

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



AUGUST 2012

Volume 38, Number 8

www.fca-fairlington.org

Derecho leaves us power-less



Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

We learned a new word—*derecho*—late Friday night, June 29, when a severe storm brought echoes of the August 2010 micro-burst thunder storm to the neighborhood: Branches snapped off trees and sidewalks were left littered with sticks and twigs. This time, however, Fairlington didn't take the brunt of the storm, which felled trees throughout northern Virginia, the District, and Maryland, and left about one million Pepco and Dominion Virginia Power customers in the metro area without electricity (more than three million in the mid-Atlantic region, one million in Virginia alone).

The *derecho*, a violent, fast-moving storm, with some characteristics of a

tornado or hurricane, moved more or less in a straight line at about 60 mph with wind gusts up to 80 mph—it shot from the Ohio Valley to the Atlantic seaboard in less than one day. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth, saying the storm caused “the largest non-hurricane power outage in Virginia history.”

The worst after-effect here was the power outage for some 30 to 90 hours when temperatures soared into the recording-breaking 100s. On Saturday morning, Fairlington residents scrambled to secure coffee—finding that nearby grocery stores, coffee shops, and 7-11s were also without electricity. Later in the day when some stores opened with limited services, many people throughout Arlington searched pockets for cash and change because ATMs were offline and stores were able to do cash-only business. Others searched for sold-out ice, waited in long lines at gas stations, and played dodge-'em at intersections with non-working stoplights. By Saturday afternoon, some nearby jurisdictions were imposing water restrictions and boil-water advisories (Arlington's water system was not compromised). People lined up on curbs and sidewalks to re-charge their battery powered devices at stores' outdoor electrical outlets. Many people throughout the area reported spotty cell phone networks and outages on land lines and cable.

Continued on page 9.

FCA monthly meeting

The FCA does not meet in August.

Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies

August 3, 4, and 5

MOMS Club

Wednesday, August 8, 4 pm
FCC

Arlington County Fair

August 8 – 12
Thomas Jefferson
Community Center

Fall classes sign-up begins

Wednesday, August 15, 8 am
Online

Animal Welfare League of Arlington open house

Saturday, August 25, noon – 3 pm
2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive

Book Group

Tuesday, August 28, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

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

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting. You can find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and on Facebook at "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Note: There is no FCA meeting in August.



Dreaming of snow?

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,
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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

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

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Pick one up at an FCA-sponsored event or meeting. Or send e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org. Or contact any FCA board member. Or call the FCA at 703-243-1735 to leave your name and number. T-shirts, in white or hunter green, are \$15, 100% cotton, in sizes S, M, L, and X-L.



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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer memories....

During the winter holidays, advertisers go out of their way to urge us to buy their goods in order to “make special memories.” They don’t do that at the height of summer, perhaps because they know it’s hard to compete with the innate awesomeness of the season.

I know what you’re thinking: Here in Washington, it’s HOT. It’s HUMID. It’s tolerable only because Congress takes its summer recess and suddenly there’s NO TRAFFIC. “Jordan, you’re nuts.” Hear me out...

Summer in Fairlington is the perfect mix of New England and the deep South—everything is in bloom, grilling feels natural, and we have plenty of pools in which to cool off. The sunlight lasts for hours and hours, which means an early-morning run or a late-evening bike ride is easier to pull off. Once in a while, an east wind blows, dragging a foggy blanket over the neighborhood and spurring us to find a sweater or fleece to wear. Chatting with our neighbors easily turns into a visit, especially if there’s tea or lemonade involved. The workaholic nature of our area takes a nap. It needed one, be honest!

It’s in summertime that Fairlington truly feels like the oasis we believe it to be. I love admiring the gardening prowess on display—the salvia and ranunculus and peonies and hosta spilling out of their beds. Even when the thermostat brushes 100 degrees, cardinals and orioles are still chattering away. The ever-present squirrels check out residents’ container gardens. Reading a book is almost required, because it gives us the perfect excuse to loll in the sun and expand our imaginations. Summer-time lets us be 10 or 11 years old again—to hit tennis balls or play catch, to be lazy, to dream and see possibilities. The renewed fervor of September will be here in a few weeks time. And we are free to hope it doesn’t come too soon.







Enjoy your August, whether you’re here in Fairlington, on the road, or catching up on the year’s work. The FCA will see you at our next public meeting on Wednesday, September 12.

Yours in service,

Rosiland Jordan, president
Fairlington Citizens Association
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Inside look at the legislative process

Clare McIntyre, legislative assistant to Congressman Jim Moran (D, 8th District, Virginia), informed residents about the “dedicated civil servants” who work in the congressman’s district office in Old Town and help constituents resolve a host of varied issues, with such things as Medicare, immigration and citizenship, passports and visas, taxes, Social Security, and veterans affairs. McIntyre, who works in Congressman Moran’s

Capitol Hill office, described the close working relationship between the two offices and the open line of communication between the two staffs, to ensure, she said, that 8th District residents are well-served by constituent services.

Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin brought an interesting perspective to his first session in the state Senate (D, 30th District) this year—having served for the eight previous years in the House of Delegates. Ebbin acknowledged that the conventional view of the two houses of the General Assembly is correct: The House can be “boisterous,” and one expects the Senate to be more “amicable,” although that tone is hard to achieve in an atmosphere of severely divided government. Two general areas focused the attention of this year’s GA



Left to right, Arlington resident Brian Devine, state Senator Adam Ebbin, and Clare McIntyre, legislative assistant to Congressman Jim Moran. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

session—contentious social issues (e.g., the state-mandated pre-abortion ultrasound procedure passed; the so-called “personhood” amendment wasn’t defeated outright, but was carried over) and the budget. In both areas and both houses, Ebbin noted, even the casual observer could distinguish between the generally more liberal views of NoVA representatives and the generally more conservative views of RoVA—the

“rest of Virginia.” Asked if he thought the conservative social agenda was typical of Virginia overall, Ebbin said candidly that he thought not, based on conversations with Republican colleagues. But he believed that conservative members felt compelled to satisfy the tea-party element of their party. Because of the public backlash against parts of the social agenda, Ebbin prophesied that, going forward, Virginia’s conservatives would become more moderate—“by an inch, perhaps, but not by a mile.”

For more information, contact Congressman Moran’s district office at 703-971-4700 or the “constituent services” section of the Web site, www.moran.house.gov. Contact state Senator Ebbin’s district office at 571-384-8957 or district30@senate.virginia.gov.

Virginia—the New Dominion

—Geoffrey Skelley, excerpted from Larry Sabato’s *Crystal Ball newsletter*, UVa’s Center for Politics, www.centerforpolitics.org

The idea of Virginia being a swing state is an entirely new concept, but it’s something the Commonwealth—and the nation—is going to have to get used to. The nature of the state’s population growth since the millennium has brought about major demographic and cultural shifts. Virginia is now the New Dominion, rather than the Old.

Of the state’s 13% growth in population between 2000 and 2010, a large portion occurred in Northern Virginia, the diverse suburbs and exurbs of Washington, D.C. Examples of rapid growth abound: Prince William County grew 40% while Loudoun County led the state with a growth rate of 84%, making them the third and fifth-most populous entities in the state, respectively. Fairfax County crossed the 1 million resident threshold,

making it more than twice the size of the state’s largest city, Virginia Beach. NoVa, as it is somewhat derisively known among down-staters, is now the most powerful region in the state on Election Day....Northern Virginia had more total two-party voters in the 2008 presidential election than any other region.

Arlington County Fair, August 8 – 12. Now in its 36th year, the Arlington County Fair returns to Thomas Jefferson Community Center and park grounds (3501 Second Street S.), August 8 through 12. Highlights include midway amusement rides, racing piglets, lots of food vendors, live performances, free activities for kids, and more. Go online to www.arlingtoncountyfair.us for details.



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Redevelopment planned for Park Shirlington Apartments

The owners of the nearby Park Shirlington Apartments are in the very early stages of planning a tear-down/rebuild redevelopment of the 15-acre property on S. 31st Street. Representatives from Home Properties, an REIT (real estate investment trust) that owns the 60-year-old rental complex, will discuss preliminary plans for redevelopment—what is known or projected at this time—at the FCA meeting on September 12. Home Properties owns and manages about 126 apartment communities in the mid-Atlantic region, many in the D.C. metro area.

The existing Park Shirlington complex comprises 294 units in 14 two- and three-story buildings. Redevelopment potentially would create some 750 rental units



in five buildings, with apartments described as “class A,” similar to those of the Delancey in Shirlington. Catherine Moy, Home Properties Director of Development, says that “many of Park Shirlington’s mechanical systems have reached the end of their useful lives.” Thus the property’s aging infrastructure has brought the company to the current crossroads.

Nevertheless, Moy stresses the early-days nature of the project—assuming all concepts, designs, plans, schedules, and permits move forward without delay, construction would begin no sooner than 2015. Before then, she says, the developer is interested in discussing the plan with neighbors and gathering feedback from them. See the September *Bulletin* for more information.

Last of the big dig

The county’s sanitary sewer infrastructure improvement project, phase 2, wrapped up on S. Utah Street in mid-July. The installation of a new sanitary sewer line, together with the old one now dedicated to servicing several buildings in the Commons, will increase overall sewer capacity and prevent sewage back-ups during periods of high infiltration. In early July, the contractor was putting in concrete to finish off the inside of the last sewer manhole (*below*). Almost immediately after the affected street was re-paved, the county undertook some storm sewer work (storm sewer, as distinct from sanitary sewer) near the S. 32nd Road intersection, to replace two storm inlets and pipes that have deteriorated over the years.



Back-to-school sales tax holiday, August 3 – 5

Virginia offers tax-exempt purchasing of school supplies during the first full weekend in August every year—this year, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 3 through 5. During the three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be free of sales tax.

“School supply” means an item commonly used by students, including such predictable things as notebook paper, binders, rulers, scissors, paste sticks, crayons, pens, pencils, highlighters, markers, lunch boxes, and sheet music. NOT eligible for tax-exempt purchase is either a computer or a computer supply item. Examples of computer supply items include computer storage media/devices, hand held electronic schedulers, personal digital assistants, and printers and printer supplies. In addition, the Virginia state Web site provides descriptions of what is/is not eligible for exemption under “clothing”—note that sports/recreational clothing is not tax exempt. For more information, go online to www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=SchoolSuppliesAndClothingHoliday.



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Storm-wise tips

In the early going after the June 29 storm, county and utility officials warned that the clean-up and power restoration would be a “multi-day event.” In some ways, it was good practice for a hurricane—we still have four months left in the mid-Atlantic hurricane season. FCA president Rosiland Jordan and other neighbors offered the following lessons learned from multiple days without power:

Before: Prepare now

- Be prepared to take care of yourself for three days, minimum, without electricity.
- Have a plan for all family members and pets.
- Gas up your car, charge your devices, and refill needed prescription medications in the time before a weather event threatens.
- Get now and have on hand these basic supplies: flashlights, extra batteries, bottled water. Have a battery-powered, solar-powered, or hand-crank radio.
- Have on hand an emergency supply of cash—not



just what happens to be in your wallet when the lights go out and the ATMs go down.

- Think now about having some alternative way to power your cell phone, smart phone, laptop, tablet, etc. In-car chargers can be lifelines; or consider a broadband/cellular aircard (requires data plan).
- Have on hand a paper copy of vital contact numbers—not just for police and fire departments but also for family and friends.
- Get more batteries.
- If the June power outage made you think about buying a generator, do your research now, and buy once the storm-rush is over. Practice using the equipment safely (outside only).
- Re planning for pets: Several D.C. hotels offered cut-rate lodging for people and their pets, while others were accused of setting “gouge” rates. Do research now about alternative lodging and ask questions.
- See, also, storm preparedness tips at www.ready.gov.

After: Be cautious

- Treat non-functioning traffic lights as four-way stops, yielding to the vehicle on your right. It's the law and it's common sense, but don't count on others to observe the rule.
- Stay away from downed power lines or tree limbs hanging on power lines.
- Check on neighbors.
- For power outages extending to multiple days, follow the USDA's advice on food safety: When in doubt, throw it out.

Power grid disadvantages some residents

The four separate Dominion Virginia Power circuits that supply electricity to Fairlington are not equally reliable—just ask certain residents of south Fairlington who waited four or five days for power restoration after the June 29 storm. The problem centers on Circuit 341 that services the Meadows, the Glen, and part of the Green—before reaching Fairlington, the route for 341 travels on overhead wires along tree-lined streets in Alexandria, which often defeats the advantage of having all-underground power lines inside Fairlington. At the July FCA meeting, the board voted to contact Dominion and investigate the feasibility of connecting Circuit 341 to the seemingly lesser vulnerable Circuit 794, which services the Commons, the Mews, and part of the Green. Both circuits enter Fairlington from King Street, and the two entry points are a mere two blocks apart. A description of Fairlington's four circuits, together with a Dominion power grid map of the community, can be found on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org >Issues >Fairlington Power Grid.

Derecho, continued from page 1

Comparatively speaking, Fairlingtonians were lucky. There was less tree damage here than elsewhere and power was restored in a little over a day for many—restored on Saturday night in north Fairlington, on Sunday morning in half of south Fairlington, and late Monday and Tuesday in the rest of Fairlington. But it's distressing to see lights on in some parts of the neighborhood while other residents remain in the dark—for more information about the power grid that services Fairlington, see the story, *left*.

See page 15 for more storm information.



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*Pictures depict an actual Fairlington
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Two AFAC gardens on display in Fairlington

On a record-hot Saturday in July, visitors were welcomed to tour eight Plot Against Hunger vegetable gardens in the local area—two of the eight grow in Fairlington. Both are tilled, planted, weeded, and watered by volunteers who donate the gardens' seasonal bounty to the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

At Abingdon Elementary School, science teacher Anne Sywilok organizes the work in the school's outdoor classroom. During the school year, "the just kids love it," she says, noting that students go home carrying sensory-stimulating tales of lemon balm and basil. In July, tomatoes were falling off the vines (those spared by the squirrels). Squash and pep-



Anne Sywilok at the Abingdon school garden (left). Anne Doll at the Grace Community Church garden (right). Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.



per plants were coming in, along with the giant cabbages that ring the garden at the fence line.

The garden sponsored by Grace Community Church puts vacant land to productive use on a corner along S. Abingdon Street just north of the bridge. In July, the radishes and fava beans were finished and delivered to AFAC, while squash and lima beans flourished. Anne Doll, who organizes the garden work, reports that the garden has gained

a following among neighbors who walk by and stop to help. Now that the garden is in its fifth year, about half the weed-and-water brigade are Fairlingtonians.

Sweet success at the Great American Bake Sale



Cathy Malin, right, announces that Fairlington Meadows resident Judi Garth won the award for Best Pie with her lemon buttermilk pie. Photograph by Guy Land.

The 10th anniversary bake sale was a great success again this year, thanks to the generosity of Fairlingtonians and donations from nearby stores, restaurants, and supermarkets. Organizer Cathy Malin reports that combined proceeds from the cookie sale at Fairlington Day in May and the 10th anniversary bake sale following the

July 4th parade totaled \$1,550, which will be donated to Support Our Strength, a non-profit dedicated to ending childhood hunger in America. Thanks to Fairlington Commons, the FCA, and Great Harvest Bread Company for sponsoring the bake sale.

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.

Sign-up for fall classes begins August 15

Online registration for county residents begins Wednesday, August 15, at 8 am, for Department of Parks and Recreation fall classes, www.arlingtonva.us/dpr. Resident carry-in and phone registration begins August 22, 8 am. Non-resident registration begins August 29. Fall classes start September 17.

For full class descriptions go online to the DPR Web site.

A Fairlington Fourth

As we've come to expect for our traditional Fourth of July parade, the weather was sunny (and getting hotter by the minute), the crowds large, and the decorations festive. This year's march up S. Abingdon Street was led by a new color guard, the cadets of Andrews AFB Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol as well as John Paul Francisco's ever-popular fife and drum corps. At the after-party, two separate grill stations helped ease the

long lines for hot dogs and cold drinks, and the Great American Bake Sale supplied sweet treats. Thanks go to the co-sponsors of the event, the FCA and Fairlington Villages, Villages contractor Purofirst who provided ice cream, Villages activities committee chairs Carrie Street and Melissa Beene, and all the volunteers who donated indispensable time and manpower.

Photographs by Guy Land and Gretchen Fallon.







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Get ready: CERT training begins next month



Get ready: CERT training begins next month Fall training for the Community Emergency Response Team is scheduled to begin September 13 and 18. The eight-session, 26-hour course covers skills needed to help yourself and others in emergencies. It is sponsored by the Arlington County Citizen Corps, Office of Emergency Management, and Fire Department, and follows a FEMA/DHS all-hazards curriculum used around the globe.

CERT training is open to Arlington residents (and those who work in the county but reside elsewhere) who are at least 18 years old (16- and 17-year-olds are welcome if accompanied by a parent or adult guardian) and are able to participate in all aspects of the training, some of which requires lifting and carrying. CERT has members of all ages. The training is free, but participants are expected to acquire certain supplies themselves, many of which they probably already have on-hand. All classes meet at the Arlington County Fire Training Academy in Shirlington and are taught by ACFD, ACPD, and OEM staff and CERT members. To-date, more than 550 people have completed CERT training in Arlington County.

Spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and advance registration is required. For more information or to sign up, contact the program's volunteer coordinator, Cynthia Kellams, at ArlingtonCERT@gmail.com.

Downed trees: You can call the Department of Parks and Recreation, 703-228-6525, to report downed trees—county-owned or public right of way trees, not trees on private property.

Storm power outages, by the numbers: On Sunday after the Friday, June 29 storm, 40,000+ Arlington households remained without power, out of an original 96,000 in the county; on Monday, the power-less number in Arlington was down to 30,000. On Tuesday, half a million DC area residents were still without power; on Wednesday, July 4, about 50,000 area residents remained without electricity, 11,000 in northern Virginia. On Friday, July 6, a week after the storm, about 100 Arlington residents were still waiting for power restoration, and that number was halved by the evening, while 7,000 waited region-wide. By Sunday, nine days after the storm, the county reported that all Arlington residents had been restored to power. By Friday, July 6, the county had collected more than 750 tons of debris and counting.

Who do you call?



The most worrisome public safety issue following the June 29 storm was news that people were having trouble getting through to 9-1-1. Originally the problem seemed to be with calls from cell phones, and later with calls from land lines, too.

On Saturday, June 30, Jack Brown, director of the Arlington County Office of Emergency Management said that 9-1-1 service remained "sporadic" and that county officials would work with Verizon to determine the cause and fix the problem. In the meantime, Brown offered the following advice to residents who wanted to report an emergency: First try 9-1-1. (For a few days, the county published an alternate emergency number, 703-741-3035.) Then try the non-emergency number, 703-558-2222. If all else fails, seek help at the nearest fire station.

Pat Shannon & Kristin Usaitis

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The Fairlington patio—facts and artifacts

The Fairlington “patio” dates to 1972 when CBI Fairmac of Chicago oversaw the conversion of the rental units into condominiums. Before then, most units had only a 4-by-5-foot cement stoop and water spigot out back. The new 4-inch-thick cement pad—usually 9-by-12-feet—porch canopy, and surrounding wooden fence with gate were added after the interiors were gutted and remodeled. (Does anyone remember avocado green and harvest gold kitchen appliances?)

I worked as a laborer back then, earning \$5 an hour—a bounty compared to the \$1.90-an-hour wage I previously made as a bus boy for Hot Shoppes in Old Town. But the Fairlington demolition and conversion was hard work. Toilets were unscrewed from the floors upstairs and just tossed out the window. (Today, I still find bits of porcelain in the patios’ soil beds.) But the toilet-tossing chore was nothing compared to hoisting chunks of concrete up through basement window wells after jack hammers had pummeled thick basement floors for the installation of lavatories and washer/dryer units.

A gentleman who car-pooled to work with my mother advised me on the new trend in homeownership. “You should buy one of those Clarendons,” he said. “They’re only thirty-two thousand dollars apiece.” I didn’t have even one thousand saved. But he purchased three, and made quite a profit decades later.

The patio rule then was “nothing



A typical patio now has many embellishments including leafy garden beds. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

taller than the six-foot patio fence.” Condo boards wanted to guard against such eyesores as ladders being randomly stashed for all to see. Soon, people began planting trees to shade their patios. Ornamentals were in vogue—dogwoods, purple leaf plums, Japanese maples, cherries, crabapples, redbuds, and dwarf magnolias—and they were planted everywhere in north and south Fairlington. And thanks to the dispersal efforts of robins, cardinals, and mockingbirds, large trees later grew tall in the form of elms, oaks, maples, pines, and spruces. Years later, sections of replacement fencing were re-configured around these thickening trunks to preserve the canopied ambiance.

Owners of the “Arlington” and “Dominion” units had larger patios, which meant more room to garden and decorate. Back then, Hechinger sold 3-by-3-foot wooden panels that were fitted together and placed over

the unsightly cement slab patio. Edging was also popular, whether it was the red scalloped brick, thin cinder blocks, rubber tubing, or half-circle wood posts stapled together for the “natural” look.

Every resident, it seems, wanted azaleas, and some plants from ’72 still exist, despite being gangly with twisted branches that seldom flower. Other evergreens popular then were rhododendron, yew, boxwood, and holly. Lots of those hollies have now grown into trees with trunks as thick as 8 inches.

More patio artifacts: Besides the porcelain, other objects we still find in the patios’ soil beds are rosaries, pet collars with nametags, iron, plastic Army men, pop tops from cans, window pane glass, and bits of outdated soda bottles. Remember Royal Crown Cola? If you find marbles in your garden bed, you’ll know a family with boys used to live there.

But the real dinosaur is the air conditioning compressor. Some from the 70s still function, though rusted and dwarfed in size by the modern units that resemble small refrigerators. Residents have done their best to shield them with lattice, fencing, and plants.

Take a walk on the biennial home and garden tour to see what other Fairlington homeowners have done with their gardens over the last 40+ years.

— Bill Sullivan,
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Summer strings program fosters student musicians



Ms. Gomez conducting an Abingdon recital. Photograph by Dana Andy.

One of the cornerstones of Abingdon's Project GIFT program is its commitment to the arts, especially music, through the strings and orchestra programs. All fourth graders must learn the violin through the Suzuki method, and class time is built in to each student's schedule for that purpose. In fifth grade, students can choose to continue with a

string instrument or move to a band instrument.

Soon starting her eighth year at Abingdon, strings instructor Kristin Gomez decided that a Summer Strings program was needed to encourage students in forming the habit of playing and practicing. Now in its seventh summer, the program lets students practice with young adult and professional musicians one evening a week for six weeks. Before the summer program started, says Gomez, the students asked, "Why can't you come in during the summer and teach us?" She thought about it, and responded, "Why not?" This year's Summer Strings Program is open to all rising fifth graders and rising sixth graders who have committed to play a string instrument in middle school. The program is funded by the Abingdon PTA and a small student tuition fee. The program culminates with a final concert for friends and

family members at the end of the last class. In addition to Gomez, students are taught by bassist Brandon Harris, who recently received a masters degree in bass performance from Catholic University; cellist Stephanie Herman, who plays with the Pan-American Symphony; and Wakefield High School sisters Vicka and Khaela Sanchez. Vicka, a rising senior, is the Concert Mistress for the Wakefield High School orchestra. Both girls are Abingdon alumni and former students of Gomez. "The goal of the program is for students to maintain their technical and musical skills and continue their enthusiastic momentum," says Gomez. "There's so much talent at Abingdon that it would be a shame to lose it" over the summer break.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

Abingdon receives two grants:

Abingdon is the proud recipient of two grants from the Arlington Community Foundation's Education Fund. A \$432 grant for the outdoor classroom (school garden) will fund the purchase of seeds, manure, gardening tools, and watering cans, according to lead science teacher Anne Sywilok. Students of all grade levels help work in the garden as part of the hands-on science curriculum, and the food produced is donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. In addition, the "Suzuki in the Schools Project," led by strings instructor Kristin Gomez, received a \$900 grant to purchase three cellos for students' use.



Fairlington residents Andrew Libby and Nathan Snare celebrate graduation from Abingdon Elementary. Photograph by Susan Snare.

Continued, next page.

Faces of Abingdon: Steve and Beth Andrews are the proud parents of Emily (rising 5th grader) and Owen (rising 2nd grader). These Fairlington residents have been part of the Abingdon family for five years. Among many other volunteer contributions, Beth has been a Girl Scout Troop Leader, PTA Fundraising Chair, Movie Night Coordinator, while Steve has volunteered to chaperone school field trips, partner with daughter Emily at the Girls on the Run 5k, and contribute his time for the annual Field Day event.

After attending the spring 2007 Kindergarten Orientation, the Andrewses realized that Abingdon was a perfect fit for their family. According to Beth, "We have been so pleased with our



Photograph by Marti Mefford.

neighborhood school and would not hesitate to make the same choice again today." Steve added, "We feel that both of our children are receiving a healthy, strong academic challenge." Both parents point to the Abingdon Literacy Team as an example of how the school is meeting the individual needs of each student.

"Our children bring home books to read each day that specifically meet their reading level. Because of this, and innovative ideas such as the Abingdon Book Bus, reading is fun, exciting, and very accessible for our children." Beth and Steve are extremely pleased with Abingdon's balanced focus on the arts and sciences. Emily, along with 4th grade peers, plays violin, participates in the summer strings program, and routinely makes Honor Roll. Younger brother Owen, who performed in his first musical at last winter's Project GIFT Showcase adds, "I like Abingdon because they help us learn and exercise. The teachers are really nice." Most important, according to their parents, "Both of our children love going to school every day."



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neighborhood news

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

Fairlington Diners is on hiatus until September. If you have suggestions for our activities next year, please send e-mail to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Young, clever, and artistic, Alessandra Cecchi is in an arranged marriage with a wealthy, much older man and is dangerously attracted to a young artist. In Sarah Dunant's novel *The Birth of Venus*, that attraction becomes even more perilous as the fiery monk Savonarola targets immorality, luxury, art, and women in late fifteenth-century Florence. All Fairlingtonians are invited to discuss the book on Tuesday, August 28, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net..

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, August 8, at

4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Nicole Hobbs (Membership VP) at nehobbs@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids, but don't know who to call, should consider joining the Co-op. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

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

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

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The Arlington Food Assistance Center is looking for a Sunday morning driver. You would be needed once a month, 7 to 10 am, to pick up food donations from two grocery stores in/near Arlington (Giant Food on Duke Street and Harris Teeter in Shirlington). This can be done in your own vehicle, and a six-month commitment is required. Please contact puwen.lee@afac.org if you can help.

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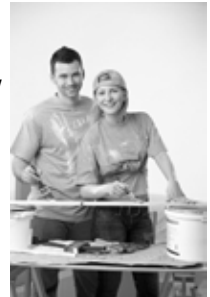
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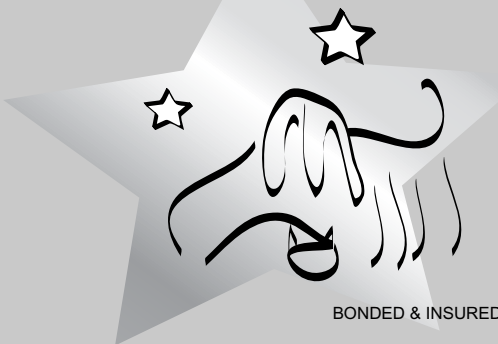
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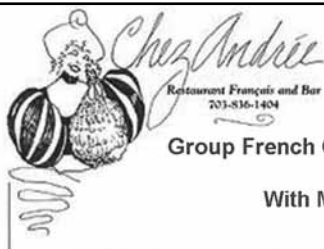


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Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford 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): _____

LONG AND FOSTER
ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

JUNE

TOP PRODUCERS



Pat Shannon
Top Producer



Kristin Usaitis
Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Petworth/DC—
Well main-
tained & spa-
cious 1914
3BR/2.5BA row
home w/
HDWDs & lovely
mini garden.

\$360,000 Call
Jet Thompson



Alta Vista/Arl. —Penthouse con-
do. 2BR/3.5BA w/stunning views.
\$725,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Sudley/Manassas— Totally reno-
vated 4BR/2.5BA Colonial.
\$349,000 Call office for details



Logan Circle/
DC
Spacious
2BR/2BA condo
w/garage park.
Roof top pool &
patio. Condo
fee inc. all utili-
ties. \$384,900
Call Kristin
Usaitis



Fairlington Village/Arl.—Rare Mon-
ticello model w/large eat-in kitch-
en, RR, Den, rear deck & yard.
\$379,900 Call Britt Grouby



Arlington Forest/Arl. —Updated
3BR Rambler in perfect location.
FPLC, patio & deck backs to park-
land. \$499,000 Call office for info

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

