

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

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Volume 42, Number 4

County board's Dorsey featured speaker at FCA's April meeting

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Christian Dorsey, one of two new members elected to the Arlington County Board in November 2015, will be the guest speaker at the April 13 FCA meeting at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Dorsey will be available to take questions from Fairlingtonians and discuss issues of importance across Arlington.



Arlington County Board member Christian Dorsey, elected in November 2015 will speak at the Fairlington Citizens Association monthly meeting on April 13. Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

Dorsey has lived in Arlington for over 20 years and also resides in South Arlington. As a board member for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and a commissioner on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Dorsey has developed expertise in regional transportation. He is an Arlington Public Schools (APS) parent, and served on the APS Facilities Advisory Committee and Building Level Planning Committee for the Abingdon Elementary expansion.

He has served on a number of other boards and advisory commissions in Arlington, and has been involved with community development in the nearby Nauck neighborhood.

In Dorsey's first speech as a county board member, he noted that during his campaign, residents of Arlington indicated that they are generally satisfied with the community, schools, neighborhoods, planning, and a host of other aspects of life in the county. But he noted, "There is also an anxiety that the quality of life we are enjoying will not continue" due to challenges in commercial vacancies, high school enrollments, increases in housing costs, transit deficiencies, and limited space throughout the county.

Dorsey advocates sustainable growth for the county, meaning "how we meet our present needs and overcome current challenges without compromis-

Continued on page 31

Fairlington 5K set for April 23. See page 11

Coming up ...

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

FCA monthly meeting April 13

Special presentation: Arlington County Board member Christian Dorsey will address the FCA and residents concerning current and future county business.

Regular board business:

- Approval of March minutes
- Office reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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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 571-403-1942.

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Monday, April 6, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, April 23, 8:30 am
Abingdon Elementary School

Book Club

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 pm
Tempo Restaurant
4231 Duke St., Alexandria

Digging in the street



An Arlington County crew repairs a major water line leak on S. 31st St. in February. Photo by Guy Land.

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

Contributing writers this month:

Rebecca Carpenter, Jennifer Davies, Lane Erwin, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan, Lindsay Willmann, and Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you make it to FCA's first-ever home improvement showcase last month? Almost 500 people thronged the Fairlington Community Center, picked up tips in popular seminars, and compared notes and experiences with their neighbors.

We definitely found a topic that many of you are interested in. From top to bottom renovation, to tweaking your bathroom or kitchen—still have that harvest gold?—to enhancing the patio landscaping, residents welcomed the chance to learn about options and costs from contractors who routinely work in Fairlington.

A number of you told me how much you appreciated having several contractors in one place, while others said the showcase helped them realize the importance of choosing a contractor that has done work in Fairlington.

Special thanks goes to the vendors, who were willing to take a chance (and pay money) on an unproven concept. We appreciate their commitment to our community. One of the most popular tables was staffed by Arlington County representatives, who walked participants through the county's permitting process. They gave up a chunk of their Saturday to join us. Finally, particular kudos go to FCA director Chris Weathers, who lined up the vendors, arranged the seminars, and coordinated the space, assisted by FCA board members.

Based on last month's experience, I suspect we'll sponsor another showcase next year. We welcome your suggestions and comments about ways to make it even better.

The home improvement showcase is one of several community activities happening in Fairlington this spring. April 23 brings the third running of the Fairlington 5K, which benefits Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie. This is truly a community event, with hundreds of runners, most of whom live in Fairlington or have ties to Abingdon, pitching in to support our local elementary school. We're still looking for volunteers, so let us know if you'd like to help out.

I remind you if you live along the race route that the roads will be closed until the last runners have passed by your area.

Finally, the Fairlington Farmers Market will launch its second year on May 1. That's a couple of weeks later than last year's opening. The market quickly established itself as a central gathering point for Fairlingtonians, in addition to being an excellent source for quality fresh produce. Based on last year's pilot experience, the county has renewed the market's permit for three more years. Come check it out.

These popular activities show what a vibrant neighborhood Fairlington is.

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



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Fairlington condo associations weigh Verizon FiOS

At least two Fairlington condominium associations are moving ahead with bringing Verizon FiOS, the high-speed fiber-optic Internet and television network, into the neighborhood.



A Verizon worker installs FiOS high-speed fiber optic technology into an Arlington County dwelling. Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

While Fairlington Arbor and Fairlington Mews boards of directors have voted to approve and sign Verizon's Premise Access License agreement (PAL), the other associations were scheduled to discuss the proposal among themselves and with Verizon representatives at a March 22 meeting at the Fairlington Community Center. A signed PAL initiates an engineering site survey of the property.

Fairlington Meadows said it was to take up the FiOS issue at its March 30 board meeting, while Fairlington Green was to hold its board meeting March 31. The Commons was to take up the issue at its board meeting on March 15, according to Bernie Weaver, the board's president. The Glen board met on March 8 and appointed Bob Patrician and Lee Henry to be on the point for the FiOS discussions.

"Our board will not entertain a vote on the PAL without lots of further information," said Jay Yianilos, Glen board president.

Fairlington Court board president Joe Hartman expressed his desire to take part in joint discussions, and Fairlington Villages president Terry Placek said the association was in negotiations with Verizon, but could not provide an answer on the situation of Fairlington Vil-

lages units that are located in Alexandria. Verizon does not have a franchise agreement with the City of Alexandria. At press time, most of these meetings had not yet occurred; the outcomes of the meetings will be shared in the May *Bulletin*.

"Our board will not entertain a vote on the PAL without lots of further information."

—Jay Yianilos, Glen board president

Arlington County Cable

Administrator Rob Billingsley, along with Verizon Director of Business Development, Bill King, and Engineer Lloyd Saunders attended February's FCA monthly meeting to discuss and answer questions on the FiOS proposal. Verizon is scheduled to reach FiOS buildout in Arlington by June 30, meaning the network would be ready to install in all Arlington dwellings.

Fairlington is comprised of seven condo associations and one homeowner association, which means the units are considered multi-dwelling. Each association must approve its own PAL, individually.

In a letter outlining its deployment process, Verizon expressed concern about Fairlington's historic designation. However, Placek, president of the Fairlington Historical Society, said she did not believe the designation would pose a problem.

As for the next steps with a signed PAL, Verizon engineers will contact the condo associations to schedule a date and timeframe for the survey. Each association is to provide representatives to escort the engineers throughout the property, in order to conduct a detailed engineering site survey, according to Verizon.

Verizon has said it will incur the costs of the survey and installation.

From there, the engineers present each association's board with a detailed engineering design, which the board can approve, disapprove, or request modifications.

Construction and installation commence only when the association and Verizon agree on the engineering design, and Verizon said it would keep residents apprised of developments regularly through the *All Fairlington Bulletin* and other means.

FCA, led by director Kent Duffy, is facilitating the discussions among the condo associations and Verizon.

—Bob Bradley

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VDOT to hold April HOT Lanes meetings

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold two public information briefings on the plan for High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes along I-395 in April. These public engagement sessions will lay the foundation for the formal environmental assessment of the project that will occur later this year.

The first session will be Monday, April 11, in the Wakefield High School cafeteria, 1325 S. Dinwiddie St., Arlington, while the second one will be Wednesday, April 13, in the Francis C. Hammond High School auditorium, 4646 Seminary Rd., Alexandria. Both sessions will run from 6 to 9 pm.

The meetings will feature a presentation by VDOT, followed by an opportunity to review maps and materials. VDOT staff will be available to discuss the project, answer questions, and take comments from the public.

Mike McGurk, Senior Corporate Relations Associate for Transurban (the private company that will build and operate the HOT Lanes), reported at the March meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation that the project would significantly reduce congestion in the I-395 corridor. It will increase capacity along the corridor by adding an additional HOV lane to make three reversible lanes on I-395.

The project will begin where the current I-95 HOT Lanes end and continue eight miles north to the D.C. line.

McGurk explained that the additional lane would be added within the existing highway right of way. Unlike the I-395 proposal several years ago, no additional land will be required for the project. The earlier proposal had called for a major revamping and expansion of the Shirlington Circle, but that plan is no longer on the table.

There would be capacity and operational improvements at the S. Eads St. entrance.

The existing HOV entry and exit points on the current I-395 HOV lanes would become accessible for toll-paying customers. The 395 Express Lanes would operate just like the 95 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia. Carpoolers and sluggers with three or more people in the vehicle would continue to travel for free with an E-ZPass® FlexSM set to HOV mode. Those willing to pay a toll would be able to access the lanes 24/7 with an E-ZPass®. The toll amount would be based on current traffic conditions

According to Amanda Baxter, VDOT Special Projects Development Manager, later this year VDOT will launch an environmental study that will focus particularly on

noise and pollution associated with the project. If the study indicates a significant increase in noise along the corridor, communities along the route will have the opportunity to vote on whether they want to add sound barriers.

McGurk noted that the project will be designed to utilize a portion of toll revenues for guaranteed annual funding for public transit, such as improved bus service.



Amanda Baxter and Susan Shaw of the Virginia Department of Transportation, and Eric Sutton of Transurban address a group of more than 40 residents about the proposed I-395 HOT Lanes project during a special Fairlington Citizen's Association meeting on Monday, March 14, at the Fairlington Community Center. Photo by Bob Bradley.

VDOT and Transurban held a special briefing for Fairlington and surrounding neighborhoods at an FCA-sponsored meeting on March 14.

At that meeting, residents expressed concern about the potential bottleneck that would occur at the Eads St. exit and approaching the 14th St. bridge to D.C. Susan Shaw, Megaproject coordinator for VDOT, said VDOT and Transurban will be working to improve the exit and create transition lanes that will help minimize the backup at the end of the express lanes.

In response to a question about the potential toll cost for a trip from Shirlington to D.C., Transurban Vice President for Corporation Relations Eric Sutton said the price would range from \$1.50 to \$3.00, depending on traffic conditions. The HOT lanes use "dynamic pricing," which boosts the toll in times of congestion.

A number of questions focused on the process for installing noise barriers along the route. Baxter explained that residents who live within 500 feet of the VDOT right-of-way and are "impacted and benefited" would vote on whether they wanted sound barriers.

—Guy Land



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Abingdon School construction set to begin

The arrival of portable classrooms (“relocatables”) on the Abingdon Elementary School playing field this spring offers the first visible evidence that the school expansion and renovation project is getting underway. Changes on the school site will be occurring frequently in the coming weeks. The Arlington County School Board approved the final design plan on March 3.

When the county board considered the use permit for the school in September, some residents expressed concern about the removal of trees on the property, as well as the adequacy of stormwater protection measures. APS has modified the plan to respond to these questions.

Major construction work is slated to begin on July 5. The current school parking lot will become the construction staging area, and most of the rest of the playing field will be converted to school parking. Arlington Public Schools (APS) does not plan to pave the area but instead use a gravel material as a temporary surface.

The trees along S. 29th St. will come down in preparation for this change, but as a result of consultation with the county’s urban forester, six additional trees will be preserved on the property. APS has also included additional stormwater collection components, including urban planters to collect rainwater, permeable pavement for the new school parking lot, and a bio retention component on the playing field.

The playing field will be used for relocatables and parking throughout the construction period. APS hopes to reserve a small portion of the field for public use during construction.

Major construction activities that will begin this summer include the new gym at the northwestern end of the building and the three-story classroom addition behind the building. Renovation work will also be occurring inside the building, and the relocatables will provide classroom space during the renovation.

Once construction work begins in earnest, construction-related vehicles will be frequently accessing the property from S. 29th St. For the classroom addition at the back of the school, APS is hoping to provide construction access through the Trades Center property behind the school. This would be used solely during the construction period; it would not be a permanent access to the school property. There are no plans for any construction access across Ft. Reynolds Park.

APS has committed to monitoring the foundations of condo units adjacent to the school site to identify any construction-related impacts. An initial pre-construction baseline assessment will be conducted this spring. APS is considering documenting both exterior and interior conditions and is working with the affected condo associations to arrange access to the units.



Abingdon project manager Aji Robinson (second from left) joins Fairlington leaders Guy Land, Carol Dabbs, Anne Wasowski, and Cindy Kunz at the February briefing on the construction plans for Abingdon Elementary School. Photo by Andrew Vitols.

In addition to the exterior work, this summer the contractor will begin major interior renovations, including enclosing classrooms and making the spaces more functional. The overall interiors will be tied closely to Abingdon’s exemplary program, Project GIFT, and will feature themes based on Howard Gardner’s multiple intelligences. Through the use of graphics, the eight multiple intelligences

will be highlighted throughout the existing building and the new construction, connecting the school across eight teaching corridors.

The final design adds 140 seats to Abingdon’s capacity, which will relieve current overcrowding at the school. Construction is scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of school in the fall of 2017.

APS will hold a general briefing for the community later this spring, likely in May. APS staff provided Fairlington residents with an update on the construction plans in late February.

—Guy Land



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Fairlington 5K set for April 23; Auction April 15

The third annual Fairlington 5K Run/Walk is right around the corner, and several hundred participants are expected to take part.

The non-competitive event itself is Saturday, April 23 at 8:30 am and winds through the neighborhoods of Fairlington, beginning and ending at Abingdon Elementary School. Last year, the event had more than 600 entrants,



Above is the map of the route for the Fairlington 5K Run/Walk which will begin at 8:30 am, starting and ending at the Abingdon Elementary School, Saturday April 23.

who enjoyed the day while helping to raise funds for A Cure For Ellie and Abingdon Elementary School.

A Cure for Ellie was set up to assist Ellie McGinn, an Abingdon Elementary School second-grader diagnosed with Leukodystrophy (LBSL) in September 2011. LBSL is a uniquely rare degenerative brain and spinal cord mitochondrial disease. Due to the rare genetic disorder, McGinn's body does not produce a protein essential for the production of myelin. Myelin is a critical substance for the brain and nervous system that provides insulation and helps transmit signals from the brain to the rest of the body. There is no known cure yet for LBSL.

A companion to the race is a silent auction on Friday, April 15, from 6 to 8 pm at the Fairlington Villages Community Center at 3005 S. Abingdon St. There will be an open bar and food provided for adults 21 and over, said Joe Reed, an Abingdon Elementary School physical edu-

Streets along the race route will be closed during the race.

cation teacher and one of the organizers of the event.

Some items to be auctioned off include Nationals tickets, a beach house for a week in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, a police escort to school, the opportunity to be principal for a day, and a variety of restaurant gift cards including Osteria da Nino, Carlyle, and Best Buns.

There are also gift baskets from Great Harvest, Fur-Get Me Not, and Pro Feed Pet Nutrition; a membership to Gold's Gym; Capital Wheel tickets; and two tickets to Detox Retox Yoga Event, which includes an hour-long yoga class and a pint of beer afterwards at various locations in Arlington.

There's also Orange Line Sports Summer Basketball Camp for a week, ice cream with Abingdon teachers, Abingdon book bus captain, and much more.

Members of the community are welcome to reach out to Reed if they have goods or services that they would like to donate. He can be contacted via email at Fairlington5k@gmail.com.

As for the April 23 race, Safeway has agreed to donate water and bananas at the pits stops, and Fairlington resident Kay Houghton of Keller Williams Realty will be providing water for all participants at the end of the race.

Fox 5 news is sending over an anchor to DJ the race.

New District Brewing Company on Four Mile Run will host an after-party race, opening its doors at 10:30 am (normally opens at 12 noon to the public) for all participants, family, and friends of Fairlington. A portion of the proceeds will go to Abingdon and A Cure for Ellie. Kids of all ages are welcomed at the brewery; it will be a family-friendly environment. There will be food trucks outside for people to order food as well.

Because of the race, many streets around Fairlington will be closed to through traffic for about a half hour to an hour-and-a-half, depending on location. These are rolling road closures, so after the race goes by, that portion of the road will open back up. Road closure will begin at 8 am. All roads should be open by 9:30 am, pending any delays.

Register for the event at fairlington5K.com.

—Bob Bradley

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Milliken outlines challenges facing Arlington

Arlington's scarcest resource is land, John Milliken told a small group of Fairlington residents at FCA's March meeting. Milliken chairs Arlington County's Community Facilities Study Committee, a citizen group charged by the county with addressing community challenges that, if left unaddressed, could threaten Arlington's overall sustainability. His presentation summarized the committee's findings and recommendations.

Milliken said other challenges to Arlington's future include changing demographics, a threatened commercial tax base, the lack of strategic planning and priority setting, and the need to revamp the dialog between the county and the community.



FCA President Guy Land and Secretary Lindsay Willman, along with John Milliken at the FCA's monthly meeting on March 9. Photo by Andi Dies.

According to Milliken, a former member of the county board and former Virginia transportation secretary, the lack of land for public facilities imperils the county's ability to respond effectively to a projected population growth of 36 percent by 2040. Arlington includes 26.2 square miles, of which only 2.2 square miles are owned by the county or the school system.

The committee suggested maximizing the use of existing land through shared use of facilities, building "up rather than out," and creating "new" land, such as development over I-66. The committee recommended that the county establish a dedicated land acquisition fund that could be used to increase the inventory of county-owned property when key parcels became available.

In discussing the county's changing demographics, Milliken noted that the fastest growing age groups in the county are those from zero to five and those 65 and older. Key questions for the county include where do the millennials go when they have children; do they stay in Arlington or move elsewhere? Can young adults afford to live here? Do we have housing and services for those over 65? Are we using the best techniques to project the future school population?

The committee's recommendations include improving forecasting methods, developing strategies to retain mil-

lennials, and evaluating and enhancing "wrap-around" services in the school system.

Milliken noted that Arlington's budget situation is threatened by a high office vacancy rate, created in part by BRAC; the changing culture in office use; and competition from markets with new transit access, such as Metro's silver line. Each 1 percent of office occupancy is worth \$3.4 million in local taxes.

In addition to stepping up marketing efforts, his committee recommended adding an economic impact component to assessments of proposed private developments, and looking as well at improved cost efficiencies for public facilities and services.

Milliken stressed the need to better engage the community in county decisionmaking. "We need to improve opportunities for meaningful participation and experiment continuously with new channels of communication," he said.

The county board has sent the committee's report out for comment and hopes to begin acting on it in September.

— Lindsay Willmann

County looking for input on Fairlington Park project

Arlington County is conducting an information gathering survey to hear what thoughts and suggestions neighbors and residents have about a proposed project for Fairlington Park.

Fairlington Park is located on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St., and the project is scheduled to start later this year. The scope of the project includes design and reconstruction of the playground, exercise equipment, circuit trail, picnic area, site circulation and furnishings, fencing stormwater management and landscaping.

According to Aaron Wohler, landscape architect for Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation, a conceptual design will be developed based on responses to the survey. That design will be shared and discussed with the community, he said. The county is asking that responses to the survey come in by April 15.

Contribute to the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Fairlingtonpark>.

Remodeling expo a hit with residents, vendors alike

The fix was in at Fairlington's first-ever home remodeling showcase and expo on Saturday, March 5, at the Fairlington Community Center, and there were thumbs up all around. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) planned the event based on results of a resident survey of activities they would like to see happen in the neighborhood.

An estimated 500 people streamed in and out during the four-hour event that featured advice and seminars from some of the neighborhood's top contractors, vendors, and those in the know about exactly what you can and can't do to spruce up your Fairlington unit. Arlington County was on hand to answer questions about building inspections and permits, and the contractors were quick to remind patrons that each condo association has its own rules and regulations when it comes to remodeling and renovation.

"(The event) was a great success," said Chris Weathers, the FCA board member who spearheaded the expo. "Although our community tends to really value events like this, we were taking a leap of faith by holding this

event for the first time, especially since we recruited vendors to make an investment of time and money without having a firm estimate for attendance." He noted that many of the seminars had over-capacity crowds.

"The expo was a great resource for residents and area vendors," said Bill Sullivan of Sullivan Landscaping. "Fairlington homeowners came with questions and left with answers."

"Now that we have one expo under our belt," Weathers explained, "we will be able to tweak here and there to make it an even more valuable experience for everyone going forward."

The FCA would like to thank the following vendors for participating: DeLong Home Improvement, Nova Installations, Frosty's Heating & Cooling, Keller Williams-Kay Houghton Homes, Silva Construction, Dwyer Plumbing, Dwyer Heating & Cooling, Sullivan Landscaping, Coldwell Banker-The Reef Team, Arlington's Car-Free Diet, and Arlington County Building.

—Bob Bradley

My Arlington another user-friendly mobile app

My Arlington, a free mobile app for iPhone and Android, puts all kinds of Arlington County information at your fingertips, including permit information, County Board and commission meetings, and county sponsored events.

Residents can download the My Arlington app from the Apple store or Google Play store. Features of the app include permit status, type, description of work, contractor, location and more, and is searchable by location, price, and property type.

It also includes real estate sales and assessment information, newsfeeds for county government and Arlington Public Schools, alerts, including Arlington Alerts and transit-related alerts and county contact information, including links to the county's service directory, and a feedback form for the app.

My Arlington is also a complement to ArlingtonVA Service Requests app, which came out in 2014, and allows users to report problems about non-emergency issues, like streetlights, potholes, and trash.

—Bob Bradley





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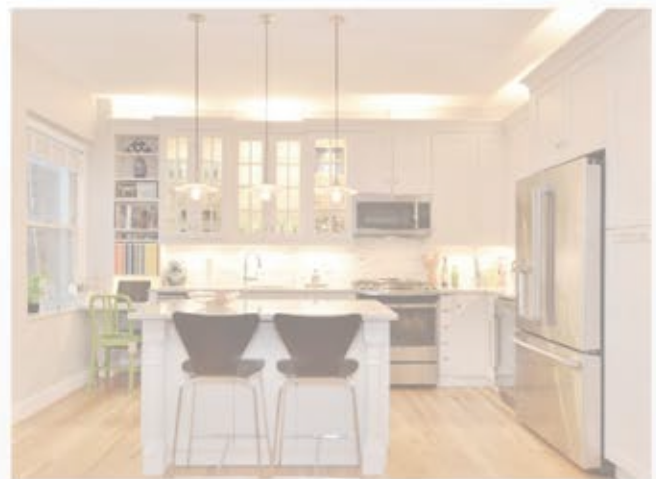
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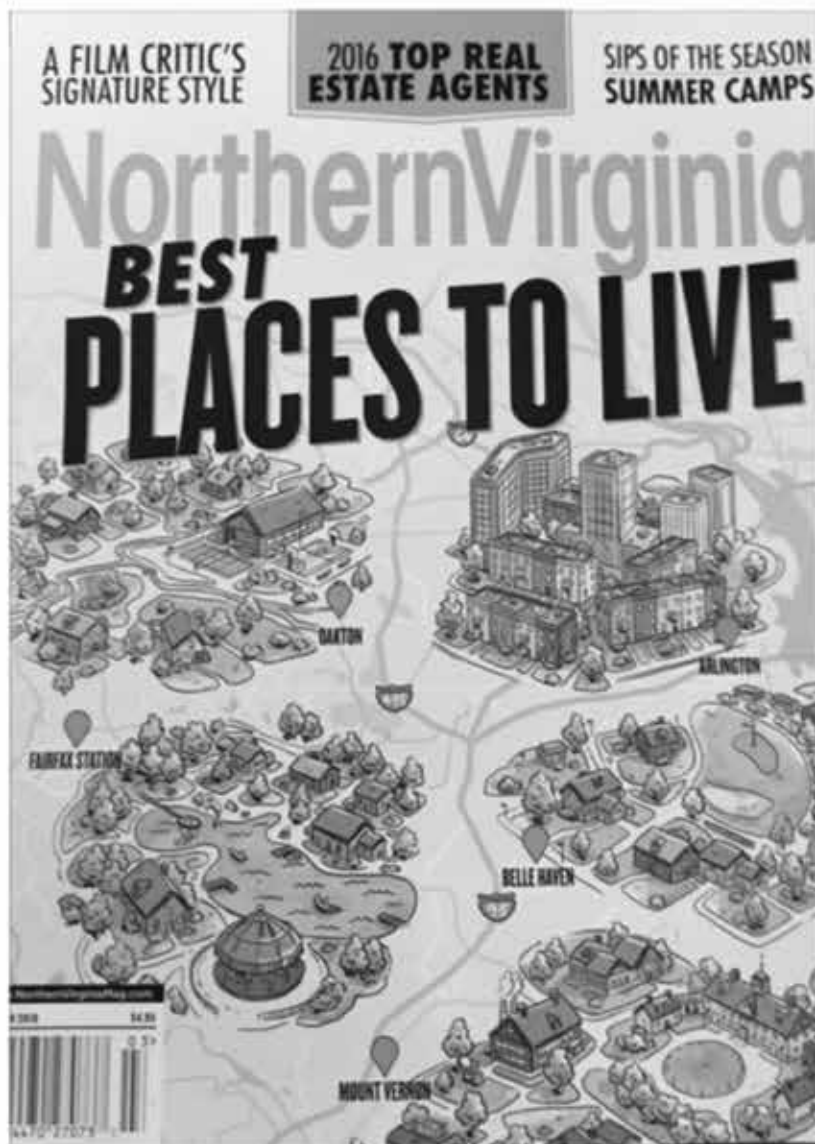


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— Edward Getterman,
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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Another strong showing at MOMS Club sale

The Fairlington MOMS Club® hosted its annual spring consignment sale on Friday, March 4, at the Fairlington Community Center. Despite having to hold the sale on a weekday, rather than the usual Saturday morning due to limited space at the FCC, the sale had loads of shoppers and was another resounding success.

Lucy Beadnell, MOMS Club treasurer, said the organizers “just didn’t know if we’d have a big turnout Friday and we absolutely did! We had people lining up a full hour before the sale. Just before we opened the doors, the line to get in went from the front door to the bathrooms at the end of the building.”

The sale started at 4 pm, and for the first hour there was a line wrapped

around Room 100 to check out. Margan Kerwin, a MOMS Club volunteer, said that even though the lines were long, “everyone was in a good mood. We appreciated everyone’s patience.”



Mom and child find a bargain at the MOMS Club consignment sale. Photo by Guy Land.

For the last half hour of the sale, items were half-price, and lots of shoppers snagged some really great deals.

The sale had a total of 41 consignors and 4,759 items for sale, which was

slightly fewer than what is typically available. Of \$15,682 in tagged merchandise, about \$8,000 sold, which is close to the same percentage of sales the club has had at past consignment sales that were held on Saturdays and for longer periods of time. The event required the efforts of 30 volunteers to promote the sale, set up clothing racks and tables, check out customers, and clean up, among numerous other tasks.

The MOMS Club hosts a spring and a fall consignment sale each year, with multiple rooms of clothes, toys, and gear for babies and young children. The club donates 20 percent of net proceeds to local charities. For this sale, proceeds benefitted First Shift Justice Project and the Arlington Food Assistance Center’s Backpack Buddies. Items that did not sell were donated to My Grandmother’s House, a charity that supports families in need in rural Virginia.

—Michelle Woolley

Letter to the Editor

There are areas of Fairlington that are so densely-populated with mosquitoes that residents cannot enjoy our grounds during warm weather without being swarmed and bitten. As the news, information, and warnings about Zika Virus continue to gain momentum, there has been much dialogue in the Fairlington MOMS Club about this virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses. What can be done to make our outdoor space more enjoyable and lessen the concern about disease transmission?

The best way to combat an influx of mosquitoes and the outbreak of mosquito-borne illness in such a large community is to spray pesticides. While this is a highly debated topic in the neighborhood because of the number of children and pets, it should not be cast aside as an option! There are many “green” options to consider as a more natural spraying solution. There are also several pesticides that have been approved for use by the EPA and require a very small amount to be effective—typically less than three ounces per acre. These

pesticides can be used for mosquito control programs without posing risks to the general population or to the environment.

Currently, neither the State of Virginia nor the County of Arlington have plans to combat mosquitoes, leaving it up to our community HOAs to take a unified approach toward mosquito control within our neighborhood. How can we get everyone to agree on a solution to make Fairlington a more enjoyable place to be outdoors this summer?

Sincerely,

Concerned Members of the Fairlington MOMS Club

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. AFB reserves the right to edit for length or clarity, and AFB may decline to print letters deemed inappropriate for a community newsletter.

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www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org
Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook
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AFAC says thanks!

If you have ever been shopping at the Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM) around the closing bell, you may have noticed people passing around black milk crates to our vendors. These men and women are from Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). They collect leftover produce and perishables from our vendors each week and donate them to families in need. If you would like to learn more about AFAC's mission, please visit their website at afac.org.

In 2015, FFM vendors donated 669 pounds of food to AFAC. Shopping at your neighborhood farmers market not only keeps your family healthy and promotes a sustainable food system, but it also provides healthy meals for families who may not have access to them otherwise. We would like to thank you for supporting the market and, by extension, AFAC each week.

Thank you, and see you in a few weeks!

Top 5 Reasons to Shop at the Fairlington Farmers Market

1. **Help support the local economy and preserve farm communities.** Wholesale prices that farmers and local producers get for their products are low, often near the cost of production. Local farmers and producers who sell direct to consumers cut out the middleman and get full retail price for their food—which helps families stay on farm land and in business.
2. **Freshly picked, in-season produce is at its peak in flavor and nutrition and stays fresh longer.** The market committee does all the vetting to ensure that products are truly “local” (within 125 miles of Fairlington), so you can have confidence that all products purchased at the market are locally grown, harvested, baked, or made by that specific vendor. The shorter the time between the farm/kitchen and your table, the less likely it is that nutrients will be lost from fresh food. Crops are

picked at their peak, and farmstead products like cheeses are hand-crafted for best flavor. Livestock farmers have direct relationships with processors, overseeing quality—unlike meat and poultry processed in large industrial facilities. Food imported from far away is older and has traveled on trucks or planes, and sat in warehouses before it gets to you.

3. **You can try something new.** Ever tasted gooseberries, canary melons, New Zealand ice cream, squash blossoms, pickled carrots, Valencay cheese, iced coffee, or spelt bread? FFM vendors have you covered with all of this ... and more! Just ask staff at your favorite market vendor what is new, how to make the most of a particular product, or what they are excited to bring the following week.
4. **Get your kids involved.** When you buy direct from a farmer or producer, you're continuing a time-honored connection between eater and grower and introducing your kids to the “hidden work” that gets dinner on the table. Encourage your kids to talk with the vendors to learn what goes into growing and making their food. They can also help prepare a meal or snack using farmers market purchases or tips/recipes found at Kids in the Kitchen (<http://www.nutrition.gov/life-stages/children/kids-kitchen>).
5. **Spend time with your neighbors instead of in the car!** Since the arrival of the farmers market, the FCC playground has seen an uptick in fun being had by kids of all ages. Plan to walk over with a neighbor (or meet there) and catch up on the latest happenings over a cup of freshly roasted coffee, tasty fruit juice, and a muffin ... or apple if you're on a health kick. Market hours start at 9 am and run through 1 pm so you don't have to skip church or brunch to spend time at the market.

Your neighborhood farmers market needs your help ...

It takes a village and you'll earn the appreciation of your fresh-food-loving neighbors! We need volunteers to participate on the Coordinating Committee, write monthly AFB articles, post on social media, organize special events, get the marketing word out, solicit sponsorships, and help with market set up and staffing on Sundays.

—Lane Erwin

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Fairlington Farmer: Urban farmer's best friend

We have long loved the Arlington Public Library for their many resources, and now there are three great reasons for urban farmers like us to love the library even more.

Reason #1: They lend garden tools!

Did you know you can check out a wide range of gardening tools, just like you'd check out books? The program is called "The Shed," and it offers tools to Arlington residents who don't necessarily have the space or desire to own and store their own gardening equipment.



A sample of gardening items you can borrow—from the library "shed."

Seriously, who in Arlington has the space to store a wheelbarrow, seed spreader, or pitchforks? Not me! So from March to November, you can just borrow them—at no cost. How great is that? Here's a sample of items you can borrow—you can find the

complete list of tools on the library website:

- Planting and digging tools: shovels, hoes, cultivators, pitchforks
- Weeding and cutting tools: saws, shears, loppers, pruners
- Rakes and cleaning tools: rakes, brooms, wheelbarrows
- Watering and miscellaneous tools: hoses, nozzles, extension cords, ladders, seed spreaders



Glencarlyn is home to a teaching garden maintained by the Master Gardeners. The garden consists of herb, shade, sun, tropical, dry, container, and native gardens.

Tools can be borrowed for seven days, with one renewal, and up to five tools can be borrowed at a time.

To get started with The Shed, stop by Central Library and sign up at the circulation desk. Read more about the program at <http://library.arlingtonva.us/a-z-list/the-shed/>.

Reason # 2: Garden talks and plant clinics

Do you know about the Expert Garden Talks offered every Wednesday evening at Central Library? Well

now you do. The talks, which run from March through October, are led by volunteers and staff from AFAC's Plot Against Hunger, and the VCE Master Gardeners. Topics range from starting seeds indoors, to container gardening, to composting, and more. The full calendar of talks can be found on the library website. And on Thursday evenings from April through October, the Master Gardeners host a Plant Clinic, where you can get answers to all your gardening questions. The Plant Clinic is on the first floor of Central Library, and the Garden Talks take place at 7 pm outside at the Central Library Community Garden. Which leads me to ...



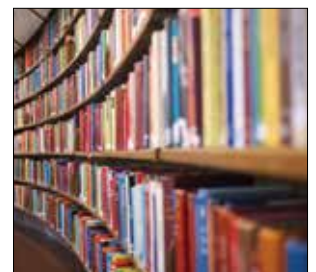
And Westover uses a series of raised beds and public workshops to teach the community about planting, sustainable gardening, composting, and other useful urban farming techniques.

Reason #3: Community gardens

You may have seen the wonderful community gardens around Arlington, and there are several at our libraries, too. Central Library is home to the USDA's People's Garden, the Berm Garden, the Pollinator Garden, and the 10th Street Americorps Garden.

Reason #4: Books!

With such diverse resources available at the libraries, it's easy to forget the very thing they're most known for: books! There are tons of great guides, reference manuals, magazines, and even movies about gardening and farming. Stop by any of the eight branches and ask the reference librarian to point you in the right direction.



There are more than enough books on farming at your local library. Photos by Rebecca Carpenter.

So there you have it. Who knew the library could be such a great resource for urban farmers?

—Rebecca Carpenter, Founder & CEO of Sprout

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Another spring means more decisions to make

Now's the time for "What am I going to do with my patio this year?" If you've neglected it or inherited one you don't care for from the previous owner, it can be difficult to devise a plan. Maybe your garden needs a tweak or two. Or, it may need a total makeover. Guidelines below may help.

Small Trees: The area at the dining room window and the area at the back fence are the largest planting areas. So this is where a small tree or large shrub will fit. There's horizontal space for a specimen's branches to spread and mature. Ideas for small trees are magnolia 'Little Gem,' the native or Japanese dogwood, or the dwarf crape myrtles.

Large Shrubs: Sometimes a specimen can be classified as either a small tree or a large shrub. Shrubs can grow large, say five-feet tall with a similar spread. Large shrubs for your patio could be: forsythia, cherry laurel, azalea 'encore,' rhododendron, hydrangea, pieris, butterfly bush, camellia, aucuba, mahonia and skip laurel, yew, witch hazel, lilac, red twig dogwood, and kerria.

Vines: Planting a vine takes up minimal space. Insert an iron or

wooden trellis at the back fence and plant the root ball of the vine here. As it matures, you'll notice an ornamental vine when glancing out your dining room window.



A red-flowering azalea 'encore.' Photo by Bill Sullivan.

Suggestions are clematis (spring- or fall-blooming), star jasmine, trumpet vine, wisteria, Carolina jessamine, and honeysuckle.

Small Shrubs: Off the sides of your patio is where you have minimal space—14 to 16 inches. In these areas, plant either small shrubs or perennial ground covers. Small shrub recommendations are dwarf nandina 'firepower' or 'harbor dwarf' ... juniper 'blue rug' or 'blue star,' or 'blue pacific' ... Leucothoe ... holly 'compacta' and dwarf English boxwood. Small shrubs usually are classified as no more than two feet tall with a similar spread.

Perennials: Some flower in spring and others in fall. Some are evergreen while most are deciduous (lose their leaves). Evergreen perennials sometimes have different-colored leaves. And sometimes they change color in colder weather.

My favorites are: salvia, euonymus 'winter creeper,' lenten rose, coral bells, sweet box, and lirioppe. Deciduous perennials include sedum, hosta, day lily, cheddar pinks, yarrow, peony, purple coneflower, and black-eyed Susan.

Plants for small spaces: Another term for this is ground cover, which sometimes can be perennial. Ground cover crawls on the ground with little vertical growth. So, if you prefer to see sparse mulch in your beds, you can plant a ground cover and let it grow.

Ground covers are periwinkle, ajuga, phlox, and pachysandra. All are evergreen except for phlox, which is actually a "semi-evergreen." Before you choose a plant, look it up to learn about its size, sun-shade needs, and whether it is drought-tolerant or not.

—Bill Sullivan
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Abingdon's use of technology in the classroom

Within Arlington Public Schools (APS), Abingdon is recognized as being a leader in the use of technology in the classroom as a way to enhance instruction and learning opportunities. The "Tech Team," led by Kerry Abbott and Michelle Jaeckel, works closely with students and teachers to ensure everyone benefits from APS' goal to have a 1:1 ratio of student and personal devices over the next few years. Currently, Abingdon's second-, third-, and fifth-graders all have their own iPads. In fact, the Abingdon Tech Team's experience has been in such demand that educators from Apple as well as other APS schools are frequent visitors to see what is going on. At some point last year, Principal Joanne Uyeda had to turn down visitor requests in order to prioritize Abingdon students and staff.



Superintendent Patrick Murphy learns from fifth-graders about green screen technology.

Skyped with famous children's author, Jerry Pallotta, about the writing process. They then used their iPads and traditional "paper" methods to research, write, and create a variety of projects on animal "superpowers." Students were given the choice of whether to write on paper or type on the iPad. The result demonstrated how children could learn using both methods to yield some pretty cool projects.

At the end of February, Abingdon hosted its second annual "Digital Learning Day." Imagine a science fair from years past, but instead of a tri-fold board, guests

Getting the balance between digital and traditional learning can be challenging. In *The Washington Post Magazine's* February 25 article, "Do Kids Learn More When They Trade in Their Composition Books for iPads," Abingdon was among a handful of schools profiled in the D.C. area. The article looked at the pros and cons of increasing technology in the classroom. In Abingdon's case, the article looked at second-graders who

moved from table to table, each with a team of students ready with their iPads. Jaeckel called it "Digital Speed Dating." Parents and APS leaders were treated to some terrific demonstrations by second-, third-, and fifth-graders on how the iPad helps them with various aspects of their education. Students were also responsible for explaining to an "older" generation how a certain app, platform, or technology allowed them to accomplish their schoolwork—from word study to times tables. Superintendent Patrick Murphy and Assistant Superintendent of Information Services, Raj Adusumilli, were in attendance, as well as several APS Department Directors. All were very impressed by what they saw and heard.



Third graders present "Book Buzz" technology. Photos by Jennifer Davies.

For example, third-graders created "book buzz" about their favorite reads to spark a literary conversation and encourage their classmates to do the same. First, students took a picture of the selected book jacket. They then recorded a description of the book. The file was then loaded onto a shared classroom page where fellow students could click on the book image and it would "speak" about how awesome it was. Fifth-graders demonstrated their knowledge of Ancient Egypt by making mini-Claymation movies. They first researched their topics, then wrote non-fiction scripts, built clay characters, filmed Claymation stop-motion movies, narrated their movies, and even composed original soundtracks. The movies were a truly unique example of how students could bring a social studies project to life.

Many parents left Digital Learning Day proud of what they saw, impressed with the students' poise and confidence in their presentations, and probably relieved to see that technology was not a substitute for traditional reading and writing. Getting the balance right is truly the key to an enriching and successful experience.

Continued on page 31



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In March, we enjoyed the seemingly unlimited choices for sandwiches at the Lost Dog Café.

Here's what's planned for April:

Monday, April 11, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer half-price burgers with the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu also is available.

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 pm, Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke St., Alexandria, 703-370-7900, www.temprestaurant.com. Nestled in the West End, Tempo Restaurant is one of Alexandria's best-kept secrets. This elegant, but unpretentious, neighborhood restaurant is where the locals dine. Tempo's menu displays a blend of northern Italian and French cuisine, featuring fresh seafood.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send an email to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in April to discuss *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*.

In her dual biography, author Linda Hirshman tells the fascinating story of the intertwined lives of O'Connor and Ginsburg, the first and second women to serve as Supreme Court justices.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:30 pm, in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

Email the coordinators, Yulia Tuinstra and Anne Viser, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

FINS registration begins May 1

The FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming) program is a regular summer fixture in Fairlington and is a fun way for kids to strengthen skills.

FINS runs for three weeks from July 11 to 29, and consists of four 40-minute lessons Monday through Thursday and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The program rotates weekly between three different condominium association pools in South Fairlington.

The cost for the three-week summer session and end-of season party is \$70 per child. The program is open to children 5 to 10 years of age (rising kindergarten through rising fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2016 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

Registration for returning participants and age-related siblings will be May 1 to 15. Registration for new participants will be May 16 to 30. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery in June.

—Jeni Hornback and Melania Saraniero, FINS
Co-Coordinator

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Welcome to the Spring Market. Now is the time to prepare your home for the coming months. Please contact me, 703.629.8624 to learn about some simple things you can do to improve the value of your home, and make sure it stands out in the busy spring Real Estate market.



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EMILY BARDALES

Call: 847.414.6080
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April meeting, continued from page 1

ing the ability of current and future residents to enjoy our great community." He believes that "having housing choices that are affordable for young professionals, working families, and retirees" will spur economic growth and enhance diversity throughout our community. Another priority for Dorsey is finding creative ways in our geographically small county to ensure we have adequate and flexible facilities for students, as well as enough recreational and open space.

Dorsey also is focused on a transit plan for Columbia Pike, lowering the commercial vacancy rate, engaging the community in county policy, and looking beyond just the year-to-year budget cycle needs of the county. As a long-time county resident with a wide breadth of knowledge of county issues, Dorsey can speak to other issues that also may concern Fairlingtonians.

The county board is currently working on the budget for the coming fiscal year and Dorsey can speak to the major considerations in the board's deliberations. The board will adopt the budget on April 16.

—Michelle Woolley

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School news, continued from page 27

Local Business, Fairlington Pizza, joins with Abingdon PTA for fundraiser

Parents, kids, and staff all enjoyed slices of delicious New York-style pizza on March 7 and helped support the PTA. 20 percent of all sales were donated. Fairlington Pizza owner, "Nick," is a true friend of Abingdon. He also helps support the PTA by providing great discounts on pizza for select events.

—Jennifer Davies

Reelect

LIBBY

Libby Garvey for
Arlington County Board



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Fairlington Neighbors, I ask for your support so that I can continue working to make county government more convenient, responsive, and accessible. -- Libby

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- Improve transportation
- Encourage housing that is affordable for all income levels
- Make government more accessible and responsive

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

BABYSITTER. Female student available for babysitting on weekends. Grew up in Fairlington and am living at home while taking classes. Happy to take kids to the pool/other fun outings! I have my own car and am CPR certified. E-mail amazucchelli93@gmail.com. 917-664-9772.

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Annual flowers arrive at the nursery later this month so now is the time to plant in your garden. Call Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping for a free consult. This is Bill's 27th year tending to the patio gardens of Fairlington homeowners. Contact Bill at: billsullivan41@gmail.com or 571.213.9567.

GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES WITH SPROUT! Do you wish you could have your own vegetable garden, but not sure where to start, or don't have the time or energy? Sprout can help! Our team of Master Gardeners & Growers will create your very own organic vegetable garden, right in your Fairlington patio or balcony. Now is the time to get started for spring gardens, so contact us for free consultations in April (Rebecca@SproutKitchenGardens.com). Learn more at SproutKitchenGardens.com, or follow us on Facebook for garden-to-kitchen recipes and gardening tips.

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A color version of this newsletter is available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.

Key Abingdon dates

April 4-8:	Book Fair
April 4:	Book Fair Family Night, 5 to 7 pm
April 12:	PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm
April 15:	Fairlington 5K Silent Auction, 6 to 8 pm
April 18:	Grade Prep Day – No School
April 20:	Early Release
April 23:	Fairlington 5K, 8:30 am
April 25:	Spring Picture Day



Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Volunteer for
FCA activities



MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

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

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

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Reston— 11231 Leatherwood Drive. Single FL with 2BR/2BA. Private yard 2 car garage \$524k. Call Rob Chamberlain



Alexandria— 1209 Cedar Dale Lane. Custom European Style Tudor on half an acre 6BR/4BA \$1.4m. Call Doug Louzik



Arlington— 4606 36th St S. Charming brick TH in Fairlington with spacious master BR and sunny LR/DR on main level, bright LL family room and guest BR/office and bath \$1900. Call Joanne Ritchick



Alexandria— 3315 Wyndham Circle. 2 BR/2BA hardwood floors and granite counters. Shuttle to metro, gated community \$299k. Call Wendy Baynard



Alexandria— 5421 Grist Mill Woods Way. Elegant All Brick Center Colonial on gorgeous lot. 4BR/3.5BA and walk-out basement \$874k. Call Kristin Usaitis

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