected construction start date in 2015). In addition, T&ES staff will examine the intersection of Dearing Street and the service road (across King from S. Wakefield St.) to determine whether a traffic signal could be installed there. T&ES will also look at the intersection of S. 36th Street and Quaker to determine what can be done to facilitate access for S. 36th (backed-up traffic on southbound Quaker often blocks entry to or exit from S. 36th).

For more information, go online to the city Web site, <http://alexandriava.gov> > T&ES.



Clogged access to/from S. 36th St. at Quaker Lane.

High-capacity transit may be in King Street's future

The City of Alexandria is in the very early stages of exploring high-capacity transit options that would run between the King Street Metro station and Tysons Corner, along the King Street/Route 7 corridor. Currently the city council is considering providing Alexandria's share of funding for a feasibility study to look at transit options. The study is funded by a federal Transit Administration earmark of \$350,000 that the region received from Representative James Moran, to see if any type of high-capacity transit is needed in the corridor. The funding requires localities to contribute \$87,500 in local matching funds;

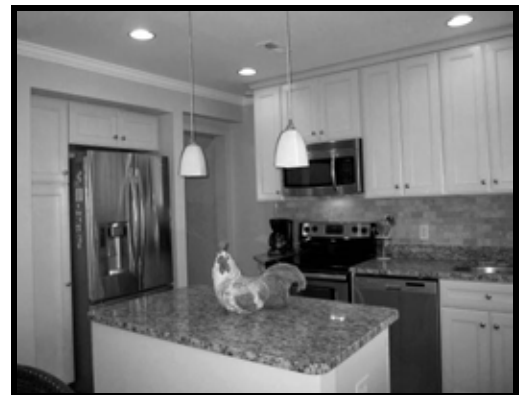
Fairfax County, Falls Church, and Arlington County may contribute to funding, as might the state.

City staff is especially interested in using the study as a platform for discussing how Alexandria's corridors running north/south on Van Dorn and Beauregard would interface with any high-capacity service travelling east/west on the Route 7 corridor, and how these high-capacity corridors would interface with the streetcar line Arlington and Fairfax are proposing for the Columbia Pike corridor.

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Plan now for elementary summer camps.

For ages 5 to 11 (ages 5 and 6 must have completed kindergarten; 11-year-olds may be rising 5th or 6th graders—if registering in Expedition, they may not dual enroll in Jr. Jam at locations where it is offered). Pick up the DPR Summer Camp catalog now, to learn about different camps and their activities and field trips; locations and fees; and options for core hours, core + extended hours, and express hours. To register, call 703-228-4747 or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr.

Elementary after-school programs open house, April 16 – 20.

If you're making plans for your child's after-school care for the 2012/13 school year, check out one of DPR's ongoing programs. On these days, you can drop in between 3:30 and 6 pm at any of the five county Community Center locations that host the programs (Langston Brown, Lubber Run, Walter Reed, Charles Drew, and Carver).

For more information about elementary summer camps or after-school programs, call Lila Paig at 703-228-4728 or send e-mail to DPR-Elementary@arlingtonva.us.

Workshops and classes

For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr or call 703-228-4747.

Spring break creative arts week, April 2 – 6, 9 am to 3 pm, ages 5 to 8: This week-long visual arts class is for beginning or advanced young

artists. Students will create projects based on famous artworks, and they will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. Emphasis is placed on developing creativity and imagination with a special focus on skill building. Participants invite their family and friends to an art show at the end of the session. Students should wear clothes that they can get messy. Five year olds must have completed kindergarten. Instructors, Jim Halloran and Nathan Drake; fee \$297. 616810A

Spring break fashion week, April 2 – 6, 9 am to 3 pm, ages 11 to 16:

Students will learn the basics of machine and hand sewing and various seam finishes and techniques to clean-finish sewing projects. Students will create a shift dress and put their own spin on their designs. At week's end we will have a photo shoot for our 2012 look book! Students also will complete a presentation including concept boards, customer and designer profiles, and original fashion sketches. All supplies included. Instructor, Elaine Griffin; fee \$325. 616811A

Beading fun for all: Saturday, April 21, 10 am to noon. This is a family-style beading workshop, great for parent/caregiver and child to learn the basics of beading through simple techniques. Make-and-take necklace and bracelet; all supplies included. One session, \$33. Instructor, Lee. Ages 7 – 12. Please register the child only. 340151A

***New* Knotting: Saturday, April 28, 10 am to 1 pm (first session).**

Have fun making knotted bead jewelry in this two-day hands-on course. Good eye-hand coordination is helpful. Bring reading glasses if

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

Hours 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 pm—children must be supervised by an adult (18 and older). In addition, there are a Senior Program, a creative preschool (three to five years old), parent/child Co-op Program for children one and two years old, and summer camp.

you use them. Bring what you want to use, or use what we provide. This is a make-and-take workshop. Two sessions, \$74. Instructor, Lee. Adults. 340167

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



A wealth of choices for your garden

With spring here, many of you soon will be shopping for plants. No matter where you go, deciding isn't easy when faced with hundreds of choices. While you're driving to the nursery, think about whether your patio has full sun, shade, or a little of both. Also consider your available garden space and determine if you want tall, narrow plants or small shrubs with rounded shapes. You may prefer ground cover or even perennials. If you're still confused, read on.

If you want 12-month interest, you don't want to focus on a perennial garden, since these plants have an extended dormancy. But if you want your patio to be as attractive in February as it is in July, think "evergreen" noted by "EV" on the tag. An evergreen actually can be ever-blue (juniper "Blue Point"), ever-red (dwarf nandina "Firepower"), or ever-variegated—yellow or white leaf pigment (aucuba or euonymus "Aurea" and "Silver King"). If you see "DEC" on a tag, the specimen is deciduous, which means it loses its leaves.

Maybe you desire evergreens that flower. If so, consider a camellia, which has lustrous, dark green leaves with rose-like blooms in red, pink, or white that show from November to early April. The southern magnolia "Little Gem" is a miniature specimen that offers the same white, fragrant flower in summer. Another choice is winter jasmine, which bears tiny yellow flowers in January and February on long green strands bearing small, oval leaves, or pieris, which bears fragrant white

flowers (inverted bells like Lily of the Valley) in April through May.



Camellias lend interest and texture to a winter garden. Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.

What if your patio sits in total shade? Look for aucuba, mahonia (evergreen with fragrant yellow flowers in January and February), camellia, pieris, lecouthoe (evergreen with pink stems and creamy swirls on the leaves), sweet box (evergreen ground cover bearing white, fragrant flowers in January), skimmia, which offers white, fragrant summer blooms with holly-like fruit in winter, or Lenten rose, which features nodding, cream and mauve flowers.

Suppose your garden gets blasted by sunlight, especially in the afternoon. If so, look for a dwarf crape Myrtle tree ("Zuni," "Hopi," or "Sioux"). A lilac loves sun and will bear white or lavender flowers in May, June, and July. Sun-loving evergreens include juniper, euonymus, falsecypress, cherry, or skip laurel (both bearing fragrant, white flowers), bird's nest spruce, and gardenia (white, fragrant flower in spring and summer).

Want to be creative with a winter-flowering garden? That's easy with mahonia, winter jasmine, camellia, Daphne (pinkish, fragrant bloom in January and February), wintersweet (pale yellow or white blooms with maroon "eyes" that nod on leafless branches), witch hazel (copper or yellow flowers with strap-like petals), quince (coral, red, or white flowers), heather (pink, white, or lavender flowers on a compact ground cover), and Lenten rose.

Suppose you want a tree—but nothing too tall? The juniper "Blue Point" is flame-shaped and vertical and will stay eight feet tall. So will the juniper "Skyrocket." In addition, Japanese holly ("Steeds," "Chesapeake," "Nigra," and "Centennial") is a dense, handsome evergreen that situates well in the corners of your patio. An arborvitae (kelly green and flame-shaped) can be bought at four-feet tall and will grow into a larger "bullet" shape. An ideal flowering tree that stays small is the Japanese snowbell, which bears white, fragrant flowers that hang on branches before the leaves germinate. This tree gets 10 feet tall with a shorter spread.

For good selection, visit Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax (corner of Lee Highway and Gallows Road). While walking around, ask for Doug, the shrub expert there. He will answer your questions and give you suggestions.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

In case of emergency!

Recently I started working with a financial planner, and the question came up, What would happen to my pets should something happen to me? Many of us have emergency contacts, wills, and contingency plans for the future, particularly if children are involved. But have we thought about our pets? I confess I had not.

In the event of a short-term emergency, you should have plans in place in case you are unexpectedly unable to care for your pets. Who will care for your pets in your absence? What is the pet's daily routine? What is their feeding and/or medication schedule? Make sure your "in case of emergency" contacts know this information, or you may want to carry details in your wallet or leave them visible in your house in case someone has to step in to help. It's also a good idea to make sure your neigh-

bors or a pet sitting professional have keys, so they could be called in case of emergency.

For the longer-term, pet owners should plan for the future of their pets as part of "getting their affairs in order." By law, pets are considered possessions, so pet owners cannot leave money to their pets as beneficiaries. However, many states, including Virginia, allow people to set up trusts for their pets. The trust will instruct someone that you designate to carry out your wishes if you are disabled or after you are gone. Trusts can be very specific, and they may include information such as what to feed the pet, how often to take it to the vet, and even what to do with the pet once it dies. But most importantly, the trust will allocate money for the care of your pet, easing the financial burden on whomever you have selected to care for it.

None of us like to think about these types of "what ifs," but unfortunately it's a necessity in life. Take the time to plan now to ensure that even if you're not around, your pets will be cared for according to your wishes.

(The information contained in this article is not intended to provide legal advice, but to bring to mind information you may wish to discuss with a legal professional or financial planner.)

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant Editor



A juvenile red-tailed hawk on S. 34th Street in January. Thanks to David Farner, Gulf Branch Nature Center park manager, for the identification. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

Unweaned kittens need TLC

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington is looking for kitten care-takers, in response to the large numbers of orphaned kittens, too young to survive on their own, they get every spring and summer. Volunteer foster parents provide round-the-clock feeding and nurturing for several weeks, then return the kittens to the shelter once they're weaned and ready for adoption. If interested, fill out a volunteer application online, www.awla.org/volunteer.



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Abingdon hosts summer programs

Abingdon Elementary, in conjunction with Arlington Public Schools, will host a variety of summer programs for students in grades Pre-K through 5 during summer 2012. Classes run from July 9 to August 9 for elementary school students. A registration fee of \$100 and tuition (if applicable) are due at the time of registration. The summer school catalog can be viewed on the APSVA Web site, www.apsva.us/Page/2107. The deadline for all registrations is May 4. All classes are held M-F, 8 to 11 am. Parents with entering Kindergarten students in the fall of 2012 may want to consider enrolling their child in the early childhood program (catalog #00901). It has been a favorite of many Abingdon parents who wanted to acquaint their child with Kindergarten. To participate, the child must be enrolled in the APS school he/she will attend this fall.

Scouts celebrate 100 years—six at Abingdon

As the Girl Scouts celebrate 100 years in America, Abingdon is excited to mark six years with strong and active Girl Scout troops. Reintroduced to the school in the 2006/07 school year with only eight Kindergarteners in a small Daisy troop and four Brownies, Girl Scouting has grown to three levels of troops and more than 60 girls. Of course none of this would be possible without the help of fabulous parent volunteers who lead the troops: Daisies (Kindergarten and first grade), Nicole Van Hoey and Patty Healy; Brownies (second and



Faces of Abingdon: Left, first grader Olivia Van Hoey sings and dances while performing the musical "How Does your Garden Grow?" in her communications class. Right, parent volunteer Tina Masciangioli, a chemist, helps kindergarteners Justin Diller and Jackson Gravelle with an experiment during the recent Math & Science Night. Photographs by Kerry Abbott and Tom Wince.



third grade), Katie Parker and Carrie Lewis; and Juniors (fourth and fifth grade), Michelle Marston and Dana Andy. Parents interested in registering their daughters for Abingdon Girl Scouts can attend the next Scout Information Night at Abingdon on Tuesday, June 5 or contact Abingdon Troop Organizer Michelle Marston at michellemarston@gmail.com. (Cub Scout representatives will also be present at the June 5 information night.)

Abingdon PTA's after school programs



Fairlington resident Katie Parker, with daughter Ana (third grade). Katie coordinates the Abingdon PTA's after school programs.

The Abingdon PTA offers a wide variety of after school programs this year—students can find an activity every day after school. Through the dedication and leadership of Fairlington resident Katie Parker, the PTA After School Programs are robust and growing. Some of the programs include: Khary Stockton's *Basketball and Soccer*, Heather Creadon's *Zumba for Kids*, Vice Principal Gail Seligson's *Learn to Knit*, Kelley Beasey's *Dance Combo*, *Kid Crime Solvers*, *Improv Comedy Club*, *Tae Kwon Do*, *Lego Robotics*, and *Art Enrichment*. Separate from the PTA has been a successful Girls on the Run program that is spearheaded by a group of our teachers. Fairlington resident, Abingdon parent, and Washington Ballet instructor Kelley Beasey says, "I have been amazed to see how quickly and proficiently our group of 20 kids has developed muscle and motion memory. They have learned six dances in just a month."

—Dan Branch and Dana Andy, PTA co-presidents

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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group for those 55 years of age and older in and around Fairlington, meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursdays of the month (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55. This month, we will meet on Thursday, April 5 for a business meeting, and on Thursday April 19 for a program/social meeting.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners near Fairlington. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. For April, we've planned these events:

Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 pm, Rabieng Thai Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041, 703-671-4222, www.duangrats.com. It's very close to Fairlington, just beyond Bailey's Crossroads. We've been here several times, and it's always great food in an informal atmosphere.

Monday, April 23, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price burgers with the purchase of a beverage; the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation or choose the right-sized table when we arrive. Please leave a voice-mail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Freedom. What is it, and what are its consequences? Jonathan Franzen's novel explores these questions through the troubled lives of the Berglunds, a contemporary St. Paul family riven by the gulf between expecta-

tions and reality, ideals and desires. Are the Berglunds emblematic of our society? Come share your thoughts about the book on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a parent and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club may be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

In the last year members have also worked on several community service projects benefitting Abingdon Elementary School and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Our club also raised donations for and participated in the March of Dimes' March for Babies, which took place last May. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline, and even wardrobe styling for busy moms.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at laurencbailey@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids, but don't know who to call, should consider joining the Co-op. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents

neighborhood news

Continued

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 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.

For an application or more information, contact the FBC via Google Groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/fairlington-babysitting> or by e-mail at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

Free seeds: The Arlington Food Assistance Center reminds you to stop by for seeds to grow in a Plot Against Hunger. If you're starting seedlings, you can start some tomato and pepper plants for AFAC clients to grow; deliver the young plants to AFAC in May for distribution then. Go to 2708 S. Nelson Street, M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturday 11:30 am to 1 pm.

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- No High Pressure Tactics
- **FREE ESTIMATES**

For more information,
please call us at

703-378-6596

Mini-ads

For Sale

WATERFORD round ring holder. \$50.00. 703-577-0171

Real Estate

CLARENDON FSBO. 4-level Clarendon (2,000 sq. ft. finished attic with two windows), stainless steel appliances, Arbor assessment fees, across from Community Center. \$475,000. Call 703-820-6336 or e-mail syed_n_ahmad@yahoo.com

ARLINGTON MODEL for sale by owner. Fairlington Mews. \$549,000. Open house Sundays 11am to 4pm starting April 22. See website for address and details. www.fairlingtonsale.com

Services

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. New home-owners and all-50-state taxes our specialty. Electronic Filing. Convenient location, evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for appointment 703- 931-3290.

WELLNESS. Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage, Children's massage, reflexology, reiki & more. Private Sessions or Create a Class. Gift certificates available. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

FOOT MASSAGE - REFLEXOLOGY. Personal pampering, pregnancy & pregnancy labor induction & more. www.moorethanyoga.com, 703-671-2435.

INFANT MASSAGE. Learn to massage your baby. Monthly classes. Certified Fairlington resident. www.moorethanyoga.com, 703-671-2435.

COMPUTER PROBLEM? Don't overspend to fix it. Free Estimate - Evening Hours - On-Site Service. We can handle anything computer related. (267) 250 - 0594. BeltwayPC.com.

HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS. Complete installation or repair of telephone, CATV, or data wiring and outlets. All work performed by owner/technician Al Hughes. 40 years experience. Licensed and insured. All services are schedule for a specific appointment time. All work guaranteed, with free estimate, if necessary. Call 703-354-4528 with any questions or to schedule an appointment.

FRENCH TUTOR. Ph.D. with 24 years teaching experience offering conversation-based lessons and reinforcement work to adults and children. Ran the Foreign Language Department at The Field School (DC) for three years and my own language school (in Florida) for four years. Testimonials available at www.FrenchinDC.com. Please call 703-869-8826 or email me at Melissa@FrenchinDC.com to set up a free sample lesson.

Child Care

CHILD CARE. Professional in-home daycare. FT/PT. CPR and first aid certified. Excellent references. Worked with children for 25 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603 or 703-566-7448. www.patkids.com

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING will make over your patio with new plantings, pruning, and fresh mulching. Visit: www.sullivanlandscaping.net to learn more. Contact Bill for a free consultation via email billsullivan41@gmail.com or cell 571-213-9567.

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.

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

HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

KITCHEN CEILING. Serving Fairlington since 1978. We have developed several ceiling designs. Talk to us about your kitchen renovation needs. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

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. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

RESALE OR RE-RENT PREPARATIONS. We have previously prepared hundreds of units for sale or rent. Lots of references. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733.

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

Mini-ads

BATHROOM AND KITCHEN.

Fairlington Maintenance Service is now on "Angie's List" of contractors. Thanks to all Fairlingtonians who voluntarily recommended us. Company ID 462536. Call 703-379-7733.

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.

PAINTING & WALLPAPERING. 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. Faux finish. Call Ricardo for free estimate 703-495-0781. rrhomeimprove.com.

R.R. HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC. Celebrating our 20 year anniversary with very LOW RATES. Painting, drywall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151. rrhomeimprove.com.

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.

WITT CONSTRUCTION. Kitchens, baths, built-in cabinetry and design consultation. Licensed/insured. Fairlington resident. 703-626-6429. garywitt44@gmail.com.

PAINTING. Greg the Painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Liscensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338.

MT TILE. Expert tile installations. Shower and bathroom, kitchen floors and backsplashes. Porcelain, ceramic, natural stone, glass tile. Licensed and insured. 937-689-9655. mttile@gmail.com

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Specializing in detailed cleaning. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 13 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, our service is thorough, plus we are great with family pets. We have references throughout the neighborhood. Call today for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable, experienced, good references, flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Weekly - bi-weekly - monthly - occasionally. One-time, move-in/out, offices. For free in home estimate call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

B&A CLEANING SERVICES. 22 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Reasonable prices. We provide our own equipment and supplies. Call for free estimate 703-495-0781.

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steams cleaned. Call us for free estimates (703) 569-7799.

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.

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE.

Providing reliable, flexible, and responsible pet care to Fairlington dogs and cats for over 15 years! Daily dog walking, cat sitting, overnite, vacation and holiday visits. Special housebreaking schedule for puppies. Excellent references. 703-765-0990/c 703-405-2775.

HOME ALONE FELINES.

Loving, professional, in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Apr 10th for May issue)

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: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Mailing Address for All Ads and Checks: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street

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

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street

Write key words from your ad on the check for reference. (Example: "Yard Sale" or "Lost Camera")

Please include the following information with all ads:

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

LONG AND FOSTER
ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

4800 S. 31st Street | Arlington, VA 22206 | 703-998-3111

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Thinking of purchasing a new home? Call us...we'll represent you!

CONGRATULATIONS
 TOP PRODUCERS

February



Pat Shannon
 Top Producer



Pat Rehill
 Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Falls Church... Fabulous value! A single family home for less than the price of a condo and no condo fees! A bonus room with hardwood flooring extends off the larger of the two bedrooms. Call office for details



Ashburn... Spacious, better than NEW HOME w/ open floor plan, beautiful hardwoods on main level w/ Family Room, Breakfast Room, Den & Gourmet Kitchen w/ island, SS appliances, granite c-tops. Call office for details



Fairlington Villages/Arl... Gorgeous 2 bedroom/2 bath 3 level brick end TH. Granite c-tops & SS appliances, HDWDs, & fenced back yard. Mins. to shops, restaurants, & Metro bus. \$399,999 Call Pat Shannon



Centre Ridge/Centreville... Huge 5 bedroom/3.5 bath home on beautiful treed lot. Granite c-tops, HDWDs, spacious rooms, & magnificent deck. Don't miss this retreat. \$514,272 Call Office 703 998-3111



Kingsberry/Fairfax... Luxurious, spacious & completely renovated 3 bedroom/2.55 bath TH w/2700sf of living area. Designer kitchen, FR off kit., 2 fplcs., 2 lvl. deck, & landscaped garden. \$474,900 Call Pat Rehill



Camelot/Annandale... Wow – what a find! 4 bedroom/3 bath home w/beautiful HDWDs, main level MBR w/extra closet, gas cooking, & fresh paint. Finished walkout basement, fenced yard, garage. \$598,000 Call office for details

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

