

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

APRIL 2013

Volume 39, Number 4

Real estate development news: Update meeting

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

MOMS Club

Wednesday, April 10, 4:30 pm
FCC

Native plants workshop

Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 pm
The Fish Market
Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

Backyard wildlife habitat workshop

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

Native plant sale

Saturday, April 27, 9 am – 2 pm
Parkfairfax

Fairlington tree walk

Saturday, April 27, 10 am
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, April 29, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on page 27 and related articles for details about calendar events.



Photo, Home Properties.

Heard anything new about the closing and redevelopment of the Bradlee-area Safeway? Telephone and e-mail inquiries to public affairs representatives at Safeway headquarters about the store's closing date went unanswered last month. But FCA board member Carrie Street learned from staff on the Alexandria planning commission that construction could begin as early as this month. Store employees reported hearing that the store's closing might

come "after Easter" or perhaps "in May." Street may have more information to share with Fairlington shoppers at the FCA meeting on April 10.

Tracking plans for the nearby Safeway is just one example of the FCA fulfilling one of its primary responsibilities—to keep Fairlingtonians informed about what is known and published (and what additionally can be found out) about the progress of real estate developments in our immediate area. Moreover FCA's goal is to initiate a discussion of development features or factors that might impact Fairlington residents. To that end, the April meeting will refocus the association's periodic spotlight on development news. The most recent episode of the association's intense scrutiny began with the neighborhood's opposition in 2009 to VDOT's I-395 HOT lanes project (construction plans for the section of highway in Arlington were abandoned); continued into the summer of 2011 when rumors surfaced about Walmart planning to build a store in the Shirlington area (to date, no such plan has materialized); and has continued through last September's special informational session on redevelopment plans for the Park Shirlington apartments (an advisory committee is forming to monitor the project).

In addition to Safeway and Park Shirlington news, the board will provide updated information about any changes or progress that has occurred over the last few months regarding: Shirlington; King Street at Beauregard (the intersection where Alexandria and Arlington meet); B/K/Q (the Alexandria intersection where Braddock Road, King Street, and Quaker Lane meet); and the Battery at Fairlington (proposed redevelopment of the commercial property on S. Abingdon Street next to the fire station).

One thing the board has learned in following up on project news—development moves forward slowly, often incrementally, and sometimes inexorably.

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. 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.

April 10 agenda:

A finalized agenda for the monthly meeting will be posted on the FCA Web site the Sunday before the Wednesday meeting.

Speaker: FCA board members will discuss what is known about real estate developments in the area, including updates on the Bradlee Safeway renovation and the Park Shirlington redevelopment project.

Regular business meeting:

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of March minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
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

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:
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Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington trees on parade

Learn more about our neighborhood's greenest asset. Join the walking tour of Fairlington's trees on Saturday, April 27, 10 am. Meet at the Fairlington Community Center.



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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A rare oasis of green and calm inside the beltway, Fairlington must always be alert to the potential of new development around us—activities that could introduce more traffic, visually clash with our historic architectural theme, and ultimately change the character of our neighborhood; or that could, when appropriately scaled and planned, enhance the benefits of living here.

FCA recently presented a new Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan to Arlington County. The plan proclaimed our desire to protect the community from the impacts of traffic, preserve our sense of a cohesive, sustainable community, and maintain a reputation as a pedestrian-friendly and bike-able neighborhood.

Several projects are either on the drawing board or already underway that could affect Fairlington: redevelopment of the building next to the fire station as office condominiums; additional development at King Street, Beauregard, and Walter Reed; the expansion of NOVA (including building a dorm); changes at Bradlee Shopping Center (such as the new Safeway); and the redevelopment of Park Shirlington.

As the collective voice of the Fairlington community, FCA has several key responsibilities to you:

- **Stay on top of plans for development.** We need to be your eyes and ears and your go-to source of information about what other property owners are contemplating near our borders.
- **Keep you informed of what we know.** It's not enough for the FCA board to know the plans; we must share that knowledge widely, so that all of our residents have access to the information we have unearthed. That yields more informed decision-making and minimizes the anxiety caused by unfounded rumors.
- **Be Fairlington's voice with Alexandria and Arlington County.** We must ensure that the views of the Fairlington community are fully considered when those governments consider zoning changes or public improvements.

In April we will tackle these tasks in two ways: First, we will host a real estate development forum on April 10 to share what we know about the major area development proposals. Second, we will launch a special advisory committee to guide us in responding to the potential redevelopment of the Park Shirlington apartments.

We invite you to join us in these conversations. They can be critical to preserving aspects of Fairlington that drew many of us here in the first place. And, as always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions, president@fca-fairlington.org.

Guy Land
FCA President

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FiOS in Fairlington? Later rather than sooner

A roomful of sometimes disgruntled Fairlington residents—aka, Comcast customers—attended the March FCA meeting, to hear a presentation from Rob Billingsley, the Arlington County cable administrator. Billingsley provided an overview of the work his office does to advocate on behalf of cable TV customers with problems; to negotiate the franchise agreements with the two cable service providers (Comcast and Verizon FiOS) that are licensed to operate in Arlington; and to monitor the companies' progress in meeting performance standards. Meeting attendees listened attentively to Billingsley's remarks, but follow-on questions from the audience of captive Comcast users revealed their primary interest—When are we going to get FiOS?

FCA vice president Kent Duffy reported his own up-and-down relationship with Comcast over the last 10 years, and he acknowledged that recently it's been more up than down. But, like other Fairlington residents, when Duffy asks about the availability of FiOS, he's merely asking for options—for the ability to choose between the two service providers available to other county residents.

Billingsley explained that Verizon's franchise agreement requires that they will have "substantially" built out their fiber optic system in Arlington by 2013 and will have "completely" built out the county by 2016. A map of Arlington displaying Verizon's phased build-out plans showed that Fairlington would be among the very last areas to receive Verizon service. "It will be later rather



Arlington's cable administrator, Rob Billingsley (left) with FCA president Guy Land.

than sooner," said Billingsley.

And it seemed clear that even when Verizon turned its attention to our neighborhood, time-consuming issues would remain to be resolved. Each of the eight homeowners associations in Fairlington must negotiate its own agreement with Verizon. The agreements must spell out, in legalistic detail, how the infrastructure construction would be conducted, how the common property would be disturbed and repaired, and how each individual household unit would be wired.

And before Verizon finalized the agreements, it would want to do a technical survey of the area, to determine what physical problems the company might encounter and how it would deal with them, and how it would deal with the question of access—how much trench-digging on how many streets, and through how many grassy areas, tennis courts, sidewalks, and individual patios, and so on. In the industry, Fairlington consists of what are known as MDUs—multi-dwelling units—which pose a particularly thorny wiring challenge. Given the practical obstacles to wiring Fairlington, some residents remained skeptical of ever having a choice between Comcast and Verizon FiOS.

And what if 2016 arrived and Fairlington still did not have access to FiOS? Billingsley said that penalties would be assessed—and that, too, would be a matter of negotiation.

Farmers market is tops in activities survey

Fairlington residents have expressed great interest in the possibility of the FCA bringing a farmers market to Fairlington. The association's online survey—to gauge interest in proposed neighborhood activities and residents' willingness to help support them—put the farmers market on top. Almost all respondents, 90%, indicated they were "very interested." With about half that number of people expressing strong interest (40%), the 5k fun run/walk came in second. About one third of respondents said they were very interested in environmental initiatives and in electronic recycling/paper shredding.

The survey gathered such a significant number of

responses that it will be kept open this month. To indicate your willingness to help plan or support an activity or event, go online to the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and follow the link to take the survey and provide your contact information. NOTE: The FCA (civic association) survey is not to be confused with the survey conducted by Fairlington Villages (condo association).



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Fairlington tree walk, April 27



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

Join the *Bulletin's* long-time gardening columnist, Bill Sullivan (at left), for a walking tour of Fairlington trees, on Saturday, April 27. Meet on the front steps of the Fairlington Community Center at 10 am, for a leisurely two-hour stroll around the neighborhood. Starting with the graceful Deodar cedar at the center's entrance and the state-champion black oak on the grounds nearby, the tour will visit trees that are typical of Fairlington's shade canopy and a few that stand out as unusual here.

We'll take note of the grove of Japanese black pines (with irregular branching habit) along the fence at Utah Park; the black-barked locust trees with long black fruit pods near the Arbor pool; and the stands of Yoshino cherry trees throughout Fairlington, from the median on S. 33rd Street to the circle at S. 30th and S. Columbus. Along the way, Sullivan will point out street trees that have managed to survive and thrive for 70 years in the cramped three feet of county-owned space between sidewalk and curb. And tree walk participants can pursue additional tree-peeping on their own with the aid of Sullivan's annotated Fairlington tree list handout.

The rain date is Saturday, May 4. If there is any question about the weather on the morning of Saturday, April 27, check the FCA Web site for a go/no go message.

Expert tree pruning tips for Tree Stewards



Patrick Wegeng demonstrates pruning techniques. Photo, Guy Land.

On a sunny March day, the current training class of Tree Stewards of Arlington & Alexandria enjoyed field work in tree pruning techniques on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center. Patrick Wegeng, Arlington County Environmental Landscape Supervisor (above) conducted the three-hour demonstration and hands-on pruning workshop. Wegeng pointed out the typical growth patterns in two tree species and explained the need, first, to identify the species and understand its natural form before applying pruning shears or loppers. From this knowledge base, said Wegeng, "you can begin the necessary structural shaping to support a stronger and healthier tree with pruning."

Wegeng's pruning process tips: First, eliminate dead, damaged, or diseased branches. Then step back and study the tree's natural form and branching patterns. Then select any additional limbs or branches to be pruned to encourage the tree's fundamental structural elements, like scaffolding and a single central leader. For more information about Tree Stewards, go online to www.treestewards.org.

Green living expo, April 21

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, partnering with George Mason University, will sponsor a green living expo on Sunday, April 21, noon to 4:30 pm, at GMU Arlington Founders Hall, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, where you can learn how to green your home, community, and lifestyle. The event is free.

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Neighborhood Conservation Plan advances in the approval process



At the NCAC meeting in February, from left, Edith Wilson, Fairlington-Shirlington alternate representative to the NCAC, Katie Brown-Henry, from the Arlington County planning staff, FCA president Guy Land, and Ed Hilz, FCA treasurer and Fairlington-Shirlington representative to the NCAC.

In February, FCA president Guy Land, along with FCA treasurer Ed Hilz and Shirlington resident Edith Wilson, presented a slide show and summary of the Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation plan to the NCAC (Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee), as part of the process to secure approval for the neighborhood planning document. The committee, which had read the original 80-page report, commented on the quality of the plan and the value of the presentation. The committee unanimously approved the plan and recommended it to the Arlington County Planning Commission.

The approval process moved forward last month, when Land, Hilz, and Wilson (Fairlington-Shirlington alternate representative to the NCAC) presented the plan to the Planning Commission. The commissioners' questions showed that they were familiar with the plan, impressed by the level of effort that went into developing it, and engaged in the slide presentation. The commission unanimously recommended that the plan be forwarded to the Arlington County Board for approval.

The final step in the process will occur this month, when the FSNC plan will be presented at a scheduled meeting of the county board, by the team of Land, Hilz, and Wilson.

Continued, page 16

Letters to the Editor

Long time residents wish to age in place

I love living in north Fairlington—never, in more than 35 years, have I wanted to live elsewhere. Like many of my friends, I hope to age in place here. However, as we get older, we find that some issues become more difficult to resolve. I would hope that we—longtime and older residents—would be able to get some help from our community to allow us to age in place.

For example, we have difficulty finding help with such things as getting heavy pieces from the apartment to the curb for pick-up. And snow can present a similar obstacle. We were very lucky this winter with lack of snow, but past winters showed how it becomes more and more difficult for older residents to shovel out their cars. In the past, I myself have helped some older residents. Two years ago, though, by the end of the winter, I needed help. I did find someone to shovel the snow, but he charged an exorbitant rate. I paid it because I did not have any other option. Hopefully, our community can come up with a better plan.

—Lucille DiPalma, Fairlington Villages

Response from FCA president

The question of strategies to facilitate aging in place has definitely become more important in Fairlington. Many of our original owners from 35 years ago either still live here or have returned after raising a family in a larger home. As the 2010 census suggests, Fairlington's older population is growing. Indeed, we seem to be growing at both ends of the age spectrum. We now have more families with little children than we've ever had before in the community's condominium history. At the same time, we have more seniors than ever before. The challenge, of course, is to effectively juggle the needs of both groups. And, hopefully, think about ways to integrate them. The board will be considering these issues later this year. We welcome your thoughts as we go forward.

—Guy Land

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



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Many hands create success at meal-packing event



The Feeding Children Everywhere meal-packing event last month at Abingdon Elementary. Photos, Guy Land and Gretchen Fallon.

For both organizers and participants, the meal-packing event at Abingdon Elementary School last month was a great success. Cheered on by up-tempo music, teams of volunteers brought high energy to the task of filling single-serving plastic bags with healthy ingredients—rice, lentils, Himalayan salt, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamins. With synchronized scoops, team members poured measured amounts into the big yellow funnel; the baggie, below, was filled, and then sealed and packed. The resulting ready-to-prepare meal (just add contents to boiling water) is nutritious, tasty, and economical—each meal costs only 25 cents.

More than 500 volunteers worked in shifts in the school gym. Almost \$17,000 was raised to underwrite the cost of meal ingredients. And more than 60,000 meals were packed and donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Capital Area Food Bank—30,000 to each.

The healthy meal packet is the signature product of the non-profit Feeding Children Everywhere. Fairlington resident Patti Covington organized the local event, with promotional assistance from Fairlington neighbor and

FCA webmaster Christine Chirichella. And there were many other helping hands on deck, for meal packing and fund raising. Volunteers included teams from Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Macy's employees, the local chapter of the Michigan Alumni Club, Long & Foster, the DC United organization, the Fairlington Social Group meet-up and a meet-up from Reston, Abingdon fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts, T.C. Williams high school students, and many other Fairlington neighbors—there were volunteers from as far away as Virginia Beach.

Enthusiasm during the day was as strong as the pounding play list. One team member described the heady “buzz” that stays with you after doing something for someone else. Abingdon's Girl Scouts said they had fun and would gladly sign up for another event. Covington noted what many people said—they loved the fact that the food would help local families and they would love to participate again. That appreciation was echoed by Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada and board member Libby Garvey, a Fairlington resident, who stopped by the first shift to greet volunteers and thank them for their community spirit and participation.

MOMS Club sale draws large crowd

In March, the Fairlington chapter of the MOMS Club hosted its popular spring consignment sale of gently used baby and small children's clothing, maternity wear, toys, and baby gear at the Fairlington Community Center. Sale items, priced at a fraction of retail cost, drew an enthusiastic crowd of moms and moms-to-be. All proceeds were donated to the March of Dimes. The sale's accompanying vendor expo, featuring the small businesses of club members, included children's accessories, art, photography, and more. Watch for news of another MOMS sale this fall.



Photo, Guy Land.

Happening this month....

Audubon habitats at home

At a presentation by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Virginia Master Naturalists, especially tailored for Fairlington residents, you can learn how to create a backyard wildlife habitat that encourages visits from birds and butterflies. This idea-packed workshop is designed for small-property areas—small-space water gardens, native plants for containers, and the habitat needs of local wildlife.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 24, at 7pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3001 S. Abingdon Street. For more information about Master Naturalist programs, go online to virginiamasternaturalist.org.



Photo, Steven Garron.



Photo, Patty Clark.

Garden workshops at the FCC on Wednesday evenings in April

Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners will sponsor two gardening workshops at the Fairlington Community Center this month. Both workshops are free, but registration is requested, at 703-228-6414, mgarlalex@gmail.com, or at mgnv.org (go to Event Calendar and click on the event).

No-mow yards, Wednesday, April 3, 7 to 8:30 pm. Expert Evelyn Hadden will talk about design alternatives and how to choose and combine plants, design away repetitive chores like mulching, and let nature do more of the work.

Incorporating native plants in your garden, Wednesday, April 10, 7 to 8:30 pm. This introductory workshop, led by Alan Ford of the Virginia Native Plant Society, will explain why native plants benefit the environment, provide examples of native plants in our area, and highlight some native look-alikes that can replace common “exotic” invasive plants.

Parkfairfax native plant sale, April 27: Our neighbors in Parkfairfax once again invite us to the spring native plant sale—the 20th sale in Parkfairfax over the last ten years. The sale will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 9 am to 2 pm in the tennis courts parking lot at 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria. You’ll find native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. The sale hosts more than a dozen vendors from four states (VA, MD, PA, and WV)—the largest native plant sale in the DC metro area.

The sale is organized and run by volunteers. For more information about vendors, go online to www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org, or contact Scott Knudsen, 571-232-0375 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.

Property tax rate to be announced: In February, Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan announced a budget shortfall for fiscal year 2014 of about \$50 million. Donnellan’s budget proposal included a real estate property tax rate for calendar year 2013 of \$1.003 per \$100 of assessed value—an increase of 3.2 cents over the current rate of 97.1 cents. The County Board then advertised the higher rate of \$1.021—an increase of 5 cents. The board could approve a lower rate, but not a higher one. The board will set the property tax rate at the end of April.

Nature digital photography: For children ages 9 to 14, at Long Branch Nature Center, Sunday, April 7, 10:30 am to noon. Bring your own digital camera to photograph nature around the center’s park setting. (Bring your memory card, camera AV cables, and camera manual. Also, there are a couple of digital cameras for loan, with advance notice.) Learn about local wildlife and learn some tips on how to take pictures. We’ll take a short hike with our cameras and also have an opportunity to photograph some live nature center animals.

Meet at Long Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Rd., Arlington 22207. Register child only; \$5 fee due upon registration. For more information, call 703-228-6535 about program 632923-1.

Grow transplant seedlings now: Every spring, the Arlington Food Assistance Center, the county’s food pantry, offers free seeds to people who donate their garden-harvest extras to AFAC through the Plant a Row program. In addition, you can receive free seeds and grow seedlings now to donate to AFAC for distribution of starter plants to clients who have space to grow vegetables. AFAC will accept transplant seedlings start-

ing the first week in May. Also, if you're growing potted herbs and have extras, you can deliver them to AFAC 2708 S. Nelson Street. For more information, contact puwen.lee@afac.org.



Household hazmat recycling event,

April 20: At the spring E-CARE event, held at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School parking lot, 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 moni-

tors (\$15 fee), and televisions (\$20 fee)—not accepted are large wooden console TVs. You can also recycle small metal items, electronics, shoes, clothes, linens, eyeglasses, and durable medical equipment.

E-CARE is open to Arlington residents only—take ID with address. Commercial and business waste will not be

Dominion upgrades cables in north Fairlington



Beginning in March and continuing this month, Dominion Virginia Power is working to replace old, faulted bulk feeder with new cable on S. Buchanan Street between 27th Road S. and 29th Street S. Dominion engineers described the work as almost identical to that done on S. Utah Street near the community center over the winter—drilling in new cable along the road from switch to switch. When the cable replacement work is completed, land and street surfaces will be restored.

accepted. Also not accepted are asbestos, explosives and ammunition, Freon, medical waste, prescription medications, radioactive materials, and smoke detectors. Fees are payable in cash or check, only. For more information go online to www.arlingtonva.us/recycle or call 703-228-6832.



Street paving in north Fairlington: County work crews from the Department of Environmental Services' Water, Sewer, Streets Bureau will soon be milling and paving some north Fairlington streets, possibly starting this month or next, as part of Arlington's annual street preventive maintenance program. Residents will be notified by a flyer mailed to each address on affected streets, and the Bureau will use door hangers to remind residents when the work is ready to start.

The work will be done in phases, and there may be several days between phases. Be sure to observe the temporary "No Paking" signs that will go up during the milling and paving operations. Once signs go up, any car left on the street will be towed. For more information or questions, contact the project manager, Francis Soulamany, 703-228-7822.

Report potholes: Call 703-228-6570 or go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us > Environmental Services, to submit an online report.

Water system spring cleaning: Starting last month and running through April, Arlington will undergo its annual, temporary switch in water disinfectant (from chloramine to chlorine), as part of a routine program to clean and maintain the water distribution systems in D.C., Arlington County, and Falls Church. Both disinfectants are widely used and EPA approved. During the temporary switch to chlorine, local water authorities will also conduct system-wide flushing to "enhance water quality." For more information, go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search Environmental Services > Water.

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2013 Home and Garden Tour
Saturday, May 11, 2013
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Reserve Your Tickets!

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Telephone _____ Email _____

Number of tickets _____ Amount (\$10.00 per ticket) \$ _____

I'm also making a contribution to support the FHS and the 2009 Home & Garden Tour.

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make your check payable to 'Fairlington Historical Society' and send it to the FHS at 2776 South Arlington Mill Drive #150, Arlington, Virginia 22206

Where/When To Pick Up Your Tickets

Fairlington Community Center, 3308 South Stafford Street

- Friday, May 3rd, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 South Abingdon Street

- Saturday, May 4th, 8:00 am – noon – at the FHS table at the Yard Sale
- On Tour Day - Saturday, May 11th - starting at 10:00 am

The Fairlington Historical Society, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and all contributions are deductible in accordance with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code.



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Fairlington Resident

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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Guy Land credited the smooth advancement of the plan to the long-time involvement in the Neighborhood Conservation Program of Ed Hilz, who authored the original 1987 FSNC plan, has served for years on the advisory committee, and has shepherded the plan through several changes over the years.

For more information, view the plan online at the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org/issues/conservation-plan.

Park Shirlington advisory committee forming

The FCA's Park Shirlington advisory committee is still gathering names of neighbors who are interested in serving. The committee will closely examine the details of the redevelopment plan for the Park Shirlington apartments, monitor the plan's progress, and recommend responses to the association board. You can make your interest known by contacting FCA president Guv Land at president@fca-fairlington.org.

FCA visits condo associations: FCA president Guy Land has visited six of the seven condo associations at their monthly meetings this year. Land explained the civic association's goals in representing the entire Fairlington community and answered questions from the condo boards.



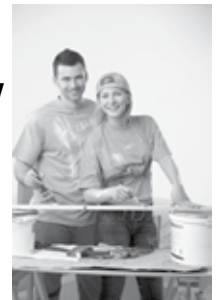
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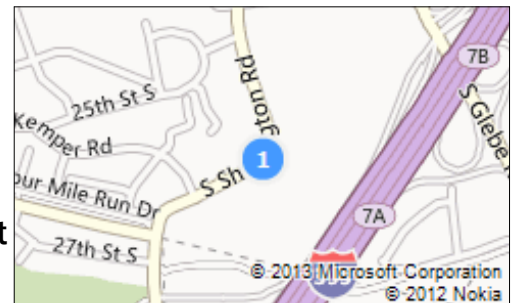
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— Fairlington at 70 —

Home to notable trees

Along with red-brick buildings, the leafy green of mature trees is one of the first things you notice about Fairlington. But it wasn't always that way. When the neighborhood was built in the early 1940s, the streets and grassy common areas were fairly innocent of foliage. Along sun-baked concrete, landscaping consisted of a few staked saplings.



A landscape-deprived Fairlington street in the 1940s. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

Seventy years later, the saplings have grown up. Fairlington's now characteristic tree-lined streets create a pleasing bower effect, as residents move through dappled sun and shade. Over the decades, Fairlington residents have developed a proprietary affection for "their" trees—even though the most mature examples are street trees owned and maintained by the county. During summer droughts, neighbors will snake a garden hose out to the public sidewalk to assist the survival of a struggling, newly-planted street tree. And when Fairlington's trees were hard hit by the micro-burst storm of August 2010, neighbors gathered on street corners in the aftermath to stare mournfully at all the cracked, broken, and uprooted trees.

Fairlingtonians know that planting trees makes a difference. That was the message of Jeff Kirwan, Virginia Tech professor in the Department of Forestry, who spoke about five years ago at the Fairlington Community Center to a receptive audience of Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and neighborhood tree "fans."

Kirwan, author of *Champion Trees of Virginia*, credited Fairlington for its interest in and stewardship of its arboreal assests, noting that trees not only beautify the neigh-

borhood, but also provide environmental and economic benefits, by helping to clean the air, reduce storm water run-off, and reduce energy costs. Fairlington was also commended for being home to eight winners of Arlington's Notable Tree Program status, which is designed to honor especially remarkable examples of size or species on private property—like the outsized saw tooth oak on S. Buchanan Street and the unusual laurel oak on S. Stafford Street. Fairlington is also home to a Virginia state champion tree—the towering black oak on the grounds of the FCC.

Note: See page 7 for information about the Fairlington tree walk on April 27.

Reserve tickets for Home and Garden Tour

The 2013 Home and Garden Tour, sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society, will be held on Saturday, May 11, 11 am to 3 pm. This year's tour features a wonderful group of homes with renovated kitchens and baths, tasteful interior decoration, and beautiful gardens.



You can reserve your tickets by returning the flyer in this month's *Bulletin*. You can purchase tickets or pick up reserved tickets on Friday, May 3, 6 to 8 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) and on Saturday, May 4, 8 am to noon, at the

yard sale in the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon St.) parking lot. You can also purchase tickets on the day of the tour at the NFCC starting at 10 am.

If you would like to help, we are still seeking more home sitters to guide tour participants through our featured homes. Shifts last just 2½ hours so that home sitters can tour the other homes. If you are interested in helping with the tour,

or would like to nominate your home or garden, please e-mail us at FHGshow2013@gmail.com.



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FAIRLINGTON *community center news*

Classes and workshops

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

Mixed media family fun (tot and adult): This class is for a parent or caregiver and a child. Adult and child will explore the five basic genres of the visual arts through themed projects: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and collage. All materials included. Plan to get messy; wear old clothes. Ages 4 to 6. 8 sessions, starting Saturday, April 20, 10 – 11 am, \$97. Inst: Drake. 320113A

Poetry workshop (adult): This workshop will give you the opportunity to share your passion for language, whether you've dabbled in poetry before or are completely new to the page. Participants will learn about different styles and forms of poetry and have at least two polished poems by workshop's end. The format will help poets shape their own poems through serious yet compassionate critiques of work (as well as lively class discussions). Some nominal outside reading may be required. Adults. 6 sessions, starting Tuesday, April 16, 7 – 9 pm, \$110. Inst: Murphy. 340158A

Stop motion/digital arts animation (youth): Using paper and a variety of mixed media, learn the secret of stop motion animation. Ages 8 to 11. 8 sessions starting Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 – 6 pm, \$128. Inst: Nerone. 320127A

Modern Quilting (youth and adult): Quilting is not just for our grandmothers anymore! This class teaches the basics of quilting using modern patterns and fabrics. Skills

covered include safety measures for cutting and sewing, fabric-cutting (using a rotary cutter and shears), threading a sewing machine and winding a bobbin, creating and combining quilt blocks, and sewing a quilt. Some machine sewing experience is helpful for this class but not required. Students will complete at least one quilted project by the end of the week. 6 sessions, \$175. Inst: Hardin. Ages 9 to 14, Monday, April 15, 4:30 – 6:30 pm. 320118A; Ages 15 to adult, Monday, April 15, 7 – 9 pm. 320118B

Apron workshop (sewing basics): Ever wanted to sew and just didn't know where to start? This workshop is a great way to get started. Learn how to use a sewing machine while completing a useful apron. Fee includes materials and use of in-class machine. Ages 15 to adult. 2 sessions starting Saturday, April 20, 10 am – 1 pm. \$54. Inst: Hardin. 340111A

Sewing open studio: Open Studio is for students who already know how to sew, but would like to work on independent projects while receiving one-on-one assistance and supervision. Basic sewing skills are required. Students must select a basic fabric item to develop during the class and bring their own fabric. 6 sessions. Inst: Hardin. Ages 9 to 14, \$162. Wednesday, April 17, 4:30 – 6:30 pm. 320120A; Ages 15 to adult, \$180. Wednesday, April 17, 7 – 9 pm. 320120B

Adapted program, Adult arts & crafts: In this fun and exciting program, adults (18+) with disabilities experiment with various materials and mediums to create works of art. Art techniques explored are papermaking, brush painting, col-

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.

Get a complete description of classes online, www.arlingtonva.us > DPR or call 703-228-4747.

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.

lage, and using recycled materials. 4 sessions starting Monday, April 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. \$30. Inst: Halloran. 302006A

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



It's important to know a plant's "habit" before buying



Yoshino cherry trees spread out at 30th St. S. and S. Columbus. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

As in interior design, the beauty of exterior design (or landscaping) is dependent on available space. Too many elements produce a cluttered look. Too few and the design looks barren. But a modest amount of items that “fit together” well will yield a balanced, aesthetically-pleasing appearance.

In landscaping, the key word is “habit,” which refers to a plant’s size at full maturity. In a Fairlington patio, it’s imperative to know a plant’s habit so your small space doesn’t become “jungle-like.”

Three areas to consider are vertical space, horizontal space, and lateral (or ground) space. If you want a tree for your patio, make sure it’s one that won’t reach roof level, brush against the rain gutter, or scratch the windows of your upstairs neigh-

bor. Modest-size tree suggestions are the snowbell, serviceberry, dwarf crape myrtle, and dogwood. All specimens need pruning, but these ornamental trees are best suited for smaller spaces.

Then there is horizontal space—the width of a specimen. Two Yoshino cherry trees (like the ones around the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial) front the building at 4504 S. 36th Street. Each is “only” 12 feet tall—that’s modest in terms of verticality—but both spread more than 24 feet in width. In late March to early April, they are beautiful accents to the landscape, as any realtor could attest, when describing the front entrance appeal of this Arbor residence. These trees situate well on the front lawn. But they never would work well inside a fenced-in patio.

Lateral growth (or ground space coverage) is an important consideration since you want some open areas in the landscape, where the freshly mulched ground is visible. Too much ground cover produces a network of vines with tangled foliage that looks unkempt. These crawling specimens wind their way in and around nearby shrubs and trees, while also crawling up the fence and gate. In some cases, I’ve seen a neglected patio’s ground cover vines entangle the gate’s hardware latch so it wouldn’t open. Periwinkle is a ground cover with a height of only 3 or 4 inches—but it grows laterally for yards on end. Another ground cover, Pachysandra is more vertical, reaching 6 inches tall. Its underground roots (stolons) grow laterally, which germinate into new, vertical shoots.

At a plant nursery, read the tag, which indicates the specimen’s “habit.” When the tag reads 10’T, 12’W, it means the plant will reach 10 feet tall and 12 feet wide at “full” maturity—much larger than the plant as you see it now. Most labels are accurate since they are wrapped around a plant branch either at a grower’s farm location (North Carolina, Washington State, Oregon) or retail nursery in Northern Virginia. Size also affects price. You may purchase a 2-foot-tall camellia for \$35 and be patient while it grows to 7 to 8 feet. Or, you may purchase an 8-foot-tall camellia for \$450.

— Bill Sullivan,
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Abingdon third graders explain to educators from Baltimore, Maryland, how they used Apple technology to complete a social studies project about economics. Photo, Dana Andy.

Abingdon and Apple host conference for regional educators

Last month, Apple Computer and the Abingdon staff hosted two dozen educators, mostly from the DC metro area, to demonstrate how Abingdon creatively and successfully integrates technology into the lesson plans for various subjects. The guests were treated to presentations by Abingdon faculty while also visiting classrooms to witness firsthand the integration of technology. Darryl Joyner, ITC at Abingdon, expressed that the goal of bringing Apple to Abingdon was twofold: to proudly display our use of technology and to emphasize the importance of inter-connecting IT school personnel with the instructional teams. "Here at Abingdon we believe that IT personnel must understand and embrace the learning goals and objectives set forth by the instructional team," he said.

Abingdon outdoor garden classroom showcased at national conference

Vice Principal Gail Seligson and science teacher Anne Sywilok were invited to present at the National ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) conference in Chicago last month. The title of their presentation was "Create an Elementary School Science Outdoor Learning Environment."

Their purpose was to highlight ways in which the Abingdon outdoor garden classroom has become a focal point of the school science program. Last year, Abingdon donated 315 pounds of produce from the school's garden to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Mss. Seligson and Sywilok also shared ways to develop, create, and fund an outdoor classroom and ways to create purposeful learning activities that connect the garden to SOLs (Standards of Learning). They also pointed out the

benefits of Interactive Notebooks to foster students' learning. Their presentation serves as the model how-to for successfully involving children and the community in an outdoor garden project.

Kindergarten parents rave about their first year at Abingdon

While many parents are contemplating what elementary school to send their children to next fall, we want to share the thoughts and experiences of parents that chose Abingdon last spring.



Kindergarten teachers Kate Neal and Mary Cantwell have loved their first year at Abingdon. The diversity of students, multiple intelligences curriculum, and arts integration through CETA are among the things that have impressed them the most about Abingdon. Photo, Dan Branch.

Our daughter has grown by leaps and bounds academically and her teachers have fostered a love of school. — Rebecca Kim, Fairlington resident

Our daughter is thriving in Kindergarten. Her class has a monthly small publishing party where parents come in and listen to students read books they

Continued, page 25



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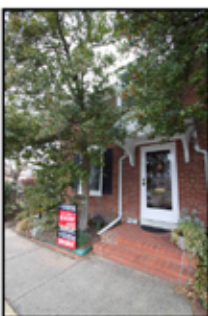


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Animal Talk

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**PLEASE
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DOG**

Spring is here, bringing with it Daylight Saving Time, flowers in bloom, and the annual AFB poop rant to remind dog owners that it

is the law (not to mention the considerate thing to do) to scoop your dog's poop.

In a community as large and densely populated as Fairlington, pet owners need to be especially diligent about picking up after their dogs—according to an online source, one 75-lb. dog produces 500 lbs. of poop a year. Multiply that by the number of

dogs in Fairlington, and you get... well, a lot of poop to deal with!

Dog waste is obviously unpleasant to look at and step in, but it's also a health and environmental hazard. Pet feces can contaminate the water supply, putting all of us at risk of illness. Feces left on the ground can spread disease and create a messy, unsanitary, and unhealthy situation for all of us—especially the many children in the neighborhood who might play in the grass. Leaving poop on the ground even puts other dogs at risk—my own dog contracted a parasite called toxidia, which is caused by ingesting fecal matter. My dog likes to dig and eat dirt, which is likely how the transfer inadvertently occurred.

Last but not least, I want to remind dog owners to properly dispose of the used bags in trash receptacles provided throughout the neighborhood. Every day I see poop bags strewn on the ground wherever lazy dog owners feel like leaving them. It is not only unsightly to see bags scattered all over Fairlington, but it's also against the policy of the condo associations. Be a good citizen and take those few extra steps to throw the poop bag away instead of just assuming the trash collection crews will find every randomly tossed bag in the neighborhood. Please do your part to help keep Fairlington beautiful, safe, and healthy—and still pet-friendly.

—Christine M. Chirichella,
Assistant editor

School, Continued from page 23

have written. Project GIFT and CETA are amazing programs that cultivate her love of art and architecture. This school has everything you could ask for, and we are so happy we chose Abingdon. —Julie Brady, Fairlington resident

Our son has been especially excited about math and reading. He also loves making his own e-books on the iPads. Abingdon has been a wonderful experience—he comes home everyday wanting to write his own books. —Catherine Ladd, Fairlington parent

My Kindergartner loves her teachers, Ms. Neal and Ms. Woodson. She goes to school each morning excited to learn. The Abingdon community is like a family; we are so lucky to be a part of it. —Carrie Lewis, Fairlington resident

Our daughter is really happy in Kindergarten. It is wonderful to see how much she loves her classes and teachers. We will stay at Abingdon! —Angela Hall, Fairlington resident

We looked at several schools in Arlington and decided Abingdon was the best fit for our daughter because of its emphasis on the arts and technology. —Betsy Rosso

Abingdon kids in creativity competition

Abingdon sent two teams to compete in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition at West Potomac High School in March. This is the second year Abingdon has participated in this international program, which challenges students from kindergarten through college to problem solve

in creative and independent ways. One team created a musical production with a Jamestown longhouse and several ancient artifacts. The other team created a play demonstrating different and similar behaviors between two made-up worlds. Both teams followed very specific criteria: write a script, develop and create scenery and costumes, and act out the final product before a panel of judges. This year's teams were: Mia Hayes, Johnny Merritt, Izzy Lettau, Tori Moyer, Eryka Staren-Doby, and Isabella Wince, who were coached by parent John Merritt and teacher David McDavitt. The team coached by parent Michelle Marston included Alex Perkins, Emily Andrews, Ellen Egeland, Teresa Felipe, Sophie Hott, and Abby Presson.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

Shirlee's girls night out!

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*Kick-Off Event
April 4th*



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**Times will vary for each event*



neighborhood news

Book Group

In E. L. Doctorow's *The March*, the chaos and fury of war forever change the lives of people, both black and white, as they are swept up in Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's 1864-65 campaigns through Georgia and the Carolinas. All Fairlingtonians are invited to discuss the novel on Tuesday, April 23, 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.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. This month, we'll vary a little from our usual schedule (ethnic dinners on the second Thursday of the month and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday of the month).

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 pm, Fish Market, 105 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-5676, fishmarketva.com. To honor St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, an Irish theme seems appropriate for March. We'll go on a Tuesday, so that we can participate in Quiz Night at 7:30, which tests general knowledge and awards prizes.

Monday, April 29, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

For either event, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her 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.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members and their children of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parent's Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and groups such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly

age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are wonderful for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, April 10, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op accepting new members

If you are looking for a night out without the kids or an afternoon to yourself, look no further than the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, the Babysitting Co-op has been a community of parents helping parents right here in our neighborhood.

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who 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.

How to join? Fairlington residents (north or south) can send e-mail to the coordinators at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com for more information or to request an application.

Calling all Fairlington golfers

Since Arlington doesn't have a public golf course, ASGC may be your ticket to golf in Northern Virginia. Arlington Seniors Golf Club is open to men and women who are 55+ and enjoy golf. The annual membership fee is \$40. ASGC plays on Tuesdays and Thursdays between April and October. In 2013, the club will play at 24 different courses in NoVA, and greens fees are very reasonable. For more information, contact club president John Mashaw at 703-892-3793 or johnmashaw@comcast.net or membership chairman Terry Townshend at 703-971-3124 artistic_dimensions@msn.com.



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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

CHILD CARE. Warm home setting and nurturing environment. Experienced and licensed. Spanish speaking. Excellent references. Please call 703-824-0385.

NANNY SHARE. Seeking Fairlington family for nanny share infant/toddler to begin this summer. Contact: Mandy 571-232-8732 or amandamorelock@hotmail.com.

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SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Now in its 21st year, Sullivan's Landscaping will tend to your patio in a variety of ways: a new planting design, removal of existing shrubs, weeding, mulching, pruning and hardscapes as well. If you'd like a new flagstone or brick patio over the existing concrete patio, email or call Bill Sullivan at billsullivan41@gmail.com or (cell) 571-213-9567.

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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: 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,
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Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

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