

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2012

Volume 38, Number 12

www.fca-fairlington.org



FCA monthly meeting

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

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, December 1, 12:30 pm
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Great Falls

Fairlington Diners

Monday, December 10, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

MOMS Club

Wednesday, December 12, 4 pm
FCC

Holiday events

See pages 10 - 11

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

Crime took a holiday in Arlington, until this summer

At the Arlington County Police Department crime forum for the Third District on October 25, ACPD Chief Douglas Scott provided perspective for what might, at first, appear to be an increase in violent crime in the county. Back in July, he said, "we were celebrating the fact that Arlington had gone for more than two years without a single homicide. It was a significant milestone." And then, in dismayingly quick succession last summer, there were four homicides in about as many weeks. On July 24, there was the murder/suicide involving a young couple in nearby Park Shirlington.

Four days later, there was the murder during commission of a robbery at the jewelry store on Columbia Pike. And on August 8, two men were bludgeoned to death in the Lee Highway corridor. (The jewelry store murder case was solved and an arrest made. Investigation is ongoing in the beating deaths.) "Yes," said Scott, "the homicides are scary. But, in fact, in other violent crime categories, our numbers are actually declining."

ACPD's Third District comprises most of the southern half of Arlington, including Fairlington, and the violent incident that drew most attention here this summer, said district commander Captain Brett Butler, was the rape



Capt. Butler ...

Continued on page 9

Holiday season safety tips

Holiday time is what the police call robbery season. Don't make yourself a target—follow their advice:

- Don't make large transactions at the ATM.
- Don't leave packages in the car.
- Don't leave cars unlocked.
- Lock house doors and windows—including second-story windows.
- If you're going to be out of town: Let someone know where you are. Program your home light-dimmers to varying times. Have a neighbor come over to pick up mail/newspapers and to move your car around.

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

December 12: Residents will elect the FCA board for 2013.

Regular business meeting:

- Approval of November minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Old business
- New business
- Officer and committee reports

Sign up for updates

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

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Police, Alexandria (non-emergency) | 703-838-4444 |
| Police, Arlington (non-emergency) | 703-558-2222 |
| Animal Warden | 703-931-9241 |
| Dominion (power outages) | 888-667-3000 |
| Fairlington Community Center | 703-228-6588 |
| Metrobus Complaints | 703-228-7929 |
| Miss Utility | 800-552-7001 |
| Pothole Patrol Hotline | 703-228-6485 |
| Shirlington Library | 703-228-6545 |
| Street Light Hotline | 703-228-6511 |
| www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental | |
| Services.dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm | |
| Helicopter Noise Complaints | Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov |

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

Board of Directors

| Officers | Directors |
|--|------------------|
| Rosiland Jordan, <i>President</i> | Kent Duffy |
| Bryan Pettigrew, <i>Vice President</i> | Jacob Gelbaum |
| Carol Dabbs, <i>Secretary</i> | Mark Jones |
| Ed Hilz, <i>Treasurer</i> | Guy Land |
| | Michelle Woolley |

Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org
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Get your Fairlington T-shirt!

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



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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For the final time, I'm writing the President's Message for the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, and I want to thank everyone in Fairlington for supporting me through an eventful and busy year. It means so much, because my goal has been to respond to the community's needs and concerns. I hope you feel that I listened, responded, and made a difference where I could.

If I have one wish for the FCA, it's that more of us in Fairlington would get engaged in its activities and outreach to local governments and other civic associations. (I say this, knowing that my job and its demands on my time are forcing me to step aside.) Building relationships, improving the FCA's operations, planning events, and taking part in county- and citywide meetings take up time. These things must be done if the FCA is to be successful. We are well beyond the time when just a few people can do this work on behalf of a community of 6500 people. We need your new ideas and energy. You will learn so much about how our community functions if you can give a few hours of your time to FCA activities in 2013.

What also needs to be done: deepening the relationship between the FCA and Fairlington's condo associations. It's not as solid as I would have hoped, and I hope the incoming FCA leadership will make this a priority. With the ongoing development and traffic concerns that are touching all of northern Virginia, Fairlington needs to be able to speak with one voice on these critical matters. That cannot happen unless the condo associations and the FCA are in constant contact.

Speaking of new leadership, I leave the FCA in the extremely talented and experienced hands of Guy Land and Kent Duffy, who currently serve on the board and have agreed to stand as candidates for president and vice president of the 2013 board. You all know Guy as the longtime president of the Fairlington Villages condo association and ever-present photographer. Kent has been a thoughtful and cheerful member of the FCA Board for the past couple of years. I know that under their leadership, the FCA will do great things. But they can't do it without you so please show up and volunteer!

Again, many thanks for your support and remember, Fairlington is Fun!

Yours in service,

Rosiland Jordan, president
Fairlington Citizens Association
president@fca-fairlington.org



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Fairlington turns out the vote



Left to right, Signs in front of the Fairlington precinct polling place at the FCC and entrance for the Abingdon precinct. Below left, indoor line at Abingdon Elementary School on Election day. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

Arlington's General Registrar Linda Lindberg reported a record turnout for the November 6 election, with a total of 84.6 percent of active voters participating. (The election drew more voters in raw numbers than previous elections, but the 1992 general election remains the all-time record-setter with a 84.9 percent participation rate.) Not surprisingly, there were reports of long lines at some of the county's 52 polling places, especially during the early morning, before-work hours. Some precincts experienced a waiting time of at least an hour all day long; some voters reported waits of two or more hours at times.

Fairlingtonians vote in two precincts: the Fairlington precinct (012), encompassing the south Fairlington communities only, is located at the Fairlington Community Center. The Abingdon precinct (022), located at Abingdon Elementary School, encompasses Fairlington Villages (Fairlington north of the bridge) as well as neighboring apartment and condo complexes. At midday at Fairlington precinct, there was no line outside and only modest lines inside to check in and to wait for

an available touch-screen machine—the after-check-in wait was much shorter for those opting for a paper ballot. At midday at Abingdon precinct, there was a long line waiting to get in, extending down the school corridor from the gym.

In the national election for President and Vice President, the results in the Fairlington neighborhood

precincts were: Abingdon: 64.9% Obama, 33.3% Romney; Fairlington: 63.3% Obama, 35% Romney.

The 8th Congressional District voted 64.37% to return Jim Moran (D) to Congress. Arlington County mirrored that result with 64.75% of the vote going to Moran. In the Fairlington precinct, Moran received 60.40% of the vote; in Abingdon precinct, 60.86%.

For Arlington County board member, Libby Garvey (D) won in all 52 county precincts with 60.3% of the vote. Garvey, a long-time Fairlington resident, received 69.04% of the vote in Fairlington precinct, and 62.53% in Abingdon precinct. Also on the local ballot, the four bond referenda passed by the following margins: Arlington Public Schools, 81.17% approval; Metro and transportation, 80.14% approval; Community infrastructure, 72.85% approval; and Parks and recreation, 61.38% approval.

For more information and complete election results, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search election.



Candidates for the FCA 2013 board: The FCA will hold the annual election for the 2013 board at the December 12 meeting. Candidates for officers and directors are:

- President, Guy Land
- Vice president, Kent Duffy
- Secretary, Carol Dabbs
- Treasurer, Ed Hilz
- Directors, Jacob Gelman, Mark Jones, Michelle Woolley

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Sandy causes minor tree damage



Hurricane Sandy felled a few trees in Fairlington. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

Hurricane Sandy roared ashore on the Monday before Halloween, delivering a less than "super" punch to our section of the Eastern seaboard. Schools were closed for a couple of days, as was much of the federal government—but we didn't lose power and the Post Office continued to deliver mail! Fortunately for us, Sandy caused only a few downed trees in Fairlington and left the familiar storm debris behind. Most people agree that, compared to residents of coastal New Jersey and New York, we were lucky.

When a street tree (on the right of way between the sidewalk and street curb) or a tree on public land gets damaged, Arlington County owns the tree and takes responsibility for it. County work crews moved in quickly after Sandy to remove the large tree that came down on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center and a couple of street trees toppled on Fairlington streets. But trees inside Fairlington, on patios or in common areas, are privately-owned—the county is not responsible for clean-up. Fairlington's condo associations and their management companies are responsible for dealing with damaged trees in common areas, and tree removal can be expensive, sometimes costing thousands of dollars. But who pays for damage caused to your home by a tree that originates on someone else's patio? The rule in Virginia code can be stated simply as "Your neighbor's tree? Your problem."

Fallen trees or similar accidents that may be qualified as an "Act of God" leave the affected homeowner responsible for the damages to his own property. (Such accidents are normally covered by the affected owner's insurance, and are usually resolved by reporting the claim.) A timely article in the *Washington Post* real estate section (Saturday, November 3) pointed out the general rule for damage to your property caused by a neighbor's tree: "Unless the neighbor knew or should have known that his tree was unsafe, he is not responsible even if

it hurt you or your family member or damaged your property." Our courts follow the old common law: It's your property, so you're responsible for taking care of it (to include not only routine maintenance but also costly one-time tree removal caused by an accident)—unless you can prove that your neighbor was in some way negligent. The *Post* article goes on to say that there is a long and convoluted history relating to tree law, and almost every case has its individual factors. The best advice for questions about liability involving trees: Check your homeowner's policy or check with your insurance agent, and ask your condo association board or management company about their tree policies.

Arlington alerts: You can sign up for electronic emergency notifications and updates (via e-mail, cell, text, or pager) at www.arlingtonalert.com. It's a free county service; data rates may apply.

Weather forecast: Break out the snow shovels

The meteorologists at AccuWeather are saying that southern New England and the mid-Atlantic states, including the Washington area, could be in for a snowy winter this year. The weather service forecast calls for cold weather and large systems of moisture to converge, dumping above-average snow totals along the east coast. Best estimate for the arrival of big storms? January and February, 2013.

Normal snowfall in DC/NOVA is 14.6 inches. Last winter's snow "drought" recorded a mere 3.7 inches at Dulles. The year before that, 12.6 inches. The "Snow-mageddon" winter of 2009-10 recorded a memorable 73.2 inches.

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Police, continued from page 1

on the Four Mile Run bike path in July—it was the only stranger rape to have occurred this year. (More often, rape falls into the categories of date rape or acquaintance rape. While no less horrific, they are different than stranger-on-stranger crimes in terms of investigation.)

To support your personal safety on the trails, whether walking, running, or biking, Butler reiterated this advice: "Don't run at night. Don't go in the early morning hours when it's dark. Most important—don't go alone." In addition, take your cell phone with you on the trails and pre-program your phone with the police phone numbers (non-emergency, 703-558-2222; emergency 911). If you see something, take your phone out and call. "And don't hesitate—call immediately," said Butler.

That advice was reiterated by Captain Michelle Nuneville, head of the Criminal Investigations Division (familiar to Fairlington residents as the former Third District commander). The police want to hear from you if you see something strange, odd, or even just slightly questionable. People hesitate to call the police non-emergency number—they're not sure that what they've seen is important, and they don't want to "make a fuss." Nuneville said it was the primary reason people give later when asked why they didn't call: "I didn't want to bother you." "We are *not* bothered," said Nuneville. When in doubt, call. It may be nothing; it may be something; let the police sort it out. Lastly, if you're still reluctant to call the police, at least file the information

online. (Send non-emergency e-mail to police@arlingtonva.us or go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and follow the links: > Police > Contact us > Report an incident via the Internet.)

*ACPD officers, below, and
Captain Brett Butler, at left.
Photos, Gretchen Fallon.*



Learn more about the Medical Reserve Corps, December 11

On December 11, from 7 to 9 pm, at 800 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, 22204, the Arlington County Medical Reserve Corps will conduct a new volunteer orientation. The MRC was established in 2003 "to increase the capacity and capability of Arlington County to respond to large-scale, local public health emergencies and support ongoing public health outreach programs," according to the MRC. The group welcomes both medical and non-medical professionals with a wide variety of experience and skills; membership is open to anyone over 18 years of age who works and/or lives in Arlington.

New volunteers are required to attend a two-hour orientation session and should be able/willing to assist the public health division staff in the event of a true emergency, as well as participate in occasional public health outreach projects. Training is provided on a variety of topics, including emergency medication dispensing clinic operations, personal and family preparedness, basic epidemiology, psychological first aid, and the National Incident Management System. For more information, contact Juliette Marchioli, MRC Coordinator, at jmarchioli@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-4986.

Apply now for the 2013 class of TreeStewards

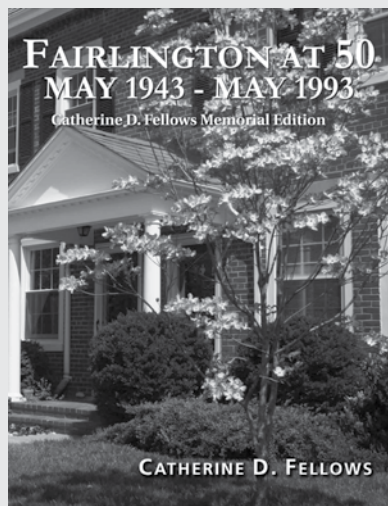
The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. New volunteer training will be held on Wednesday evenings, starting February 13 through April 2013, with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Join the class and learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, churches, temples, and in your neighborhood. For more information and to complete an application, go online to the TreeSteward Web site, www.TreeStewards.org, or call 703-527-2349. TreeSteward programs are supported in Arlington County and Alexandria by Virginia Cooperative Extension and are open to all. Scholarships are available.

News and events for December

Santa rides again!



On Saturday, December 15, 3 – 5 pm, Santa will make his yearly rounds of Fairlington atop ACFD Engine 107. Manned by firehouse elves, Santa's shiny red sleigh with flashing lights will make its way slowly, at 5 – 10 mph, through neighborhood streets north and south of the bridge, stopping occasionally to dispense treats. Santa's two-hour ride-along with our neighborhood firefighters starts at 3 pm at Fire Station 7; the route first makes a circuit through Fairlington Villages and then proceeds across the bridge to do a loop around south Fairlington communities, ending with a brief stop at the Fairlington Community Center. (See the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, to view a map of the planned route.) Of course, a duty call for Engine 107 may delay, interrupt, or cancel the ride.



"Fairlington at 50" is back in print—just in time for holiday gift-giving

The Fairlington Historical Society's *Fairlington at Fifty: May 1943-May 1993*, which is the definitive history of our community, returns to print in a special memorial edition dedicated to the book's author, the late Catherine Fellows. Filled with photographs, history, stories of Fairlington's development and neighborhood life, and featuring an update to 2003, the book is a wonderful holiday gift for neighbors and former neighbors. The book is on sale for \$20 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. You can download the order form at fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or send check to FHS, 2776 S. Arlington Mill Drive #150, Arlington VA 22206.

AFAC calls for holiday "sugar". Arlington Food Assistance Center's goal for the season is to collect 1,600 each of the following items to share the holiday spirit with client families: 2 lb. bags of sugar, 2 lb.



bags of flour, and 8 to 15 oz. bottles of cooking oil (no glass, please). Donations can be dropped off at AFAC (2708 S. Nelson Street, Arlington 22206) Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm, and Saturday, 9 to 11am. Please drop off donations by Saturday, December 15, as AFAC will be distributing items the week of December 17.

Columbia Pike Holiday Bazaar. The first Columbia Pike holiday arts and crafts bazaar provides a one-stop holiday shopping event from local artisans and crafters. The bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 8, 10 am to 4 pm, at the Arlington Career Center near the intersection of S. Walter Reed Drive and Columbia Pike (816 S. Walter Reed Dr. Arlington 22204). Enjoy music, holiday decorations, and convenient on-site parking.

Holiday House craft show and sale. The Hendry House at Fort C.F. Smith Park (2411 N. 24th St., Arlington) will host the seventh annual Holiday House, a juried arts and crafts sale by local artisans, on selected days between December 8 and 16: Saturdays, 10 am – 5 pm; Sunday, noon – 5 pm; and Wednesday, noon – 8 pm. The sale includes a children's corner with items priced under \$15.

....and more ways to celebrate

Raise your voice—group lessons and holiday sing-along. Potomac Harmony Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, invites you to attend free group vocal lessons for women 13 and older, conducted by Ozzi Mask, Master Director of Potomac Harmony, under whose direction the chorus has earned five regional championships. No musical experience is necessary. Remaining lessons this season will be held at 7 pm on Wednesdays, December 5 and December 12, at the Hermitage in Northern Virginia (5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria 22311). Following the lessons, you may have the opportunity to sing holiday music with the chorus at Ballston Mall, December 19. For more information and to reserve a spot, call 703-764-3896.

On Sunday, December 16, at 3 pm, Potomac Harmony Chorus will present its annual holiday concert and sing-along at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theater (125 South Old Glebe Road). Admission is free. Voluntary donations will be accepted to benefit Doorways, a non-profit organization that provides a year-round shelter for abused and homeless women and families. For more information, go online to www.potomacharmony.org.

Ice skating. The ice skating rink at Pentagon Row (1101 S. Joyce Street) is open, every day, including holidays, now through March 18. The rink opens at noon on weekdays and 10 am on weekends. It closes at 10 pm, except on Fridays and Saturdays, when it closes at 11 pm. Holiday hours vary. Two hours of skating time is \$8 for adults and \$7 for seniors and children 12 and under. Skate rentals are \$3. Season passes are also available, as are skating lessons and birthday party/event rentals. For more information, go online to www.pentagonrowskat.com or call 703-418-6666.

Weeds don't take a holiday. Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment on Sunday, December 2, 1 to 3 pm, at Lacy Woods Park for invasive plant removal, where you'll help native species survive and thrive. Meeting location and additional details will be sent to registered participants. To register, send e-mail to volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org or call 703-228-6406, and tell ACE the event(s) for which you're calling to register.

Healthy holiday dinners. Join Virginia Cooperative Extension's Master Food Volunteer Desiree Morningstar, at the Fairlington Community Center kitchen, Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, for healthy recipes that will tempt your taste buds without widening your waistline during the holidays. In each class we'll prepare three dishes: main dish, side dish, and dessert. Recipes focus on fiber and vitamin-rich whole

grains, fresh produce, and beans—they have been taste-tested to please even the pickiest eaters. Cost is \$25 a class or \$65 for the series. Pre-registration is required: Send e-mail to jabel@vt.edu or call 703-228-6417 to sign up.

Toys for Tots. Help less fortunate children experience the joys of the season by donating new, unwrapped toys



(for elementary age) by Thursday, December 20. Drop off new toys at the donation box in the FCC lobby.

Fitness in focus at VHC. Virginia Hospital Center is hosting a discussion on December 14 on how to maintain healthy behaviors, continue exercise practices, and keep stress free during the winter season. For more information and to RSVP, call 703-558-6859. In addition, VHC sponsors the free, ongoing program, Ballston Mall walking, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 to 9:30 am. Walkers set their own pace and then meet at the sign-in table at 9:15 for a brief cool down and stretch routine. For more information about fitness programs, and to RSVP for the December 14 discussion, call 703-558-6859.

Secret Santa's gift cards. The Arlington County Secret Santa program requests gift cards (no more than \$25 value, from area stores, like Target, grocery stores, and drug stores), which will be distributed to low-income families, kids in foster care, people with disabilities, and low-income seniors. Donors are asked to submit cards by December 18. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Secret Santa or call 703-228-1775. The program coordinator, Kurt Larick, has volunteered his front door mail slot as a handy drop-off point for neighbors: 3189 S. Stafford St. Include your name, return address, and the value of the card.

Free concert, bring a bike helmet. NoVA Lights Chorale will perform the Messiah on Sunday, December 9, 4 pm, at Arlington Presbyterian Church (3507 Columbia Pike). The concert is free. You are invited to bring a new, still in the box kid's bike helmet for a project that the church is co-sponsoring with Phoenix Bikes. For more information, go online to www.novalightschorale.jigsy.com.



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FAIRLINGTON community center news

Holiday closings: The FCC will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, December 24 and 25, but it will be open on December 31, New Year's Eve.

Holiday giving: Toys for Tots

Drop off your donation of a new, unwrapped toy for elementary-age children by December 20 at the donation box in the FCC lobby.

Sign-up for winter classes begins December 12

Recreation classes offer a wide variety of activities for the New Year: Get a jump start on fitness resolutions, tap into your creative side, share experiences with loved ones, get involved with your community, and much more. County residents can register online beginning December 12. Classes begin January 22. Don't let fee be a barrier to your winter activities; you may qualify for a fee reduction. For more information and full class descriptions, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr.

Enjoy Arlington Survey.

Wanted: Your opinion! Help us improve the *Enjoy Arlington* class catalog, and possibly win a free class or fitness center membership. Go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr to complete the survey; it will take less than five minutes but will have a lasting impact on our programming.

Bill Thomas award for an outstanding parks volunteer

Know a volunteer or group who has gone above and beyond the call of duty? This award was established to pay tribute to lifelong parks volunteer Bill Thomas and to honor and encourage those residents who also demonstrate a passionate dedication and support for the Department of Parks and Recreation's dynamic programs, natural resources, and public open spaces. Nominations are being accepted now until February 15, 2013. Go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr and visit the Bill Thomas Award page for complete information or to make your nomination.

Senior center events

Regularly scheduled programs are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm for residents 55 and older who hold a 55+ pass. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information. Senior centers are closed Dec. 24, 25, and 31. December events include: Surviving grief through the holidays, Fri., Dec. 7, 10 am, Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955. Christmas music galore, Thurs., Dec. 20, 11 am, Culpepper Garden. Free. Register, 703-228-4403

Master Gardeners plant clinic

Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

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

FCC programs

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

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Plant bulbs now for a bevy of spring blooms

With the warm weather spurts finally gone, it is “safe” to plant spring flowering bulbs without having them germinate in winter. Bulbs are a good fit in the Fairlington patio since they have vertical growth habits and take up little width in the garden. Any garden center offers bulbs, but the widest selection can be found at the bulb house at Merri-field Garden Center in Fairfax. If you are a daffodil lover, it’s a must visit, since over 70 cultivars are offered in whites, yellows, and oranges.

Bulbs come in many forms, depending on shape—true bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tubers, and tuber-corms. For the novice bulb planter, the point always goes up and the fatter part of the bulb with its fibrous root hairs is placed on the soil. The depth of the planting hole depends on the bulb flower. For a daffodil, dig a 6-inch hole; for crocus, a 2 or 3 inch hole suffices. Bulbs are planted in cylindrical holes, made with a special tool. Some bulb-planters are hand tools, but the sturdier kind is meant to be used like a short-handled spade—it’s four feet long with places to put your foot as you press the cylinder into the ground. Once you have it submerged in the soil, turn the cylinder about four inches and then pull it up. You now will have a perfect hole in which to place the bulb. Using both thumbs, push the dirt out of the tool’s cylinder and back into the hole.

If squirrels (or in some cases, chipmunks, gophers, or deer) are a

concern, there are some retardant measures to take. If you have a soup can, remove the top and bottom lids and place it over the planted bulb. This will provide a shield around the bulb’s circumference. Or break up some steel wool and place the pieces around the bulb. Rodents will not like chewing through this buffer. Finally, sprinkle some pepper over the bulb, which seems to deter squirrels from nibbling on rose and other flower buds.

Crocus. It is unique in that it’s the first one to appear, even in winter. It has the habit of a wildflower, appearing en masse in the middle of a lawn. Like miniature goblets, the crocuses come in purple, lavender, white, and yellow. They take full sun and are poor-soil (clay, rocky) tolerant. Since they are small, plant them in groups. Crocus grows only four inches tall, so plant them where you’ll be able to see them (on the outer edge of your patio).

Narcissus (daffodil or jonquil). If yellow is your favorite color, plant this one. There are 12 “divisions,” four of which are trumpet, large-cupped, small-cupped, and miniature—all referring to the flower’s shape. The petals are yellow or white with the center or “eye” elongated in the shape of a small tube or trumpet. Daffodil likes full sun.

Hyacinth. If fragrance is what you seek, buy this one. Flower colors in this member of the lily family are vibrant (red, pink, purple, lavender, yellow, and white). They come in



Hyacinth. Photo, Corey Hilz

100 varieties and grow in the shape of a mini football. They stand firmly, 8 – 10 inches tall, and take full sun.

Tulip. If you have some shade, this one is suitable. It is easily recognizable with its tight, goblet-shaped bloom perched on a two-foot-long stem. The tulip flower comes in all pastel colors and in more than 3,000 cultivars! Tulips flower for two months if you plant the early, mid-, and late-spring flowering types.

Gladiolus. I classify this as “old-fashioned” (like the lilac and hollyhock) since my older relatives loved them and since you hardly see them anymore. The “glad” flower is closely attached on 3 – 4 foot sturdy stems and it emerges in a funnel-shape before opening wide. The gladiolus is a member of the iris family and likes full sun. Like the tulip, it’s perfect for a cut flower arrangement.

— Bill Sullivan,
 www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

Gift-giving ideas for pets

The holidays are almost upon us, and most of us are thinking about gifts for our loved ones. For many Fairlingtonians, those loved ones also include our furry friends! Below are some fun and practical gift-giving ideas to get you started working on your gift list.

For dogs

Hide a Squirrel by Kyjen – This dog toy was recommended to me by a behaviorist to keep my dogs from getting into trouble when bored. The toy consists of a plush tree and furry, squeaking squirrels that you hide in the tree for your curious dog to find. It's designed to be an interactive game but can also be used to help with training.

ChuckIt! – This toy is perfect for dog owners who get tired of having to pick up slobbery tennis balls that their

dogs have brought them. The ball "launcher" makes it easy to throw a ball further in order to tire your dog out, and the bright orange balls sold with it stand out against the grass and among other tennis balls.

For cats

Laser pointers – Most cats love to chase this red light that you can project on the floors or walls to get your cat's attention and give it something to chase. It can be very entertaining not only for the cat, but also for you watching the cat scramble to try to "attack" this unattainable prey.

Feather wands – I have seen many a cat go crazy for this toy and enjoy chasing the feathers while you are holding and waving the wand. I have also seen cats grab the toy and carry it off like prey. This toy can occupy your cat for a long time and help it to burn off excess energy.

For cats and dogs

Thundershirt – This is a gift for both you and your pet! This tight-fitting vest is supposed to help calm anxious pets. I have heard anecdotal evidence that it's helped dogs through thunderstorms as well as crate training. For cats, this tool may help calm them at the vet's office or help with new cat introductions. It can be used with both types of pets for separation anxiety.

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant editor

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Full Size Clarendon -Fairlington Villages - Totally move-in ready!! New paint, refinished hardwood fls, new windows, new baths & kitchen!!!

ABINGDON school news



Abingdon partners with the Kennedy Center

—Amy Duma, Director of Teacher and School Program, Kennedy Center

Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda has helped make Abingdon one of a select group of 16 schools partnering with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in a program called Changing Education Through the Arts. As a CETA participant, Abingdon approaches language learning through arts integration across the curriculum—proven strategies help all students learn, including English language learners and those with disabilities. Students actively explore and demonstrate what they are learning in creative ways—they act it, dance it, sing it, draw it, tell it, and write it. Since learning is embedded in memorable experiences, students are excited and motivated and the learning lasts.



Fifth grade students make a tableau showing that military skills were highly valued in the ancient civilization of Sparta. Photo, Kathi Aagard.

Retention is stronger. Their excitement spills out into the hallways where there are colorful displays that document learning through the arts.

Abingdon teachers are remarkable, too—they engage students by complementing art and music instruction with a school-wide focus on arts integration. Since Abingdon joined the CETA program in 2006, the teachers have participated in numerous workshops at the Kennedy Center, hosted Kennedy Center courses at their school, and worked with teaching artists in their classrooms to further develop their

expertise in using arts integration strategies to help students learn more effectively and joyfully.

Abingdon is a leader in the CETA program because the principal provides exceptional leadership and the teachers are highly committed to learning and collaborating. They plan quality arts integration across all subject areas such as learning about science through dance, history through drama, and language arts through music. The students, engaged and excited, reach higher and higher levels of achievement.

Continued, next page.



Library Night: Reading specialist Mary Lou Rube helps kindergartener Madeleine Funk cast her vote during the "Vote for Books" Library Night in November. The book winner voted by the pre-K through third grade category was "Bad Kitty" by Nick Bruel. "Out of My Mind" by Sharon M. Draper was the winning book voted by fourth and fifth graders. Photo, Dana Andy.

Popular movie nights return: Join the Abingdon PTA for our first FREE movie night of the school year on Friday, December 14. We'll be showing *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*. Doors open at 6 pm and the movie will start at 6:15. Bring pillows and blankets for the floor—kids can even wear PJs! The PTA will have pizza, snacks, and drinks on sale, and we'll raffle off DVD copies of the movie and other prizes. Mark your calendar for more free movie nights on January 11, February 8, and March 15. Abingdon thanks Michelle Marston for another year of being the movie night coordinator.



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School president:

After her first day on the job as Abingdon school president, Julia Sonn, a fifth grader in Ms. Sewell's class, said, "I'm really excited that the students elected me as their school president. It is an honor to serve them by listening to their suggestions for improving our school and putting them into action. It's already a great school, but I hope to

make it even better!" We salute all candidates for having the courage to give speeches in front of their peers and to compete among a fantastic group of students. Congratulations, Julia Sonn!

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president



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neighborhood news

Book Group

The group will not meet in December. But you can get started on the book choice for January: *In The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan, which we will discuss on January 22. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. This year, we will generally hold our ethnic dinners on the second Thursday of the month and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday of the month. For December, however, the schedule is a little different. And unfortunately, we will not have a holiday party as in many years past.

Saturday, December 1, 12:30 pm, L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066, 703-759-3800. As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, join us for a four course prix fixe lunch (\$38, including a glass of wine) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting. If you will attend, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 by noon on Friday, November 30, so the reservation can be for the correct number, and to arrange carpools.

Monday, December 10, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend. For either event, please leave a voice-mail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Card players welcome

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

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, December 12, at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Parents and parentsto-be and children are welcome. For more information about the club or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op currently accepting new members

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.

How can I join?

If you are a Fairlington resident (North or South), e-mail the Winter Quarter Co-Coordinator Jillian Hanright and Susan Renehan at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request an application or for more information.



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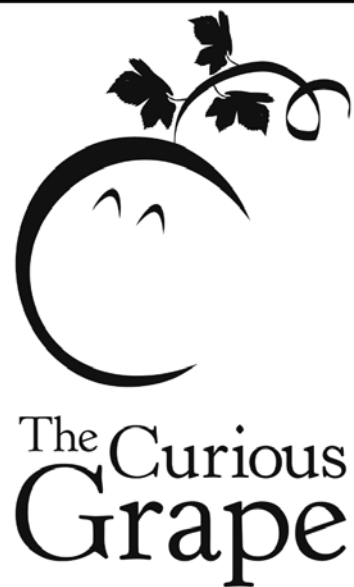
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Arl/Shirlington Village—Corner 2BR/2BA + den, 2 parking spaces, storage. \$574,000 Call Rob Allen



Arl/Fairlington— 1BR garden condo ready for your special touch. \$240,000 Call Jet Thompson



Arl/The Arlington—Wonderful 2BR, 2 lv w/ FPLC, HDWDs, balcony/deck overlooking woods. Mins to restaurants, shops, theatre. \$299,900 Call Paul Greenfield



Arl/Fairlington— Picture perfect sunny 2BR + loft. Updated kitchen & BA, HDWDs, huge attic & more. \$335,000 Call Lynn Robinson-Gant



Alex/Rosecrest—Charming 3BR/1.5BA Bungalow w/front & back porch, 2 car garage, huge kitchen. \$685,000 Call Doug Luzik

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
& ALL NORTHERN VA



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Storm-ready resources online

We're now entering the cold weather and perhaps snowy-winter season. When severe weather threatens, FEMA and the American Red Cross say you should be able to take care of yourself for three days—potentially without electricity or outside assistance. (Some south Fairlington residents got extended practice in dealing with power outages this year after the June derecho.) You can prepare now by assembling your family's emergency kit; making a plan for all family members (including pets); and staying informed. Information about emergency preparedness is widely available online:

- FEMA: www.ready.gov
- American Red Cross, Arlington Chapter: www.arlingtonredcross.org > disaster
- National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
- Arlington County: www.arlingtonva.us > emergency management

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When to throw it out:
Guide to fridge food after a power outage

Refrigerated foods, once the power is off, will stay cold for about four to six hours, say the health and safety experts at FEMA and WebMD. To increase the time, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible. If a freezer is full, the temperature will be maintained for about 48 hours. If it's half full of food, figure 24 hours. Start by eating leftovers, meat, poultry, and any foods with milk, cream, soft cheese, or sour cream. If frozen foods still contain ice crystals, they may be safely cooked and eaten (or re-frozen, if power is restored). Fruits that were frozen can be eaten if they still taste and smell good. Vegetables that are completely thawed shouldn't be eaten, since bacteria multiply quickly. If meat or poultry has thawed and has been warmer than 40 degrees F for two hours, discard it. Discard melted ice cream.

Some foods typically refrigerated keep at room temperature for a few days. Among them: butter, margarine, hard cheese, fresh fruit, and vegetables (except sprouts or fresh, sliced fruit), fruit juice, dried fruits, or coconut. Opened jars of vinegar-based salad dressing, jelly, relishes, taco sauce, and barbecue sauce are typically also OK to eat. Mustard, ketchup, and olives generally keep at room temperature for a few days.

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Landscape workshop in
six sessions—register this
month

Making Your Yard Sustainable, a Landscape for Life workshop series, will debut in January 2013. Classes will meet for six Saturdays, 10 am to 12:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, Room 118. Registration is required by December 31, and covers all six classes:

- January 19. Overview: What is sustainability and the role of soil
- January 26. Improving soil productivity and the role of water
- February 2. Conserving water and preventing erosion
- February 9. Supporting native plants, attracting beneficial wildlife, and improving home energy efficiency
- February 16. Choosing and using landscape materials wisely
- February 23. Review of household plans

Classes offer practical, ecologically savvy advice based on VCE's horticultural research and the U.S. Botanic Garden's sustainability curriculum. Participants will create a sustainability plan for their own yards with coaching from local experts. A materials fee of \$75 for all six classes includes a soil test, comprehensive instruction, and information about local conditions, programs, and resources to support each household plan. Master Gardeners and local experts lead each session, and volunteer proctors are needed to attend and help arrange individual sessions.

Register now by completing the registration form available at mgnv.org or by calling the Help Desk, 703-228-6414, to ask for a brochure. Space is limited to 20 households to allow ample time for individual questions and attention.

Light up your bike

Advice from BikeArlington: Now that the days are shorter, it's important to be visible when you're out on the streets. Bikers should wear reflective clothing and use bike lights. Lights not only make you visible and help illuminate your path, but also conform to Virginia law, which requires all bikers to use front white lights, rear red reflectors (they can be attached to your helmet, bag, or bike), and rear red lights on roads 35 mph and up. For more information, go online to BikeArlington.com.

Discover nature in winter

Arlington County naturalist Cliff Fairweather reminds us that there's plenty to do and learn in local winter woods, meadows, and streams. Long Branch and Gulf Branch Nature Centers have a full line-up of programs where you can learn to identify leafless trees by using bark, twigs, seeds, and other clues. Discover birds that spend their winters in Arlington and head north in the spring—winter wrens, hermit thrushes, and ruby-crowned kinglets, to name a few. Find a flower that blooms well before winter is done—it's named for a stinky mammal and a vegetable. From flying squirrels to winter insects, the nature centers offer up winter wonders in programs for tots to adults. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and enter The Snag in the search window.

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Children's Holiday Shop, December 6

The annual Children's Holiday Shop returns to the Abingdon gymnasium for one night on Thursday, December 6 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Only children are allowed! Staff members and other community volunteers will be available to help students make gift selections and monetary decisions. More than 100 different gift items, including mugs, figurines, hats, bookmarks, key rings, pencils and pens, jewelry, small toys and more, can be purchased for as little as 25cents and up to \$10, with the majority of the items costing \$4 or less. In addition, the PTA will have free craft tables for children to "Make and Take" their own holiday ornaments. The fifth grade class will offer food and drink for sale with profits benefiting class field trips. The Abingdon Brownie and Girl Scout troops will hold a dessert bake sale. All profits will be donated to SHARE, a national charity that ensures all girls can enjoy Girl Scouting, regardless of funds.