

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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AUGUST 2015

Volume 41, Number 8

Congressman Beyer welcomes work on “things that can change our lives”

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Photo by Kendra Best.

Despite rainy weather, a large crowd gathered at the community center on July 8 to hear Congressman Don Beyer speak to Fairlington. The congressman's arrival at the FCA meeting was delayed by a vote on the floor of the House. But Beyer was affable and informative for almost an hour in front of an engaged audience—they would have liked to ask even more questions, but the representative for Virginia's 8th District had to leave for another speaking engagement that night.

As head of his family's car business, then as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor and president of the state senate, and later as the US Ambassador to Switzerland and Lichtenstein, Beyer had become accustomed to being in charge. Now, at age 65, the self-effacing Beyer found himself a freshman representative in the minority—with no regrets.

“It's a fun and interesting and important job,” he said, because Congress deals with important issues every day. Just that day, Beyer had met with young women preparing to run for office; gathered information on payday and car-title lenders; examined the deterioration of Memorial Bridge; learned about America's helium reserves; and been involved in the vote to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind education standards. These are “things that can change our lives,” he said, and he was excited to work on them. Beyer concluded his opening remarks by saying, “Thank you for voting for me and giving me this opportunity to serve.”

Beyer's comments were too wide-ranging and extensive to properly summarize here. But he focused on three issues that were of particular importance to him: job creation, climate change, and the economic empowerment of women.

Pointing to the official 5.5 percent jobless rate, Beyer acknowledged that it was probably higher. He called the employment situation, plus wage stagnation, a “great challenge,” but we can “take steps to deal with it,” and thereby “give us a better economy.” Among those steps are getting good trade

Continued on page 5

Coming up ...

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

August 11 preliminary agenda:

There will be no speaker at the August FCA meeting.

Regular board business:

- Approval of July minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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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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Calendar

Back-to-school tax holiday

Friday through Sunday, August 7–9
Virginia

Fairlington Diners

Monday, August 10, 6:30 pm
Whitlow's on Wilson
2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Group

Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, August 27, 6:30 pm
Bangkok 54
2919 Columbia Pike, Arlington

Summer in Fairlington

Fairlington FINS offers swim instruction for three weeks in July.



Photos courtesy of FINS.

Contributing writers this month: Kent Duffy, Lisa Schwanger, Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These are unsettled times in Arlington. A growing, affluent population generates demand for more services and amenities, while a sagging commercial real estate market, marked by unusually high vacancy rates, depresses tax revenues.

Additional school capacity. More affordable housing. Increased park acreage and recreational facilities. Oh, and don't increase the tax rate. These are some of the competing demands from Arlington residents.

Two citizen advisory committees are helping county leaders sort through some difficult trade-offs. One, the Community Facilities Study (CFS), is county-wide; it is creating an inventory of all county-owned properties (schools, parks, public safety facilities, spaces to store heavy vehicles), as well as looking at infrastructure projects assumed in last year's capital improvement plan. The other, the South Arlington Working Group, has a narrower and more specific objective: to provide the school board with site options and related program moves to accommodate South Arlington's burgeoning student enrollment.

Fairlington has a stake in these ongoing conversations because of the four county and school properties in our community: Abingdon Elementary School, the Fairlington Community Center and its playing field, Utah Park, and Fire Station 7. A serious rethinking of the use of county facilities and lands could have implications for us.

By the end of the year CFS expects to recommend criteria to the county board and school board for best deploying all county assets to meet future needs. The criteria, informally called "siting principles," are supposed to guide the boards in getting more use out of these assets and implementing new capital improvement plans.

By November, the school working group will recommend options to the school board to help determine how and where to put the equivalent of a 725-seat elementary school. They could consider such things as redrawing school boundary lines (including Abingdon's), adding more classroom trailers at existing school sites (again, including Abingdon), or converting other county facilities (such as the FCC) to temporary use as schools.

Fairlington is participating in the work of both groups. FCA Board member Gretchen Fallon represents us with the Community Facilities Study. Former FCA Board member Michelle Woolley is FCA's voice on the South Arlington Working Group, while Jen Davies and Jeni Hornback, both Fairlington residents, are Abingdon PTA's representatives on the group.

Although I doubt we will see dramatic changes in Fairlington, I suspect in various ways our community will feel the impact of the trade-offs now confronting county decision-makers. It's definitely worth watching.

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

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FCA considers Abingdon Elementary construction issues

The location of construction trailers and construction-worker parking, the potential construction impact on adjacent condo buildings, and the need for adequate security and lighting at the construction site were major concerns raised by residents at a July 13 joint FCA-Fairlington Villages listening session on the Abingdon School project.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) will be seeking a use permit for the new facility in September, and the Arlington County Board will consider imposing a variety of conditions on the project when it takes up the permit request. The listening session was designed to hear from Fairlington residents about the types of problems that could be avoided if they are addressed in the permit conditions.

Residents expressed concern that the existing field might be converted into a major staging area for construction activities and parking for construction workers. South 29th St. is currently the only direct street access to the site, and residents worried that construction traffic could create significant congestion and safety issues in that area. They suggested examining alternatives for temporary construction access to the property, such as across Fort Reynolds Park or at the county's Trades Center.

Because some Fairlington Villages units are very close to the school property, residents are concerned that significant construction activity may adversely affect the structures or foundations of the 70-year-old buildings. They suggested that APS assume the responsibility for monitoring building impact during the construction period, and begin with a pre-construction baseline engineering report. One North Fairlington pool also is adjacent to the school site and should be included in a monitoring plan.

Some residents worried about the condition of the construction site after hours, flagging issues of lighting, security, and safety. They also proposed some sort of screening to help make any construction staging area more visually attractive. One resident called for active engagement with the community throughout the construction phase, including a formal way of handling after-hours complaints.

Other concerns included appropriate screening of school building rooftop equipment, particularly for residents along S. Woodrow St., the location of the construction crew's portable toilets, and strategies for minimizing construction dust during dry periods.

The permit conditions routinely cover such things as the hours of construction activity, parking requirements, tree protection plans, and a transportation demand management plan. FCA will be working with Fairlington

Villages, APS, and county staff in reviewing draft conditions in August. The county board is slated to vote on the use permit on September 19, with construction to begin on the new school in the spring of next year.

—Guy Land

Congressman Beyer, continued from page 1

agreements, passing the infrastructure bill, working on immigration reform, tax reform, and patent reform, and dealing with the cybersecurity threat.

Acknowledging that there is a distinction between climate and weather, Beyer cited thoughtful scientists who urge policy experts to think 20 to 50 years out. We should “take the heat out of the discussion and figure out solutions,” said Beyer. To that end, he recommended a recent op-ed column in the *Washington Post* (June 25, 2015), titled “It’s time for conservatives to end the denial on climate change,” by former Bush administration speechwriter and policy advisor Michael Gerson, which built on the sentiments of Pope Francis’ climate encyclical.

Citing the example of his grandmother, a 1915 Berkeley graduate, Beyer argued for women’s economic empowerment. He believes in getting more women into positions of leadership through non-regulatory means.

With facts and statistics at his fingertips, Beyer fielded questions dealing with the ongoing need for investment in early childhood education; the crisis in opioid abuse and overdoses; the need to improve Metro with attention to leadership, management, and maintenance; and advocacy for wildlife, farm animals, and animals used in cosmetics lab testing.

For more information, go online to Congressman Don Beyer’s official website, <https://beyer.house.gov>, where you can send an email and sign up for an e-newsletter. You can also contact Beyer’s district office at 703-658-5403.

—Gretchen Fallon



FCA President Guy Land (above right) presents a Fairlington T-shirt to Congressman Beyer. Photo by Kendra Best.



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FCA seeks Bulletin Editor

The FCA is seeking an experienced writer/editor to take charge of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, in the position of Editor. The job begins with a temporary term of about four months, starting in September, and it is likely to become permanent. Compensation during this period is \$1,000/month.

Much background information is available to interested applicants about the *Bulletin's* need for managed deadlines, enterprise reporting, event coverage, copy editing/fact checking, and supervision of the production process. Please indicate your interest by sending an email, subject line Editor, to FCA President Guy Land, at president@fca-fairlington.org.



Back-to-school sales tax holiday, August 7 – 9

This year, the annual back-to-school Virginia sales tax holiday, for qualifying purchases of school clothes and school supplies, is Friday through Sunday, August 7 – 9.

Tax exempt items include clothing and footwear under \$100 and school supplies under \$20. Sneakers and running shoes qualify, provided they fall within the \$100 threshold. Computers do not qualify. Items need not be intended for school use to qualify for the exemption.

See the website for lists of items that do/do not qualify for the tax exemption: www.tax.virginia.gov/content/school-supplies-and-clothing-holiday.

Update: S. 32nd St. sewer repair



From this....



...to this. Photos by Gretchen Fallon.

It rained almost every day after the Department of Environmental Services (DES) began the storm sewer repair project on S. 32nd St. at the beginning of June. By late June, the work crew had made good progress, having replaced about 104 feet of 24-inch RCP (reinforced concrete pipe), replaced 55 feet of 15-inch RCP connected to the existing catch basins, and installed one manhole.

The repair work was completed on July 10, having replaced a total of 278 linear feet of RCP storm sewer. Next, county arborists will prune any tree branches that were damaged during the project. And DES's paving contractor will mill and pave the whole street sometime during this paving season, which runs through the end of October.

—Gretchen Fallon



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A Fairlington Fourth

Hundreds of hearty Fairlingtonians turned out for one of the wettest 4th of July parades in recent memory. A steady morning rain accompanied umbrella-toting marchers up S. Abingdon Street, while tots in rain boots splashed through puddle after puddle. There were no dampened spirits, however, as neighbors joined Arlington County Board members Libby Garvey, a Fairlington resident, and John Vihstadt for the parade and after party, which were co-sponsored by Fairlington Villages and FCA.

Free hot dogs, cold drinks, and ice cream greeted the crowd under clearing skies in the Villages Community Center parking lot, together with baked treats at the Bake Sale for No Kid Hungry. And there was brisk business at the water-transfer “tattoo” table and the FCA T-shirt table.

As ever, Fairlington is grateful for the assistance of ACPD’s Third District officers and the firefighters of ACFD’s Station 7. Thanks to Cathy Malin and Fairlington

Commons for organizing the annual bake sale; to Kay Houghton, of Keller Williams Realty, for donated bottled water; to Villages contractor Purofirst for donated ice cream; and to Villages Activities Committee co-chairs Melanie Alvord, Kate Bannan, and Christine Chirichella for coordinating the summer’s most popular event.

—Gretchen Fallon



Photos by Gretchen Fallon and Guy Land.



Bake sale success



The 13th annual Fairlington 4th of July No Kid Hungry Bake Sale was a huge success, thanks to the generosity of Fairlington residents and out-of-town family and friends who contributed online donations. This year, the sale raised \$1,619 in sweet treats and raffle ticket sales, and Arby's Foundation, matching all donations, will bring Fairlington's total to a whopping \$3,238! Over the sale's Fairlington history, it has sent more than \$15,000 to Share Our Strength to help fund programs to end childhood hunger in this country.

Thanks for the generous donations from these local stores and restaurants: Safeway, Giant, Harris Teeter, Trader Joe's, Fresh Market, Panera Bread, Ah Love Oil & Vinegar, Fairlington Farmers Market vendors, Great American Restaurants, Rampart's Tavern & Grill, and Diversions Cards & Gifts.

Thanks, also, to Great Harvest Bread for their donations and to all Fairlington residents who donated baked treats. Thanks to Fairlington Commons for sponsoring the bake sale and to Cathy Malin (above) for organizing it. And Cathy Malin sends special thanks to "dedicated friends who stood in the rain, protecting cookies with towels, tarps, and tablecloths."

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Fairlington attic renovations—what you need to know

At the November 2014 FCA meeting, residents had many questions about how the county's zoning regulations and the state's building code govern attic renovations in Fairlington. FCA followed up with the county's Inspection Services Division staff to gain a better understanding of the process, including what typically can be permitted, as well as renovation proposals that may not be permissible.

1) Fairlington buildings with shared building entrances (called B buildings or apartment buildings) are considered as commercial residential (R-2) structures in the Virginia state building code. An increase in the height of the livable space in the home is considered an addition. Given the R-2, the addition necessitates that a sprinkler system be installed for the entire building (not just the unit with the addition). Obviously, this is not really practical.

2) Alternatively, the building code allows for the construction of a mezzanine in the attic, as the mezzanine is considered to be part of the story (height) below. The definition of a mezzanine is not the same as that for an addition, so the sprinkler requirement does not apply. The mezzanine can be up to 1/3 of the contiguous living area space below—that is, the living area that is connected and not blocked by a door. A bedroom that has a door separating it from the living/dining area is thus not considered part of the contiguous living area. Most attic renovations in B buildings are processed as mezzanines.

3) Attic areas that are not part of the mezzanine can be used for mechanical facilities such as the HVAC equipment. An access panel to these areas is allowed. A fire alarm that is interconnected with the floor below is required. A casement-type dormer window is usually needed so that the window opening meets minimum



Entrance to a multi-unit dwelling, or B-building, in Fairlington. Photos, above and at right, by Gretchen Fallon.

size requirements to allow egress in case of a fire. Structural issues are among the building code considerations that must be taken into account when converting from attic to habitable space.

4) The basic goal of the building code is to not make the condition of the enlarged home worse in terms of fire safety. Arlington County will consider modifications to the building code that may allow for slightly larger mezzanines for Fairlington attic expansions. These have to be negotiated individually given the variable trade-offs that must be considered in terms of ensuring fire safety.

5) Townhouse units, with no shared entry, are considered as single family dwelling units, and attic expansions can often be permitted under the residential code. These buildings are often allowed a third story (above grade) without a sprinkler system.

These guidelines are general in nature and do not necessarily cover all the code requirements that may apply to any specific Fairlington unit.

Also note that just because the county approves a permit, it does not mean a home improvement project is permissible under condo association rules. Fairlington owners should check first with their condo association before embarking on an expansion or renovation project. The condo associations can also offer practical guidance on previous successful projects, and they will have documented lessons learned in coordinating with the Arlington County permit process. FCA can invite a speaker from Arlington County Inspection Services to a future meeting, if there is sufficient interest from residents.

—Kent Duffy



The unfinished attic area—not livable space, per the building code—of a Braddock unit in a four-unit B building. Photo by Christen Snow.

A fourth floor in Fairlington



A Fairlington Mews family gained a fourth level (the third floor above ground) to their Clarendon model townhouse when they renovated the attic about 10 years ago. Reclaiming the original attic for living space, the renovation added a completely finished staircase to the top floor, which now opens into a master bedroom and bathroom suite.

It was an ambitious and expensive project, acknowledges owner David Biette, but “we knew we were going to stay,” he said. The Biettes’ two then-school-age children have since graduated from Arlington Public Schools and “we’ve never regretted” the attic conversion.

Biette said he front-loaded the process as much as possible by doing extensive research into all applicable county, state, and federal regulations that might apply to the process. He worked with the county to apply for the Virginia Historic Rehabilitation tax credit, and, more importantly, he worked to avoid problems during construction by consulting first with a structural engineer (required for condo board consideration) and with an architect who was familiar with designing small spaces. The homework paid off.



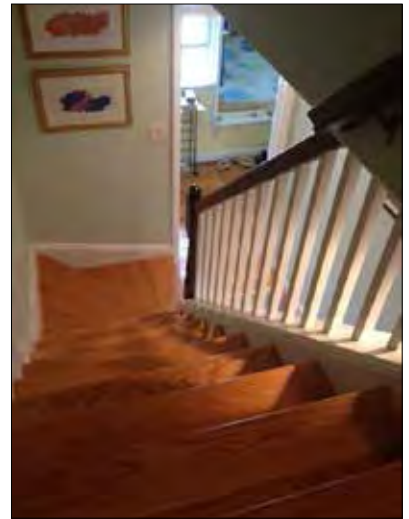
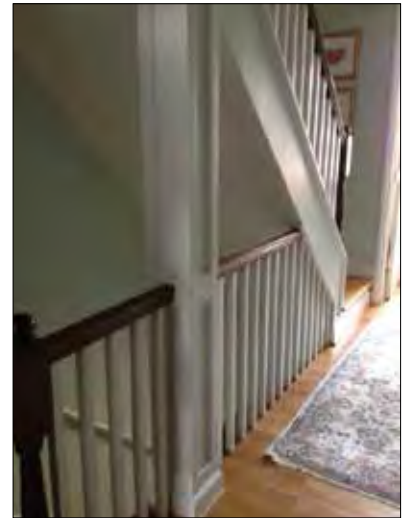
The structural analysis, conducted by an engineer who has since done much work in Fairlington, revealed, for example, that the attic’s floor joists would need to be reinforced (“sistered”) to accommodate the extra load. (It revealed, too, that Fairlington was very solidly built, in a way that not even custom construction routinely achieves now.)

Since the county permitting process was handled by the contractor, Biette’s biggest hurdle, before construction began, was explaining the process to the condo board

for the required variance to install the two new attic-story dormer windows on the back side of the building to mirror the two existing dormers on the front. “It was a process of education,” said Biette.

The entire project required about 10 months and \$100,000; Biette agrees it’s not for the faint-hearted. But the family gained an entire new floor, plus new windows throughout and new insulation in internal and external walls and the roof. One unexpected bonus was a new bathroom in the basement. To install the new bathroom on the attic floor, the work crew had to tear out the wall in the basement to access the plumbing stacks. With that much demolition already done, Biette decided to go ahead and remodel the basement bath, too.

—Gretchen Fallon



Arlington County zoning and construction permitting

For more information, go online to <http://building.arlingtonva.us>. Building Arlington is a collaboration of the Inspection Services and Zoning Divisions, both part of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development. Select the Residents tab for information on home remodeling projects—there is a page devoted to kitchen renovations. Contact Building Arlington offices, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm (offices closed at noon every third Thursday): Inspection Services, 703-228-3800; Zoning, 703-228-3883; automated telephone system, 703-228-3700.

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

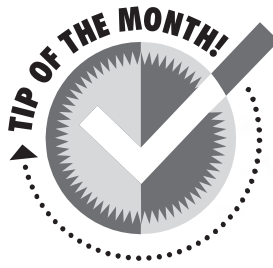
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The enduring freshness of FFM produce



Crazy Carrot juice at Kiwi Kuisine combines carrots, passion fruit, ginger, pineapple juice, and lime (no sugar added). Photo by Guy Land.

A theme has emerged in comments from Fairlington Farmers Market-goers: Market produce seems to last substantially longer than what you buy at the grocery store! It's not your imagination. One shopper said she got carried away one week and bought too much at the market—and yet nothing went bad. Another had to travel during a work week and worried her Sunday produce purchases would be spoiled when she got back. But, no. Most of it was still good! Clearly, FFM produce is very fresh.

So why does market produce stay good for so long?

Before everything else, there are the seeds. After years of testing and handling experience, some vendors now focus on special, favored seed varieties. These are the vendors' secret ingredients. They won't name or discuss the seeds.



Zebra eggplant at Pleitez Produce. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Next, fresh is the key word. Each and every market vendor harvests on Saturday what will be brought to the market on Sunday. Now think about that. Remember about six weeks ago when it poured rain all day on Saturday? The farmers were all out picking for their Sunday markets.

Lastly, there's washing, grading, and packing. Once washed, some produce, like greens, must be left to breathe. Grading (checking for blemishes and imperfections) is done by hand—each and every piece is inspected. Every vendor made it clear that only his premium pieces would be acceptable. Then, everything is very carefully packed. Dakota at Spring Valley said they pack their produce in padded crates.

In comparison, produce in a grocery store is often much older when you buy it than what you get from a local



Spring Valley's Dakota recommends the fresh corn. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

farmer. Store produce is often picked before ripe and then not shipped for another month. It may not be fully cleaned, and it may contain stray bugs, bug parts, or leftover pesticides and chemicals. When shipped, packed pieces of produce can shift and bump against each other. Refrigeration, while up to code, often does not meet the high standards of the family farmer.

A final perk we enjoy at FFM is that any time you have a question about your market produce, you can directly ask your vendor, who is often part of the family or works directly on the farm. So stop and say hi and ask questions. The vendors love to talk about their farms and products—and, yes, they'll even tell you what it's like to harvest in a driving rain.

—Lisa Schwanger

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Aviation noise meeting describes mitigation efforts

In June, Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey hosted a community meeting on aviation noise. In opening remarks, Garvey pointed out that aircraft noise has posed an ongoing issue for Arlington residents for many years. In just the last year, however, more residents have voiced an intensified level of concern. Responding to these concerns were representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).



V-22 Osprey. Photo courtesy www.navy.mil.

Basically, neighborhood concerns about aviation noise revolve around two separate sources of noise: 1) commercial airlines' inbound arrivals from the north into Reagan National Airport (DCA) and northbound departures from DCA along the Potomac River flight path; and 2) helicopters flying low along the I-395 corridor. For the most part, DCA arrivals and departures affect residential neighborhoods bordering the river—in Rosslyn, for example, and across Key Bridge in Georgetown. Residential neighborhoods that, like Fairlington, border I-395 find the largest aviation noise impact from Department of Defense (DoD) helicopters and from law-enforcement helos.

The FAA representative explained that a newer, satellite-based navigation procedure (Lazir) is currently used by 19 DCA carriers. The goal of Lazir is to “maximize time over water versus land and to provide greater certainty that flights will not impinge on restricted airspace.” In addition, FAA is currently conducting a study of the agency's standard noise metric, DNL, which was adopted in 1979 and last reviewed in 1992. A survey of 20 communities near airports around the country will determine if DNL is still a valid standard for measuring and defining noise impacts.

The representative from MWAA, which manages DCA operations, pointed out that the federally-regulated airport has seen repeated Congressional exemptions granted over the last decade, through the FAA reauthorization bill, to MWAA's slots rule (limit on aircraft movements per hour) and perimeter rule (limit of 1,250-mile distance for non-stop flights to/from DCA). In addi-

tion, MWAA clarified that the nighttime noise rule, which is in effect between 10 pm and 7 am, is not an all-encompassing curfew—rather, it simply requires aircraft operating during nighttime hours to comply with noise restrictions.

On helicopter noise: The FAA is initiating conversations with DoD and other helicopter operators to discuss the ability of these flights to follow FAA-approved helicopter routes.

The FAA met last month with the commander of Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1), the squadron tasked with “executive lift”—VIP transportation for the White House and other federal government staff—regarding helicopter noise impacts. HMX-1 “white tops” are transitioning to the new V-22 Osprey (vertical take-off and landing tilt-rotor aircraft), which is described, subjectively, as noisier than the aging CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters.

In closing, Ms. Garvey committed to follow-up discussions with officials in surrounding jurisdictions to ensure greater coordination on aviation noise issues. In addition, she indicated interest in hosting another meeting regarding helicopter noise that would include DoD representatives and a meeting on aircraft noise to include representatives from airlines operating out of DCA. To watch a video of the meeting, go online to the county website, www.arlingtonva.us, and follow the links > county board > meetings > view video > [search] aviation noise.

—Gretchen Fallon

For aviation noise related questions or complaints, contact:

Mike Jeck, MWAA Noise Information Office,
703-417-1204, mike.jeck@mwaa.com

FAA Noise Ombudsman Office, 9-AWA-
NoiseOmbudsman@faa.gov

Mike Lucier, Congressman Don Beyer's Virginia 8th
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Styrofoam packing peanuts are basically trash

A recent post on FAS (Fairlington Appreciation Society), Fairlington's Facebook page, pointed out just how difficult it can be to properly dispose of foam packaging, like packing peanuts.

Practically speaking, packing peanuts are not really recyclable. In fact, packing peanuts are specifically barred from the Arlington County recycling stream.

In Fairlington, residents should check the recyclable-items restrictions of their individual condo associations. In Fairlington Mews, for example, recycling guidelines follow those of Arlington County—foam peanuts are not permitted in recycling bins. The same is true for Fairlington Villages. Fairlington Meadows bars Styrofoam, “clamshell” containers, and packing materials like peanuts. Fairlington Glen bars Styrofoam and plastic deli, salad, fruit, and vegetable containers; meat trays; plastic or Styrofoam frozen food trays. County guidelines instruct residents to put foam peanuts and similar plastic foam materials in the trash.

Foam packing “peanuts” or “noodles” (or any of the light-weight foam inserts used to cushion your packaged item in a shipping box) are usually made from polystyrene. It's also called EPS, expanded polystyrene, Styrofoam, or plastic #6, and it's routinely not permitted in city and county recycling bins. EPS can be recycled (in very specialized circumstances), but most municipal curbside programs cannot handle it and do not accept the foam material; even when a recycler says it accepts plastic #6, it may refuse EPS.

Here's the problem: Most waste management facilities are not equipped to deal with friable Styrofoam, which breaks into pieces, gums up machinery, and contaminates valuable recovered-material loads. Also, commercial recyclers bundle, measure, and value materials by the metric ton, but it would require vast volumes of very light-weight plastic foam to create useable tonnage. The logistics of storage and handling alone would render the operation not cost-effective.

At the same time, currently, global commodities prices are falling, making recycling, in general, a less profitable enterprise than it was 10 years ago. See the *Washington*



The cardboard box is recyclable; the packing peanuts are not. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Post story, “Counties and cities come to grips with the high cost of recycling programs,” June 23, 2015, which said that many municipalities now operate curbside recycling programs in the red. “Arlington is still making a profit, but its revenue from recycling dropped from \$608,454 in 2011 to \$11,258 this year.”

Packing peanuts can, of course, be reused—some packaging and shipping stores, like FedEx or the UPS store in Shirlington, will accept foam peanuts for reuse. Check the stores' websites for specifics. For more information about reusing or disposing of plastic foam, see

Earth911.org/recycling.

VCE/MGNV events in August at the Fairlington Community Center

There are two classes for Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening: Extending Your Harvest, sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Tuesday, August 25, 7 to 8:30 pm and repeated on Saturday, August 29, 10:30 am to noon. Learn about what to plant, when, and simple tips for success this fall. Learn inexpensive techniques to extend your harvest and to preserve your crops for winter enjoyment. Also covered are end-of-season clean up, putting your garden to bed, and tool care.

ARMN training this fall

Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN) will host a training class this fall (September to December). Master Naturalists are recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines including ecology, botany, geology, herpetology, entomology, mammalogy, ornithology, climate, and forest and aquatic ecosystems. The program prepares volunteers to provide education, citizen science, and outreach to conserve and manage natural resources and public lands. The deadline for applications for the training session is Monday, August 17. For more information and to complete an application, visit the ARMN website at www.armn.org.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In July, we returned to Ramparts for burgers, and we tried a Venezuelan restaurant.

Monday, August 10, 6:30 pm, Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, 703-276-9693. For a change, we'll venture over to Clarendon for burger night at Whitlow's. Parking nearby is highlighted on the restaurant website, www.whitlows.com. Described as the triumph of funky charm, this venerable establishment gets high marks for its burger night.

Thursday, August 27, 6:30 pm, Bangkok 54, 2919 Columbia Pike (at Walter Reed Dr.), 703-521-4070, www.bangkok54restaurant.com. Nearby, and with parking in the rear, the restaurant is recommended by the *Washingtonian's* Welcome Guide to Arlington.

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

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in August to discuss *Old Filth*, a novel by Jane Gardam.

Gardam tells the story of Sir Edward Feathers, a barrister who has had a brilliant career, from his early days as a lawyer in Southeast Asia where he earned the nickname Old Filth (FILTH being an acronym for Failed In London Try Hong Kong) to his final working days as a respected judge at the English bar. Now retired, Filth reminisces about his childhood in Malaya during the British Empire's heyday, his schooling in pre-war England, his professional success in Southeast Asia, and his return to England toward the end of the millennium.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! If you're into fiction, join us in August, no strings attached. We are meeting on

Tuesday, August 25, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system.

Email the coordinators, Danielle Bloom and Tiffany Bittenbender, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Fairlington FINS



Fairlington FINS offers youth swim practices and meets for two age groups during July. Photos courtesy of FINS.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Look around Fairlington for sun-loving, heat-tolerant plants

Now is the time to look around at landscapes and notice which plants perform and which ones suffer during the hot days of June, July, and August.

Pity the plants that don't receive water. True, almost daily thunderstorms can provide regular irrigation, but in mini droughts, plants will wilt and some will die. The average high temperatures in our summers are 84 in June, 88 in July, and 87 in August (per currentresults.com). Even September is hot, with an average high of 80. Watch a Redskins game on a September Sunday and you'll routinely see a player on the sideline taking a breather with an oxygen mask.

A *Washington Post* story on weather data collected from 1981–2010 (July 2011) documented seven 90-degree days on average in June, 14 in July, and 10 in August. In 1982 and

1987, there were 21 straight days of 90-plus weather. And in 1997, we suffered through 19 straight days of temps over 90. (We won't even get into heat indexes.)

So, which plants tolerate the heat?

Hosta, oddly enough, seems to do A-OK. Normally, Hosta prefers shade, but variegated Hosta is fully leafed out with lavender and/or white flowers atop long scapes in summer. Variegated specimens better tolerate heat since the leaf cells' outer layers lack chloroplasts (see gardenweb.com).

Salvia is another heat-lover. Chuck Edwards, landscape and grounds guru in Fairlington Meadows, planted the circular median landscape at S. 34th and S. Stafford Streets years ago. Salvia lines all the curved beds, and they have thrived there in all-day heat.

Hibiscus is a fast-grower that shows its floppy blooms (pink, lavender, and white) during summer. And it doesn't mind sitting in direct sunlight all day long. Also called Rose of Sharon, hibiscus can be a tree or a shrub, so be sure to check the label so that the specimen fits in your patio.

Dwarf Crape Myrtle shrubs love sun and easily fit into a patio landscape. Crape Myrtle trees range from 10 to 30 feet tall, but the shrub grows only 14 inches tall and 20 inches wide. It is an ideal accent to



Hibiscus. Photos by Gretchen Fallon.

the larger shrubs in your garden.

Euonymus has no noticeable flower or fruit, but it is a heat-tolerant evergreen and comes in a variety of sizes and growth habits. It has variegated leaves in white or yellow. And the "Winter Creeper" cultivar has a tiny white margin on its oval leaf that turns pinkish in winter.

Juniper is the most heat-tolerant shrub, and it is drought tolerant. Foliage comes in light green or bluish-green. Try the "Blue Star," "Blue Pacific," or "Blue Rug" ground cover cultivars.

Yucca, or Adam's Needle, is yet another sun-lover. Its leaves are sword-like and its flowers are white atop long stems growing up from the center of the plant.

—Bill Sullivan
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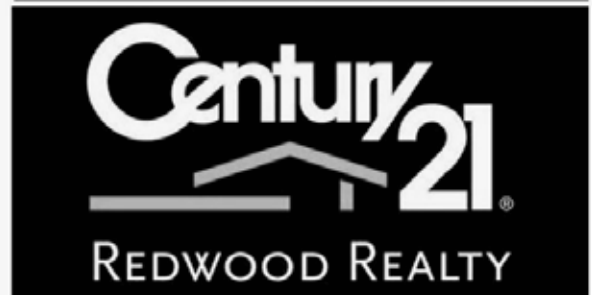


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Gardening/Landscaping

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SPROUT KITCHEN GARDENS. Did you know you can harvest fresh veggies from your garden throughout autumn? Imagine organic spinach, lettuce, cucumbers, broccoli, carrots, and more, picked fresh from your garden through November! Now's the time to plant, and Sprout can help. Our Master Gardener will create your very own organic vegetable garden, right in your Fairlington patio or balcony. Contact us for a complimentary consultation (Rebecca@SproutKitchenGardens.com); learn more at SproutKitchenGardens.com; or follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/SproutKitchenGardens](https://www.facebook.com/SproutKitchenGardens)) for garden-to-kitchen recipes and gardening tips.

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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

HEATED BATHROOM CERAMIC TILE FLOOR. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service 571-212-4151.

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.

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

MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS. 18 years experience, kitchen and bath remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, panel replacements, painting, wallpaper removal, drywall. Call Mario 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com

RICHARDS PAINTING & WALLPAPERING. 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. Faux finish. Call Ricardo for free estimate 703-501-9007. rrhomeimprov@gmail.com.

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

GRACE & ALBERTO. Alberto Matias Construction. Serving Arlington and Alexandria since 1989. New Patios, Side Walks (stone, natural brick, or pavers). gracedelcarmenmatias@gmail.com 703-795-4506.

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

Mini-ads

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

703-820-8635. Established 1978. We are family owned and operated. Call for a free estimate. Our service is thorough and detail oriented. Scheduling is flexible. Your neighbor is our best reference. Educator, civil servant, and military rates apply.

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.

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

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES. 20 Years of experience, references available. We provide supplies and equipment. Affordable prices. We are family owned. Please call us for a free estimate. Johanna & Mauricio. (202)591-9104 or jdmontecino@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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

PET SITTING, DOG WALKING.

Longtime Fairlington resident now retired. Very reasonable rates! Call Barbara at 703-307-7749 or email bramsey937@hotmail.com

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.



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

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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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ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

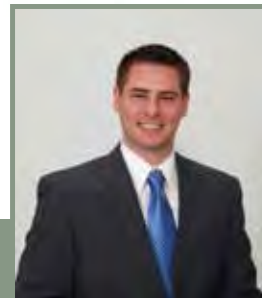
ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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JUNE TOP PRODUCERS



Pat Shannon
Top Producing Agent



Rob Allen
Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Alexandria — Beautifully maintained end unit th w/garage. 4br/3.5 bath. New hvac, windows & doors, roof & attic fan, lovely hardwood flrs, granite kit counters \$560k. Call Kristin Usaitis



Alexandria—Fantastic custom built home in a convenient location! 4 br with wd floors \$625k. Call Pat Shannon



Clifton— Beautifully landscaped large yard with gourmet kitchen and walk in closets. \$627k. Call Camille Wurm



Arlington— Lovely two bedroom second floor unit on quiet street in Fairlington. Renovated kitchen and newer carpets. Large separate and private basement. Roomy balcony \$320k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Falls Church—Wonderful home and yard on a quiet safe cul-de-sac. Updates include renovated kitchen and granite counters \$554k. Call Dayna Wagner



Clifton —This beautiful 4/5 bedroom with 4.5 baths in on 1.5 acres. Hardwood floors, walkout basement, deck and front porch, and a two car garage \$799k. Call Julie Flory

**SERVING FAIRLINGTON
& ALL NORTHERN VA**

