

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

Forum to discuss lifting Quaker Lane parking restrictions

Fairlington residents appear to favor lifting or adjusting the overnight parking restrictions on Quaker Lane, based on recent survey results. The issue will be explored further in a residents' forum at the FCA meeting on August 14.

In June, FCA vice president Kent Duffy launched an online survey about parking restrictions on Quaker Lane to gauge opinion among the neighbors. Out of 84 respondents to the survey, 81% live near Quaker Lane in south Fairlington, and almost 80% perceive a shortage of on-street parking in the immediate neighborhood. Nearly the same amount, about 79%, support changing the current restrictions to permit private cars (but not commercial vehicles) to park overnight on Quaker Lane.



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

Currently, Arlington County signs the west, or southbound, side of Quaker, adjacent to Fairlington, to restrict all overnight parking. The signs say "No Parking, 1 to 3 am," and the overnight restriction went into effect about 10 years ago at the request of Fairlington residents. At that time, residents wanted to prevent the warehousing of large vehicles along the Quaker curb space, which was technically permitted (via the 10-day loophole) by the county parking code. In the meantime, however, the parking code has been amended to completely ban the parking of commercial vehicles, trucks, or boats along residential streets (camping trailers and similar vehicles are permitted to park in residential areas for up to five days). Arlington's residential streets include the west side of Quaker (the east side of the street lies within Alexandria's jurisdiction). Thus, with Quaker now unavailable to large commercial vehicles at all times, the subject of overnight restrictions is being revisited.

At the January FCA meeting, Arlington's parking management staff explained the loss of street-side parking spaces in south Fairlington, which came as a result of the county's street repaving and curb and signage update project. At the meeting, parking staff agreed to consider changing the overnight parking restrictions on Quaker in order to generate parking spaces for Fairlington residents. But, before making a decision, county staff wanted to hear from Fairlington residents. Thus, the FCA's survey—residents can hear more about the survey results at the August 14 meeting. After the forum, FCA plans to vote on whether or not to request a change in the parking restrictions on Quaker Lane.

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Back-to-school Virginia sales tax holiday

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
August 2 – 4

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, August 11
1:25 pm water taxi
McCormick & Schmick's
National Harbor

MOMS Club

Wednesday, August 14, 4:30 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, August 26, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, August 27, 7:30 pm
FV community center

Abingdon open house

Thursday, August 29, 1 – 2 pm
Abingdon Elementary School

See Neighborhood News on page 27
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.

August 14 agenda:

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

Presentation: FCA will host a forum for residents to discuss proposed changes to overnight parking restrictions on Quaker Lane, adjacent to Fairlington.

Regular business meeting:

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

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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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	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/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:

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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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

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

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

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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The sidewalk beside the tennis court on S. Stafford Street gives access to Quaker Lane. Residents will consider a change to parking restrictions on Quaker at the August 14 FCA meeting.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Capital Bikeshare has come to Fairlington. With solar-powered bike docking stations recently installed at the Fairlington Community Center and on the Abingdon Street bridge, and another station planned for S. 31st Street near S. Woodrow, Fairlington is now part of a network of more than 200 stations across Arlington, D.C., and Alexandria.

CaBi, as it is called, is self-service bike transit, designed for short trips (not long excursions), enabling people to get where they're going in an expeditious and affordable way without needing to drive a car or find a parking space. It's also a quick and inexpensive option for connecting to the Metro or major bus stops.

CaBi is a service provided by Arlington County, the District of Columbia, and the City of Alexandria in regional cooperation. It is part of Arlington County's commuting transportation plan. The jurisdictions have a contract with a private vendor to manage the system.

The reaction of Fairlingtonians has been mixed. "I love it," one resident proclaimed when CaBi announced plans for Fairlington stations. On the other hand, another resident complained that "it makes our community look more commercial and less residential."

There seemed to be a strong consensus that the original location of the first bike station, at the end of the bridge over I-395, just before the right turn onto S. 36st Street, created a safety hazard for cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians. At FCA's request, Arlington County moved the station to the other side of the bridge.

People have asked why Fairlington has several stations. CaBi officials explain that the success of the system requires stations every 3-5 blocks. This ensures that if one station is either full or empty, a rider won't have to go far out of the way to get to the next station—that's an important consideration if one is carrying a bag of groceries. As with a bus route, there need to be stops every few blocks.

To use the bikes, you must have a membership (annual, monthly, 3-day, or 1-day). The bikes are also subject to a small usage fee, based on how long the bike is kept, but the first 30 minutes is always free.

The question now is how warmly Fairlingtonians will embrace this new transit option. During May, the first full month of operation for the CaBi station on the bridge, 56 people rented bikes at that station. CaBi officials think that's a promising start.

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

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Arlington County Board Chairman Walter Tejada explains support for Columbia Pike streetcar project



FCA president Guy Land and county board chairman Walter Tejada.

At the July association meeting, the FCA welcomed Arlington County Board chairman Walter Tejada, whose remarks and slide presentation outlined the big-picture, long-term merits of the Columbia Pike streetcar project. In addition, Mary Shavalier, the streetcar program

manager from the county's Department of Environmental Services, provided a slide show that explained certain technical details that support the project's attractiveness and practicality.

The county's official support for the streetcar derives from a vision, looking some 40 years into the future, of smart growth and transportation management in Arlington. Because it is an attractive place to live—"vibrant" is the popular descriptor—Arlington is projected to grow in the coming decades. Thinking now about how best to manage that growth, and plan infrastructure to accommodate it, is at the heart of what is meant by "smart" growth; and planning for smart growth is not only a stated goal of the county, said Mr. Tejada, but also a duty of the county's elected officials. He recalled that the construction of Metro was an economic engine for parts of Arlington, and he believes that the streetcar will prove to be a similar investment in the Pike corridor and in Arlington's future in general.

Underground heavy rail, like Metro, is prohibitively expensive to build, which is why many cities across the country, faced with that fact, have decided that light rail—streetcars—are the next wave in urban transit systems. Pike streetcars would provide increased transportation capacity by augmenting, not replacing, the corridor's already much-used bus system (the highest number of passenger rides per day in Virginia); they are a permanent infrastructure investment that attracts high-quality development in a way that busses alone do not; they provide efficient, predictable connections among job centers; and they are environmentally friendly.

The Pike streetcar system is designed to run west/east from Skyline near Bailey's Crossroads to Pentagon City

and connect there with a proposed streetcar line that would run north/south along the Route 1 corridor and down to Potomac Yards. This attractive vision is not an outlier in the Washington metro area. The District of Columbia has planned a 37-mile streetcar network for the city, and the initial construction is now underway on the H Street corridor.

After the presentations, one resident, offering counterpoint and perspective to the ripples of doubt among meeting attendees, reviewed the project's lengthy approval process, including opportunities for community involvement and public comment. Nevertheless, the majority of comments

and questions from the audience were openly skeptical, voicing concern about the streetcar's projected high cost (possibly \$250-\$400 million, according to a federal study), the as-yet undetermined sources of funding, the impact on affordable housing, and the impacts of incentivizing development, density, and an increased demand for public services. One resident invoked the widely criticized \$1 million "super" bus stop on Columbia Pike as an example of the county's excessive spending and poor planning.



Mr. Tejada explains Arlington's smart growth initiative—Columbia Pike streetcars.



Streetcar program manager Mary Shavalier. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

Mr. Tejada and Ms. Shavalier responded to residents' questions by reemphasizing the vision of smart growth. Besides, as one resident pointed out, the time for community input had passed. The decision to go forward with the streetcar project has been made—the Fairfax Board of Supervisors has voted

Continued on page 19



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— Sarah H., 5/10/13, (via Google+)

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Emergency water valve repair on S. 34th Street

Parts of S. 34th, S. 36th, and S. Abingdon Streets were without water for about 7 hours in July due to a broken water valve. The faulty valve was replaced by work crews from the county's Department of Environmental Services' Water/Sewer/Streets Bureau on an emergency basis. By DES standards, it was a small emergency, affecting only a modest number of homes; but, as with any emergency water line repair, the work would go on from 4:30 pm and into the night until the fix was completed.

Water bureau staff said that "Main breaks that leave customers without water service are given highest priority for repair. The only thing that halts



Traffic was re-routed around county crews working on an emergency water valve repair on S. 34th Street at the bridge on July 12. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

an emergency repair is something like a tornado—where there's a threat to the crew's safety. If there's a thunderstorm, they keep working." If it had been a planned repair/replacement, the work would have been scheduled to take place during the overnight hours to lessen the impact on residents.

If you see a water leak anywhere in Arlington, call the county's 24-hour water emergency hotline, 703-228-6555. A water bureau employee will be dispatched to investigate and assess the problem. For more information, go online to the county Web site, arlingtonva.us > Department of Environmental Services > Water.

Letters to the Editor

Off-leash dogs

—Adapted from e-mail to the FCA and Fairlington Arbor condo board

On an afternoon in June, I was about to step out of my house to go for a walk, but changed my mind because there were two large, unleashed dogs, owned by neighbors, chasing each other in the common area in front of my house in the 3400 block of S. Utah Street. Later, thinking the dogs had gone, I tried to go out again. One dog was still around and unleashed. I spoke to the owner, telling him his dog should be on a leash. My neighbor responded: "They're not doing anyone any harm."

Previously, in May, while I was standing outside the back of my house, three large, unleashed dogs came running at me. Fortunately, I was able to step aside so that I did not get run down. One of the dogs, however, entered my patio, so there was no escape there. The problem is not new: Some years ago, two large, unleashed dogs came bounding at me; their nails left me with scratches and welts.

I have spoken about the problem of unleashed dogs to the animal wardens; they are sympathetic, but they inform me that the common area is private property, that they cannot do anything about it, and that the con-



Good doggy! Condo rules and county ordinances require dogs to be leashed and under the owner's control at all times, unless in an authorized dog park. Grassy common areas in Fairlington are not dog parks.

dominium association must enforce the leashed-dog rules. Reminders in the newsletter do not seem to have worked. I think a separate, stronger reminder should be sent around before someone is injured or bitten by an overly excited unleashed dog.

These owners obviously know they are breaking condo rules and Arlington County leash laws, but seem to think they can flout them. I would prefer not to take up valuable police time with this matter, but unless something is done I may have to. I get very tense when I am around unleashed dogs and feel my safety is at risk.

*Rose Marie Fructuoso
Fairlington Arbor*

Arbor condo association board president Pat Schoen responded to Ms. Fructuoso's concerns, explaining the board's process for enforcing the leash laws: If we have the addresses of the homeowners involved, we can send a letter to them. If they do not cease their activities, we are required to send a second letter; and, if a third letter is required, that letter will be to inform them that the condo board will be discussing their issue and what the fine will be.

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Storm drain markings



The storm drain markers you see around Fairlington are reminders from the county that anything that goes into a storm drain goes directly into our local streams, which flow untreated into the Potomac River, which is the source of drinking water for Arlington as well as neighboring jurisdictions. The markers, featuring “Sherlock Shad,” are customized to name the local watershed

or stream that is affected. In Fairlington, the markers say “No Dumping. Drains to Four Mile Run.”

Volunteers usually place the drain markers in their neighborhoods. The glue used to attach the markers to concrete requires warm temperatures and completely dry pavement. If you are interested in marking a storm drain in your vicinity, contact Jen McDonnell by e-mail at jmcdonnell@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-3042.



Tree is broken, removed, replaced: This tree on S. Wakefield was damaged beyond salvaging by last summer’s derecho. It was removed last fall and replaced with two new trees in May. *Photos, Gretchen Fallon.*

Get help for problem plants: You can call, send e-mail, or visit the Virginia Cooperative Extension/ Master Gardener Help Desk at the Fairlington Community Center for help with an insect or disease that’s infesting your garden plants. Take fresh samples in plastic bags to the Help Desk, 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, year round; or call 703-228-6414 or contact mgarlalex@gmail.com. Services are free.

Bill Sullivan’s primer on liriop

During April’s tree walk, *Bulletin* gardening columnist Bill Sullivan noted that liriop is a staple in Fairlington gardens—and that, more importantly, most of the neighborhood’s liriop plants would benefit from being dug up and divided. Here are Sullivan’s expanded observations about Fairlington’s ubiquitous ground cover.



The liriop (lilyturf) plant is considered a ground cover, and it is widely deployed in Fairlington—for good reason. Liriop offers everything a gardener wants: evergreen foliage, variegated color, flowers in the form of slender lavender stalks in August and September, fruit showing as a shiny, black berry in winter, and a pendulous (cascading) habit.

Liriop is also suitable for “pattern planting,” such as under a tree canopy where larger shrubs with bigger root balls cannot grow. Furthermore, it is one plant with zero maintenance needs. It hardly ever needs watering (besides rain), and it never needs pruning unless the arching lance-shaped blades touching the ground are unattractive.

What liriop does need is dividing. As it matures, the root ball thickens, making it harder to absorb minerals and water from the soil. The plant can be dug up and easily split into halves or quarters with a utility knife. [Editor’s note: One resident used a chopping shovel, and none too gently, and can report that liriop survives rough handling.] Afterward, you have two to four “new” plants to install in the garden, and the new root balls are malleable and moist.

What cicadas? Some Fairlingtonians were disappointed by the non-arrival of the 17-year, Brood II cicadas, which were widely anticipated in the mid-Atlantic region this summer. The cicadas arrived on schedule in June, but for the most part at points west and south of Arlington—in the millions from Fredericksburg to Fairfax, according to the *Washington Post*. It’s called “patchy distribution,” say the bug experts. If you’ve lived here long enough to remember cicadas thick on the ground in Fairlington, you’re probably thinking of 2004—those were the 14-year, Brood X cicadas. Stand by for 2018.

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— Fairlington at 70 —

Lost & Found



No one ever explained to us where to find the Fairlington Lost and Found Department, but for decades residents seem to have intuited its ever-changing, street-side location. Mate-less mittens and gloves proliferate in winter, and infant sunhats often go missing in summer. These sidewalk finds are picked up by neighborly passersby, dusted off, and posted on

nearby poles and signs for retrieval. Fire hydrants have been re-purposed as lost and found platforms, as was this tree (*above, left*)—sporting lost reading glasses. It's an informal return-to-owner system—really less a “system” than a time-honored custom that puts Fairlington's traditional neighborliness on display. *Photos, Gretchen Fallon.*

How smart is your meter?



In June, the *Bulletin* reported Dominion Virginia Power's intent to install all new smart electric meters on homes inside the Beltway, starting in Alexandria in May and moving north through Arlington this summer. The smart meters gather data on electricity usage and performance (power on or not) and transmit the information directly to Dominion.

Dominion customers received a postcard mailing from the utility in June, alerting them to the upcoming switch-out work, which was projected to take place two to four weeks after the postcard's arrival. It was expected that installation work in Fairlington would be at least halfway completed by the end of July. Even if you had meter work done in the last couple of years, say in 2010, and received a smart meter at that time, it was a meter with different technology than that which is now being installed. Thus your three-year-old “old” smart meter will be switched out for a new smart meter during the 2013 meter upgrade.

Dominion advises that, generally speaking, no appointments are necessary for the technicians to do the work. However, if a technician arrives on site and encounters an access problem (a locked patio gate, for example), then he will leave a door-hanger message and attempt follow-up. And if a customer believes there is an access issue, he can call 866-566-6436 and ask to schedule an appointment. For more information, go online to www.dom.com and search “smartmeter-install-schedule.”



CaBi update: After neighbors expressed concern about the placement of the CaBi station on the southeastern corner of the bridge over I-395, Arlington County agreed to move Fairlington's bridge station to the other side of the bridge, in order to improve sight-lines and safety at the intersection

of S. 36th Street and S. Abingdon St. The re-installation took place in early July, and the station at the community center was installed at about the same time. *Photo, Gretchen Fallon.*

A Fairlington Fourth!

About 500 Fairlingtonians, decked out in red, white, and blue, marched up S. Abingdon Street from the firehouse to the after-party in the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot. The parade was led by ACFD Engine 107 and Don Francisco's ever-popular fife and drum

corps. Sponsored by the FCA and Fairlington Villages, the parade was made memorable by the work of the Villages' activities committee and all the volunteers who donated their time. Thanks! *Photos, Gretchen Fallon and Guy Land.*





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....and more from the Fourth



Fairlington says farewell to long-time resident Paul Ferguson (at right) with FCA treasurer Ed Hilz and board member Carrie Street. Ferguson is a former FCA president, former member of the Arlington County Board, and currently the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Arlington and Falls Church.

See Kate's video of the 4th of July parade and after-party



Videographer Kate Barton filming the 4th of July parade. Photo, Guy Land.

FCA's summer intern, Kate Barton, has been busy recording and reporting the goings-on about Fairlington this summer. You'll want to see her video of Fairlington's 4th of July parade, which captures the spirit of that popular

event. Also, check out Kate's blog to learn more about neighborhood garden plots that support the AFAC's Plot Against Hunger program, animal welfare league volunteers, and local landmarks—you won't want to miss all the great photos!

You can view Kate's parade show and more videos, photos, and feature stories by going online to the FCA Web site and following the Summer Blog link. You can also access the blog directly at fairlingtonintern.tumblr.com. There's more: Read Kate's posts on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page and follow her on Twitter @internkate. If you have suggestions for a story, send e-mail to intern@fca-fairlington.org.



The Guy with the camera: FCA president Guy Land, wielding his camera, is a familiar sight around Fairlington. For the 4th of July, he donned the Uncle Sam top hat.



Arlington County Board member and Fairlington resident Libby Garvey with Virginia State Delegate Rob Krupicka.



No Kid Hungry bake sale donates \$1,520: Cathy Malin, organizer of the annual 4th of July No Kid Hungry bake sale credited a seasoning of good weather added to generous quantities of Fairlington residents' donated sweet treats for

the holiday's successful event. This year, Fairlington will donate \$1,520 to Share Our Strength to help fight childhood hunger in America.

The No Kid Hungry bake sale sends thanks to sponsors Fairlington Commons, the FCA, and Great Harvest Bread Company. Thanks also go to Giant, Safeway, Harris Teeter, and Trader Joe's. Thank you to Panera Bread, One Good Tern, Diversion Cards, Foxglove Florist, and Fairlington Pizza. And thanks to Carlyle Restaurant, Alexandria Pastry Shop, and Sheer Shack Salon for their generous donations to the raffle.

Ms. Malin sends a final thank you to all who baked and purchased home-made treats! Together we can make a difference!



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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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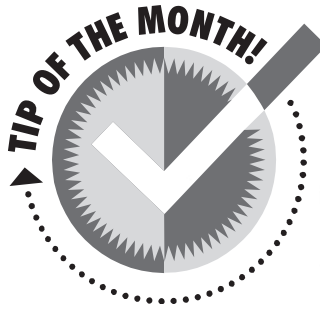
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20 minutes can mean life or death in a hot car

In May, we talked about hot weather safety for pets. This month, we focus on one specific area—leaving dogs in a car during the spring and summer. Many dog owners like to take their pets with them while they run errands, but they don't realize the potential danger—temperatures in a car can double in a very short period of time, putting pets at risk of heat stress or even death.

To put things in a scary time frame: On a mild, 70-degree day, temperatures in the car can rise above 100 degrees in as little as 30 minutes—even if you crack the windows. A dog left in a hot car can reach respiratory distress in 10 minutes and die in as little as 20 minutes.

Recently, the City of Alexandria added a provision to the city code that would impose a \$250 fine on people who leave their pets in the car when the temperature is



above 70 degrees. Violators would be charged with a Class 3 misdemeanor; a Class 1 misdemeanor would be imposed if the pet suffered from heat stress as diagnosed by a vet. The law would make it easier for officials to remove pets from a hot car; owners would be charged for any removal expenses.

What can you do if you see a dog locked in a car on a hot day? One option is to take down the car's information and try to locate the owner in a nearby shop. Or call the local animal welfare authorities (Alexandria: 703-838-4774; Arlington: 703-931-9241) or call the police to report your concerns.

Keep it safe for the rest of the summer and keep your pets safe and cool—and at home—while you run errands on a hot day.

—Christine M. Chirichella, AFB Assistant Editor

Fairlington Community Center News

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

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

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

Fall class registration times change:

Resident online registration begins August 14 for fall classes. In an effort to better serve the growing number of Arlingtonians who enjoy our classes, the Department of Parks and Recreation is moving up and dividing class registration times. On August 14, resident online registration opens at 7 am for gymnastics classes only. For ALL other classes, resident online registration begins at 7:30 am.

Pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington* at the FCC or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr to find complete class listings. For registration or questions, call 703-228-4747.

Senior center events

55+ July/August registration:

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. We offer a variety of times, locations, and topics to accommodate your schedule. Catch a movie, join a book club, play Scrabble, or practice ballroom dancing. Check out the latest 55+ *Guide* for full offerings. Our online class and trip registration is now new and improved! Registration for classes with fees began July 1 (please note that we no longer accept American Express). Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information.

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for it and the Arlington County Board has voted, twice, in favor of it.

Mr. Tejada acknowledged that the project was going to move forward, and it was his purpose now to keep people informed about the potential benefits of the streetcar and the project's progress. "The streetcar is a strategic investment," he said. "We will grow, because people will come to areas where transit options are in place. Density is good if well-managed and well-planned."

For more information about the county's streetcar project, go online to arlingtonva.us and search streetcar. For the opposition view, go online to sensibletransit.org.

Virginia school supplies sales tax holiday, August 2 – 4

During the first full weekend of August (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), the purchase of certain school supplies, clothing, and footwear will be exempt from Virginia sales tax. Each eligible school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation. For more information and details about items that qualify for the tax exemption, go online to www.tax.virginia.gov and search sales tax holidays.

Arlington County Fair, August 7 – 11

The 37th annual Arlington County Fair, August 7 through 11, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center (3501 Second Street South) features fun rides, pig races, performances from local bands, a 5K run/walk, and much more. Admission is free.

Parking at the fairgrounds is prohibited (except for on-site ADA parking in the lot directly in front of the center). Shuttles (\$2 round-trip fee) run every 30 minutes each day during the fair's operating hours from three satellite parking areas: the Ballston Metro, the Arlington Career Center, and the I-66 parking garage. For more information about hours and programming, go online to www.arlingtoncountyfair.us.

Bat festival, August 24



Add to your knowledge of local night life on Saturday, August 24, 6 to 9 pm, at the bat festival at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Activities include habitat walks, games, crafts, and a live bat show. Halfway

through the evening, everyone is invited to join in a festive lantern parade. Register children over age 2 and adults; children under 14 must register with an accompanying adult. Register online at <https://registration.arlingtonva.us> or call 703-228-4747. There is a \$7 fee per participant.

Peak season for farmers markets

There are seven markets in Arlington, listed below. For more information, including addresses, directions, parking suggestions, vendors, etc., go online to the county Web site and search farmers markets. For information about nearby farmers markets in Alexandria, go online to alexandria.gov/farmersmarket.



Arlington (Courthouse), Saturdays, 8 am to noon
Ballston, Thursdays, 3 to 7 pm
Clarendon, Wednesdays, 2 to 7 pm
Columbia Pike, Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm
Crystal City, Tuesdays, 3 to 7 pm
Rosslyn, Thursdays, 11 am to 3 pm
Westover, Sundays, 9 am to noon



Home, tweet home:

A carriage lamp in the Mews, with a glass panel pushed aside, became home to a pair of very small birds this summer. *Photo, Gretchen Fallon.*

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"We are writing to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to you and your crew for the excellent work in remodeling our two bathrooms. It was indeed a pleasure dealing with a company that places a high priority on customer satisfaction. We are very satisfied customers. The bathroom was done with a high degree of craftsmanship and completed within the time frame that you had originally proposed. It's apparent that GMG is a remarkably well-run and well-organized operation. In the 33 years that we have lived in the Washington DC area, we have never been more satisfied with contractors than we are with GMG Services."

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ACPD vacation tips, for home and away

—Captain Brett Butler, Cmdr, 3rd District Team

Do not stop mail or newspaper. You don't know whom you're talking to when you notify these service providers. Instead, have a trusted neighbor or friend come by and pick up the mail and newspaper.

While the neighbor is at your home, have them move your car from time to time. Nothing screams "I am not home!" louder than a car sitting in the same spot, day after day, collecting a coating of dust or pollen.

Put interior and exterior lights on timers and vary the

time they turn on/off. Lowes and Home Depot have various brands that are programmable by day and/or by week. You can also plug in your TV to some newer timers and have your TV turn on/off at prescribed times.



Sound advice for travel, and also for everyday purchases:

Be wary of carrying large amounts of cash/using the ATM. Use a credit card—most recommended is to have a specific credit card for purchases separate from your debit/bank card that is tied to your bank account. If your credit card number is compromised, the card company will not hold you accountable for the fraudulent purchases. If there are fraudulent charges on your debit card, you are relying on your bank's good will to reimburse you.

At hotels, **never** leave valuables in your room. Use the room safe, if there is one, or check in valuables with the manager in the hotel safe. This small inconvenience is nothing compared to trying to replace your ID when you're overseas.



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The Benjamin Franklin Parkway is lined with Bradford pears. City Hall is in the background. Photo, Janice Marquez.

Just 145 miles north of Fairlington is a green getaway in the fifth-largest city in America. Philadelphia, once the nation's "temporary" capital while Washington, D.C. was being developed, offers a grid of tree-filled side streets and boulevards. "Squares" or fountain-centered parks shade tourists with trees and cool them with granite basins of water.

Greenscapes of Philadelphia offer relaxing oases on every block in both "Center City," anchored by Independence Hall, and "Old City," the arts community in the southeast section of town near the Delaware River. Fronting the brownstones and brick edifices dating to the late 1800s are mature trees of many genres (linden, willow oak, trident maple, Bradford pear, cherry, crab apple, and hornbeam). Across the street from Indepen-

dence Hall is a row of hawthorn trees that flower white in spring and treat the robin, mockingbird, and cedar waxwing to a fruit cocktail in autumn.

Along Benjamin Franklin Parkway, which connects archaic City Hall (112 years old) with the Museum of Art (where Sylvester Stallone flexed his muscles to his native city in "Rocky") are clusters of dwarf crape myrtle trees flowering in pinks and white. Near the Art Institute is the Rodin Museum, which houses the largest collection of Auguste Rodin-sculpted bronze castings outside Paris. The newly renovated landscape (featuring "The Thinker") is awash in Russian sage's pale lavender, spiked flowers. Come fall, the perennial sedum will grace the garden in pink flower.

Six blocks east of the Rodin Museum

is the Eastern State Penitentiary, which was built in 1829 and housed prisoners (including Al Capone) until its closing in 1971. Gray stone walls with castle-like towers are accented with crape myrtle trees, laurel, coreopsis, falsecypress, sedum, miscanthus grasses, and clusters of begonia. Inside those eight-foot-thick walls are barren yards with worn-out grass and networks of Boston ivy running up the mammoth facades.

City Hall, built in 1901, is a gray monolith with a singular tower that serves as a pedestal for Philadelphia's founding father, William Penn. The 37-foot-tall, 27-ton bronze statue is the tallest monument atop any building in the world. Within the granite walls is a courtyard featuring a compass etched in flagstone and four large cherry trees.

Churches of many denominations are found on city blocks and some feature parks with vast lawns, benches, and towering shade trees.

Like any large city, Philadelphia has a botanical garden, but the benefits of "greenscaping" weren't lost on its founding fathers. Walking through the city is testament that the City of Brotherly Love also has a fondness for landscaping.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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Ana Parker, Hannah Lewis, and Jackson Gravelle proudly display their newly acquired books while standing inside the Book Bus. The Read and Roll Bus, a brainstorm idea of the Abingdon Literacy Team made stops throughout Arlington during the month of July. Photos, Dana Andy.

A great start to a new school year!

The first day of the new school year for all Arlington Public Schools is Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Abingdon will kick start the school year with several fun-filled family events. First, all students and their families can visit Abingdon to meet teachers and visit classrooms during the school-wide Open House event on Thursday, August 29 from 1 to 2 pm.

Next, all Abingdon families are invited to the annual Back to School Picnic & Potluck, sponsored by the Abingdon PTA, on Monday, September 2, from 4 to 6 pm, on the school's back playground. Fried chicken, paper products, water and juice will be provided by the PTA. Families are asked to bring a dessert (if your last name starts with A-L) or side dish (last name starting with M-Z). In case of rain, the event will be held in the school gym with entry to the building through the

gym doors in the rear of the school. New Abingdon families wishing to be added to the school's PTA e-mail list should contact Co-Presidents Dana Andy and Dan Branch, both Fairlington residents, by e-mail at abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com or call 703-671-3460.

Summer Strings in full swing

For the eighth consecutive year, Abingdon's strings instructor Kristin Gomez has offered a unique "Summer Strings" program to keep students practicing over the summer months. This year's program is providing instruction to about 20 students, some of whom just completed fifth grade at Abingdon and plan to play in middle school orchestras next school year. In addition to Ms. Gomez, other professional musicians are offering their teaching services. Cellist Stephanie Herman from the Pan American Symphony returned for her second year and Margo Mevinsky, a violinist and

teacher from Oakton elementary and high schools is helping for the first time. Several former Abingdon students, all of whom now play in APS middle and high school orchestras, are volunteering while honing their performance and practice skills. The Abingdon Summer Strings program will conclude with a special performance in front of the Shirlington Library in the early evening of Monday, August 5. A final performance will be held at Abingdon on Tuesday, August 6, at 7 pm.

Ms. Gomez attended Suzuki Music Festivals at Ithaca College, New York, and St. Edward's College in Austin, Texas, earlier this summer to continue her training as an "officially registered" Suzuki instructor. She is now a "registered teacher" in Books 1, 2, and 3 and was in the first class to be registered in the "Suzuki in the Schools" program.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president



Abingdon Alumna and Arlington County Honors Orchestra student Neeka Samimi returns to help mentor students of the summer strings program. She is accompanied here by a dedicated Abingdon musician.



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Book Group

If you think text-message length is challenging, consider the plight of the Nollop islanders in Mark Dunn's novel, *Ella Minnow Pea*. They venerate language but face decrees that progressively limit which letters of the alphabet they can use in the letters they write—their only form of nonverbal communication. Can an underground resistance movement of Nollopians prevail? Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, August 27, at 7:30 pm. in the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group that gathers for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In July, we enjoyed visiting Las Tapas in Alexandria, with a little flamenco dancing on the side, followed by burger night at Beckett's in Shirlington. In August, we'll have the following events:

Sunday, August 11, lunch at McCormick & Schmick's at National Harbor. We'll plan to take the 1:25 pm water taxi from Alexandria, with lunch at 2:30 pm at McCormick & Schmick's. Round trip tickets for the water taxi are \$16 and may be purchased from the Potomac Riverboat Company, either at their office at Cameron and Union St. in Old Town or online. We'll plan to head back later in the afternoon, probably on the 4:45 pm water taxi.

Monday, August 26, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voice-mail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you'd like to be on our e-mail list to receive notice of our events a couple of weeks in advance, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members and their children of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parent's Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and groups such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are wonderful for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

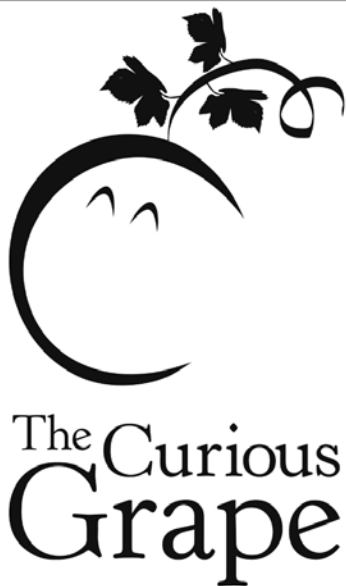
Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, August 14, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. To request an application or for more information, Fairlington residents (north or south) can send e-mail to the coordinators at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

Arlington alerts: You can sign up for electronic emergency notifications and updates (via e-mail, cell, text, or pager) at www.arlingtonalert.com. It's a free county service, but your service provider may charge fees for receiving wireless device messages.



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RETIREMENT SALE. Ladies clothes, size 16, 18. Antique sleigh bedroom set. Antique pineapple bedroom set. Antique Victorian marble top lamp table. 703-577-0171.

Services

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

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

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

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

EARN EXTRA MONEY!! Delivery BOYS/GIRLS NEEDED!! Ages 9-14, flexible hours. GOOD PAY. Call 703-801-7592.

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

MASSAGE THERAPY. Long time Fairlington resident. Experienced, professional massage practitioner. Licensed and insured. Deep Tissue, Swedish, certified Medical Massage. \$40/hour for first time visit. Call 703-300-7719 or e-mail fairlingtonmassage1@gmail.com. www.GradyMcGonagle.com

Child Care

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

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

Gardening/Landscaping

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

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.

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

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

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

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

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

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

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

SENIOR CRAFTSMEN, INC. Biff Henley, bonded and insured. 703-403-5354. Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net.

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

Mini-ads

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

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

ELECTRICAL SERVICE. Master electrician. Lights, fans, panel replacements. Licensed, insured credit cards Allegro LLC 703 314 1287 info@allegroLLC.net

CLIMATROL HEATING & COOLING CORP. 703-981-6664. www.climatrolhvac.com. Only \$79.95. Serving all Fairlington citizens. Family owned, operated, licensed and insured business. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, and our service is thorough. Have us professionally perform residential heating or cooling system inspection. Or if you currently have a problem, we will be happy to diagnose it. We can also inspect the accessory equipment including the electronic air cleaner, programmable thermostat, condensate pump and hot water heater at no extra charge! Read real reviews from satisfied Climatrol customers at Angie's List, Get 10% discount on repairs with this ad. We also perform FREE second opinion and heat exchanger and compressors.

HANDYMAN/MASTER CRAFTSMAN. Bathrooms, kitchens, built-ins, cabinets, closets, carpentry, drywall, basements, interior doors, crown molding, chair rail, tile, sinks, faucets, disposals, toilets, ceiling fans, lighting, painting. Licensed. Insured. Damon Blackburn 703-966-7225. www.firstratehandyman.com.

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, dry-wall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151. rrhomeimprove.com.

House Cleaning

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

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

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

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.

Pet Services

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

DOG WALKER & CAT 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.

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

ALL WAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Flexible, reliable, reasonable. 703-765-0990; 703-405-2775.

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An Expert in Fairlington Doors

Entry Door Repairs: Weather-Stripping, Thresholds, Locks
Storm Door Repairs & New ProVia Storm Doors Installed

For contact, scheduling, & Fairlington door information, visit:

www.doorsolutions.biz



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Affordable, affectionate care,
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Walking, bark-park visits, play dates,
boarding, daycare, sitting, and more...
What can we do for you?

Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel
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Pet & Plantcare by Gerri, LLC

- ★ Walking
- ★ Sitting
- ★ Playgroups
- ★ Medications

Gerri Horan
703.379.7719
SINCE 1999



BONDED & INSURED

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Aug 10th for Sep 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. The FCC is closed Sunday.
Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

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): _____

LONG AND FOSTER

ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

June TOP PRODUCERS



Barbara Wood
Top Producer

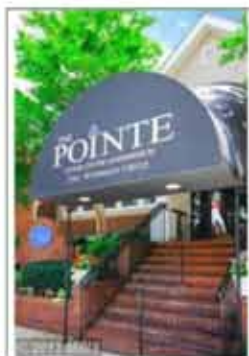


Kristin Usaitis
Top Selling Agent



Juliet Flory
Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Alex/Pointe at
Park Center-
Beautifully ren-
ovated
2BR/2BA top
floor w/balcony
& cathedral
ceilings.
\$295,000 Call
Juliet Flory



Arl/Alta Vista-Penthouse Condo.
2BR/3.5BA w/stunning views.
\$699,900 Call Kristin Usaitis



Occoquan/Hollows-Updated
3BR/2.5BA TH w/fenced in paver
patio. \$359,900 Call Juliet Flory



Alex/Skyview
Park-Gorgeous
3BR/3.5BA end
TH. Eat-in kit.
w/7 foot island,
large MBR suite
w/soaking tub
- plus 2 car gar-
age. \$385,000
Call Nicole
Bream



Clifton/Ashleigh-Beautiful
5BR/4.5BA w/2 car garage & ft.
porch. \$849,900 Call Juliet Flory



Arl/The Arlington-2BR condo w/
fireplace, balcony. Mins. to shops,
theatre. \$290,000 Call Doug Luzik

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
& ALL NORTHERN VA

