

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2013

Volume 39, Number 12

www.fca-fairlington.org

Arlington police to discuss crime and safety at December annual meeting

Fairlington residents will discuss community crime and security issues with Third District Captain Brett Butler of the Arlington County Police Department at the December 11 meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA). Additional activities at the session, which is FCA's annual meeting, will include the election of the Association's officers and board for the coming year, a report from FCA President Guy Land on the major activities of 2013, and an opportunity to visit with neighbors over holiday refreshments.



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Rockin' Recipes for a Healthy Holiday

Saturday, December 7, 2:30 pm
FCC

MOMS Club

Wednesday, December 11, 11:30 am
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Friday, December 13, 12:30 pm
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Great Falls

Santa Ride

Saturday, December 14
See page 14

Holiday events

See pages 14-15

Christmas

Wednesday, December 25
FCC Closed

See Neighborhood News on page 17 and related articles for details about calendar events.

The meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for residents to meet with Captain Butler and his team to discuss ongoing vandalism and security concerns in our neighborhood, specifically in the Meadows in South Fairlington. Captain Butler will also provide some personal safety reminders as we enter into the holiday season.

"We are particularly looking forward to an open dialogue with Fairlington residents and will be available throughout the meeting to answer questions and talk about any additional crime or security concerns that individuals have at this time," Butler said.

As noted in last month's *Bulletin*, this fall has seen a rash of incidents involving theft and vandalism, particularly in South Fairlington. These included vehicle vandalism and break-ins and rocks and bricks being thrown through condo windows. In addition, authorities believe a squirrel was killed by a BB gun near the Meadows tennis courts.

The Meadows property destruction has been a paramount concern between the FCA and Arlington Police, as an ongoing trend of vandalism continues

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Santa rides through Fairlington, December 14

Santa and his elves make an early visit to North and South Fairlington riding atop Fire Engine 7 on Saturday, December 14, from 3 to 5 pm. For details on the route, see page 14.

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

December 11 agenda:

Special presentation: Capt. Brett Butler of the Arlington County Police Department will discuss crime and safety issues in Fairlington.

Annual meeting business: Under the FCA bylaws the December meeting is the annual meeting of the civic association and is open to all residents and owners in Fairlington. The following items will be addressed during the meeting:

- Approval of November minutes
- Election of officers and board members
- President's report on 2013 activities
- Other officer and committee reports
- New business from the floor

Holiday reception for residents: Residents are invited to visit with their neighbors and the FCA board following the conclusion of the annual meeting.

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA)
	bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
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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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Holiday Reception: Join your neighbors for holiday treats and warm conversation at the conclusion of FCA's annual meeting on Wednesday, December 11. The meeting begins at 7 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a busy year for your civic association!

Our monthly programs have featured a strong lineup of speakers, ranging from Congressman Jim Moran to two members of the Arlington County Board to the Abingdon School principal to the head of Arlington's parking policy office and the county's cable director.

We've sponsored a spring plant walk, supported the Historical Society's Home and Garden Tour, cohosted the annual Fourth of July parade, celebrated Fairlington's 70th anniversary with a commemorative tree planting and guided grounds tour, and offered residents the chance to unload old financial records with a community paper shred. This month we'll welcome Santa as he rides the fire truck through Fairlington.

We've kept residents informed about potential real estate development through a spring development forum and updates in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. We're positioned to assess plans for the redevelopment of Park Shirlington whenever the developer files an application.

Our focus on development and traffic was an important part of the updated Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan that the County Board unanimously accepted in April. On the administrative side, we revamped our bylaws and adopted a transparency policy.

Our most challenging activity has been the exploration of a potential Fairlington Farmers Market, as a dedicated working group transformed a loose idea into a formal proposal that is now before the Arlington County Board.

Two main goals have guided our work: keeping you informed about things that potentially affect our community, and enhancing the value of living in Fairlington.

These activities have been led by resident volunteers, beginning with the FCA Board, whose members receive no compensation. Two members, Michelle Woolley and Jacob Gelbaum, will be leaving the Board. Both are completing their second year and are juggling the time challenges associated with raising young children. We appreciate their service to our community.

But non-Board volunteers have been critical. Our website and Facebook presence, the Farmers Market Working Group, the grounds tours—these are the work of Fairlington volunteers. Others of you have offered encouragement or passed along advice. You've enriched FCA's work.

To all of you who have helped us this year, I extend my profound thanks. You are what makes living in Fairlington special.

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



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BRING IN THIS COUPON & GET STARTED TODAY!

Fairlingtonians delight in shredding old papers



Pat Teske (right) unloads several months' worth of accumulated papers. Photos by Guy Land.

Who knew that turning a box of personal papers into confetti could make people so happy? That's just what happened on November 3 in the Fairlington Community Center parking lot as more than 80 Fairlington residents took advantage of the FCA-sponsored paper shredding event.

With no lines and a fee of \$5 for two boxes of papers, disposing of personal and financially sensitive materials went quickly. Residents could drive up, pay their fee, and watch as their documents were shredded on the spot inside of the Shred Station Express truck. Some brought just one box, while others brought as many as six.

Margaret Shannon, a member of the Fairlington Commons board, brought two grocery bags full for shredding. She was closing out an estate and had a variety of personal and financial documents – including some checkbooks dating back to the 1960s. While she does have a desktop shredder at home, the process can be

tedious and time consuming, and the free shredding service Arlington County offers can sometimes take her up to two hours of just waiting in line. "My time is more valuable than that," Shannon said.

As the incidents of identity theft rise, it can be a challenge to safely destroy personalized junk mail, old financial statements, and other personally sensitive documents. "This paper shredding event is something that Fairlington needs," Shannon said. "It's more and more important to eliminate our digital footprint."

The FCA paid \$500 for the services of the mobile shredding facility which was offset by the \$5 fees. Mark Jones, FCA director, said the event brought in just enough to cover the costs for the association. One happy customer even paid a little extra to say "thank you" for the service. With the success of this event, Guy Land, FCA president, said that the informal consensus of the board was to make this a regular event, perhaps even twice a year and potentially include electronics recycling.

—Janis Johnston



FCA Board member Kent Duffy carries a resident's bags of old papers to the shredding truck.

Thanks, Gretchen! Now we need volunteers

After six years at the helm of this newsletter, Gretchen Fallon is putting aside her editor's pencil. An accomplished writer, skilled reporter, and indefatigable researcher into all things Fairlington, Gretchen has made the *All Fairlington Bulletin* the "go to" place for information about what's happening in our community.

The FCA Board expresses its profound gratitude to Gretchen for her steady hand and professionalism. She has set a high standard, making the *Bulletin* a leader among community association newsletters in the D.C. area.

The Board is looking for a new editor, along with a number of other volunteers who will write occasional stories. We

are hoping to create a small coterie of volunteer writers, guided by an accomplished editor, who can share some of the load of producing copy for each month's issue.

If you have experience in journalism or newsletter production, or if you are just interested in using your writing skills to share with others what's going on in Fairlington, let us hear from you. The editor slot carries a small stipend, but because of the time commitment required, it really is in part a volunteer activity. If you are interested in being an occasional writer or working as the editor, please contact president@fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land

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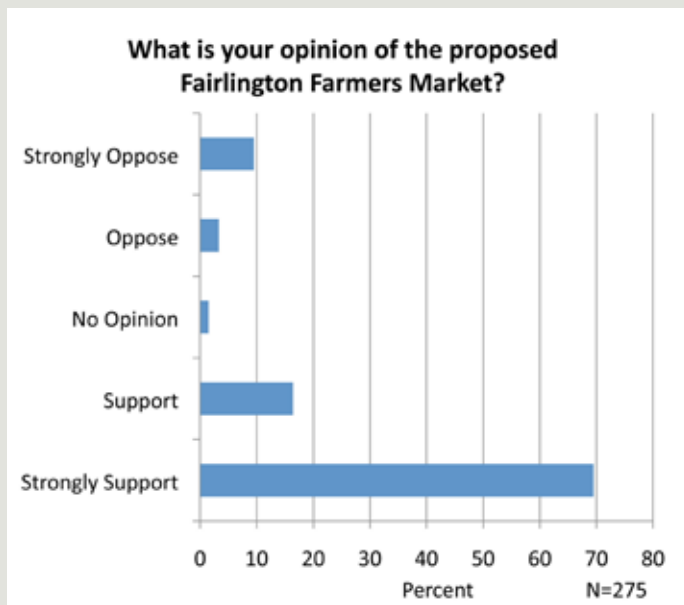
Farmers market proposal moving forward with unanimous support of FCA board

After months of planning, surveying, and commentary, the November 13 FCA meeting concluded with the board unanimously voting 9-0 in support of a Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM) proposal. While the ultimate decision remains with the County, this is a significant step toward completing an exploratory process the board launched in the spring about the feasibility of creating a farmers market in Fairlington.

Under the proposal, the market would operate Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm, April through November. It would be a “producers only” market, initially having 10 to 12 vendors. The market would occupy the back plaza of the Fairlington Community Center (FCC).

Fairlington residents voice opinions via survey

An online survey gave Fairlington residents the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed Fairlington Farmers Market plan. When the survey closed at noon on Wednesday, November 13, the day of the FCA meeting, 275 residents had responded, with many of them offering comments. Praise for the benefits this would bring to the community, contrasting with concerns about parking and congestion, echoed the ideas expressed by Fairlington residents during the FCA meeting. In the end, 85.9% of residents expressed support of the market, 12.8% were opposed, and 1.5% had no opinion.



Field to Table, which currently operates the Westover farmers market, would operate the one in Fairlington, guided by a committee of Fairlington residents who handle the week-to-week activities. Field to Table would assume financial liability for the market. It has submitted an application for the Fairlington market to Arlington County. That application is currently being reviewed by county staff and will ultimately be voted on by the Arlington County Board.

“There has been a lot of enthusiasm across Fairlington about having our own farmers market, with many residents noting the benefits it would offer the community,” said FCA President Guy Land. “At the same time, the board understands the concerns that some residents have about the potential impact on parking and will flag those for the County. The board will monitor the parking impacts of the market during the coming year, and this will be one part of a broader assessment of the market at the end of next year’s season.”

Forum debate. Much of the debate at the November meeting, like several comments in an online resident survey, focused on the potential impact of the market on parking near the Fairlington Community Center. A number of residents expressed concern that the market would significantly exacerbate a parking situation that they already perceive as “horrendous.” This view was voiced particularly by some residents who live across the street from the center, where off-street parking is quite limited, though residents in other areas shared similar concerns about how the market would affect the larger parking difficulties in Fairlington.

Other residents, however, felt that the market would not create appreciably more parking issues than currently exist with the Saturday lineup of activities at the community center and that the benefits to the community outweighed any minor parking issues. Melissa Beene, co-chair of the all-volunteer working group that has developed the proposal, reported that in August door-to-door canvassing efforts, there were residents who live immediately across from the FCC (S. Stafford, 33rd St., and S. Utah) who supported bringing a Sunday farmers market to the FCC.

South Fairlington resident Lane Erwin, the other committee co-chair, stated that the committee had taken seriously resident concerns about the impact the market

Continued on page 11

*Guess What Your
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Did Last
Night?*



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Quaker Lane border gets landscape facelift



Photo by Guy Land.

“What’s going on with cutting down the trees along Quaker Lane?” This question was asked by a curious Fairlington resident in a posting on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page earlier this fall about the major landscape changes occurring along Quaker Lane from Shirlington Circle to 33rd Street.

Not to worry, it wasn’t a gang of tree vandals, armed with chain saws, or Arlington County unilaterally deciding to alter the appearance of Fairlington’s boundary. Rather, it was the first step in a major, planned renovation by the Fairlington Green condo association of the landscape along the part of Quaker Lane that borders the Green.

Stacey Knobler, Fairlington Green President, points out that many of the old trees in that area had been damaged by bad weather in recent years and were nearing the end of their life cycle. The Green community needed to address failing trees, a deteriorating visual barrier with Quaker Lane, and safety issues arising from the proximity to Quaker Lane and its heavy volume of traffic.

According to FCA Board member Mark Jones, a Green resident, “The Green made a decision to be proactive, contracted with a landscape architect, and developed a plan to replace the trees and shrubs with a new, sustainable, and visually appealing scheme.”

The project includes the planting of 133 new trees, additional hedge shrubbery, and a 6’ black aluminum fence along the Quaker Lane boundary of the Fairlington Green property.

The landscape renovation work is fully funded by the Fairlington Green Condo Association. Drawings for the overall project are posted on the FCA website, www-fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land

Recipes needed for Fairlington’s 70th anniversary cookbook

As you get out your favorite recipes this holiday season, we hope you will pick a few contributions for the 70th Anniversary Cookbook being compiled by the Fairlington Historical Society.

The cookbook will feature recipes—as well as pictures and stories—about food, friends, families, and festivities in Fairlington. We’re looking for recipes in the following categories: Appetizers, Beverages, Soups, Salads, Main Courses, Vegetables & Side Dishes, Breads, and Desserts & Sweets. We’ll also welcome a few words about why the recipe is significant to you and any pictures you might like to share of dining in Fairlington.

A recipe template and samples are available on the website (www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org). You can write to Cookbook Committee co-chairs, Kevin Silvia and Patsy Hester, (ksilvia@comcast.net)—or call 703-578-3824—with any questions.

Look for publication and a launch party in the spring 2014.

FCA elections— new board members needed!

The election for the 2014 FCA board officers and directors will be held at the association’s annual meeting on December 11. The initial slate is shown below. There are two vacancies for the Director positions, so this is a great time to get involved in your civic association.

President—Guy Land
Vice President—Kent Duffy
Secretary—Carol Dabbs

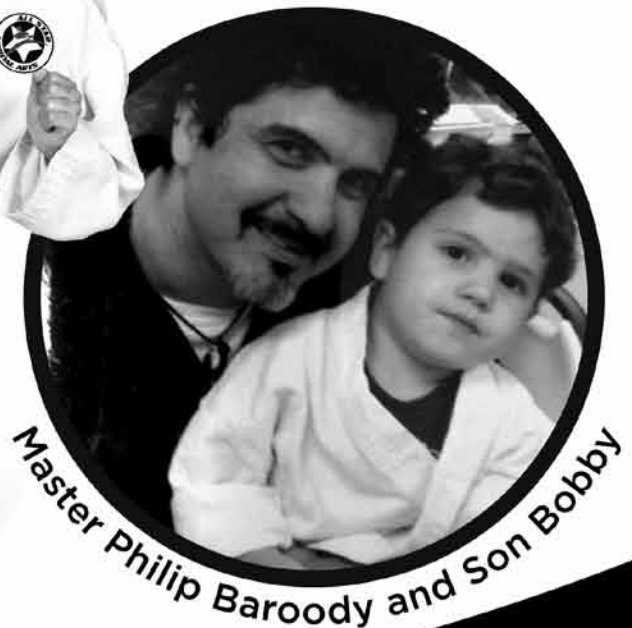
Treasurer—Ed Hilz
Directors—Joe Hartman,
Mark Jones, Carrie Street (2 vacancies)

An updated slate will be posted on the FCA Web site by December 1. Nominations in person at the December 11 meeting are also welcome.

Board members serve for a term of one year. The board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month. Duties are outlined in the FCA bylaws, which are posted on the FCA Web site. If you are interested in serving on Fairlington’s civic association board, contact FCA vice president Kent Duffy, vp@fca-fairlington.org.

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to occur among the community. Incidents reportedly occurred both in early October and in November.

Butler assures residents that the Arlington police force is actively dealing with the issue in a strategic manner. "We have to be very careful with how we go about catching these individuals," he said. "We don't want to be too obvious with our presence in the neighborhood because we are not certain who the perpetrators of the crimes

"This is an important issue to us and we are allocating numerous resources to hopefully put an end to this destruction." —Capt. Brett Butler

are and we don't want to drive them away, we want to catch them," he said. "Just because you don't see marked police cars patrolling the streets does not mean that we don't have unmarked cars scanning the area."

Additionally, a number of detectives are involved along with extra checks by the Third District Team and the other patrol sections. "Keep in mind that we have lots of things going on behind the scenes, and for security reasons it is not in our protocol to provide lots of details on our plan for catching the individuals responsible for these crimes," Butler added.

The Arlington police ask for the community's patience as they continue to move forward with the investigation of these vandalisms. "We want residents to know that this is an important issue to us and we are allocating numerous resources to hopefully put an end to this destruction," said Butler. "We are homeowners ourselves, and understand how disconcerting this destructive activity has been to residents, and we are putting forth our best effort. Patience and vigilance by the community is going to be the key to our success."

Another important agenda item at this year's FCA meeting will be the election of FCA officers and board members for the upcoming year. The four officers and five directors are elected to serve one-year terms. The nominating committee has prepared a slate of candidates but the bylaws also permit nominations to be made from the floor during the December meeting. At the moment there are two vacancies in the slate. See page 9 for more details on responsibilities of the board and officers.

The meeting will wrap up with a time for residents to enjoy special holiday refreshments and visit with neighbors and board members.

—Amy Schardt

could have on residential parking, and that a parking plan is a required element of the application process with the County.

Parking research. According to the committee, there are 145 curbside parking spaces alongside the Fairlington Community Center (S. Stafford, S. Utah and 32nd St.) and in the FCC parking lot. Between September 22 and October 27, parking surveys conducted by the committee showed that an average of 100 of these spaces were available at 8 am, 10 am, and 1 pm. Additional parking is also available along Quaker Lane (46 spots between 32nd and Oakcrest). Ms. Erwin stated that customers would be encouraged to park in the FCC lot or along Quaker Lane, using signage if/as permitted by County regulations. "We will be talking with the County about the parking pressures and possible strategies," she said.



The FCA Board discusses the proposed Fairlington Farmers Market as members of the market working group look on. Photo by Jessica Marvin.

The motion adopted by the FCA board requires the board to reconsider its support of the market no later than November of next year, with an eye toward sharing the community's views with the County. The board's review next fall is expected to consider all aspects of the market's operation.

Want to learn more about the history of the FFM meetings? View meeting summaries and slides from the May, October and November FFM meetings, as well as a list of the addresses canvassed in August, on the FCA website: www.fca-fairlington.org/issues.

—Jessica Marvin

Catching the holiday spirit in Fairlington, Shirlington, and beyond

The Village at Shirlington celebrates the holidays with a variety of opportunities to catch the holiday spirit while supporting worthwhile causes or enhancing your skills and knowledge. Take a few minutes to check out some of December's lineup. For more information, go to www.villageatshirlington.com.



Shirlie lights up the village.

Join Fox5DC personality Allison Seymour at 6:30 pm Tuesday, December 3, for the Shirlington tree lighting. Photos with Santa begin at 6:45 pm inside the UPS Store. There will be live holiday music from The Lovejoy Group, free face painting and balloon twisting, strolling entertainment, merchant specials

and promotions, and horse and carriage rides. Please bring a non-perishable item to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

Santa Paws: pet photos with Santa. Get that special holiday photo with your pet on December 4 and December 11 from 6 to 9 pm at Dogma Bakery in Shirlington. The cost is \$25 per photo session, and the special promotion is limited to the first 75 people in line each evening. Proceeds from the December 4 activity benefit Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, while December 11's proceeds benefit Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue.

4th annual breakfast with Santa and holiday food drive. Join the efforts of the Shirlington Hilton Garden Inn and the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) to fight hunger in Arlington County on Saturday,

Santa rides again!



Photos by Steve Andrews,
Gretchen Fallon, Guy Land.

Santa is once again visiting Fairlington aboard Fire Engine 7. Jolly Old Saint Nick and his firemen elves will cruise through the neighborhood on Saturday, December 14, between 3 and 5 pm, barring any fire emergency. Santa's shiny red sleigh with flashing lights will make its way slowly, at 5-10 mph, though neighborhood streets on both sides of the Abingdon bridge. Santa will dismount from his sleigh to hear what children want for Christmas at the North Fairlington parking lot

and the South Fairlington Community Center.

The tour starts at the fire station and weaves through North Fairlington before crossing the bridge and visiting South Fairlington. A description of Santa's route is below and is also available on FCA's website.

1. Leave Fire Station at 3 pm
2. Left onto Abingdon
3. Left onto 31st crossing Buchanan
4. Right onto Columbus crossing 30th
5. Right onto 29th crossing Buchanan
6. Right onto Abingdon
7. Stop at North Fairlington Community Center parking lot for 15 minutes (3005 South Abingdon)
8. Left onto Abingdon and continue onto 34th crossing Wakefield
9. Left onto Utah crossing 32nd Road
10. Right onto 32nd Street
11. Right onto Stafford and continue on Stafford around traffic circle
12. Right onto 36th crossing Taylor, Utah and Wakefield
13. Right onto 34th and continue to South Fairlington Community Center
14. Stop at South Fairlington Community Center parking lot for 15 minutes (3308 South Stafford)

—Michelle Woolley

December 21, from 8 am till noon. Enjoy breakfast with Santa by bringing a donation of a non-perishable food item. Reservations required. Please call 703-820-0440 and ask for the Sales Office.

Holiday cabarets. Signature Theater presents two very special shows in the intimate ARK Theatre, with each play for one week only: *A Matt Conner Christmas* from December 11 to 15 and *Holiday Follies* from December 17 to 23. Composer and Signature favorite Matt Conner (*Snow, Winter, Icicle*) salutes the holidays with his unique piano style. In *Holiday Follies*, Signature's annual holiday celebration returns. Tune that piano to the tune of glee for this jolly festivity featuring special guest performers, buckets of cheer and all your cherished yuletide tunes. All tickets \$41. Contact the Box Office 703-820-9771.



Catch a free holiday movie. The Shirlington Branch Library is screening two free movies for the holidays: *The Holiday* on Sunday, December 1, at 6 pm (for adults) and *Polar Express* on Saturday, December 14, at 2:30 pm (for children and their caretakers). For more information, contact the library at 703-228-6545.

Children's holiday shop returns to Abingdon December 10

The annual Children's Holiday Shop returns to the Abingdon gymnasium for one night on Tuesday, December 10, from 6 to 7:30 pm. In this unique gift shop, 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 \$0.25 and up to \$10, with the majority of the items costing \$4 or less.

As an addition to the Holiday Shop, the PTA will have free craft tables for children to "Make and Take" their own holiday ornaments. The PTA will sell pizza and drinks starting at 6 pm. 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. For more information contact abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

Need a Fairlington holiday gift?

The Fairlington Historical Society's *Fairlington at Fifty: May 1943–May 1993*—the definitive history of our community—is available for \$20.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling.



Filled with photographs, history, stories of Fairlington's development and neighborhood life, and featuring an update to 2003, the book is a perfect holiday gift for neighbors and former neighbors.

You can download the order form at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org—or call Patty Clark 703-820-7328.

Holiday crafting at the library. There's something special about a handmade gift. The Shirlington Branch Public Library will help you hone your crafting skills through three holiday craft sessions: Wednesday, December 4, at 6 pm will feature adult crafts and book wreaths; Tuesday, December 17, from 4:30 to 5 pm brings Crafternoon for Teens (middle school and high school), focused on making a winter gift; Monday, December 23, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm offers Wintercraft for preschool and elementary kids. For more information, contact the library at 703-228-6545.

Give a Fairlington T-shirt for Christmas: Sporting a Fairlington T-shirt not only spreads community pride, but can also be a perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your holiday list. Great, too, as stocking stuffers. Sizes now include women's, kids and infant. Pick one up at a FCA-sponsored event or meeting, email president@fca-fairlington.org or call the FCA at 571-403-1943 and leave your name and number.

Rockin' recipes for a healthy holiday. Enjoy a healthy new take on favorite holiday recipes in this cooking class with a nutritionist from the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation. Saturday, December 7, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. This family-oriented course is part of Arlington Families Unplugged, which features a themed Saturday of fun designed to give families the opportunity to disconnect from electronics and modern distractions and reconnect with each other. For more info email DPR-Elementary@arlingtonva.us or call Emily Thrasher at 703-228-4773.

Pat Shannon & Kristin Usaitis

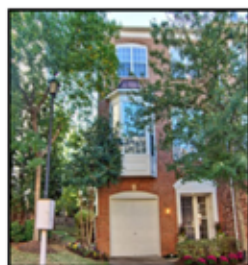
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Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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There are two different types of electric heat in Fairlington: straight electric heat and heat pumps. There are many schools of thought on which is better and many people believe that both have individual drawbacks. This month we'll try to distinguish between the two and give you the pros and cons of both.

Straight electric heat uses heat coils (similar to those found in your blow dryer) to heat your home which makes it very dry and somewhat expensive. Electric heat has output temperatures that exceed 115 degrees so it is perceived as being warmer heat but can cause static and excessively dry air. Humidifiers can often cure this while allowing you to run your heat at lower temperatures. It is quite common for many straight electric furnaces to lose one or more elements during the course of the heating season. If your house does not feel as warm as it did in previous years, this is probably why. If this happens, call us immediately to avoid any further problems.

Heat pumps have output temperatures of about 90 degrees which some people perceive as being less comfortable and colder than straight electric heat but heat pumps are also much more energy and cost efficient than straight electric heat. Keep in mind that in a normal home temperature should be maintained at about 70 degrees. Longer cycles are normal with heat pumps since output temperatures are lower. On cold days, 20 to 30 minute cycles are completely normal for a heat pump. Frost forming on your outdoor unit

sporadically when outdoor temperatures fall below 40 degrees is also normal with a heat pump. However, a block of ice encasing your outdoor unit is NOT normal and is usually caused by a lack of freon. If this happens, set your thermostat to emergency heat and call us for service.

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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 November, we enjoyed another trip to Shirlington to eat at Aladdin's Eatery, and our tried-and-true hamburger night at Ramparts. As was the case last December, we will not have a holiday party as in many prior years, but instead make our almost-traditional trip to Great Falls, as follows:

Friday, December 13, 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, we'll enjoy the four-course Prix Fixe lunch (\$40, 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 Wednesday, December 11, so the reservation can be for the correct number, and to arrange carpools.

Due to the holidays, we will not have our usual Monday hamburger night at Ramparts.

If you'd like to be included in our email list to receive this notice early in the previous month, please send your email address to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

To request an application or for more information, Fairlington residents can send e-mail to the coordinators, Tiffany Bittenbender and Monica Ekman, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, December 11, at 11:30 am, in the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Book Group

The book group will not meet in December. But you can get a head start on January's book selection: Hilary Mantel's novel, *Wolf Hall*. That discussion will occur on January 28.

Do you love to read and enjoy talking about books? The Book Group is seeking a new coordinator. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Shirlington Library

Shirlington Branch Library is looking for someone to be the Story Time Monitor. Story Time at the Library encourages children to be life-long readers. The monitor will set up and breakdown the room, distribute tickets, and handle disappointed caretakers who are turned away. The volunteer needs to love children and have excellent customer service skills. Contact Barbara Dean, Volunteer Coordinator, 703-228-7688 or email volunteercoordinator@arlingtonva.us.

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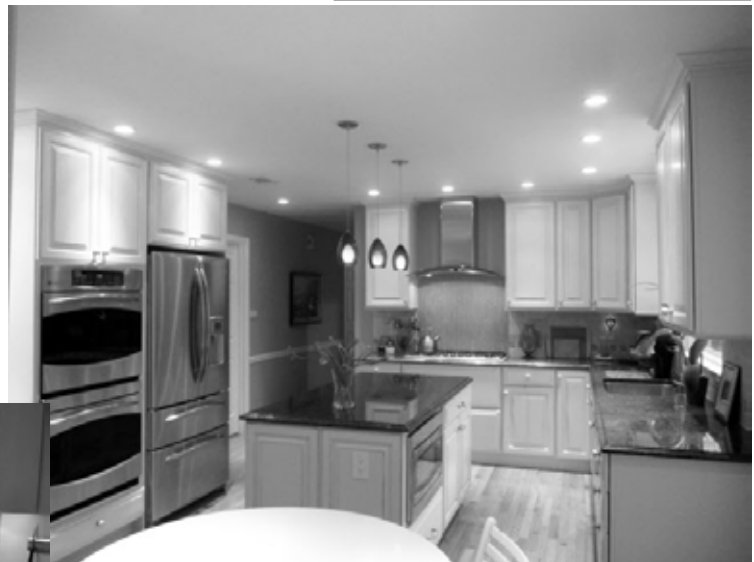
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Angie's list

CONSUMERS' CHECKBOOK



Read what some of your neighbors have to say:

GMG Services remodeled two bathrooms and a bar area in our home in Arlington, VA. GMG was one of three contractors we got quotes from, and we liked their punctuality, prices, and their ideas about how to best use the space available for the two bathrooms we wanted to re-do. Once we signed the contract, the work went exactly as planned. We were sent to wonderful providers for countertops, sinks, toilets, showers and tiles- everyone we worked with was fabulous, and it was clear they all had a great relationship with GMG. We were referred to GMG by a good friend, and we are very pleased with the way the work turned out.

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"I've been using GMG exclusively for the last 15 years for 4 different projects. Other than my bathroom, they have totally renovated my entire condo including a recent complete renovation of my downstairs bathroom. I have absolutely no reservations using them again and am chomping at the bit to have them renovate my bathroom next year. They do outstanding work, always finishing on budget and just as importantly, on time... I can honestly say, when comparing experiences with my friends on contractors, I've never been able to offer any of the horror stories they always have..."

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

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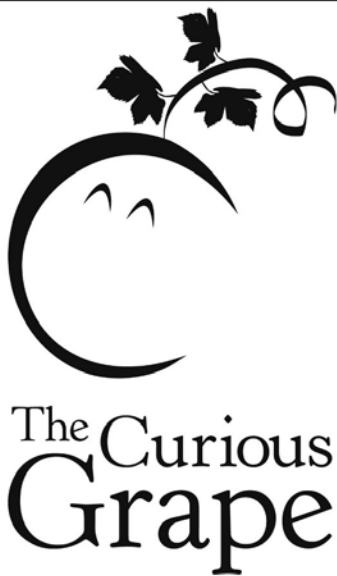


7



6

1. Cardinal mascot; 2. Fall festival; 3. Halloween parade with Principal Uyeda; 4. White House Historical Association; 5. Jerry Palotta; 6. Project GIFT night; 7. Kim Chi Crittenden. Photos by Abingdon Elementary PTA.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Take time to observe Fairlington's birds

In late October, I tended to a bird in distress while visiting with a customer near where I was working in Franconia. Chatting with this gentleman, a “thump” interrupted our conversation. Turning my head, I saw a bird flopping on its back on a sidewalk. It was obvious the bird had flown straight into the window of this home.

“Did it break its neck?” my customer asked, nonchalantly. “No idea,” I said, picking it up and setting it upright on its needle-like legs. “Its head is erect and its eyes are open,” I added with hope as I walked the property.

When the visit was concluded, I returned to the bird – still standing where I’d placed it. I picked up the bird—a rare Wood Thrush—and cupped it in my hands. I could feel its taut claws digging into my skin—a good sign of life, I thought. The thrush has brown plumage with a beige neck and belly coated with brown spots. Petting it, I noticed it was ultra-soft, like the ears of my Beagle.

I placed the bird in a nearby Threadleaf Falsecypress and returned to work. An hour later, I walked over to the “recovery room” and the thrush was standing where I’d placed it with its eyes still closed. When I talked to it, its eyelids peeled back to reveal shiny black eyes.

“It’s time to test these wings,” I said, pulling it from the branch. I opened my hands and noticed its right wing

would extend but not the left. I gently pulled on the left wing until it began flopping both wings and leaping out of my hands, only to land on the ground a few feet later. “That’s a start,” I said. Suddenly, it launched from the ground and flew about 10 feet to the top of a wooden gate. That was encouraging. When I approached it, the thrush took off in flight for a tall stand of maple trees behind the home.

I was surprised to see the bird recover. This small bird had made quite a sound bee-lining, bill-first, into a thick window.

A few years ago at another customer’s home off Duke Street, I walked down a driveway to find a scattering of birds I later identified as the Cedar Waxwing. Of the 100-plus birds lying on the concrete, not one was moving. Three American Holly trees had hosted a “happy hour,” I surmised. The flock had gorged itself on the holly berries only to become “intoxicated” by the juice. Looking for yet “another round,” the masses flew into a nearby picture window directly under the holly stand. With my industrial broom, I swept up the birds before digging a trench for burial. The Cedar Waxwing resembles the Cardinal—a crest at the back of its head, black mask around the eyes but brown plumage instead of red. And its belly is a muted yellow.

A year later, I came upon another flock of the Cedar Waxwing in a Crab Apple tree near the pool entrance in Fairlington Arbor. And



Cedar Waxwing.

yes, the branches were filled with the large, red fruit. Seeing a bird such as the Cedar Waxwing or Wood Thrush is interesting since the birds we normally see are the Cardinal, Mockingbird, Robin, Cowbird, Catbird, Starling, Mourning Dove, Crow, and even Red-Shouldered or Cooper’s Hawk.

The only predator in this group is the hawk, which will stand motionless on a low tree branch or fence top before swooping toward its prey.

The Audubon Society conducts annual bird counts, where it depends on residents in geographical areas to chart what birds and how many they see in a given period of time. On your next walk, jog or bicycle ride in Fairlington, look for a bird you’ve never before seen. If you see one, Google the bird’s description and you may discover a “new breed” in the neighborhood. And if you happen to witness a bird in distress after hitting a pane of glass, at least tend to it before assuming it is dead.

—Bill Sullivan
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Animal Talk

Think carefully before gifting a pet

The holidays are a time for giving, and maybe you're considering giving a pet to a loved one. With the high number of pets relinquished each year to shelters, many animal organizations have been reluctant to allow the adoption of pets as gifts. Surprisingly, a study conducted by the ASPCA this year confirmed past research that showed no increased risk of relinquishment of dogs and cats received as gifts. However, think carefully before gifting a cute, furry friend and ask yourself the fol-

lowing questions first:

- Has the recipient consistently wanted a pet over a long period of time?
- Is the recipient able to care for the pet financially?
- Does the recipient travel frequently or work long hours, making it difficult to care for a pet?
- What type of pet would best fit the recipient's lifestyle?
- If the recipient is a child, is the

parent willing to take care of the pet in the event the child cannot?

Your heart may be in the right place, but be sure that you know the answers to these questions before making your decision to ensure that the recipient and the pet will remain together for many years to come. Happy holidays!

—Christine M. Chirichella, assistant editor

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Mini-ads

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

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

VOLTA ELECTRIC. Contact Volta Electric for all of your Fairlington home electrical needs. From fan installations, recessed lighting, and full home remodels, to troubleshooting a pesky outlet - we are your one stop shop! We are a veteran owned company, family run and Fairlington residents! Master Electrician with over 10 years of experience, fully licensed and insured. Free estimates always! Call Mason, 703-310-9773 or email voltasystems@gmail.com

House Cleaning

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



FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Make the holiday season more enjoyable and ring in the new year by having us clean your home. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual and detail oriented. Our prices are reasonable, our service is thorough and we are great with family pets. We have references throughout the neighborhood. Call for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.


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

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steams cleaned. Call us for free estimates (703) 569-7799.

Pet Services

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

 Join your neighbors in talking about Fairlington issues and see additional photos of neighborhood events. Join the Fairlington Appreciation Society group on Facebook.

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

DOG WALKER & CAT SITTER - REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.

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

PET SITTER. Experienced pet sitter who loves all animals. Longtime Fairlington resident. Available for mid-day walks among other services. Call 703-307-7749.

Looking ahead...

As the *Bulletin* was going to press, Home Properties, the owner of Park Shirlington apartments on 31st Street, filed an application with Arlington County for the redevelopment of that property.

FCA will be establishing an advisory committee and scheduling a briefing for the community. Look for details in the January issue.

LAW OFFICE OF STEPHANIE DOURADO

Affordable Wills, Trusts, Estate and Tax Planning for Individuals, Families, and Small Businesses.

Contact us for a free consultation. House calls and evening and weekend appointments are available in and around Fairlington.

stephanie@douradolaw.com

703-957-8717



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 call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number.

T-shirts are white or hunter green. 100% cotton.

Child's, S, M, L, and X-L. \$15

Doggie-Do (and cats too!) Neighborhood Pet Services

Affordable, affectionate care,
whether you're here or there.

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

Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel
www.doggie-do.biz



Pet & Plantcare by Gerri, LLC

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

Gerri Horan
703.379.7719
SINCE 1999



BONDED & INSURED

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street. The FCC is closed Sunday.
Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

MINI-AD FORM

Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to
FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington
Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. E-mailed ad text will not be processed until payment is received.

Write key words from your ad on the check for reference. (Example: "Yard Sale" or "Lost Camera")

Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: _____ Phone (h): _____

Address: _____ Phone (w): _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Category (see newsletter for options): _____

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____

LONG AND FOSTER

ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

October TOP PRODUCERS



Juliet Flory
Top Producer



Rob Allen
Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Aldie/Stone Ridge South — Beautiful 3 level 3BR/2.55BA TH. Granite c-tops, SS appliances, fireplace in RR, + 2 car garage & 2 decks. \$399,900 Call Ellen Erikson



Ashburn — Beautiful 6BR/7.5BA 4 lvl SF w/home theatre & 3 car gar. \$1,130,000 Call Juan Zaffaroni



Arl/Fairlington — Updated kitchen & baths. 2BR/2BA TH in great location \$435,000 Call Rob Allen



Arl/Fairlington— Many kitchen & BA updates in this 2BR w/huge storage room. Great location. Minutes to shops, theatres, & restaurants. \$319,900 Call Dayna Wagner



Alex/Pointe @ Park Center— Updated 1BR in gated community. Balcony w/storage & pet friendly. \$227,000 Call Rob Allen



Arl/The Arlington—2BR condo w/ fireplace & balcony. Mins. to shops, restaurants, & theatres. \$272,000 Call Doug Luzik

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
& ALL NORTHERN VA

