

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

DECEMBER 2015

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Santa Claus is coming to town for his annual ride on the fire truck, December 12

It's that time of year again.

The time of year when stockings are hung by the chimney with care and hopes that Saint Nick soon will be here.

For Fairlington residents, that time arrives a bit early with the annual Santa ride through the neighborhood aboard Arlington Fire Station 7's Engine 107 on Saturday, December 12 between 3 and 5 pm.

The Jolly Old Elf takes a break from his toy-making duties at the North Pole in order to wave to and visit with kids of all ages, with the help of Fairlington's firefighter elves.

His red suit cleaned and pressed, his black boots shined, and his snow-white beard primped and readied by Mrs. Claus and North Pole stylists, Mr. Claus will board Engine 107 and make his way through Fairlington neighborhoods on both sides of the S. Abingdon Street bridge.

With Engine 107 lights flashing, Santa will weave methodically through several neighborhood streets after departing from Station 7. But if there is an emergency requiring Santa's mode of transportation for the day and his helpful firefighter elves, the man some have called kindest ever to guide a team of reindeer understands that would be more important.

Right now, Santa's schedule calls for him to climb down from Engine 107 to greet his fans, young and old alike, at the North Fairlington Community Center and the Fairlington Community Center.

See Santa's scheduled route through Fairlington on page 17. A map of the route is available on the FCA website (fca-fairlington.org).

—Bob Bradley



Santa Claus greets his Fairlington fans from his perch atop Engine 107 at last year's Santa ride. Photo by 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. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

December 9 preliminary agenda:

At the FCA annual meeting, residents will vote for 2016 FCA board officers and directors, enjoy light refreshments, and have a chance to visit with neighbors.

Regular board business:

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

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

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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	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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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.

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Calendar

Shirlington tree-lighting festival

December 1, 6 – 8:30 pm
The Village at Shirlington

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Friday, December 11, 6:30 pm
L'Auberge Chez Francois
332 Springvale Road
Great Falls

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, December 20, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St.
Alexandria

Christmas/New Year break

Abingdon Elementary School
December 21, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31

October tree walk on a sunny Halloween morning



Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Bob Bradley, Christine Chirichella, David McDavitt, Lane Erwin, Gretchen Fallon, Tiffany Kudravetz, Guy Land, Betsy Rosso, Bill Sullivan, Michelle Woolley

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A remarkable conversation occurred at the Fairlington Community Center earlier this fall when a joint work session between the county board, the school board, and a citizen advisory committee explored a framework for addressing Arlington's emerging facility needs.

What's the process by which we decide where to place new public facilities (or where to offer new or expanded services)? How do we set priorities? How do we ensure citizen participation in governance?

Arlington's 26 square miles make it the nation's smallest county. Only 2.2 square miles are publicly owned, severely constraining, both physically and financially, the county's options. Changing demographics, growing school enrollment, additional demands for services, and a weak commercial sector make the choices difficult. These choices were easy when school enrollments were declining and county revenues were increasing significantly. That's not the case today.

A number of key county/school decisions are on the horizon—the location of a fire station in north Arlington, the need for a new elementary school in south Arlington by 2019 and a second one by 2022, the availability of affordable housing, and strategies for preserving green space. What is the process by which citizen engagement informs those decisions?

That process isn't necessarily going to lead to consensus; on some things major differences will remain. But it should ensure that all points of view have been heard. And then, as one county board member commented, "We need to be able to explain our decisions to the public, to explain why other options weren't chosen."

Citizen engagement isn't glamorous. It can be time consuming—just ask the Fairlingtonians who participated in multiple meetings on the expansion of Abingdon Elementary or the South Arlington Working Group that looked at locations for a new elementary school. But it is a hallmark of decision-making in Arlington.

Why should Fairlington residents care? The parochial reason lies in the publicly owned properties that are in our neighborhood—the Fairlington Community Center, Abingdon Elementary School, Fire Station 7, and Utah Park. The demand for expanded facilities and services could affect those, and the process that the two boards are discussing now could be used down the road for changes affecting those facilities.

More importantly, Fairlingtonians should care because the conversation the boards are having speaks to the type of county Arlington is and how citizens participate in decision-making. That's what sets us apart from our neighboring jurisdictions.

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

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ACPD: Fairlington is a safe, engaged community

At the November FCA meeting, Arlington police Captain Adrienne Quigley reassured residents that “Fairlington remains a safe neighborhood—and compared to other parts of the county, very safe.”

A 19-year veteran of the Arlington County Police Department, Captain Quigley became commander of the 3rd District this year. Her past service includes patrol, the detective bureau, crime scene investigation, internal affairs, and, before her current appointment, tenure as acting Deputy Director of the county’s Office of Emergency Management.

Quigley acknowledged the recent rash of Larceny from Auto (LFA) incidents here, and said, “That’s the way it’s always been—LFAs and stolen cars.” When Quigley was first on patrol here 19 years ago, those were the typical Fairlington crimes, and the trend continues today because the geography hasn’t changed. “You have so many major roadways near Fairlington and so many ways in and out of the community,” she noted. In addition, there are lots of nice cars, handily parked close together.

Quigley drew a chuckle from the audience when she noted that it’s “so confusing to drive around here”—which you might think would deter thieves bent on



ACPD Third District Commander Capt. Adrienne Quigley visits with FCA board members Jonathan Ansley, Carol Dabbs, and Mark Jones at the November FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

property crime. But they can make a left and a right, and find their way back to a main arterial road easily enough, apparently unfazed by Fairlington’s red-brick sameness.

What’s the single biggest deterrent to opportunistic thieves who view Fairlington as target-rich? Lock your car doors. It is common sense as well as perennial police advice, to which Quigley added: “Make sure you lock up. Make it a habit. If you have a key fob, check to ensure you hit the Lock but-

ton instead of Unlock. And remove anything of value from your car. Do it as a matter of routine. Do it every time you get out of the car.”

Outreach to the 15 neighborhoods in her area of responsibility is one of Quigley’s key goals for the 3rd District team. Fairlington, she noted, is an admirably engaged community—active on the civic association’s Facebook page, informed by the newsletter, and receptive to police messages about crime prevention and personal safety. “Open lines of communication” is the goal, said Quigley. “We want to keep people informed.” Several audience members thanked Quigley for her responsiveness to residents’ inquiries and concerns.

Continued on page 21

Board candidates sought for annual meeting

The election of officers and board members will highlight the annual meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association on December 9. At press time there were several vacancies, so this is a great time to get involved in your civic association. All adult residents or owners are members of the association and are eligible to serve on the board. If you are interested in this opportunity to help our community, please contact Vice President Kent Duffy, vp@fca-fairlington.org.

At the time the *Bulletin* went to press, the list of candidates was as follows: President—Guy Land; Vice President—vacant; Treasurer—Ed Hilz; Secretary—vacant; Directors—Chris Weathers, Jonathan Ansley, Vernola Schlegel, and two vacancies. The FCA bylaws also

permit nominations, including self-nominations, to be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

An updated list of candidates will be posted on FCA’s website in early December.

Additional activities at the annual meeting include a report from FCA President Guy Land on the major activities of 2015 and an update on the association’s finances from Treasurer Ed Hilz.

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

—Guy Land



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SAWG recommends TJ site for new elementary school

Early last month, the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG), which was charged with selecting a site for a new elementary school, made its final recommendation to the Arlington School Board. The group overwhelmingly agreed that a new 725-seat elementary school should be located alongside Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The group's main considerations when choosing this site were the likelihood the school could be built by 2019 and the site's proximity to school boundaries currently experiencing the most crowding.

As part of its recommendation, the group also suggested that Patrick Henry Elementary School be moved to the new school and the Montessori program currently located at Drew Elementary School be moved to the old Patrick Henry.

This reorganization would mostly maintain Patrick Henry's current boundary with additional open seats, and it would open up hundreds of seats at Drew for students from other crowded boundaries. Patrick Henry was recently declared a National Blue Ribbon School, the only school in Northern Virginia to receive that honor, and the group believes its recommendation help school administrators continue to provide that level of educational excellence.

The proposed reorganization would have no direct impact on Fairlington families who have students enrolled at Abingdon Elementary, but the shifting of boundaries could result in changes in Abingdon's larger service area.

During the group's discussion of programmatic changes needed in south Arlington, it became clear that housing both Drew Model and the Montessori program in one building causes a range of administrative problems, and that the programs need to be separated.

SAWG also recommended that Arlington Public Schools (APS) plan a second new elementary school in south Arlington for the Pentagon City area, since Oakridge Elementary is predicted to experience more severe overcrowding by 2024. The group recommended that APS consider further exploring a land deal with Vornado,

owner of the River House complex, or placing a school at the Virginia Highlands Park/Aurora Hills Community Center site.

—Michelle Woolley

New Fairlington dog and cat clubs on Facebook



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

If you are a pet owner in Fairlington, you may want to join two new groups on Facebook: the Fairlington Dog Club and Fairlington Cat Club. Both were created by residents as off-shoots of the Fairlington Appreciation Society, a community group designed to discuss neighborhood issues and get updates from the FCA.

Residents are using these new online forums to post fun pictures of their pets, announce lost/found pets, let people know about problems like off-leash dog incidents, and more.

If you are a pet owner and would like to get plugged into these new communities, search for the groups on Facebook and send a request to join.

—Christine Chirichella

Remodeling Expo is planned for the spring

Watch this space for news about a Remodeling Expo that FCA is currently planning for Spring 2016. The expo will be held at the Fairlington Community Center, where the large meeting room will have vendor tables and displays, and in the classrooms there will be break-out sessions on specific topics of interest to Fairlington residents. Free to all residents.

On hand will be contractor/vendors who are familiar with the quirks of Fairlington construction. Think doors, floors, windows, kitchens, bathrooms, attics, and basements. Attend a seminar, for example, on choices for bathroom surfaces and fixtures; browse the vendor tables for detailed information; and discuss your individual renovation needs with a contractor.

The South Arlington Working Group acknowledges and thanks the Fairlington participants. The Fairlington Citizens Association was represented by Michelle Woolley, with Guy Land as the alternate, and the Abingdon PTA was represented by Jennifer Davies with Jeni Hornbeck as the alternate (both are Fairlington residents).



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Alexandria City Council approves major development at King and Beauregard Streets

The Alexandria City Council has approved plans for a major mixed-use development (“Alexandria Gateway”) at King and Beauregard Streets. The five-acre parcel includes the currently vacant lot at 4600 King Street—site of the former Jefferson Hospital—and the small strip shopping center directly on the corner of the intersection. The FCA Board supported the proposed development.



Artist's rendering of the Gateway development at the intersection of King and Beauregard Streets. Drawing courtesy of Abramson Properties.

Plans call for two apartment buildings, both of which will have ground floor retail, and an office building that also will have ground floor retail. Parking for the three buildings will be provided in a two-level underground garage. All three will be LEED-certified (or equivalent) buildings.

Anchoring the development will be a large (73,000 square feet) Harris Teeter grocery store on the ground floor of a seven-story apartment building. The grocery store will front King Street. The remaining six floors will contain 278 market rate apartments. The developer of the property has reduced the density of the apartment building from the 14 stories that were proposed last year.

A curved building on the corner of Beauregard and King will serve as a visible gateway structure for the entrance to Alexandria. The building will include residential, retail, and office uses. There will be 74 residential units, all of which will be affordable housing units. The ground floor will feature retail offerings.

The third building, a seven-story office building, will front Beauregard and will contain a small amount of ground floor retail, with the remainder of the building for offices, capped by a roof-top terrace for the office workers. The main entrance to the property will be off of Beauregard.

The interior space will feature a private road with street trees and special sidewalk paving, a central pedestrian plaza with public art, and on-street short-term parking.

The developer has committed funds for a future bike share station and space for a future stop on the Bus Rapid Transit line that is being developed along Beauregard to Mark Center. The site is being planned as a

transit-oriented development.

In recommending approval of the proposal, city staff noted that it would bring life to a largely vacant and declining site at a prominent entrance to Alexandria, contain a significant number

of affordable housing units, provide new retail space, and offer a pedestrian plaza with public art.

As part of the project, the developer will pay for part of the costs of improving the King and Beauregard intersection. That project will see the widening of King Street, the installation of wider sidewalks along both streets, the creation of a median along Beauregard, and the undergrounding of utilities.

Briefing the Fairlington community in September, developer Danny Abramson said that demolition at the site could begin in the fall of 2016. Construction would take 25 or 26 months.

—Guy Land

Study looks at Route 7 transit options

High capacity transit could be operating along Route 7 from Alexandria to Tysons by 2025 under plans being studied by the North Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC).

The principal options under review are Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT). There are two styles of BRT—mixed-flow traffic, in which bus vehicles operate with automobiles in an existing lane; and dedicated lanes, where the bus lanes are separated from automobile traffic. LRT operates on steel tracks with dedicated rights of way.

One end of the transit system would be the Spring Hill Metro station in Tysons, but there are three possibilities for the Alexandria terminus—the King Street Metro station, the Van Dorn Metro station, and Mark Center.

Continued on page 21

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Abingdon students design the school of the future

Kids enjoy recess on a green roof. Bridges connect two halves of the school, which come together at a central playground. Natural light floods every classroom and students have plenty of places to learn outdoors. These are just a few ideas for the school of the future that fifth grade students in Mary Ohmer's class at Abingdon have developed, under the guidance of architecture teacher (and Fairlington resident) David McDavitt and architect Andrea Swiatocha.



Architects from Hord Coplan Macht prepare 5th graders, above and below left, for design competition. Photos by David McDavitt.

Swiatocha and several of her colleagues from Hord Coplan Macht (HCM) are busy finalizing the plans for Abingdon's major renovation, scheduled to begin construction next summer. But this fall and winter Swiatocha and her team are also spending time working with students to help them create blueprints for the school of the future for the national SchoolsNEXT Design Competition, sponsored by the Association for Learning Environments.

"As a firm we volunteer in multiple ways," explained Swiatocha, working in schools throughout the region. This partnership with Abingdon, however, is unique because HCM is designing Abingdon's new building and students will be living through the renovation, and because Abingdon already has an architecture program. "Since Abingdon students have already taken architecture, they have a really great background, so we can cover a lot more."



While McDavitt has been teaching architecture for a dozen years already, he appreciates this opportunity to expose his students to the vocational side of architecture, including how geometry, physics, technology, and environmental sustainability are used in the profession, expanding on the social studies, mathematics, and history lenses

he typically uses. And, he added, "Most of the architects who are working with our students are women, so it's inspiring for our girls to see these impressive women who are working in this field."

The competition is open to fifth through eighth graders nationwide. Six groups of four students each are working on designs. Only one of those designs will be submitted

to the local competition, and, if it's successful, it will advance to regional and national judging levels. All of the Abingdon creations will be exhibited at Abingdon sometime in the winter or spring.

The project has inspired students to go the extra mile, explained McDavitt. "Kids are very motivated—most of them are doing work outside the classroom that's not even required. They've asked if they can take their field notebooks home. They go home and sketch ideas and come back and share them. Kids are emailing each other about their ideas."

Students are looking at "how a school of their own design would function and what it would be made of, with a strong emphasis on sustainability," explained Swiatocha. "We've given them the parameters of the Abingdon school site—they can build within the property lines of the school." Students have walked the property with their architect mentors, looking at the steep grade, wooded back, vegetation, and other existing elements of the site to understand how to incorporate them into their designs for futuristic schools. "This is a great opportunity for creative problem solving," said McDavitt.

Final entries into the competition may be traditional scale models, but students are also encouraged to use 3D design software Google SketchUp, which is the same software that Swiatocha and her team at HCM use. Using Google SketchUp, students can create videos of their designs so viewers can see them from a variety of different perspectives.

Although HCM is already further along in the design process of the Abingdon renovation than the students

Continued on page 21

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Fairlington's votes follow county patterns

Fairlington voters mirrored county-wide voting patterns in last month's hotly contested race for the Arlington County Board, with Democrats Christian Dorsey and Katie Cristol comfortably leading in the two precincts that serve Fairlington.

Countywide, Dorsey received roughly 36 percent of the vote, while Cristol took 34 percent. Independent candidate Mike McMenemy garnered 19 percent, and former Green Party candidate Audrey Clement (who ran this year as an Independent) drew 10 percent. Total turnout across the county was 27 percent.

Fairlington voters cast ballots at two precincts. North Fairlington residents vote at Abingdon Elementary School in the Abingdon precinct, which also includes parts of Courtbridge and The Arlington Condominium. South Fairlington residents vote in the Fairlington precinct, at the Fairlington Com-



Fairlington neighbors prepare to vote on November 3. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

munity Center.

In the Fairlington precinct, Cristol and Dorsey both received right at 37 percent of the vote, with McMenemy getting 16 percent and Clement receiving a little less than 10 percent. In the Abingdon precinct, Cristol led with 35 percent, followed by Dorsey with 33 percent. McMenemy got 18 percent, while Clement did better than she did countywide, receiving over 13 percent of the vote.

According to General Registrar Linda Lindberg, "Arlington's election went very smoothly. We have great poll workers who facilitated voting for our residents. We had just a few minor issues as

both poll workers and voters get used to our new paper-based voting system, but we'll work these out."

—Guy Land

Letter to the Editor

Your recent article on thefts from unlocked autos (November 2015 *Bulletin*) made the suggestion that to thwart such crime, "Turn on porch lights, front and back." Such advice fails to hold under logical analysis. Our autos are generally parked in front of our townhouse units, not in back. How does a lit back porch light have any effect on a thief eying autos parked in front?

Someone suggested that back lights deter thieves from hiding behind our units. I propose that lighting up back areas only offers an alternative, lit escape route if the thief feels he has been spotted, making him more difficult to catch. The thief would not run through an unlit back area with which he is unfamiliar, so it may be wiser to leave the back light off.

Next, how does turning on a front porch light protect your auto? Our parking courts are already lit by [carriage] lights. Our townhouses are generally set back from the parking area, so a front porch light adds little additional illumination—which may only make it easier for the thief to survey your auto's contents.

So why do public officials suggest turning on porch lights? May I suggest that they are offering a placebo, an action that makes you feel good.

Residents think, "I am fighting crime by turning on an outside light" even if the light has no or negative impact. I propose that officials provide an explanation of how a suggested light affects crime. [Without a reasonable explanation], I say leave it off and slightly reduce your carbon footprint.

Victor J. Slabinski
Fairlington

Response from ACPD

Third District commander Captain Adrienne Quigley responded: "Criminals often look for the cover of darkness to commit crimes, and they often shy away from well-lit areas, which is why ACPD generally recommends having good exterior lighting."

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

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Holiday Events

Santa's route through Fairlington on Dec. 12

1. Leave Station 7 at 3 p.m.
2. Left onto S. Abingdon Street
3. Left onto S. 31st crossing S. Buchanan Street
4. Right onto S. Columbus Street crossing S. 30th Street
5. Right onto S. 29th crossing S. Buchanan Street
6. Right onto S. Abingdon Street
7. Stop at North Fairlington Community Center parking lot for 15 minutes (3005 S. Abingdon St.)
8. Left onto S. Abingdon Street, cross bridge, and continue on S. 34th Street
9. Right onto S. Wakefield Street
10. Left onto S. 36th Street, crossing S. Utah and S. Taylor Streets, continuing around the circle to S. Stafford Street
11. Right onto S. Stafford and continue to a stop at the Fairlington Community Center parking lot for 15 minutes (3308 S. Stafford)
12. Return to S. Stafford; turn right onto S. 32nd Road
13. Left onto S. 32nd Street
14. Left onto S. Utah Street
15. Right onto S. 34th Street and return to fire station.



Photo by Guy Land.

Shirlington hosts annual tree lighting celebration



Photo by Guy Land.

On Tuesday, December 1, from 6 to 8:30 pm, join the neighbors in Shirlington for the free "Shirlie Lights up the Village" festival. The annual tree lighting is scheduled to take place at 6:30 on Campbell Avenue, and there will be other holiday-themed events, such as cookie decorating, face painting, and live musical performances.

Pictures with Santa begin at 6:45 at the UPS Store (on the lower level, facing Arlington Mill

Drive). Horse and carriage rides will be provided for guests who bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

For more information, go online to www.villageatshirlington.com.

Holiday theatre at Wakefield High School

What if Dickens' Mrs. Cratchit wasn't so goody-goody, but instead was an angry, stressed-out woman who wanted to escape the poverty and hunger of 1840s London by jumping off the London Bridge? What if Scrooge's Ghost led them through parts of *The Gift of the Magi*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Touched by an Angel*? The Wakefield Players answer these questions and more with their production of *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, a new twist on a classic tale.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, for performances on December 4, 5, 11, and 12 at Wakefield HS (1325 S. Dinwiddie St., 703-228-6700).

Breakfast with Santa

Join the Shirlington Hilton Garden Inn in helping AFAC (Arlington Food Assistance Center) with their mission "Fighting Hunger in Arlington" at the 6th Annual Breakfast with Santa & Holiday Food Drive. Make a donation of non-perishable food items and enjoy Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 19, from 8 to 11 am.

To make a reservation, call 703-820-0440 and ask for Mallori or select option 2 for the sales department. Seating is limited.

Santa Paws photos

Dogma Bakery and Boutique in Shirlington offers pet photos with Santa on December 3 and 10, from 5:30 to 8 pm. The cost is \$25 per photo. The December 3 event benefits Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, and the December 10 event benefits the Emergency Medical Fund Night.

Nature crafts & events for kids

Check out the many holiday events for kids—crafts, workshops, nature walks—at the Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Rd. Most events require registration and a fee. For more information, call 703-228-6535.



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Fairlington Farmers Market set for return in 2016



Members of the Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM) committee appreciate all the support the market received during its inaugural year. We've learned a lot, and we are starting to plan for next season.

Answers to some questions asked on the FCA survey provide a preview of those plans:

1. Will the market be returning in 2016? Most definitely! The market will re-open in late April and stay open through the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (November 20).

2. How about holding the market on a different day or starting at 8 am instead of 9 am? Early on, the committee decided the Fairlington Community Center on S. Stafford Street was the best locale (access to bathrooms, parking options, layout and size). Given how much goes on at the facility during the week, Sunday mornings was the best choice. We decided to keep the start time at 9 am to keep early morning noise to a minimum and to give the farm vendors another hour to "sleep in" past 4 am. Staying open until 1 pm allows the market to stay open for those who go to church, brunch, or decide to sleep in on Sunday mornings.



Lisa Schwanger, center, talks with representatives of Acme Pie, a vendor that joined the market in November. Photo by Guy Land.

3. Which vendors are returning next year? As the season winds down, we are talking with each of the vendors about their plans for next year; decisions to return are influenced by sales this past season, the volume of food/products they are able to grow or produce, and what other markets or plans they are working with. As we hear back from specific vendors, we will share updates on our Facebook page and in the market kick-off flyer in the spring. We also plan on bringing in some new and enticing offerings next season, and will work hard to find suitable replacements for any departing vendors.

4. Can we get more vendors and/or ready-to-eat foods? There has been a higher demand for ready-to-eat foods than we anticipated, so the market committee is looking for high-quality and varied ready-to-eat options for next season. With regards to traditional farm and produce vendors, we are also searching for dairy vendors (Boy, are they hard to come by!) and other foods not already being sold at the market. If you have specific vendors in mind, please email suggestions (type of product, contact name and email or phone number) to fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

5. Can we get a craft brewer at the market? What about handmade soaps or local art? When the market was created, we heard loud and clear that the community was apprehensive about the potential of a "carnival-like" atmosphere. To respect that concern, and to be in line with our umbrella organization (Field to Table), the committee decided to have a local, producer-only market whose vendors sell farm or edible products, and we will continue operating under this principle. Arlington County regulations prevent us from selling alcoholic beverages.

6. Don't the prices seem a little high? Some of the products sold at the market have prices comparable to what you would find at a traditional grocery store—e.g., Honey Crisp or heirloom apples from Kuhn or Spring Valley Orchards or \$3 for a giant head of lettuce from Pletiez that is twice as big and lasts twice as long as what you can get in the grocery store. In some cases vendors have higher prices to recoup the growing and transportation costs they are incurring or to earn a profit on their products (this is a living for many of the vendors). We encourage you to talk with specific vendors about pricing so they are in touch with how FFM shoppers are making decisions to purchase (or not) their food at the market.

7. How does the market committee think it went? This was the first year any of us have worked on a farmers market and we weren't really sure what to expect. Over the course of the season we have learned so much and developed a great appreciation for the farmers, bakers, and chefs who are rustling up fresh and delicious food and bringing it to our doorstep each week. We hear from the vendors that FFM shoppers are some of the nicest around, and they want to see more of you!

—Lane Erwin



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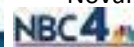


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HCM architect Andrea Swiatocha works with students on design plans. Photo by David McDavitt.

are in designing their schools of the future, Swiatocha said she and her colleagues are paying close attention to the students' designs. "Some of the creative ideas they're coming up with we will try to incorporate in our plans if there's any possible way."

—By Betsy Rosso

Study, continued from page 9

A BRT system, the West End Transitway, is already being proposed to run from Route 7 to Mark Center along Beauregard St.

According to the Commission, population along the Route 7 corridor is expected to grow by 35 percent by 2040, with a 34 percent growth in jobs along the corridor.

Both BRT and LRT are projected to cut travel time along Route 7 in half.

NVTC leaders outlined the options in a series of public briefings in November under the rubric Envision Route 7. The Commission's study will be looking at capital costs, annual operating costs, and the relative benefits and challenges of the various types of transit. The study, expected to be completed next year, will recommend a specific transit mode, service alignment and location, and funding strategy.

FCA expects to host a presentation on the Route 7 transit proposals this coming spring. For additional information, see www.EnvisionRoute7.com.

—Guy Land

Police, continued from page 5

Responding to other concerns and questions, Captain Quigley touched on many topics. These are a few:

Fairlington is not singularly targeted for LFAs. Crystal City and Northside along Lee Highway experienced recent rashes, with more than 30 smashed-in car windows in the two weeks prior to the meeting.

Scams and frauds: Credit card skimmers. Online hacking and ID theft. Scam solicitors and phone calls. They're on the increase, more every year. The best advice is to guard your personal information—do not give out account numbers, SSNs, passwords, mailing addresses, or birth dates on the phone or in email. Quigley warned of one scam that is "rampant" right now: The IRS, the Department of the Treasury, and the Sheriff's Department will never phone you asking for money. Any such demand for "payment" is a scam.

***Guard your personal information—
do not give out account numbers, SSNs,
passwords, mailing addresses, or birth
dates on the phone or in email.***

Arlington and Alexandria police: They cooperate and coordinate. Officers go to the same academy, develop relationships, exchange information, and follow up on related cases. Perhaps most important, the departments' radios have interoperability.

Panhandling: It's a First Amendment right, not illegal, and on the increase during the holidays. Citable violations include disorderly conduct, aggressive or threatening panhandling, and stepping into traffic. Panhandlers go elsewhere if people in one location do not give them money.

In cases of arson, the Fire Marshal is the primary investigator, with police as secondary. The investigation into incidents here earlier this year is ongoing, which prevents public comment on details.

Part 1/Violent Crime (homicide, robbery, rape, and assault) is virtually unheard of in Fairlington. Indeed, violent crime is down throughout Arlington and across the country—it's a sustained downward trend since the 1990s.

—Gretchen Fallon

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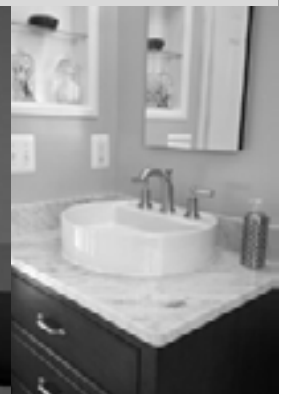
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A Fairlington history lesson one step at a time



The history tour stopped at the plaques honoring Fairlington's historic designation. Photos by Tiffany Kudravetz.

A group of history lovers recently had an opportunity to learn more about Fairlington's unique heritage. Crisp fall weather welcomed nearly 40 Fairlingtonians to the first-ever Fairlington History Tour on October 24.

Beginning next to the North Fairlington Community Center, participants first got a look at the plaques commemorating our neighborhood's designations as a Virginia Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. Both honors were the result of hard work from community volunteers over the course of a decade.

Tour-goers next ventured to where George Washington used to visit his friend John Carlyle at the latter's plantation, Morven, located at what is now S. 30th Street and S. Columbus Street. Other notable stops in North Fairlington included the sites of Fort Reynolds, Battery Garesché, and a white oak of "Historical Significance," all located in close proximity to Abingdon Elementary School.

Before crossing the bridge to South Fairlington, participants stopped at Fire Station No. 7, the smallest fire station in Arlington. The guides told stories about the station's involvement in the community throughout the years and its involvement as a team of first-responders to the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

In South Fairlington, the tour stopped between S. 36th Street and King Street to see Boundary Stone Southwest No. 4, one of the Boundary Stones marking the original borders of the District of Columbia (the portions south of the Potomac River were retroceded to Virginia in 1846). The stone was originally closer to the King Street median, but when the road was widened it gained a new residence in Fairlington.

The tour wrapped up at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) where the guides drew everyone's attention to the skylight at the entrance. Originally in the Abbey Mausoleum in Arlington, the skylight was restored and installed in the FCC around 2006. The FCC also houses the two large-scale models used to sell units when Fairlington was converted to condominiums in the 1970s.

Sponsored by the FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), the tour was led by FCA President Guy Land and FHS Trustees Cindy Kunz and Patty Clark. The organizers were pleased with the level of interest in Fairlington's history.

"We were simply blown away by the large turnout for the tour," Land said. "Fairlingtonians obviously have an appetite for learning more about their community's history, and the FCA and FHS will explore options for doing more history-themed events in the future."

In addition to visiting Fairlington landmarks, the tour guides directed attention to the unique architectural elements throughout the Fairlington neighborhood. Upon close inspection, Fairlington's units display patterns in the brickwork, varying uses of slate, an assortment of pillars, inset bricks, and wheel windows.

—Tiffany Kudravetz



Cindy Kunz, Patty Clark, and Guy Land led the inaugural Fairlington history tour in October.

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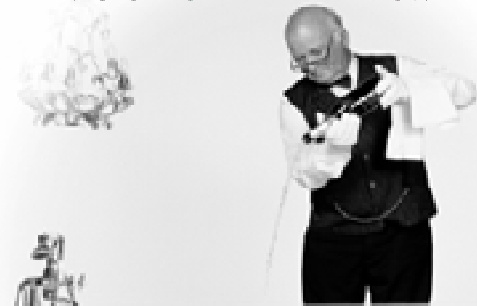
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VillageAtShirlington.com



Fairlington tree walk a natural exercise through the neighborhood

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
—Joyce Kilmer*

No doubt Mr. Kilmer would have been overjoyed and entertained, and very likely enlightened and educated by the Fairlington tree walk guided by master naturalist Emily Ferguson on Halloween morning. She is a tour guide for her native Bermuda Botanical Gardens.

“I was their youngest tour guide at 16,” she said. “And I’m still their youngest tour guide.”

Ten Fairlington residents, including your humble scribe, took a stroll around a long block beginning at the Fairlington Community Center, as Ms. Ferguson pointed out the plethora of species of trees that call Fairlington home. From the majestic willow oaks that line many of our streets, to the once-thought extinct ginkgo tree that stands on S. 34th Street near Fairlington Meadows Court 5, through the ash and the dogwood, the cedar and the holly, and the sycamore and the crepe myrtles and the sugar maples, the neighborhood is an arborist’s dream.

As much as being educated as to the species of trees that many of us take for granted as just somehow being there, it was also a chance to witness the vibrant colors that fall produces—the reds, yellows, and oranges that sometimes seem like glowing fire against a clear blue sky, up close or in the distance.



Tour guide Emily Ferguson was in the Halloween spirit.

Donning a witch’s hat to celebrate the day, Ms. Ferguson discussed the fact that some trees have more color than others, because some of the trees can be “stressed” due to climate conditions of the spring and summer, and that some trees hunker down for the fall and winter because of too much or too little water, saving themselves for a brighter show next fall. But she also stressed that maple trees never disappoint, displaying a wide range of colors, even on a single leaf. She openly



Tree walk participants learn about sycamore and plane trees—and their large leaves. Photos by Guy Land.

admitted that maple trees are always “breathtaking.”

The crepe myrtles turned out to be a favorite of Ms. Ferguson, who has guided this tree walk tour three other times. The trees, examples of which can be seen on the median on 34th Street near 36th, just before crossing over Route 395, flower from spring through the summer and put on a colorful show in the fall which continues today. They also own a very distinct bark, which she referred to as sinewy and muscular.

The ginkgo was thought to be extinct, and many types of the same species are in fact no longer around, but a monastery in China had protected them, and they are there for us to enjoy to this day. And the tree also has the ability to change its sex for the purpose of cross-pollination.

And when strolling through Fairlington while walking the dog or exercising, pay attention to the oversized leaves on the ground discarded by the sycamore tree. They are hard to miss, and equally impressive.

It seems relatively easy to drive, walk, or ride a bicycle down a Fairlington street and not give a second thought to the tree providing you with shade on a hot summer day, blossoming to remind you that spring is in the air, or adding color to a cool fall day.

But it’s worth paying attention, because there might just be a poem in there.

—Bob Bradley

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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 had a lovely dinner at Clyde's, enjoying the fireplace and warm atmosphere as we adjust to colder weather.

Here's what's planned for December:

Friday, December 11, noon, L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls, 703-759-3800, www.laubergechezfrancois.com. As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, we'll enjoy the three-course prix fixe lunch (\$42, including a glass of wine) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting. If you will attend, please RSVP by noon on Thursday, December 10, so the reservation can be for the correct number and we can arrange carpools.

Sunday, December 20, 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 for a relaxed Sunday supper amid the madness that December brings to our lives.

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, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

E-mail the coordinators, Katarina Lesandric and Eric Hansen at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Key Abingdon dates

Dec. 3 – Project GIFT Showcase: Amazing Abingdon

Dec. 8 – Holiday Shoppe, 6 pm, and launch of Holiday Food Drive

Dec. 9 – Early release, 12:26 pm

Dec. 15 – PTA meeting, 6:30 pm

Dec. 21 – Jan. 3 – Winter break

FCA seeking volunteer for conservation advisory committee

The Fairlington Citizens Association is seeking a volunteer to serve as the alternate representative to the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee for the Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Area. The NCAC meets on the second Thursday of the month.

Follow this link to the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Program to find information about the program: projects.arlingtonva.us/neighborhood-conservation.

Interested residents may contact either the FCA president at president@fca-fairlington.org or Ed Hilz, FNCA representative, at treasurer@fca-fairlington.org.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Time for trees to get homes for the holidays

With frosts common in late November/early December, pansy and mum are about the only flowers to plant in the garden. But some residents will bring plants inside.

Sometimes, softwood holiday evergreens can be transplanted outside (in early January), as long as they're purchased balled and burlapped (with a root ball).

But the holidays are on the minds of many. Here are some of the trees that are frequently featured during the holidays in Fairlington.

Spruce: Species include Serbian, oriental, white, or Norway and Colorado. The first four have green foliage while Colorado has bluish needles. The spruce leaf or needle is short and twisted. Look down a branch from its tip and the needles are curved in a tight circle.

A popular dwarf of the white spruce is Conica. Immature trees at the nursery aren't likely to bear fruit, but here's what you can do. Go to Fairlington Arbor, where there are two spruces off a S. Wakefield courtyard. From the tennis courts, walk toward S. 36th Street and notice the trees on the right, just before the pool. The fruit of a spruce is cinnamon colored, soft and pliable. Collect some from the ground and use wire to attach them to your tree. Spruce wood is used in the production of wood pulp and paper.

Pine: Wood pulp, timber, and paper are made from the wood of this tree. Turpentine and rosin are also byprod-



Large spruce trees in the Arbor drop soft, cinnamon-colored "cones" that are actually fruit. Photo by Tiffany Kudravetz.

ucts. This may be the best specimen to transplant outside, since the root ball tolerates poor soil. Scotch, white, and Austrian will be available this month. The white pine has frosted fruit (or cones) and may be gathered from the base of a mature specimen. The Scotch pine fruit is smaller and clustered on the branch. The rosin or resin is what gives this tree its gummy fragrance.

Fir: Balsam and Fraser are the species cultivated for holiday trees. Here's the difference: Balsam tends to drop its needles in dry conditions (such as a heated home interior). Pines, however hold their needles on the branches longer. Fraser also holds its needles longer, usually 10–14 days inside.

Holly: Its branches usually are found as wreaths on windows or doors. The most vigorous fruiting holly is the Burford, which also has

shiny, spiny leaves.

Olive: In the Jewish faith, the olive tree factors in the celebration of Hanukkah. A Jewish friend explained the miracle celebrated at Hanukkah: When the Temple had to be re-consecrated, there was enough olive oil to burn in the menorah (a candelabra with eight branches) for only one day. But it lasted for eight days.

In the Islamic faith, the olive tree is a symbol of peace and friendship. Olive oil also is symbolic in the Christian faith, with direct references to the olive tree in the books of Exodus and Genesis.

The corn or maize plant is a symbol of Kwanzaa, which honors the heritage of African nation descendants in America. Its holiday is December 26 – January 1.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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Gardening/Landscaping

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Home Improvements

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



MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (Dec. 10 for Jan. issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Mailing Address: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

Include with ad copy: Name, address, phone #, email address, and ad category (see Mini-ads for options).

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Donations will be accepted Nov 13th -Dec 11th, 9-5 pm Mon-Fri and Sat & Sun from 10-5pm.



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Arlington— 2911 Dinwiddie Street. Lovely two bedroom second floor unit on quiet street. Renovated kitchen and newer carpets. Large separate basement. \$307k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Arlington— 4616 31st Road South. Hwd floors and new appliances. Popped up ceiling in kitchen. Renovated bathrooms. \$399k. Call Joanne Ritchick



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