

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

AUGUST 2011

Volume 37, Number 8

Next invasive plant pull, Saturday, August 27

FCA monthly meeting

The FCA does not meet in August.

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, August 10
FCC
Contact for details.

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, August 14, 6:30 pm
Raibiang Thai
Falls Church

Fair Golds meeting

Thursday, August 18, noon
FCC

Primary elections

Tuesday, August 23, 6 am – 7 pm
Arlington polling places

Book Group

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

Invasive plant pull

Saturday, August 27, 9 am – noon
S. 32nd Road tree stand

Fairlington Diners

Monday, August 29, 7:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on page 23 and related articles for details about calendar events.

Developed from pasture and woodland in the 1940s, Fairlington now boasts a visually appealing, well-ordered and -maintained, even “manicured,” landscape. Here, few truly wild spots remain—the tree stand along S. 32nd Road is one. Since early last spring, Fairlington resident and naturalist Lenny Bankester has organized a monthly “weed pull” at this county-owned woodland patch just north of the community center. This month’s attack on invasive species will take place on Saturday, August 27, 9 am to noon. Drop by any time to join your neighbors in rescuing the Virginia-native pines, locusts, and mountain laurels from being overrun by English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and Chinese ailanthus (*aka*, the Tree-of-heaven). Bring gloves. Wear long sleeves and sturdy shoes. No experience necessary.



Lenny Bankester contemplates new seedlings growing from sucker shoots of the inaptly named Tree-of-heaven. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

The bane of parks and landscape managers everywhere, invasive plants can take over a natural environment and crowd out natives because of their aggressive growth habits. English ivy is the primary invader at 32nd Road, but the ailanthus tree is gaining ground there, too. The Tree-of-heaven was imported to Europe and the U.S. as a street tree during the 19th century, and you can still see dense thickets of them along area highways. Ailanthus fell out of favor when naturalists recognized a hard-to-eradicate monster grower akin to kudzu. The tree features rapid growth through abundant seed production and a high germination rate and speedy spread through root sucker shoots. It also produces chemicals that prevent the establishment of other plant species nearby. Moreover, the tree’s root system can be extensive and has been known to damage sewers, pavement, and building foundations. And, of course, ailanthus requires diligence to manage, says Bankester: “They have the uncanny ability to come back from the (apparent) dead.” Lastly, the sweet-named Tree-of-heaven has a foul smell.

Poison ivy in the tree stand is much less a problem now than it was a few

Continued on page 5

Coming up ...

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

Note: There is no FCA meeting in August.



Cooler days to come. Photograph by Shannon MacGregor.

Sign up for updates

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

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
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

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

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 703-243-1735 #1.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Where were you on 9/11/01?

Some Fairlington residents were out of the county, others were right in the Pentagon area. Were you at home? At work? Caught between the two? Did you find out right away what was happening? How did you get home to Fairlington? Share your memories (can you do it in 100 words or less? FYI, this graph is 101 words) by sending an e-mail to editor@fca-fairlington.org, subject line 9/11. The *Bulletin* will collect stories through August 10 and then print a selection in the September issue to help Fairlington residents mark the 10-year anniversary.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barack Obama famously said he wasn't against all wars, just dumb wars. That just about sums up my attitude toward development. We've seen examples of both smart and dumb development around Fairlington. About the dumbest piece of development I've ever seen is the BRAC project towering over I-395 south of us. On the other hand, the expansion and redevelopment of Shirlington, despite concerns voiced at the time, has turned out wonderfully—at least in my opinion.

Overall, Arlington does an outstanding job of following smart growth while other area jurisdictions aren't as smart, and sometimes are downright dumb. In the latter category, Alexandria springs to mind. So does Fairfax County, although they seem to be putting a lot of thought into the redevelopment of Tysons Corner and they may take advantage of the wonderful opportunity being offered them by the extension of Metro. Well, there's a first time for everything.

In our own neighborhood, the latest news, uncovered by the very informative blog www.Arlnow.com, is that Walmart is considering putting a store in "an industrial site near Shirlington, adjacent to I-395 and the Washington Golf store."

The good news is that the Arlington County Board is considering, and most likely will pass, changes to zoning ordinances that would require Walmart, or any similar big-box store, to get permission from the board before building such a store in the county. Apparently under the current zoning code, Walmart could build the store without such permission. ARLnow (which is how they like to type the name of the blog) says the board is likely to extract concessions from Walmart, such as improved transportation planning and the reduction of the impact on neighborhoods, before approving such a request. While not perfect, the Arlington County Board does have a better than average track record in stand offs with businesses and developers than do most local governments, and they are being proactive on this issue. I commend them for this.

Okay, okay I'll just say it. I'm still not thrilled about the idea of a Walmart nearby. But I do admit that the old Washington Golf store is an eyesore right on I-395 and I do want something useful to go in there. A Walmart wouldn't be my first choice, but maybe I'm just being a snob.

For now, I'm going to watch to see what the county does, and make sure the county does, in fact, do its job and approve only the kind of development that improves our way of life and the local economy. This is also my attitude toward other rumored development ideas around Fairlington.

On a final note, don't forget to vote in the state senate primary on August 23. Early voting has already started.

— Reed Franklin

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Sold	AR7516483	4428 34th St S	\$439,900*
Sold	AR7560760	3387 Stafford St	\$440,000*
Sold	AR7558437	3071 Buchanan St S #A2	\$375,000
Sold	AR7444516	4815 31st St S #A1	\$367,000
Sold	AR7554724	4079 Four Mile Run Dr S	\$370,000
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Get ready: CERT training begins next month

Arlington has experienced hurricanes, micro-bursts, and blizzards, fires, hazmat situations, and even terrorist attacks—and they all illustrate the importance of being prepared for emergencies. That's what Community Emergency Response Team training is all about. The eight-session, 25-hour course, sponsored by the Arlington County Citizen Corps Council, Office of Emergency Management, and



Arlington County Fire Department, covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression, and terrorism. The training follows the FEMA/DHS all-hazards curriculum being used in communities around the world.

More than 500 people in Arlington have completed CERT training, which is open to Arlington residents (and those who work in the county but reside elsewhere). You must be at least 18 years old (16 if accompanied by a parent) and able to participate in all aspects of the training—

some requires lifting and carrying. The training is free, but participants are expected to acquire certain supplies themselves (you probably have many already on-hand, like gloves and flashlights). All classes meet at the ACFD training academy in Shirlington and are taught by ACFD and OEM staff and CERT members. Some people take the course simply to be safer in their own homes and workplaces; others

continue with additional requirements needed to become members of neighborhood teams trained to assist in major disasters. All help make Arlington a safer place.

Fall CERT classes are scheduled to begin on September 15 and 20 and available seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Advance registration is required. For more information about the program, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Emergency management CERT; to learn more or sign up, contact the program's volunteer coordinator, Cynthia Kellams, at ArlingtonCERT@aol.com.

Continued from page 1

months ago, since the county sprayed the woodland to target and kill that noxious, rash-producing native. Arlington's department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources also supports the effort of Fairlington volunteers by removing the pile of pulled debris after every organized pull. As ever, neighbors should feel free to stop by anytime they're inspired to do so and pull some ivy. For more information about the invasive plant pull, contact Lenny Bankester by e-mail, vsonorth-virginia@yahoo.com.

Tax-free back-to-school shopping, August 5, 6, 7

On the first full weekend in August, Virginia offers tax-free back-to-school shopping. During the three-day period (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), purchases of certain qualifying school supplies, selling for \$20 or less per item, and clothing and footwear, selling for \$100 or less per item, are exempt from state sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the tax-holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation. For more information, go online to www.tax.virginia.gov and search SchoolSuppliesandClothingHoliday.

Primary voting, August 23, 2011

Democratic primary elections for offices on the November ballot will be held on Tuesday, August 23. Polling places will be open from 6 am to 7 pm (in Fairlington, the Fairlington Community Center or Abingdon School). Sample primary ballots are now available on the county Web site; go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search voter registration > election information. For information about all voting issues, call the Arlington Office of Voter Registration, 703-228-3456.

Car tax bills go out this month

County bills for tax on vehicle personal property (*aka*, the car tax) will be mailed out in mid-August. Most residents who have existing registered cars will receive a decal attached to the bill. Decals can be affixed to the car at any time after you receive them, but they must be in place by November. Some Virginia jurisdictions—notably, nearby Fairfax County—have ceased issuing decals, while still collecting the fee for them. Arlington officials believe the physical decal remains an effective enforcement tool to determine if personal property tax has been paid on vehicles.

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Bike thefts up

The Arlington County Police Department reports a recent uptick in thefts of bikes from residential areas. Auxiliary Lieutenant Heather Hurlock notes a possible reason: Many managers of larger housing developments, like condos and apartment buildings, are now requiring residents to register their bikes and use U locks. Those deterrent measures merely move larcenies down the road, rendering residential streets and front yards and porches a next-best supermarket for steal-able bikes. On recent drives around the south county, Hurlock was concerned to see many bikes left unattended and unlocked in front yards. Police advice is clear: Always use a U lock to secure your bike to something heavier than the bike, and register the bike's serial number with ACPD. For more information, go online to www.arlingtonva.us > Online Services > Register your bike.

Walk Columbia Pike

On Sunday, August 14, WalkArlington will debut its newest "walkabout"—Pike Hike II. Arlington County Board chairman and long-time Columbia Pike resident Chris Zimmerman will lead the walk and share insights on the Pike's history and plans for revitalization. The two-mile walk (a continuation of Pike Hike I) begins at 9:30 am at the Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive, and ends back there at 11 am. In addition, the walk's out-and-back format places walkabout participants conveniently at the Career Center, which serves as a shuttle bus stop for the Arlington County Fair at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. August 14 is the fair's last day; the midway opens at 11.

The Pike Hike II walkabout is free and open to the public, no reservations required. For more information about WalkArlington, county walkabouts, and/or the Pike Hike II route map, go online to www.walkarlington.com. You can also send an e-mail to info@walkarlington.com or call 703-27-6991.

Sewer project: Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 to come.



With a final flurry of big-machine activity, repair work on a defect in new sewer lines wrapped up last month at the intersection of S. Utah and 34th Streets. Phase 2 of the county's sanitary sewer improvement

project will involve installation of a new sewer line running along S. Utah, north (downhill) from S. 32nd Road to the Utah Park area. An updated schedule anticipates that the work will begin in November or December.

Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

Bake sale success wins matching funds



Fairlington's ninth annual Great American Bake Sale on July 4 was a huge success! Held in conjunction with the neighborhood's holiday parade, sponsored by the FCA, Fairlington Villages, and Fairlington Commons, the bake sale benefited the Share Our Strength campaign to fund programs

that feed hungry children. This year, with baked goods from Fairlington neighbors and donations from Great Harvest Bread, the sale raised an admirable \$1,270. Now bake sale organizer Cathy Malin reports that her team received a weekly "top earner" award from Share Our Strength and qualified for matching funds from Duncan Hines. Malin sends thanks to all who baked, purchased treats, and participated in the raffle.

Planning begins for sixth annual Fairlington Homecoming

The sixth annual Fairlington Homecoming will be held on Friday, October 28, 2011 at 7 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 South Abingdon Street). The homecoming is an annual celebration of life in Fairlington—everyone who has ever called Fairlington "home" is invited to attend.

This year's focus is on the people who have volunteered their time to make our neighborhood the place it is. Whether it's helping with community activities and school projects or serving on condominium and civic association boards and committees, Fairlington residents have created a rich tradition of volunteer service. We'll hear from some of our volunteers and say thanks to all of them with wine and cheese and a light supper. If you'd like to help plan the homecoming or can help on homecoming night, we'd love to hear from you. E-mail us by clicking on the "Contact Us" link at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark, 703-820-7328.



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Emergency preparedness resources online

We are now entering the third month of this year's six-month Atlantic tropical storm season (which runs through November 30). Can you take care of yourself for three days, without power or outside assistance? Have you assembled your family's emergency supply kit? Information about how to prepare for any emergency and how to stay safe as a major weather event approaches is widely available online.

Arlington County: www.arlingtonva.us. Search emergency management and personal response.

American Red Cross, Arlington Chapter: www.arlingtonredcross.org. Click on Disaster.

U.S. government: www.ready.gov.

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov.

National Capital Region: www.makeaplan.org

Virginia: www.vaemergency.com.

County back-fills loss of federal block grant funds

The first week in July, the Arlington County Board approved a one-time use of county reserve monies in the Budget Stabilization Fund to cover a \$200,000+ budget gap that occurred when the federal government cut funding for community block grants. The grants are used "to support affordable housing and homeless prevention initiatives, to improve neighborhood safety, and to enhance economic opportunities for residents," according to a county press release. Moreover, additional cuts in federal funds are likely next year. County Board Chairman Christopher Zimmerman said: "It is a good thing that Arlington has the reserves available to get us through FY 2012. This is, however, a temporary solution. We expect the federal government to make far deeper cuts in FY 2013, cuts that may seriously affect programs that create affordable housing, house the homeless, provide training for the unemployed, and more. We are starting now to make contingency plans with our non-profit partners for FY 2013." Fiscal year 2013 begins July 1, 2012.

Glean for AFAC, now through October

You can benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center by joining with other volunteers to help farmers harvest crops every Saturday morning, 9 am to noon, now through October 29. The farms are typically a 45-minute to one-hour drive from Arlington; you supply your own transportation. The activity is fun and fulfilling for individuals, families, and groups of all kinds. Register to glean by completing the Volunteer Profile form on the AFAC Web site, www.afac.org. For more information, contact Susan Callegari at masoncal@mac.com or Puwen Lee at puwen.lee@afac.org or call 703-845-8486.

Zoned parking—coming to a street near you?



With next month's scheduled opening of the BRAC 133 building at the Mark Center on Seminary Road, many local residents worry that hundreds of new commuter cars might seek weekday parking on Fairlington streets. Neighbors can request help with excessive or problematic commuter parking through the county's Residential Permit Parking Program, which began in 1973 to "provide residential areas relief from heavy daytime commuter parking." Currently, there are 23 different

permit parking zones in the county. The program is very "grass roots," in that a desire for a residential parking zone is expressed by neighbors, block by block, through a process. For a block to be designated a zoned or permit-parking only area, these criteria must be met:

- 60% of the households on a block must sign a petition requesting zoned parking
- at least 75% of the available parking on the block should be occupied
- at least 25% of the available parking on the block should be occupied by out-of-area vehicles such as commuters, shoppers, students, etc.

For more information about the permit parking program, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and search parking. The RPPP page has links to a brochure about the program and to a map of zoned areas.

A Fairlington Fourth

There's no official crowd count, but many observers think this year's Fourth of July parade and after-party were the largest in recent memory. Clear skies on the morning of July 4 provided a needed respite from the summer's routine afternoon rain—particularly after a very stormy July 3—and the great weather welcomed hundreds of Fairlington residents decked out in red, white, and blue. Sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the FCA, the parade was led by Don Francisco's ever popular fife and drum corps. All residents appreciated the participation of District 3 police officers and firefighters from Station 7—vehicles with flashing lights are perennial crowd-pleasers. And did you notice the Coast Guard helicopter that momentarily followed the parade's progress up S. Abingdon Street? Long lines attested to the popularity of hot dogs, baked goods

at the Great American Bake Sale table, and ice cream treats generously supplied by Purofirst, one of the Villages' contractors. Thanks to the volunteers who made the event happen: Melissa Beene, Lillian Blome, Alan Byroade, Gene Dibartola, Joan Carter, Patty Clark, Andi Dies, Reed Franklin, Ellen Harmon, Ed Hilz, Nancy Hunt, Mark Jones, Rosiland Jordan, Arline Kerrigan, Tiffany Kudravetz, Cindy Kunz, Kim Malinowski, Ellen Marcus, Bryan Pettigrew, Terry Placek, Carol Reed, Harold Reem, Norma Reem, Kevin Roughgarden, and Carrie Street.





*Photographs by
Gretchen Fallon and
Guy Land.*



Fairlington's Own....

LIBBY!

FOR VIRGINIA SENATE

"Fairlington has been my home for over 30 years. I hope you'll join me on this new journey to the Virginia Senate."

- Libby Garvey

Vote Tuesday, August 23rd!

South Fairlington Poll Location:
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S. Stafford St.

North Fairlington Poll Location:
Abingdon School
3035 S. Abingdon St.

You can also vote early at the
Arlington County Voter Registration Office:
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 320
Arlington, VA

8am-5pm, Monday-Friday through Aug. 19th
Saturday, August 20th, 8:30am-5pm.

Need a ride or have questions? Call our HQ at 703-312-7260!

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☐ **K. Rob Krupicka**

☒ **Libby T. Garvey**

Authorized by Libby Garvey for Senate. Printed in-house.

FAIRLINGTON *community center news*

Class and workshop registration: Tennis, swimming, robotics, nature programs, and arts and crafts—there is something for everyone among Arlington’s summer classes. Look for the summer issue of *Enjoy Arlington* at FCC or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr to find the class that is right for you. For registration or questions, call 703-228-4747.

Exercise convenience at the FCC

Do you have a hectic schedule? Don’t let your health and wellness goals go by the wayside. Just check out the most convenient way to exercise at the FCC. FCC’s state-of-the-art fitness facility features all Precor cardio equipment including elliptical machines, recumbent bikes, upright bikes, and treadmills. The cardio room also features a flat screen TV equipped with cardio theatre and personal viewing stations. Strength training equipment includes Precor cable cross machine. There’s a full-body line of Matrix strength-training machines



to include leg extension, leg curl, leg press, and lat pull-down, and a full line of dumbbells ranging from 2.5 to 50 lbs. Personal training services are available on Saturday mornings and there are a variety of classes in studio. Locker rooms and showers are available.

Arlington’s fee reduction policy

Stop by the FCC to purchase a fitness center pass good at Fairlington plus five other county community centers. Available are passed for ten days, as well as for three, six, or twelve months. Note the special rates for Arlington residents and seniors.

Did you know that Arlington County offers fee reductions for fitness memberships, classes, and summer camps? Check out Arlington’s Fee Reduction Policy to find out if you qualify for reduced rates. Fee reductions are based on total household income and size relative to the currently-published HUD’s Section 8 income limits. Arlington Public Schools designation for free and reduced lunch is one way to document household income. Applicants must apply for fee reductions in person at FCC. Stop by to learn more or search “fee reduction” at www.arlingtonva.us.

Senior center events

Regularly scheduled programs are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm for residents 55 and older who hold a 55+ pass. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information.

Master Gardeners plant clinic
Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

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

FCC programs

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

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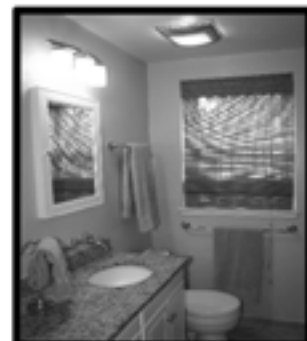


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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Hydrangeas often defy expectations

The hydrangea is a peculiar performer in the summer landscape. Maybe it should be nicknamed “hybrid” or even “hyper” due to its dramatic yet unpredictable flower bloom.

In early July, I noticed many forms of *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Bigleaf hydrangea)—the rounded shrub with fist-sized blooms. On some, the bloom is six inches in diameter—more like the clenched fist of a prizefighter. One hydrangea on South 35th Street was filled with blooms, but all were a light green. With the beautiful, serrate-edged, Kelly-green leaf, it was an interesting color combination. But I wondered: Where’s the pink and blue? An hour later, I noticed a grouping on South 34th Street filled with blue and pink flowers. Late that afternoon, I noticed another hydrangea with violet, blue, pink, and light green blooms!

In school, my professor said it was the aluminum ions in the soil that determined the shrub’s flower color; one gardening Web site specifies, the less aluminum, the more pink the flower. There are additives one can let leach down into the root zone to promote a blue or pink blossom. The North Carolina Extension Service explains that the shrub must have enough pigment (color) to produce a true blue or vivid pink flower. Without pigmentation, flowers remain ivory.



Lacking pigmentation, these hydrangea blooms remain ivory. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

So how can you tell if a shrub has pigment? You can’t, but that’s where cultivar names enter the color equation. “Nikko Blue” shows only blue flowers while “Forever Pink” offers what you’d expect with a rose-red bloom in cooler weather.

I once thought the age of the shrub might influence flower color. But then on a customer visit in Old Town, I noticed two Bigleafs planted side by side, in a good amount of shade, which they prefer. One shrub was in full bloom with pink and blue flowers; the other had none. Odd, since presumably the shrubs shared identical soil pH, sun exposure, and water intake.

Another customer clipped blossoms from her hydrangea for a Fourth of July gathering. She cut the stems to about eight inches and plunked them

in a pitcher of water. Twelve days later, they were still bright pink and blue. When I walked outside to look at her hydrangea shrubs, I found that most blooms were only pale pastels of pink and blue. Talk about shelf life! And I thought lilacs were the flowers to cut for lasting indoor display.

As you may know, hydrangea flowers on old wood but not on every single branch. That’s why you see branches filled with leaves and flowers except for six inches of pale tan cane that appears dead and brittle and rises above the shrub’s outline. When

you think about pruning a hydrangea, it’s best to back off and wait until summer to see which branches are fertile and which are not.

“Very difficult to adequately describe,” is how Michael Dirr begins his explanation of the Bigleaf hydrangea’s flowering. Dirr’s *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* was my textbook and the one I still refer to daily. The author adds that a soil pH of 5.0 is best for blue flowering, while a pH of 6.0 or higher is recommended for a pink flower. Keep in mind you can have your garden soil tested for pH at the Extension Office at the Fairlington Community Center. Even so, good luck having the hydrangea flower color of your choice.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

Dogs and cats and critters...Oh my!

The other day, a reader of this column was asking me about getting a pet, wondering what would best fit into her lifestyle, schedule, and finances. A pro and con list usually helps us make decisions, so here's a short list of plusses and minuses to get you started if you are considering adding a pet to your life.

Dogs can provide companionship, loyalty, unconditional love, social networking, and personal security. On the flip side, they thrive on a regular schedule, daily walks, and exercise—things that involve your time. Vet visits, even for regular exams, can be costly. If you work or socialize a lot, have many interests outside the home, or like to travel, a dog may not be the right pet.

Cats also offer companionship and love, but afford a more flexible



lifestyle since they don't have to be walked. They do need playtime, exercise, interaction, and stimulation, and vet visits also can be costly. Consider a cat if you want companionship with less time commitment than a dog.

Rabbits, ferrets, birds, and others small critters: A smaller pet may work well in Fairlington homes,

which don't offer a lot of space or acreage for exercise. However, a pet that might seem "easy" may have drawbacks you didn't consider. Learn about the unique needs of these pets before committing.

The bottom line: Before getting a new pet, do your research, both online and in person. Talk to friends and family members who have the pet you are considering. Visit with them to see what having that pet is really like. Offer to care for their pet while they are away. Talk to professionals at local animal organizations, and consider fostering or volunteering before committing, to get a truer sense of how the pet would fit your life.

—Christine Chirichella, AFB Assistant Editor

Dog days of summer bring pests: Mosquitoes

West Nile virus is spread to birds, humans, horses, and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not get sick. People who do get sick usually suffer a mild flu-like illness. People over age 50 are at greatest risk for serious illness, such as encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Only supportive treatment is available for more serious cases. You can follow these steps to reduce your exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use an effective repellent, such as

DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Make sure to follow label directions. Make sure door and window screens are intact, to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

- Avoid being outside at dawn and dusk, the times when mosquitoes are most active.
- When possible, wear long sleeves and pants outdoors.
- Drain all sources of standing water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
 - Turn over or remove containers in yards and patios where rainwater collects,

such as old tires, potted plant trays, boats, buckets, and toys.

- Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- Clean roof gutters and downspouts regularly.
- Eliminate standing water on tarps and flat roofs.

Arlington's Department of Human Services' environmental health division publishes a quick reference guide for dealing with mosquitoes and ticks. Go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search mosquitoes.

NEW KITCHEN in 2011 ? ... CALL NOW !

Hi Folks!

A quick reminder for anyone wanting a new kitchen in time for Christmas: give us a call now so we can get the ball rolling!

A lot of planning goes into a total kitchen remodel. You'll need time to interview contractors and find the right match, and if you're planning to open up or move a wall, allocate time to obtain a variance from your Condo Association, which might also mean bringing in an engineer. You need time to determine the style and functionality you want to achieve and to meet with our kitchen designer for your cabinetry selection – (and those cabinets take 4-6 weeks to arrive). Give yourself enough time to make your other selections too – paint colors, tile, countertops, flooring, appliances, lighting, a new faucet – to get just the look you want.

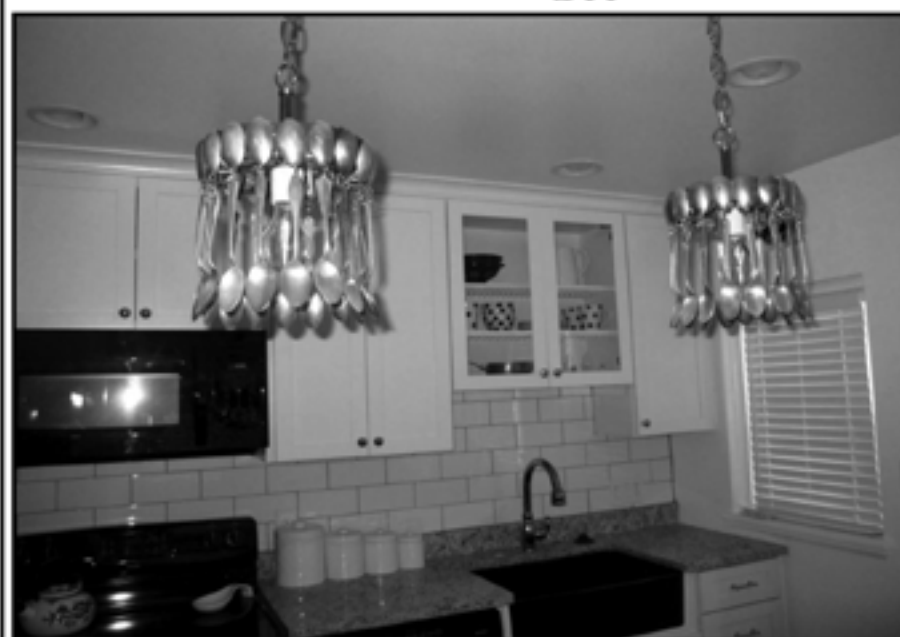
Then there is the actual construction time, which varies depending on your design, but you should plan on 3-4 weeks, at least.

We don't want you to be disappointed by calling too late, so if you've been picturing that new kitchen, don't delay – let's work together to get it done and enjoy the holidays even more!

All the Best,
Bob



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www.DelongHomeImprovement.com



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ABINGDON *school news*



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Abingdon raises thousands of dollars every year because shoppers like you have linked their retail rebate/rewards cards or Target REDcards to Abingdon. It doesn't cost you a dime and will only take you a few minutes. But by registering your card, you can help us tap into the generosity of corporations like Target, Safeway, Harris Teeter, and Giant Food. Here's how:

Harris Teeter: We raised more than \$7,400 from Harris Teeter this year. You can register your VIC Card at www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx. Our school ID number is 5748. Even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register it for this year. Our savings start to accumulate on August 1, so please register today.

Target: Every time you shop with your Target REDcard, 1% of your purchase could go to Abingdon. All you have to do is link your card to our school. Go online to www.target.com/tcoe and click on "Enroll in Take Charge of Education." There you can designate Abingdon Elementary (Arlington, VA 22206) as the school to benefit from Target's generosity. You can also call 1-800-316-6142 and designate Abingdon by phone. Last year, we received a check for more than \$600 from Target.

Safeway: Go online to www.escrip.com to register your Safeway Club Card. Abingdon's ID number is 6466553. On the Web site, you'll



Thanks to Exxon Mobil, Abingdon received 60 tickets to the June 17 Nationals/Orioles game to give to students with high marks in math and science. Photograph by Michelle Marston.

see that there are other online merchants that will also contribute when you access them through EScrip. The average contribution amount to our school is 5%. But from August 10 to September 13, Abingdon will earn 10% each time you shop at Safeway and use your Club Card. This past school year, we got more than \$750 from Safeway shoppers!

Giant: Your Giant card also must be re-registered every year, and their program runs only from October to

March. Still, we raised more than \$1,000 from Giant purchases in the last school year. Go online to www.giantfood.com/savings/card/overview.htm to register or re-register your card. Our ID number is 02213.

Box tops: You may already know that we'll take your Box Tops for Education (found on a variety of everyday grocery products). You can just clip them and drop them off at the school. But you can also shop through the Box Tops online marketplace and earn money for Abingdon. Go to www.boxtops4education.com and sign up. Then any time you're ready to shop online—at a huge variety of stores, like Sears, Barnes and Noble, Shutterfly—enter the store through the Box Tops Web site. All money earned through Box Tops is designated to the Abingdon library.

Campbell's: You can also clip your Campbell's Labels for Education and drop them off for the PTA at the school. We trade-in the labels for school supplies to help Abingdon families who need a little financial assistance.

My Coke Rewards: All you have to do is link your Coke Rewards account to Abingdon once and then it's really easy to donate your points to Abingdon whenever you want. Go to www.MyCokeRewards.com to enter the codes you find on all Coke products from cases of cans to individual 20-ounce bottles. We also use these points for school supplies, as well as equipment for our Phys Ed program.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president

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— Amy L., Arlington, VA



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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), observes its summer schedule in July and August, which means only one meeting per month. Fair Golds will hold a combined business and social meeting, featuring board games, at noon on Thursday, August 18, at the Fairlington Community Center. Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Diners

We're an easy-going group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month and focus on having a good meal in great company. This month, we'll return to Rabieng, a delightful country Thai restaurant near Fairlington where we've had very enjoyable dinners in the past, and then follow with our usual burger night jaunt to Ramparts later in the month.

Sunday, August 14, 6:30 pm, Rabieng Thai Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041, 703-671-4222, www.duangrats.com. It's just beyond Bailey's Crossroads—very close to Fairlington. We've been here several times and it's always great food in an informal atmosphere.

Monday, August 29, 7:30 pm, 1/2 price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a popular event, but with a different group each month. Come on out to enjoy the new burger menu, which has proved to be very tasty.

Please note that all RSVPs should be sent to Carol's Virginia number, 703-379-6840. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case we have to change plans. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

In Colum McCann's novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, the lives of diverse New Yorkers intersect dramatically on a single day in August 1974 as the city is mesmerized by Philippe Petit's stunning tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers. Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, August 23, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on August 10 at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx. See also <http://shirlingtonlibrary.wordpress.com>.

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NANNY SHARE IN FAIRLINGTON. Now seeking a family to join our existing share. Fantastic nanny with 12+ years of prior experience, nurturing, flexible, especially gifted with the youngest babies. Current hours: Monday through Thursday with shared hosting, but we are flexible on the details. Call or email for more information: ahorowit@yahoo.com; 703-229-3109.

CHILD CARE. Warm home setting and very nurturing environment. Experienced and licensed. Excellent references. Call 703-824-0385.

Gardening/Landscaping

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

Improvements

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

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

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

MICHAEL PACHECO CONTRACTING. 40 years experience. No job too small. Interior renovations to include painting, finish carpentry, window and door casings, complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling, and plaster repair. We also remove wallpaper, do tile grouting, kitchen and bathroom floors, and wall to wall carpeting. We install storm doors. We do all types of household repairs. We upgrade electric panels with new code approved panels by a licensed, insured, electrician. We can help you with any of your other electrical needs. We can help you with all your plumbing work. Your home left clean and neat. Old fashioned quality at an affordable price. Call Michael at 703-379-6725.

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

Mini-ads

DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. An expert in Fairlington doors. Website: www.doorsolutions.biz (information/prices). Email Bill: bill@doorsolutions.biz.

BATHROOM AND KITCHEN.

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

PAINTING. Professional, neat, clean, reliable, references available. Wallpaper removal/hanging, drywall repairs. Large and small jobs. 25 years experience. Licensed, bonded and insured. Free Estimates. Call Steve Chute at 571-216-9338.

REMODELING AND HOME

IMPROVEMENTS: Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turn around time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676. References available.

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

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

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your home improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

House Cleaning

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

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

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

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

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

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



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Where Excellence Is Commonplace

Sales • Service • Parts
All Major Brands

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Bradlee Shopping Center
(Behind the florist, next to Joels Shoe Repair)

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Fax 703-931-6500
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FREE HEPA FILTER!!
With Purchase of a Miele Vacuum Cleaner
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Cannot Combine With Other Offers
Expires 8/30/11

10-50% OFF
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Mini-ads

Pet Services

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Reliable, flexible, midday, holiday or vacation care for your pets. Serving Fairlington for over 10 years. Excellent references. 703-765-0990.

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

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

DOG WALKER & PET SITTER-REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

MINI-AD FORM

Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. E-mailed ad text will not be processed until payment is received.

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

Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: _____ Phone (h): _____

Address: _____ Phone (w): _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Category (see newsletter for options): _____

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____



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Your Neighbor for over 40 years.

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For more details or pics, visit our office or our website
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Visit us at our Offices at
4800 S. 31st Street

Congratulations to our June 2011 Top Producers



Pat Shannon
Top Listing Agent



Rob Allen
Top Producer
Top Selling Agent



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2 Bedrooms/2 Baths
\$324,900
Julie Flory
Listing Agent



Courtbridge
2 Bedrooms/2 Baths
\$365,000
Lynn Gant & Lois Robinson
Listing Agents



Forest Hills
3 Bedrooms/2.55 Baths
\$749,900
Barbara Wood
Listing Agent

4800 South 31st Street
Arlington, Virginia 22206
ArlingtonSouthSales.Infre.com
ArlingtonSouth.va@longandfoster.com

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