

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

DECEMBER 2014

Volume 40, Number 12

December FCA annual meeting to feature elections & historical insights

Inside this month!

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Fairlington residents can whet their interest in local history when leaders of the Arlington County Historical Society (AHS) and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS) speak at the December 10 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 2014, and an opportunity to visit with neighbors over holiday refreshments.

John Richardson, President of the AHS, will describe the work of the county historical group. Richardson notes that the focus on Fairlington fits well with one of the society's program priorities—neighborhoods. The other two program emphases are schools and minorities.

Leaders of Fairlington's own FHS will join Richardson in outlining opportunities for residents to increase their knowledge of our community's history.

FHS board leaders Cindy Kunz and Patty Clark will review the work of the society and share interesting tidbits about Fairlington's history.

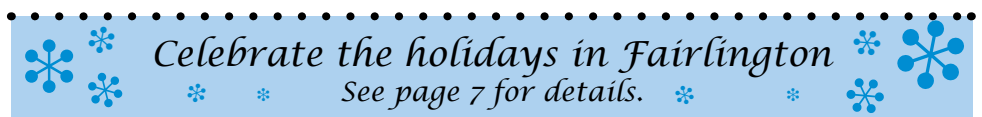
The two major activities of the community's historical society are the publication of *Fairlington at 50: May 1943 – May 1993* and sponsoring the popular biennial Fairlington Home and Garden Tour.

FCA's December annual meeting will also see the election of FCA officers and board members for 2015. The four officers and five directors are elected to serve one-year terms. The nomination committee has prepared a slate of candidates but the bylaws also permit nominations to be made from the floor during the December meeting.

See page 5 for more details on responsibilities of board and officers and the working slate of candidates as of press time. An updated list of candidates will be posted on FCA's website in early December.

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

—Guy Land



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 10 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation by the Arlington County Historical Society and the Fairlington Historical Society.

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 2014 activities
- Other officer and committee reports
- New business from the floor

Holiday reception for residents following the 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.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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Officers

Guy Land, *President*
Kent Duffy, *Vice President*
Carol Dabbs, *Secretary*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*

Directors

Joe Hartman
Mark Jones
Lisa Schwanger
Carrie Street

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.

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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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 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
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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FCA Calendar

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 7pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, December 6, noon
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Great Falls

MOMS Club

Wednesday, December 10, 4:30 pm
FCC

Visit from Santa

Saturday, December 13, 3-5 pm
Around Fairlington

Fairlington Diners

Monday, December 22, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

Long & Foster collecting for Toys for Tots



This holiday season, bring new, unwrapped toys to the Long & Foster office at 4800 S. 31st St., an official Toys for Tots collection site. A project of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, the goal of the Toys for Tots program is to deliver, through the gift of a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters to help them become responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. Toys will be accepted at this collection site through December 15.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With strong voter approval of the school bond issue last month, plans are moving forward for the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary School.

This is a major project for the Fairlington community. It will improve the educational environment for the scores of Abingdon students who live here, addressing the current and projected overcrowding problems and taking care of significant deferred maintenance issues.

A modern, dynamic school is an important asset for Fairlington and boosts property values for Fairlington owners. That's the reason the future of Abingdon should interest all of us.

The challenge is how we achieve those beneficial outcomes with minimal adverse consequences for the surrounding community. Fitting 27,000 additional square feet of school into that small plot of land will not be easy. And accommodating the additional students that are projected for Abingdon will likely create additional traffic and parking concerns. The construction process will create its own set of issues.

There are downsides to all of the options that are being explored. There will inevitably be trade-offs. A key question is: How can we best preserve green space and open sight lines while adding a major new building in a way that advances sound educational objectives?

FCA has a seat at the table for all of the major discussions about Abingdon. FCA representatives sit on the two advisory committees that are helping shape the proposals. We have frequent informal conversations with Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff about both the process and the substance of the design work.

APS and the county see FCA as the voice of the larger Fairlington community. FCA is working with residents in Fairlington, Park Shirlington, Shirlington House, and CourtBridge I and II to ensure that we understand their perspectives.

We held the first of several listening sessions for nearby residents last month, to learn their concerns and preferences. See the story on page 15 for the things we heard. Another listening session is tentatively scheduled for January 13.

Early next year we expect to host a general briefing on the status of the project for all of Fairlington. We are also talking with APS staff about co-sponsoring a "gallery walk" for interested residents in the spring once a preferred design scheme has been developed.

We welcome your thoughts on how to ensure that the new Abingdon is a community treasure.

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

The Tom Team Has Just Marketed Fairlington To Our Largest Audience on Record!!

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Zoning discussion shines light on permit questions



Aaron Shura, left, and FCA treasurer Ed Hilz at the November FCA meeting. Photo by Michelle Woolley.

Arlington County Zoning Inspector Aaron Shura spoke to Fairlington residents at the FCA meeting on November 12, with a focus on clarifying the Zoning Division's role in determining which buildings may be constructed on lots, placement and height of structures, land uses and density

of development, number of parking spaces required, and size and placement of signs.

One issue that came up during the question and answer period was a building ordinance that requires top floor apartment owners who want to renovate their attics to install a high pressure fire suppression system for their entire building. At the meeting, these owners explained that they were told this is because the buildings change to a commercial designation with the expanded space.

Kenneth Wright, Supervisor for Zoning Enforcement, explained that while Fairlington is zoned as residential, buildings in the neighborhood can have commercial designations under state building code, which is separate from local zoning ordinances. The commercial designation does not mean the building is zoned for commercial use, only that it must meet building code requirements for that type of building. Given the interest in this issue, the FCA plans to follow up with Arlington County. Wright offered to connect residents to the officials who can resolve this issue.

County residents should contact the Inspection Services Division for questions about building permits for home renovations. However, meeting attendees who have requested permits said that sometimes there are inconsistencies among division staff as to whether building plans should be approved. It was also noted that just because the county approves a permit, it does not mean a home improvement project is permissible under condo association rules. Fairlington owners also need to check with their condo association before embarking on a project.

—Michelle Woolley

FCA to hold board elections December 10

The election for the 2015 FCA board officers and directors will be held at the association's annual meeting on Wednesday, December 10. The preliminary list is shown below. There are three vacancies for 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 (5 positions)—Joe Hartman, Mark Jones, Gretchen Fallon, Nick Kokkinos, Diana Funk, Chris Weathers, and Doug Penn

An updated slate will be posted on the FCA website by December 1. In-person nominations at the December 10 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 website. If you are interested in serving on Fairlington's civic association board, contact FCA Vice President Kent Duffy, vp@fca-fairlington.org.

Need a Fairlington Holiday Gift?



The Fairlington Historical Society's *Fairlington at 50: May 1943–May 1993*—the definitive history of our community—is available for \$20 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Republished in 2003 with additional information and photographs, the book is filled with photographs, history, stories of Fairlington's development and

neighborhood life, and is a perfect holiday gift for neighbors and former neighbors. Get your copy at the December 10 FCA annual meeting at the FCC or download the order form at fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. For more information, call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.



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You better watch out for Santa, December 13



Photo by Guy Land.

Santa is making his annual visit to Fairlington aboard Fire Engine 107 again this year. Jolly Old Saint Nick and his firemen elves will cruise through the neighborhood on Saturday, December 13, 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, through neighborhood streets on both sides of the Abingdon bridge. Santa will dismount from his sleigh to talk with children and pose for pictures at the North Fairlington Community Center parking lot and the South Fairlington Community Center.

Fortunately last year, rain held off until almost the end of the ride, and Santa was able to make his last stop inside. In the event of more severe weather during the day, cancelation of Santa's trip will be announced on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page and over neighborhood listservs.

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 a map is available on the FCA's website, www.fca-fairlington.org.

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

14. Stop at South Fairlington Community Center parking lot for 15 minutes (3308 S. Stafford St.)

—Michelle Woolley

Holiday events light up Shirlington during December

The Village at Shirlington is a festive destination in December, with restaurants and shops, trees covered in little white lights, a beautiful holiday tree, and a variety of activities for the whole family. Take a look at what's planned and share in the holiday spirit.

Shirlie lights up the Village

Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Come be a part of the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, have your photo taken with Santa, or take a horse and carriage ride around Shirlington. Donations of non-perishable food items are being collected for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

Santa Paws: Pet photos with Santa

Thursday, December 4, and Thursday, December 11, 5:30 – 8 pm at Dogma Bakery and Boutique

Don't forget about that special pet in your life during the holidays. Come have a photo taken with Santa and your pet. This special promotion is limited to the first 75 people in line. Photos are \$25 each and proceeds benefit the Lucky Dog Animal Rescue on December 4, and the Oldies But Goodies Cocker Spaniel Rescue on December 11. For more information, call 571-422-0370.

5th annual breakfast with Santa and holiday food drive

Saturday, December 20, 8 am – noon at the Hilton Garden Inn

Join the efforts of Hilton Garden Inn and AFAC with their mission of fighting hunger in Arlington. Make a donation of non-perishable food items and enjoy breakfast with Santa. Call the sales office at 703-820-0440, ext. 4952, for reservations. Seating is limited.

Holiday movies at the Shirlington branch library

The Shirlington library presents a holiday movie series Sunday nights at 7 pm.

December 7, *Elf*, (Rated PG)

December 14, *Christmas Vacation*, (Rated PG-13)

December 21, *Christmas Story*, (Rated PG)

For more information, contact the library at 703-228-6465.

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Must be 21 years or older, local resident and first-time guest. ID required.
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Vote in Fairlington precincts tracks county pattern

Last month's voting results in Fairlington's precincts reflected the same split-ticket voting that marked the rest of Arlington County, with Democrat Mark Warner running up large margins in the Senate race while Independent John Vihstadt enjoyed a comfortable margin in the county board race.

Fairlington constituents did vote in larger margins for the school bond issue than did others in the county, with roughly 80 percent of voters in Fairlington precincts endorsing the bond issue, compared to a countywide margin of 75 percent. The bond issue included \$28.75 million for the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary School.

Roughly 80 percent of voters in Fairlington endorsed the school bond issue, compared with 75 percent countywide.

Fairlington residents vote in two precincts: the Fairlington precinct (which is exclusively South Fairlington residents) and the Abingdon precinct (which has North Fairlington, The Arlington, and part of CourtBridge).

In the Senate race, Warner grabbed 67 percent of the vote at the Fairlington precinct and 71 percent in the Abingdon precinct. Statewide, Warner eked out a narrow victory, with just over 49 percent of the vote. Less than 16,000 votes separated him from his opponent.

In the race for county board, incumbent John Vihstadt did slightly better in the two Fairlington precincts than he did in the rest of the county, getting roughly 60

percent across the two precincts. Countywide, Vihstadt captured 56 percent of the vote.

The total votes cast in the two precincts were roughly equal to the number of votes cast in the governor's race last year. According to the county's website, countywide turnout last month was 48 percent.

—Guy Land

Registration opens for STEM preschool in Fairlington

Applications are now being accepted for students ages two to five for the new STEM preschool in Fairlington. According to Portia Moore, the preschool's executive director, construction is proceeding on the school facility, located at 3118 S. Abingdon St., next to Fire Station 7. Moore is currently staffing the preschool and aims to be open by January 20.

The preschool can accommodate up to 55 students and will focus on a curriculum of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Applications are available at www.stempreschool.com or call 703-203-3428. Priority registration will be given to Fairlington residents.

Moore plans to reveal the new school at an open house sometime late December or early January.

The FCA endorsed use of the property for the STEM preschool in August and the Arlington County Board approved a special use permit for the preschool in October.

Civic federation considers policies for public lands

The Arlington County Civic Federation is considering policy procedures for reconciling the competing demands for the limited amount of open, publicly owned space in Arlington. Triggered earlier this year by the release of the county manager's Public Lands for Public Good report, there are implications for two sites in the Fairlington area. The first is the small Fort Reynolds Park on S. 31st St. between Fairlington Villages and Park Shirlington. One proposed option for the Abingdon school expansion calls for using a portion of the park for an access road to the school. The other site is Jennie Dean Park, which lies between Arlington Mill Dr. and Four Mile Run Dr. in the Shirlington area.



Above, FCA President Guy Land, Arlington County Board Vice Chair Mary Hynes, and Civic Federation President Mike McMenamin discuss the Public Lands for Public Good report at November's Arlington County Civic Federation meeting.

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Update on area real estate developments

Safeway to reopen in December



Photo by Janis Johnston.

The long-awaited opening of the Safeway on King St. in Alexandria is scheduled for Friday, December 5. The old Safeway store was razed in September 2013 in preparation for a new “Lifestyle” Safeway.

The new 61,000-square foot store will have additional space for a greater selection of food and larger floral, bakery, meat, produce, beer and wine, deli, and seafood departments. It will include a café, Starbucks, and Bergmann’s dry cleaners.

Work has begun on changes to traffic signals along the service road at King St. and S. Taylor St. Safeway agreed to pay for the changes as part of their special use permit with the City of Alexandria. The flashing red light signals will be replaced with regular stop lights and a pedestrian crossing signal will be installed at the service road, which should help to reduce confusion at the intersection. Bob Garbacz, with the Alexandria Department of Transportation, believes that the work on the new traffic signals should be completed in the next few months.

—Janis Johnston

Gateway project temporarily on hold

Progress on The Gateway at King and Beauregard, a large scale development planned for the vacant land at 4600 King St., is on hold while talks are underway between the property’s developer and the owner of the small business strip on the corner.

Abramson Properties, the developer of the Gateway project, presented its plans to the community at a special

meeting this May. Plans for the land include a 14-story, 400-unit apartment building, a 62,000-square foot grocery store, a 144-room hotel, and small retail and office space. However, the plans did not include incorporating the small, single-story strip of businesses at the southeast corner of King St. and Beauregard St. (where Five Guys used to be), which is owned by G. Tyson Hopkins Associates, LLC. Originally, the owner of the business strip declined to be included in this project.

According to Pat Escher, Principal Planner with the City of Alexandria, the city wanted to see “a more cohesive design” that incorporates the property on the corner. The project is on hold until a decision can be made about including the corner property into the larger development plans. Escher said that they will likely know something more by the beginning of the year.

—Janis Johnston

Utility relocation problems delay King St. improvements

Improvements to the intersection at King St./Beauregard St./Walter Reed Dr. will be delayed due to utility relocation problems, reports Lisa T. Jaatinen, Civil Engineer with Alexandria’s Infrastructure and Right of Way Division. Roadwork was originally scheduled to begin in the spring of 2015, but now the City of Alexandria must work with Dominion Power, Verizon, and Comcast to relocate utility lines and move poles before road improvements can begin.

As reported in the April 2014 issue of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, the City of Alexandria has plans to make major changes to this busy intersection, which include widening the sidewalks, creating shared use paths for bikes and walkers, installing pedestrian signals, and placing a median strip down King St., between S. 28th St. and Beauregard St. In addition, the right turn slip lane from King St. to Walter Reed Dr. will be eliminated, and additional left turn lanes off King St. will be created in both the east and west directions.

Jaatinen reported that the utility relocation work along King St. will take place over the first half of 2015 and include some minor street improvements such as grading and curb and gutter construction. Once the utility companies have relocated their lines, construction on the main project can begin, which Jaatinen anticipates won’t get started until late 2015 or early 2016.

—Janis Johnston

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CONSUMERS' CHECKBOOK



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Landscapers show a passion for trees at fall tree walk

Do you know how to distinguish a red oak from a white oak tree by looking at its leaves? Had you been one of the 20 participants who took part in the fall tree walk in October, you would have learned how to identify trees by their leaves and bark, look for sick or diseased trees, and find out just where in Fairlington Green live some of the most unusual trees in the neighborhood. Led by Bill Sullivan, a landscape architect and regular contributor to the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, and Patrick Wegeng, Environmental Landscape Supervisor with Arlington County, the tree walk gave participants an expert's view of some of the more notable and unusual trees around South Fairlington.

"Trees add so much to our daily lives," Wegeng said. Among their benefits, they give off oxygen, diminish storm run-off, provide shade, add to our property value (approx. \$1,500 per tree), and provide a habitat and food source for birds and small animals.

But the challenge can be in maintaining healthy trees, noted Wegeng. Salt from roads and where and how the tree was planted can have an impact on a tree's health and longevity. Natural predators are also a threat, as with the Emer-

ald Ash Spore. Wegeng pointed out some ash trees along the fence line at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) that appeared to be affected by the spore. "[This tree] may not be here in a few years," he said. In the battle to save the ash trees, Wegeng conceded, "I don't think we're going to win."

Emily Ferguson, master naturalist and North Fairlington resident, helped provide valuable insights throughout the tree walk. To hear these landscape designers sing the praises of the birch, the crape myrtle, and the London plane tree, one would think they were poets teaching a master's level botany class.

Along the tour route in Fairlington Green the group came across one of Sullivan's favorite trees, the sourwood. This Virginia native with a draping, slender flower that when boiled produces honey, is uncommon in the area and it's unusual for it to thrive. However, because it's planted at the bottom of a slope, it gets plenty of moisture from the natural run off, which makes it an ideal spot for this tree.

At the FCC playground, Wegeng encouraged participants to "read the trees" and take the time to notice their shape, color, and features. In addition, he told the group that paying attention to the characteristics of a tree (its leaves and bark and shape of the canopy) will help to remember its name.

—Janis Johnston



Photos by Guy Land.

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Groups examine options for Abingdon expansion

Where to place a three-story addition, how to accommodate parking needs, and what happens to the current field are some of the key questions architects, advisory committees, and Arlington Public School (APS) staff are considering as they begin fleshing out options for expanding the capacity of Abingdon Elementary School.

The planned expansion will accommodate 136 additional students, addressing the school's current and projected overcrowding problems. Aji Robinson, APS project coordinator for the Abingdon expansion, points out that the challenge is finding a way to fit the additional 27,000 square feet of school space into the fairly small amount of land that is available on the site.

Most of the existing school building will be retained, though undergoing major internal renovation.

After seeking priorities for the new school from an advisory committee, the architectural team has developed several conceptual options for connecting the new building to the existing structure and changing the general entrance to the school. All the current options assume the new addition will be three stories high because of the limited amount of ground space available.

The design group is also seeking ways to maximize the amount of open green space on the property.

In November, FCA hosted a special listening session for residents who live near the school. The most common concern was the future status of the playing field next to the school. One option under consideration would convert the field to parking and make the current parking area into a field. Residents expressed a strong desire to maintain the field in its current location and to protect green space near the entrance to CourtBridge.

The need for additional parking to serve the school also triggered suggestions at the listening session. According to Robinson, there are 79 parking spaces at the school. To satisfy county code requirements, the new school will need 116 spaces.



Carol Dabbs, Cindy Kunz, Steve Robinson, Kim Malinowski, and Terry Placek share ideas at November's listening session on plans for Abingdon School. Photo by Guy Land.

Suggestions included counting on-street parking along 29th St. or exploring an arrangement with the Fairlington Villages condo association to allow some of its off-street parking to be available for Abingdon use. Some residents stressed the need to promote alternative transportation methods for Abingdon teachers.

A consulting firm is examining existing parking and traffic patterns, as well as multimodal options, to help guide the APS discussion.

One conceptual option for the new building includes a proposal to use a portion of Fort Reynolds Park on 31st St. as an access road to the school. That would require county approval. APS staff will be discussing with county staff whether that could be a viable option.

Two citizen advisory committees continue to work with APS and county staff in refining options for the expansion, with the Building Level Planning Committee meeting on December 2 and 16 and the Public Facilities Review Committee meeting on December 17.

All meetings are open to the public and are held at 7 pm at Abingdon School. For additional information on the options under consideration, see www.apsva.us/moreseats/abingdon.

—Guy Land

Join the conversation

Join the Fairlington Appreciation Society on Facebook and find out what the neighborhood is buzzing about. Whether it's getting recommendations for home repair services, finding out about water or power outages, notifying neighbors about a lost pet, or posting photos of your holiday yard decorations, the Fairlington Appreciation Society is a great way of staying connected and informed about current events in Fairlington. The page receives new posts daily and new members are joining every week.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The camellia: One of winter's hearty flowers

In early November, my dog and I strolled through the cozy community of Del Ray in Alexandria. At each home, there was winter's landscape—dormant in brittle perennial foliage, leafless deciduous trees, and evergreen shrubs devoid of color. Leaves in red, amber, yellow, and orange covered the small lawns.

But at one home, a row of camellia—shouting aloud with white flowers filling its evergreen branches—stopped us. Each plant was five-feet tall and stationed every 10 feet or so along a basic silver chain-link fence. These plants were the fall-blooming types (camellia sasanqua), which flower into December.

What's charming about camellia is its persistent flower during winter's cold weather. Some cultivars bloom in December and January. Others flower in February and March. Sometimes, the flowers stay open for a few weeks, or they will shrivel and re-open days later while winter's cold drags onward.

The camellia's habit is unique; it is an upright grower, never leaning or stretching with its stiff branching. Seldom does it fatten. Rather, it grows vertically and looks best planted against a brick wall, fence or trellis. It is the perfect plant for the landscape backdrop, since it has no girth that compromises the growing habits of other specimens.

As for cost, the camellia is affordable. One may be purchased for \$16 (one-foot tall), \$34 (two-foot tall), \$75 (four-foot tall) or even \$350 (for



Camellia.

a near-mature specimen fully fanned out on a trellis).

Typically, the camellia thrives in part shade. Some of mine thrive in deep shade. I try not to situate one where the sun will shine on it all day long. Any plant (even sun-lovers), prefer a break from the intense heat and humidity we receive from mid-May until late-September.

The camellia flower is a rosette, resembling the rose bloom once fully opened. Each flower is about two- to three-inches wide with a yellow eye. Frequently, it drops petals, showering the brown mulch with color. No matter how hard you inhale, you won't detect a fragrance from the camellia flower.

Native to USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 7 to 9, the camellia is the featured plant in the south. Many

southern cities host camellia festivals. Our area (Zone 6b–7) is about as far north as the camellia will survive.

There are two camellia species but many cultivars. Camellia japonica is the winter bloomer and has large glossy evergreen leaves. Camellia sasanqua (mentioned above) blooms in autumn and bears much smaller leaves. Thus, camellia japonica has a dense, fuller habit.

Cultivar names are fun. Some japonica cultivars are: 'White Empress,' 'Elegans,' 'Ice Follies,' 'Pink Perfection,' 'Purity' and 'Spring Frill.' Sasanqua cultivars include: 'Carolina Moonmist,' 'Daydream,' 'Midnight Lover,' 'Pink Butterfly' and 'Swan Lake.'

—Bill Sullivan
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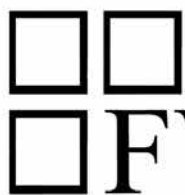
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neighborhood news

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.

Here's what's planned for December:

Saturday, December 6, noon, L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, 703-759-3800, www.laubergechezfrancois.com. As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, we'll enjoy the four course prix fixe lunch (\$42, 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 Thursday, December 4, so we have the correct reservation number and to arrange carpools.

Monday, December 22, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. After sampling other burger/sandwich options during the year, we'll return to this perennial local favorite, which offers half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage on Mondays; the rest of the menu is also available.

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

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 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.

For more information or to request an application, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members (and their children) of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parents' Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and group activities such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, December 10, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Book Group

The book group will not meet in December. We'll be back in January reading non-fiction.

Volunteers needed for May home and garden tour

The Fairlington Historical Society is planning its biennial spring Home and Garden Tour featuring some of Fairlington's most inventively renovated and decorated homes and landscaped patios and backyards. The tour committee is now looking for homes and gardens with recent renovations to be highlighted on the tour. If you are interested in having your home on the tour—or can volunteer to help the tour committee, either in planning and fundraising or on the day of the tour—please contact us at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.



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Emily and Mary Barks.

School community mourns the loss of 3rd-grader and her mother in house fire

On Tuesday, November 4, a house fire on S. Emerson St. in Arlington took the lives of Mary Barks and her daughter Emily, an Abingdon Elementary 3rd-grader. Bill Barks and his daughter Sarah, an Abingdon 5th-grader, survived. This unthinkable tragedy has been difficult for students, staff, and parents. Emily was a sweet 8-year-old who loved art and was popular among her peers. Her mother, Mary was involved with the school and PTA and could be found serving popcorn on movie nights or dropping off baked goods for teachers.

The entire school community quickly came together to support Sarah and her father Bill, raising more than \$1,100 in donations in the first week. Abingdon's PTA is collecting donations of money and gift cards to help the Barks family during their healing process. To find out how you can make a contribution, contact AbingdonelementaryPTA@gmail.com.

In addition, charity yoga sessions

are being held in Abingdon's multipurpose room to raise funds. The final yoga session will be held Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The class is free, but there is a suggested minimum donation of \$5.00. Bring your own mat.

Abingdon supports AFAC during holiday season

Starting the week of December 6, Abingdon will be collecting non-perishable goods for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Large collection bins will be placed by the school entrance. Please pick up extra

canned goods or shelf-stable food items and drop them off at the school by December 14. AFAC serves over 2,000 families weekly at 18 distribution sites throughout the county; 35 percent of recipients are children.

Mark your calendars

Holiday Shoppe, Tuesday, December 9, 6–7:30 pm

Early release, Wednesday, December 10, 12:26 pm

PTA Meeting, Thursday, December 11, 6:30 pm

Winter Break, December 24–January 4

Abingdon fall festivities

The school celebrated fall with its annual Fall Festival and Halloween parade through Fairlington.

Photos by Jen Davies, Guy Land, and David McDavitt.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WITT CONSTRUCTION. Popcorn ceiling removal, painting, crown molding, built-in cabinets. Fairlington resident. References available upon request. garywitt44@gmail.com 703-626-6429.

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

Mini-ads

House Cleaning

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

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

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

Pet Services

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. "My business is going to the dogs your dogs." Long time Fairlington resident and dog walker. Reliable, flexible, and very affordable. Call 703-477-1425

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

Miscellaneous

FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED. FCSVA is seeking families and individuals interested in fostering local children in need of loving homes. Training and financial support is provided. Contact: Mary Anna Edmonds (703) 817-9890, maryanna4499@gmail.com

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

 Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Fairlington t-shirts make great gifts



This holiday season, give the gift of community spirit with a Fairlington t-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available. To order, send an e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member. Call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number.

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



703-593-4973
doggie-do@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.

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

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LONG AND FOSTER
ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

October

TOP PRODUCERS



Barbara Wood
 Top Producer/
 Top Selling Agent



Rob Chamberlain
 Top Listing Agent

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Reston—
 Fantastic opportunity to buy in Coleson Cluster. 3 level 2BR/1.55BA TH w/HDWDs, updated BAs, & more. \$367,700 Call Rob Chamberlain



Springfield—Updated 3 level 4BR/2.55BA Colonial w/fenced yard. \$550,000 Call Rob Allen



Manassas—Spacious 2BR/2BA w/ den, updated kitchen & 2 parking spaces. \$210,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arlington Village—2 level TH w/updated kitchen, remodeled BA, & newer HVAC system, Mins to shops, movies, & restaurants \$295,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arlington Heights— Top floor corner 1 BR. HDWDs, Crown Molding, condo fee includes all utilities. \$112,500 Call Pat Shannon



Shirlington—3BR/2.5BA end w/ open floor plan in great location. Mins. to shops, restaurants, & theatres. \$452,000 Call Rob Allen

SERVING FAIRLINGTON
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

