

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

County board advances expansion of Abingdon Elementary

The Arlington County Board has approved the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School as a priority item in the county's overall Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2015–2024. Funding for the Abingdon work will be included in a bond referendum presented to Arlington County voters in November.

The total Abingdon project is projected to cost \$28.75 million, all of which would be covered by the bond financing. If the bond is approved by the voters, work would begin next spring, with completion scheduled in time for the beginning of school in the fall of 2017. The total proposed school bond amount is \$105.78 million.

The expansion would add 136 seats to Abingdon's capacity. Under current projections, Abingdon will be the second most over-crowded school in Arlington in 2015.

The Arlington School Board in June had included the Abingdon work in the school portion of the CIP, but the county board determines the final CIP, balancing school needs with other major county infrastructure demands while ensuring that the county's debt service (the amount spent to repay outstanding bonds and interest) does not exceed 10 percent of the county's annual operating budget.

During the July 19 county board debate on the CIP, Chair Jay Fisetta emphasized that the county CIP "fully incorporates" the school board's recommendations. Board member Mary Hynes noted that the county board and the school board had worked closely together to provide additional school capacity as part of the CIP.

The final vote on the overall CIP was 3–2, with Libby Garvey and John Vihstadt dissenting primarily because of the inclusion of the Columbia Pike streetcar in the CIP. In an earlier work session, all five board members voted to include the school board's recommendation in the CIP.

The county board's action is consistent with a resolution unanimously adopted by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) urging the board to include Abingdon renovation and expansion as a priority component of the CIP.

"FCA enjoys a close relationship with Abingdon Elementary School, our neighborhood school," FCA President Guy Land wrote in a letter to the county board. "It is an important part of our community." The letter also

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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 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

August 13 preliminary agenda

Regular Board business:

- Approval of July minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New Business
 - Intergenerational survey
 - Work plan for next six months

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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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/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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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 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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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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FCA Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 7 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 pm
Bombay Curry Company
2607 Mount Vernon Ave.,
Alexandria

MOMS Club

Wednesday, August 13, 4:30 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, August 25, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, August 26, 7:30 pm
FCC

Steering Committee meeting

on Intergenerational Strategies
Thursday, August 28, 7 pm
FCC

Tax-free holiday for school supplies August 1–3



During the first three days of August, the purchase of certain qualifying

school supplies, footwear, and clothing is exempt from Virginia sales tax. Each school supply item must be \$20 or less, and each clothing item must be \$100 or less to qualify. For more information on what qualifies for the tax holiday, go to www.tax.virginia.gov and search “sales tax holiday.”

For families wishing to take advantage of “Back to School” sales and the school supply tax holiday, check your school’s website at the end of July for the required supply list. Abingdon families may go to the Abingdon website at www.apsva.us/abingdon. Click on “School Supply Lists” at the top of the page.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Did you make it to this year’s Fabulous Fairlington Fourth? What an amazing community event! As the photos on pages 12–13 show, a large and enthusiastic crowd either marched or cheered the marchers on from the sidewalk. Many observers commented that this was our largest turnout ever, with some informal estimates running in the range of 800–900 people. We’ve definitely come a long way since North Fairlington first pioneered this event about a dozen years ago.

The parade represents community spirit and collaboration at its best. FCA and North Fairlington jointly host it, sharing the financial and grilling burdens. One of North Fairlington’s contractors, Purofirst, provided the ice cream. And, of course, the Arlington police led the way, while the crew and engine of Fire Station 7 delighted the little kids at the end of the parade.

The parade suggests linkages with several FCA projects. First, one could not help but be struck by the number of children in the parade. They just kept coming, by the dozens, as the marchers proceeded down S. Abingdon St. That helps explain why so many Fairlingtonians are concerned about renovating and expanding Abingdon Elementary. It’s an important part of our community.

FCA has worked with parents and the Abingdon PTA in making sure that the school board and the county board understand the need to address the overcrowding and renovation challenges of Abingdon. We are pleased that the county has included those Abingdon projects in the bond package that will go to the voters this fall.

Second, the parade reflected the community’s changing and diverse demographics. Lining the parade route were dozens of senior citizens and retired residents waving flags and smiling at the young marchers. They, too, are part of the vitality of Fairlington. That underscores the importance of our working group on intergenerational strategies.

Finally, the parade highlighted the strong sense of community that marks Fairlington—one of those intangible things that we all value. A great example was the enormous outpouring of support for the Fairlington-Abingdon 5K back in April. Last month Joe Reed, Joe Hartman, and I presented a check for proceeds from the race to Fairlingtonians Ellie McGinn and her parents for the foundation that’s supporting work to find a cure for Ellie’s mitochondrial disease.

Sometimes a parade can offer a remarkable window into what makes a successful community tick.

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

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Fire Station 7 safe, for now



Fire Station 7 has been a fixture in Fairlington for decades. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Alarms went off when a story in the June 20 edition of the ARLnow.com news website reported that Fairlington's Fire Station 7 was under consideration for closure or relocation. But according to Arlington County Fire Chief Jim Schwartz, there are no plans for Station 7, at least not in the near term.

On June 17, Chief Schwartz presented the Arlington County Board with a set of recommendations from a 2012 Population Growth, Risk Assessment, and Fire Station Location Study, or TriData report, that placed emphasis on locating stations where the demand is highest in Arlington County and response time for calls exceeds four minutes—specifically areas in the northern part of the county.

The TriData report evaluated all fire stations in Arlington and found that Station 7, located at 3116 S. Abingdon St., could be relocated and merged with Fire Station 9, currently located on Walter Reed Dr. in the Douglas Park neighborhood. The report recommended creating a new station on S. George Mason Dr. closer to Wakefield High School.

In a recent interview with the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, the Chief said that the county isn't going to do anything with Fire Station 7, even in terms of planning, for the next two years. If a decision is made to close or relocate Station 7, that wouldn't happen until sometime in 2018.

According to the Chief, 60 percent of Station 7's calls come from Alexandria and Fairfax County and very few calls come in from Fairlington. Fairlington is also served by Station 9 on Walter Reed Dr. and two fire stations in Alexandria as part of a reciprocal agreement between the two jurisdictions.

"I appreciate the feeling that Fairlington has for that station," said Chief Schwartz. Whether it's the size of the station (the smallest in the county), the close knit neighborhood, or the number of young children that stop by for visits, the Chief acknowledged the emotional con-

nection Fairlington has to this "neighborhood treasure." Some Fairlington residents may recall that Fire Station 7 was one of the first responders to the Pentagon on 9/11.

"But I have to look at the needs for the overall county," Schwartz said.

The Chief expects that when Station 7 does come up in the capital improvement planning process in a couple of years, there will be opportunity for community involvement and input. "In the end, a policy decision could be made to keep the fire house," he said, but that would result in the county taxpayers paying to build another station to serve the parts of the county that have a higher demand for service.

To view the 2012 TriData fire station location study, visit <http://fire.arlingtonva.us>.

—Janis Johnston

Work continues on I-395 at King Street exit

Drivers coming into Fairlington from southbound I-395 at the King Street exit have experienced additional traffic and slowdowns over the past several months due to the presence of jersey walls and orange traffic barrels that have foreshortened the approach to the exit. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), this traffic pattern will remain in place until it can complete additional work to shore up the retaining wall along the north side of the King Street exit.

Work began in February to inspect and repair the retaining wall along I-395 between the Shirlington and King Street exits after inspectors observed movement in the wall. Emergency repairs were needed, and traffic barrels and jersey walls were put in place while the temporary shoring work was completed in early March.

VDOT determined that the slope is stable, but the drainage system behind the wall is clogged. According to VDOT, there is a failure in the wall likely due to years of excessive water pressure, ice pressure, and tree roots. VDOT is working on a permanent repair design to bring the retaining wall up to the current design and construction standards. The temporary repair with exposed steel beams is a potential hazard to cars and drivers in the case of a collision with the wall, therefore the barriers will remain until final repairs are completed sometime late fall, reports VDOT spokesperson, Jennifer McCord.

—Janis Johnston



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Site plan review process begins on Park Shirlington redevelopment

On June 24, approximately a dozen residents attended a community information briefing held at the Fairlington Villages Community Center to hear about the status of the site plan that proposes to build an additional 456 rental units and add more than 650 more parking spaces to Park Shirlington, one of Fairlington's closest neighbors. Residents had the opportunity to hear from both county staff and representatives of Home Properties, Inc., owner of Park Shirlington apartments located on S. 31st St.

At present, the property is zoned to accommodate up to 380 apartment units. According to Aaron Shriber, Principal Planner, Arlington County Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development, with 294 apartment units "Park Shirlington is currently underdeveloped." Home Properties seeks to rezone the land to accommodate up to 750 dwelling units.

Given its existing zoning permits, Home Properties could bypass the county planning process altogether and build 114 single family homes, 195 townhomes, or 380 apartment units. However, the company proposes to pursue "bonus density" zoning by providing 100 committed affordable housing units and by achieving LEED silver, or "green" building standards, as part of its redevelopment plans.

The redevelopment site plan was accepted by the county back in March and is currently under review with Arlington County's Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC). The county's first public SPRC meeting was held in May at Abingdon Elementary School. "There were a lot of issues raised at the first SPRC meeting," says Shriber, including the loss of mature trees, increased density of the area, the scale of the buildings, and location on a historic site. Since then, the county has been evaluating the plan in relation to land use, housing, historic preservation, and transportation.

Land use. The county will be reviewing current and proposed zoning of both Fairlington Villages and Shirlington House, studying the transitions and looking for compatibility between those properties. In addition, the SPRC will assess the zoning request's compliance with the county's own policies and goals.

Housing. The property currently maintains 294 market rate affordable housing units. With the provision of 100 affordable housing units, the county will evaluate the loss of 194 affordable housing units and how that complies with its affordable housing goals. In addition, the county will be reviewing the developer's tenant reloca-



Right, Carol Bell, Aaron Shriber, and Guy Land, FCA President, at the community briefing on the Park Shirlington redevelopment. Photo by Janis Johnston.

tion plan for residents displaced by the proposed redevelopment of the site.

Historic Preservation. Park Shirlington sits on a portion of Fort Reynolds, a Civil War-era fort. While some of the historic site was demolished in the 1950s during the original construction of Park Shirlington, the remains will be studied to determine archaeological significance. The county will also look at the significance of Park Shirlington as an example of garden-style apartment buildings from the 1950s.

Transportation. The county will conduct a traffic study along S. 31st St.—the only means of transportation to the development. The study will include a review of the capacity of bus routes along S. 31st St.

One resident raised concern that the plan seemed like a "done deal" and that the county was just going through the paces. Shriber responded, "The county has no formal position. That's why we have the site plan review process."

There's a level of risk on the part of the developer, says Shriber. "Just because an applicant meets the filing requirements doesn't mean the plan gets approved," he noted, adding, "It's up to the applicant to address the county's concerns. It's not unusual to see major changes to the site plan in between SPRC meetings."

Shriber reminded those in attendance that the county SPRC meetings are open public meetings. In addition to SPRC meetings, other public hearings on Park Shirlington redevelopment include housing commission, transportation commission, and planning commission meetings.

Continued on page 17

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FINS helps build confident, young swimmers and a strong community

After more than 10 years, Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming (FINS) is going strong as a community program that teaches safe water play and lap protocol to elementary-aged children. Each summer, FINS introduces swim racing in a gently competitive setting to approximately 50 children—many of whom have gone on to enter the Arlington Aquatics competitive program or to become FINS coaches and assistants themselves.

After a week of lessons and lap practice, a typical Friday race night brings together not just the swimmers but also the families who gather around the pool for the heats. For the Kim family of Fairlington Arbor, there is something for everybody: oldest sister Mia races breaststroke, middle sister Lorelei races freestyle in the youngest age group, and baby sister Alden cheers them both on from the deck. The best part about her first race day, according to 6 year-old Mia, was completing the

25-meter freestyle. Her second place ribbons now decorate her bedroom and the family room.

The FINS community, after spending part of every weekday together for three weeks of the summer, is a place where new friends are made and old ones revisited. To conclude each season, the group celebrates its final races with a pizza potluck at the Fairlington Glen pool each year.

This popular summer program is open to North and South Fairlington residents, and registration fills up quickly. Applications open in early May for returning families and mid-May for new participants. FINS is a nonprofit organization led by volunteer parent coordinators that changes leadership every few years. For questions about FINS, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

—Nicole Van Hoey



*Photos by
Nicole Van Hoey*



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North Fairlington resident falls in manhole cover

On June 26, Julie Hasler left her home to walk to the bus stop across at the intersection of S. 28th St. and S. Columbus St. in North Fairlington. When she reached the sidewalk, she stepped on a manhole cover located just a few feet from the bus stop. The manhole cover “flipped like a quarter,” she said. She fell chest deep in water, with her chest jammed in against the manhole cover plate. The manhole, she said, appeared to be completely secure when she stepped on it.

A woman waiting at the bus stop saw the accident and helped Hasler get out of the hole. She decided not to call 911 because she didn’t need any additional help at the time. She went home, cleaned up, and called the Fairlington Villages management office to report the incident and ask them to contact the county. Hasler later saw bruising on her chest and ended up in the emergency room where she was treated for chest contusions.

Hasler realized later that she probably should have called 911 to report the accident and to have police secure the area. She has subsequently contacted Arlington County’s Department of Environmental Services herself in an effort to make sure that the problem is corrected and that this doesn’t happen to anybody else.

While Hasler was clearly injured as a result of this accident, her prime motivations in bringing this story to light were concern for public safety and creating public awareness. “If it had been a child or an older person who was frail, it wouldn’t have had the same outcome,” said Hasler. She cautions residents, particularly those out walking with children or pets, to be careful stepping on manhole covers.

While at the ER, Hasler said that the doctor treating her

commented that this sort of accident was not as uncommon as one may think.

Colin Horner, General Manager of Fairlington Villages, said that after Hasler reported the accident to the office he inspected the manhole and noticed that the cover

was not sitting properly on the hole. He and another Fairlington maintenance staff member thought the cover appeared to be too large for the hole and contacted the county about the incident.

As a result, the county came out to replace the manhole cover along with the underlying supports. Horner said that the management office doesn’t regularly inspect manhole covers on the street as this is the jurisdiction of the county.

Keith Geter, Trade Manager Leader with Arlington County’s Water Control Center, reported that when he received the call, he and a maintenance crew came out to look at the manhole cover and found “it was structurally sound.” He’s not quite sure how the accident happened, but said that the unit was an “old style,” and it was replaced, or upgraded, the first week of July with a new frame and cover that should also prevent excess water seepage

from rainwater run-off. He said that the county doesn’t regularly inspect manholes, but learns about problems when county employees enter the manholes to read the water meters. Geter advises the public to report any problems with water or sewer covers to the county using their 24-hour hotline, 703-228-6555.

Hasler wants to thank the Fairlington Villages condo association for its prompt attention to addressing this incident.

—Janis Johnston



The manhole cover at S. 28th St. and S. Columbus St. was replaced and secured while additional work is planned for the fire hydrant and the adjacent water manhole. Photo by Janis Johnston.

Fairlington neighbors show patriotic pride at July 4th gathering

On one of the coolest July 4th holidays in recent memory, hundreds of Fairlington residents celebrated America's independence by joining in the annual parade. Red, white, and blue were in no shortage as folks marched down S. Abingdon St., and people of all ages gathered along the parade route waving flags and cheering on the parade participants. New this year was the husband and wife duo, Melissa Dyer and Jonathan DeWitt, who led the parade dressed in festive colonial garb.

After the parade, the community came together for the after party at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot and lined up for complimentary hot dogs, ice cream, and beverages and took advantage of the opportunity to reconnect with friends and neighbors. Fire Engine 107 followed up the tail end of the

parade and later opened its doors so youngsters could climb on board and explore a real fire engine.

Co-sponsored by the FCA and the Fairlington Villages Condominium Association, the event couldn't have happened without the hard work and dedication of volunteers who worked the grills, put out the cold drinks, and made all the logistical arrangements for the event. And many thanks go to Purofirst for providing the ice cream.

—Janis Johnston



To see these photos in color, go to www.fca-fairlington.org. Photos by Guy Land and Janis Johnston.



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July 4th bake sale a huge success

The July 4th bake sale and raffle was the most successful to date, raising \$2,014, reports Cathy Malin, coordinator for the annual event. Proceeds from the bake sale benefit Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign to end childhood hunger. Malin extends her gratitude to the many Fairlington families who brought baked goods for the sale and to those customers who purchased the goodies. She credits this year's success to the support of the Fairlington Commons, Great Harvest Bread Company, The Fresh Market, and all the local stores and restaurants who gave generously to the raffle.



Pictured above are bake sale volunteers, left to right, Arnie Malin, Adrian Hilz, Cathy Malin, and Judi Garth. Photo by Guy Land.

Fairlington awaits decision from county on farmers market

As reported in the July issue of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is conducting an evaluation of the FCC to determine whether it is an appropriate site for a farmers market. As of press time, DPR and county staff continue their review and anticipate releasing the recommendation report by the end of July. To view the report, go to www.parks.arlingtonva.us and look for the link to the report.



Photo by Guy Land.

If the county decides favorably toward using the facility for a farmers market, DPR will then proceed with a competitive bidding process which opens the search for a potential market manager. The entity that is chosen during the bidding process will then submit a special use permit application. Once the full process is completed, DPR will make a recommendation to the county board, who has final approval.

—Melissa Beene

County fall class registration

Mail-in and online registration for fall classes through the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation begins Wednesday, August 13, at 7:30 am (gymnastics registration begins at 7 am). Phone and carry-in registration opens August 20, and nonresident registration begins August 27. Look for a catalog in the mail in early August, or view class schedules online at <http://parks.arlingtonva.us>. For questions or to register by phone, call 703-228-4747.

Arlington County Fair



Are you ready to ride the Zipper? Don't miss the Arlington County Fair, August 6–10 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St., Arlington. The fair features amusement rides, fairway games,

food vendors, a 5K run, and live entertainment at both indoor and outdoor stages. In addition, there will be pony rides, pig races, and outdoor movies at sundown. And don't forget to check out the competitive exhibits, including baked and canned goods and handiwork.

Parking is prohibited at the fairgrounds but shuttles run every 30 minutes from Ballston Mall, the Arlington Career Center, and the I-66 parking garage; cost is \$2 roundtrip. The shuttle is free for riders ages 12 and younger and 65+. Onsite ADA parking is available in front of the community center.

For more information, visit <http://arlingtoncounty-fair.us/>.

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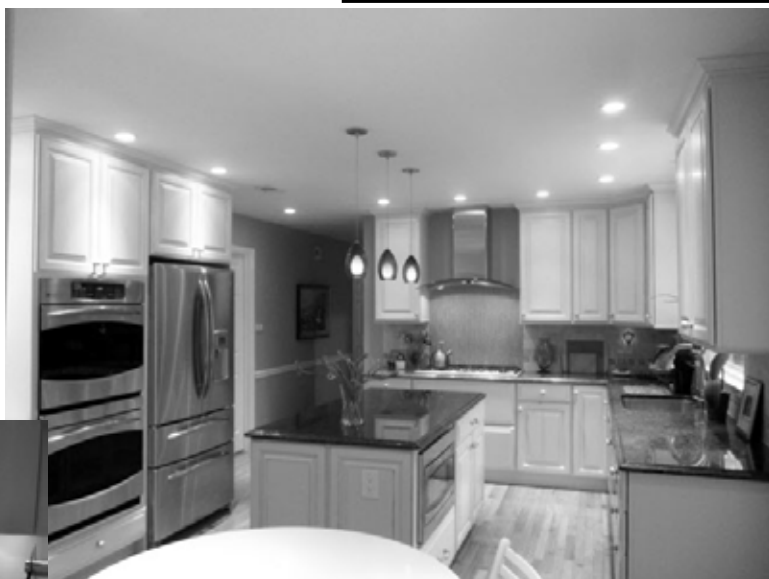
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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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noted that the CIP proposal for Abingdon “enjoys widespread support throughout the Fairlington community.”

According to John Chadwick, Arlington Public Schools (APS) Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations, APS is already moving forward with the planning for the Abingdon project. Chadwick conducted an informal site briefing for interested architects and contractors at Abingdon in July.

To engage the community in helping plan the work, the school board will appoint a Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC). Chadwick expects this to occur in September.

BLPC members normally include two representatives of the civic association within which the school is located, one representative from each civic association within the school attendance zone, parents, county staff, APS and school staff, and other significant stakeholders. The BLPC works with the architect appointed by the school board to determine how best to meet the goals and objectives for the project as approved in the CIP. Through consensus, the BLPC assists in developing the concept design and creating the schematic design that is recommended to the School Board for approval.

FCA will be an active participant in these discussions.

—Guy Land



Joe Reed presents a check to Ellie McGinn for A Cure for Ellie foundation, a beneficiary of this spring's Fairlington-Abingdon 5K, while her parents Mike and Beth look on. Joe was Abingdon Elementary's coordinator for the race, while Joe Hartman (second from right), was FCA's. FCA President Guy Land (far right) joined the July 13 presentation. Photo by Nicole Van Hoey.

To read more about the SPRC process or view Park Shirlington redevelopment documents and plans, visit <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/park-shirlington/>.

The developer's vision

In addition to the county's presentation, architect Maurice Walters laid out Home Property's plans for the redevelopment of this 15.7-acre site. Proposed changes include razing the existing 14 two- and three-story buildings and constructing five larger, three-to-five story buildings on either side of S. 31st St. The rental units will be a mix of studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments with rents at market rate.

Variations in brick color and roof lines are incorporated into the design to help break up the scale of the buildings and provide visual interest, noted Walters.

Plans include creating more outdoor spaces, removing existing surface parking lots and locating parking in underground garage facilities, and reducing the number of curb cuts—or access to the facility from S. 31st St. Amenities include an outdoor pool, changing rooms, a party room, fitness facilities, indoor basketball court, bike repair shop, dog run, and tot lot. According to Trini Rodriguez, landscape architect with Parker Rodriguez Inc., the pedestrian-friendly design plan includes areas for playing and social interaction.

The role of the FCA

Throughout the review process, the FCA will follow the progress of the redevelopment plan and be a voice for the Fairlington community. Carol Bell, chair of the Park Shirlington Redevelopment Advisory Committee, says that the committee's top concerns are traffic, parking, buses, and pedestrian safety. The committee will explore the design of the new buildings, issues around construction, and accommodation of the increased density on the public infrastructure—looking at water, sewer, electrical, and public safety needs.

The committee's next steps include conducting a public survey, providing regular updates to the community through the FCA website and the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, holding more public briefings, and having a representative serve on the SPRC.

The committee is tasked with regularly reporting to the FCA Board and presenting it with recommendations. To find out more about scheduled committee meetings, visit the FCA website at www.fca-fairlington.org.

—Janis Johnston

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



A guide to improving your gardening lexicon

Are you confused by figures of speech rooted in the gardening world? If so, here are some definitions that may help shed some light and increase your horticultural vocabulary.

Hardiness—a plant's ability to survive a particular season—in our case—winter. Hardiness depends on the plant and USDA plant hardiness zone (we are in Zone 6B–7). The mandevilla bears fragrant 4-inch-wide flowers in red, pink, and white but perishes here in winter. In its native Brazil, it's a perennial, meaning it's hardy throughout winter.

Bare ankles—trees or shrubs that bear no foliage close to the ground. The result is “bare” trunks or limbs, especially if the specimen is deciduous. In the case of trees, plant small ground cover around the trunk to fill that empty area.

Wet feet—a plant that prefers very moist soil. Examples are the aucuba and the bald cypress tree, which grows in swamp water (think of the Cypress Gardens in South Carolina). If there is a low area on your property where water collects, plant “wet-feet” specimens.

Predator-repellant—shrubs where songbirds nest to protect their young from hawks, grackles, and crows. Good examples of these are the pyracantha (with its one-inch-long thorns), barberry, and rose-bushes. Thorns repel predators, as will a thicket of branches.

Suckers—herbaceous growth that roots at the base of a tree. Unsightly, they take the eye off everything above—limbs, leaves, fruit, flowers, and even perched birds.



Exfoliating bark on the crape myrtle tree.

Exfoliating bark—like your skin, it peels. It's quite decorative on a crape myrtle tree or a climbing hydrangea vine. In both instances, the peel is an orangeish-brown.

Soil conditioner—non-fertilizer loam that provides a malleable aggregate for plant roots to survive while taking in nutrients, oxygen, and water from the ground. Soil conditioner is also earthworm-friendly, since worms naturally till the soil.

Herbaceous—a plant with no “woody” stems or roots. Think of a perennial or annual, which has soft tissue, sometimes in the form of a succulent. Ground cover and most herbs are herbaceous.

Evergreen—an actual misnomer, since magnolia, pine, holly and other ‘evergreens’ readily drop leaves, it's just that they replenish dropped foliage. There are also ‘everblues’ (Colorado spruce, rug juniper) and ‘evermaroons’ (barberry and loropetalum).

Variegation—pigmented markings (usually in white or yellow) on a leaf. This pattern comes in streaks, splotches, or dots—an artistic bent, given most plants have plain green foliage.

Espalier—that which trains on something while growing. Vines espalier, since they attach to trellises, fences, and brick walls (think of the ivy at Chicago's Wrigley Field).

Root ball—is the “heart” of the plant. Plants drink water, collect oxygen, and gather nutrients through their root tips. To do so, the soil in the root zone needs to be soft and free of rock, clay, and debris.

Tender perennial—they “return” but in a weakened state. Examples are coral bells, cheddar pinks, astilbe, and loropetalum. These plants aren't as “winter hardy” as other perennials.

Habit—what a plant looks like as it matures. Some habits are vertical, others lateral. A ground cover's habit either crawls or grows close to the soil; a tree's habit is its mature height and width.

—Bill Sullivan
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Abingdon teachers present at "Festival of the Minds"

Arlington Public Schools (APS) held its second annual "Festival of the Minds" (FOTM) June 24–27 at Kenmore Middle School. The festival provided professional learning opportunities for more than 800 APS pre-K–12 educators through a wide range of workshop sessions.

Among the sessions at FOTM, Abingdon Elementary was proud to have five of their own staff lead presentations and workshops over the course of the week. Lisa Oshinsky, fifth-grade teacher, led full-day sessions on effective ways to help readers build a deeper understanding of nonfiction texts.

Another of Abingdon's fifth-grade teachers, Katharine Hale, led hands-on workshops on using the "flipped" model for teaching reading in the classroom. Carla Reissman, reading teacher, conducted workshops that helped give educators strategies for choosing and introducing the right books for kindergarten and first-grade reading groups.

Jackie Firster, Abingdon's gifted resource teacher, presented workshops on how educators can identify and support "2e" students, or students who are twice exceptional with both special education and gifted education needs. Lastly, Darryl Joyner, Abingdon's technology coordinator, hosted daily training workshops for all APS teachers participating in the personalized device pilot that begins this fall.

Abingdon summer school delights parents



Abingdon Vice Principal Gail Seligson reads along with rising fourth grader Emma Boyer. Photo by Janis Johnston.

Abingdon Elementary's first dedicated summer school program, exclusive to Abingdon students, is a big hit with parents and teachers. Having this program available for our Abingdon families is an extraordinary benefit. Abingdon's Vice Principal, Gail Seligson, is serving as the principal of this summer learning session.

Many Fairlington families are taking advantage of this unique opportunity. The reviews have been spectacular. Stephanie Boyer, mother of rising fourth-grade student Emma says,

"I thought Emma could use a little extra help with her reading and preparing for fourth grade and what better way than at the school she is familiar and comfortable with. It has been overwhelmingly beneficial. It was such a joy watching her get off the bus on the third

day of school, reading a (thick) book and finishing it that same night! She is...well we both are...benefitting greatly from summer enhancement program!"

Even during the summer, new and exciting things continue to flourish at our wonderful neighborhood school.

Looking ahead to September

Many exciting things happen at the start of any school year and this year is no exception. Abingdon families should mark their calendars for the following important events.

- **Abingdon PTA's annual "Back to School Picnic," Monday, September 1,** from 4 to 6 pm. All Abingdon families are invited to attend this pot-luck dinner. Bring a dessert or side dish to share.
- **First day of school, Tuesday, September 2, 8 am.** VPI and Special Education students begin Wednesday, September 3.
- **"Back-to-School Night", Wednesday, September 17,** 6:30 to 8 pm.

Check for Abingdon PTA emails with any updated dates and times. To learn about other important APS events and view the APS 2014–2015 calendar, visit www.apsva.us. To be added to the Abingdon PTA email list and receive timely Abingdon-specific information, please send an email to abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

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Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in August to discuss *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip* by Peter Hessler.

According to a *Publishers Weekly* review, Hessler follows China's "lurch into modernity through three engrossing narratives. In an epic road trip following the Great Wall across northern China, he surveys dilapidated frontier outposts from the imperial past while barely surviving the advent of the nation's uniquely terrifying car culture. He probes the transformation of village life through the saga of a family of peasants trying to remake themselves as middle-class entrepreneurs. Finally, he explores China's frantic industrialization, embodied by the managers and workers at a fly-by-night bra-parts factory in a Special Economic Zone."

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, August 26, at 7:30 pm in the FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In June, we tried out Blue Sea Seafood in Shirlington, with old and new neighbors in attendance.

Here's what's planned for August:

Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 pm, Bombay Curry Company, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, 703-836-6363, www.bombaycurrycompany.com. This local favorite has recently re-opened a few blocks south of its original location. Be among the first to sample its delicious Indian food, before everyone hears about it!

Monday, August 25, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. After sampling other burger/sandwich options, we'll return to this perennial local favorite, which offers half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage on Mondays. The rest of the menu is also available.

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

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, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.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, Parents' Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and group activities 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.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, August 13, at 4:30 pm in 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.

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Survey to measure residents' interest in expanding neighbor-to-neighbor services

Starting Monday, September 1, the FCA-chartered Fairlington Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies will survey Fairlington residents to indicate their interest in getting or giving help with a variety of simple household and neighborhood activities. Responses will be completely anonymous, and no commitment to serve or be served will be solicited. Rather, the goal is simply to understand the support within our community for expanding neighbor-to-neighbor services, similar to the "village" concepts that some other local communities are now implementing.

The survey will be inserted in the September *All Fairlington Bulletin* and available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.

The committee will hold a drop-in information exchange on Saturday, September 13, from 10 am to noon at the FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions, complete your form, and get assistance with the survey if needed. The deadline for responding to the survey is September 30.

If you would like to become active in this important effort, the committee welcomes you. Upcoming meetings will be held Thursday, August 28, and Tuesday, September 30, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the FCC.

—Carol Rosen

Letter to the Editor

Recently I saw Arlington County tow a vehicle that was legally parked in all respects but one: it hadn't been moved in several days.

You may not know this, but section 14.2-3 of the county code allows the police to tow a vehicle from public property (e.g., the street) if it is (a) "unattended" for more than 10 days or (b) "abandoned." The police consider any vehicle not physically moved to be unattended, so if they chalk the tires and 10 days later it hasn't moved they'll tow it, even if there's nothing wrong with it and all the stickers are current. A vehicle is presumed to be abandoned if it hasn't moved in 4 days and it lacks a current license plate, a current county tax sticker, or a valid state inspection sticker.

The county will make no effort to contact the registered owner before towing the vehicle. When I asked the county employee supervising the towing I witnessed whether the county tried to contact the owner, he just laughed.

So if you park your car on the street, move it every 10 days, or at least check the tires for chalk marks. If you leave town for more than a week, ask a neighbor to keep an eye on it and give them a spare key just in case. Better yet, park in your court's off-street lot, which is private property not subject to the same rules. (You should always park off-street if your registration, tax decal, or inspection sticker is expired. You can be ticketed for those infractions anytime.)

Paul Coelus
Fairlington Glen resident

Editor's note: According to the Arlington County Police Department, county employees do not arbitrarily go around looking for abandoned vehicles. Rather, most towing actions are a result of citizens' complaints. According to Kip Malcolm, Public Information Officer with the Arlington Police, the county will mark cars that have either been reported or have evidence of being left on public streets for an "extended period of time" with a bright neon orange sticker on the windshield providing the vehicle's owner a 10 day's warning to move the vehicle. Vehicles that lack proper registration or inspection decals receive a neon yellow sticker with a four-day warning to remove the car before it is towed. Malcolm suggested that residents with plans to be out of town for more than 10 days and with a car parked on the street call the county's Special Operations Section at 703-228-4141 to report their absence and request that their car not be towed.

And check with your own condominium association rules about parking in the off-street lots with expired tags and inspection stickers. Many of the associations' policies require up-to-date registrations along with special parking passes, prohibit vehicles from parking for extended periods of time, and have towing policies in place to enforce these rules.

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

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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.

XENLIVING ACUPUNCTURE & HERBAL MEDICINE. Healing from within. Serving in Fairlington! Offering my services to help those who need relief from pain, stress, fibromyalgia, migraines, women's health, sports injuries etc. Contact me at xeniadm@gmail.com or 512-563-8959 for a free 15 minute phone consultation. New clients receive \$10 off your first treatment!

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. It is planting time! Call Bill for a patio makeover. We will put new plants in the ground, prune, remove leaves and spread fresh mulch. My e-mail is billsullivan41@gmail.com and my cell is 571-213-9567.

GRACE & ALBERTO. Alberto Matias Construction. Serving Arlington and Alexandria since 1989. New Patios, new plants in the ground, prune, remove leaves and spread fresh mulch. My e-mail is gracedelcarmenmatias@gmail.com, and my cell 703-795-4506.

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 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

BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS. NEW WEBSITE. www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

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.

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.

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

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

MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENT. 20 years experience. Painting, plastering, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, trim, moldings. Kitchens, bath remodeling, floor wood, and tile. Free estimates. References available. Call Mario Zambrana. 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com.

PAINTING. Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Licensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338 or 703-912-1450. chute285@aol.com

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.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

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. We are family owned and operated. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Your neighbor is our best reference. Call for a no obligation estimate and detailed explanation of our services. 703-820-8635. Educator, civil servant, and military rates apply.

B&A CLEANING SERVICES. 25 years experience and owner operated. References available in all areas. Reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Office cleaning available. For free estimate and appointment call 703-501-9007 or e-mail bc42happy@gmail.com.

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

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.

Pet Services

HOME ALONE FELINES. Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504 www.homealone.petfinder.com

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.

PET LOVERS. Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving and responsible care for your dogs and cats. Reasonable rates, bonded and insured. Excellent references. Call 703-941-6113.

Get your Fairlington T-shirt!



Pick up your Fairlington t-shirt at an FCA-sponsored event. Send e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member. Call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available.



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SINCE 1999



BONDED & INSURED

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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

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

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ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

June

TOP PRODUCERS



Rob Allen
 Top Producer/
 Top Listing Agent



Lyndie Votaw
 Top Selling Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Arl/Arlington Court—2BR TH. Totally renovated. Stunning kit. w/Granite & lovely cabinetry, HDWDs, condo fee incl. all utilities. \$297,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arl/Country Club Park — Lovely 4BR/3BA SF w/2 car garage, fplc., & more. \$749,900 Call Julie Flory



Arl/Fairlington — Completely updated. 1BR/2BA TH in great location \$409,000 Call Rob Allen



Warrenton— Move-in ready 3BR/3.5BA spacious TH. New carpet, fresh paint, newer appli., huge FR, fplc., & large deck. \$220,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Alex/Northampton Pl.—Beautiful 1BR condo w/open floor plan. & gorgeous kit. Great location. \$238,000 Call Lyndie Votaw



Alex/Wellington Hgts.—Updated SF on 1/2 acre. 4BR/3BA, Chef's kit., HDWDs, 2 fplcs., & 2 car gar. \$803,500 Call Virginia McGee

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

