

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2017

Volume 43, Number 12

www.fca-fairlington.org

Santa Claus is coming to Fairlington, December 16

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You better watch out! Santa's annual ride through the neighborhood aboard Arlington County Fire Department's Engine 107 is coming up on Saturday, December 16, between 3 and 5 pm.

With the help of Fire Station 7's firefighter elves, Santa will board Engine 107 and make his way through Fairlington neighborhoods on both sides of the S. Abingdon St. bridge.

With lights flashing and a subdued wail of the siren, Santa will weave through several neighborhood streets, waving to all the good boys and girls. But if there is an emergency requiring Santa's firetruck and his helpful firefighter friends, he may have to cut his annual ride short to help.



Firetruck Santa returns again on Engine 107, bringing joy and goodies to all Fairlington kids who have been nice this year. Photos by Guy Land.



Santa visited with dozens of eager young Fairlingtonians last year.

Santa's schedule calls for him to climb down from Engine 107 to greet his fans, young and young-at-heart, at the North Fairlington Community Center at 3005 S. Abingdon St., and the Fairlington Community Center at 3308 S. Stafford St.

See Santa's scheduled route through Fairlington on page 11, and check out the FCA website for a map of the route (www.fca-fairlington.org).

—Christine Chirichella



Santa's route on page 11

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.

FCA monthly meeting December 13

There will be no guest presentation at the December meeting. The meeting will feature the annual election of officers and directors for the Fairlington Citizens Association executive board.

Regular board business:

- Approval of November minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Meeting minutes: Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

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 Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.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

Fairlington Citizens Association

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Jonathan Ansley, *Vice President*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*
Lindsay Willmann, *Secretary*

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Jennifer Davies
Kent Duffy
Evan Harvey
Chris Weathers

Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

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

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
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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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Calendar

FCA annual meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, December 16, 1 pm
L'Auberge Chez Francois
332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls

Firetruck Santa

Saturday, December 16, 3–5 pm

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25
FCC Closed

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1
FCC Closed

Food drive



Members of Cub Scout Pack 350, a charter of Fairlington United Methodist Church, visited Fairlington homes in November to collect food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Kathleen Branch, Christine Chirichella, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Rebecca Sayres, Chris Weathers, Lindsay Willmann, Michelle Woolley.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the removal of the classroom trailers and the installation of the new track, the Abingdon Elementary expansion and renovation project is nearing completion. We're optimistic that by year-end, students and the community will again have access to the field.

Inside, the renovation work is also almost done, and students respond enthusiastically when asked about the changes, particularly the new three-story classroom addition. The building's exterior, with brick work that complements that of Fairlington, combines both traditional and modern touches that fit nicely with the neighborhood's historic character.

Every major construction project has its disruptions. But the number of complaints has been remarkably small. This is a tribute both to the patience and understanding of nearby residents and to the vigilant oversight by Arlington Public Schools (APS) and the construction contractor management team.

FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association worked closely with APS to keep the community informed on major construction activities and to provide a way for residents to raise concerns. The APS management staff were engaged and responsive. Throughout the process the school board was supportive.

Abingdon Elementary is an important part of our community. Dozens of our families have children enrolled there, while a number of Abingdon faculty and staff live in Fairlington. For several years, most of the school's PTA leadership has come from Fairlington.

Abingdon displays key factors for success:

- It offers a strong and innovative instructional curriculum, from the arts-oriented Project GIFT and its partnership with the Kennedy Center to the pervasive use of technology to a pioneering elementary architecture class.
- It enjoys a dedicated corps of parents who ensure that all students are supported, often raising funds to enrich classroom offerings or provide additional resources for low-income families or students from other cultures.
- It is woven into the life of the neighborhood through things like the spring Fairlington 5K, which brings out hundreds of residents, and the annual Halloween parade, which this year featured the Petite Presidents (see pages 19 and 25).

Those of us who don't have kids at Abingdon understand the value the school plays in Fairlington—through the vibrant presence of young people in the neighborhood, the emphasis on quality education, and the strengthened sense of community. Ultimately, this yields higher property values. Abingdon—and its Fairlington families—is one of our community's great assets.

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



It has been another great year living & working in Fairlington. Our business has grown by leaps & bounds! We are grateful for your support.

Have a safe & joyous holiday season. We can't wait to see you in the NEW Year!

Happy Holidays

Kay, Chris, Yolanda, & Doug



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ACPD discusses recent sexual assault in Shirlington



*Capt. Adrienne Quigley.
Photos by Guy Land.*

Capt. Adrienne Quigley, Commander of Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) Third District, and her colleagues joined FCA's November meeting to brief residents on a recent sexual assault in Shirlington.

The crime took place at 10:41 pm on Thursday, November 2, near the intersection of S. Randolph St. and S. 31st St. The woman reporting the crime was attacked from behind while loading her car. Police were

dispatched to the area to respond to reports of a rape. The assailant, described as a tall, thin, black male in his 20s, fled the scene, and though pursued, remains at large.



Fairlington Glen Vice President Thora Stanwood visits with Sgt. Damon Washington and Capt. Quigley at the November FCA meeting.

Arlington police are now gathering information from residents and local businesses to identify and apprehend the suspect in question. They ask residents to report anything they may have seen related to the case, and to remain vigilant over the next few weeks. The ACPD has been in contact with The Citizen and Shirlington House apartments to ensure residents are aware of the crime. They are also using social media platforms to get the word out to others in the county.

Capt. Quigley noted the department is stepping up plainclothes patrols and examining lighting in the area to maximize safety. The police are working with Arlington County to repair street lights where needed, and initiate tree trimming where leaves may impede light-

ing. They plan to meet with The Citizen, the apartment complex near the scene of the crime, to see what the owner can do to improve the safety of the property.

The shopping-filled weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, known as "robbery season" by police, often bring an uptick in crime. Capt. Quigley emphasized staying alert when out after dark, and encouraged residents, "Get you and your packages into the car at the same time." Police also encouraged those in the audience to keep an eye out for packages, as other parts of Arlington County have received reports of stolen deliveries.

Capt. Quigley noted that while the recent assault is a terrible instance, Fairlington-Shirlington is still a safe area. When asked by residents what they can do to remain safe while out at night, she recommended parking in well-lit areas, staying with a group if possible, and staying off cell phones to ensure awareness of personal space and surroundings.

—Lindsay Willmann



Fairlington Villages Board Member Denise Rippert discusses the Shirlington incident with Criminal Investigations Commander Capt. Brett Butler.

Safety improvements on S. 31st St.

Lighting improvements on S. 31st St. from S. Woodrow St. to S. Randolph St. are slated for 2019 as part of the county's Neighborhood Conservation program. The project would replace the existing Cobra lights with Carlyle lights, improving lighting along the street.

FCA recommended this project to the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in October 2016, the committee endorsed it in December 2016, and the county board approved it in February.

The package of improvements includes installation of a sidewalk along the east side of S. 31st St., from the bus shelter across from the Shirlington House apartments to S. Randolph St.



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Vihstadt addresses county and neighborhood issues



John Vihstadt.

County Board Member John Vihstadt led a wide-ranging discussion of issues impacting Arlington and Fairlington residents at the November FCA meeting. Topics spanned the county budgeting process, economic development and planning, transportation and infrastructure, and population growth. In many of these areas, Vihstadt emphasized the value the county places on citizen engage-

ment. Below you'll find a summary of the issues that Vihstadt addressed.

The county budget

The board is about to enter its budgeting process to determine the budget for fiscal year 2019. Arlington's annual budget is about \$1.3 billion. Last year, the county raised property taxes by 1.5 cents, which it dedicated to Metro and public-school funding. Vihstadt noted that the board does not like raising taxes, but some of the funding decisions, like those for public education, are critical for maintaining Arlington's competitiveness as an attractive location for businesses and residents.



County board member John Vihstadt shares a laugh with FCA board members Jennifer Davies and Kent Duffy after the November meeting. Photos by Guy Land.

This year, the County Manager initiated early round-table discussions to engage residents in the budget process. The board will give guidance to the County Manager at its November meeting, and the manager will then unveil the proposed budget in February. From that point, it will take about two months to finalize.



South Fairlington resident (and county board member) Libby Garvey also attended the November meeting and talked with FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley after the session.

In response to an audience question about increased funding for the Neighborhood Conservation Program, a program that funds neighborhood improvement projects, Vihstadt noted some past problems he'd seen in the program, including cost overruns, poor contractor work, and trouble securing contractors. He noted that the County Manager is reviewing how to increase efficiency in the program. He noted that Fairlington has done a good job engaging the community on proposed projects, but in other neighborhoods, residents aren't consulted and didn't support some projects.

Vihstadt briefly discussed the planned renovation of Fairlington Park at the Fairlington Community Center. One resident noted that the county's parks and recreation department comes up with a budget first, then engages neighborhoods, and he thought that the process should be reversed. Vihstadt says that the Department of Parks and Recreation wrestles with this issue, but that they are trying to ensure projects are cost-effective and not "gold-plated."

Next, Arlington will look at updating its Capital Improvement Plan, a process that occurs every two years.

Continued on page 15

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FCA elections to be held at December meeting

Elections for the 2018 Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) Board of Directors will be held at the annual meeting on Wednesday, December 13, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Board members are elected at the annual meeting and hold office for a term of one year or until their successors are elected. All of the nine positions are up for election each year. Eight of the nine current board members have indicated their candidacy for the 2018 board.

The candidates are Hugh Baumgardner, Jennifer Davies, Kent Duffy, Evan Harvey, Ed Hilz, Guy Land, Chris Weathers, Lindsay Willmann. Current Vice President Jonathan Ansley will be leaving the board.

The board meets monthly, coordinates a variety of community events, and serves as Fairlington's voice in dealing with local jurisdictions. Individual board members are on point for specific activities or initiatives, while the group as a whole examines larger issues that affect the community or enhance the quality of life in Fairlington.

A few recent issues that the FCA has been tracking include the I-395 express lanes and sound walls, the Alexandria Gateway development, and street improvements. It has hosted activities like the home remodeling seminars, the first-ever Fairlington movie night, and Santa on the Firetruck coming up this month.

If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours a month, consider this important leadership position.

Take our survey: Fairlington's 75th anniversary

Fairlington turns 75 next year, and the FCA and Fairlington Historical Society want your ideas about how to celebrate.

We've set up an online form for you to offer suggestions on how to honor the 75th anniversary—from selling unique Fairlington items (such as reproductions of early photos) to a community reception to an extended history walk. Or you may come up with other ideas that we never thought about.

Take a couple of minutes to give us your ideas about how to celebrate this important milestone. Go to the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org, and click on the 75th anniversary survey link. The FCA board will discuss your suggestions at its annual meeting on December 13.

Anyone interested in serving should email FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley, vp@fca-fairlington.org. For more information, contact any current FCA board member.

—Christine Chirichella and Guy Land

Save the date: Home Improvement Showcase

The Fairlington Home Improvement Showcase is set to return for its third running on February 3, 2018, at the Fairlington Community Center. The event will once again feature contractors who know the intricacies and quirks of our historic buildings and help unit owners improve their homes.

The seminar format will highlight common strategies contractors use to create a brand-new kitchen, finish an attic, install new windows and doors, and brighten up a basement, just to name a few remodeling possibilities. There will be many opportunities to ask questions and learn about unique design options that can enhance the quality of living and value in Fairlington.

More details, including the format, speakers, and schedule, will be released in upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

—Chris Weathers

Environmentally friendly



Workers install the water collection system to accompany the new permeable parking lot on the Abingdon School field. The exterior work is expected to be finished by year's end, leaving only minor interior renovation to be completed early next year. Photo by Guy Land.



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– Patty, Fairfax, VA



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– Erik, Arlington, VA



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Holiday festivities at the Village at Shirlington

The Village at Shirlington is a festive destination in December, with decorated 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.

Thursday, November 30, 6 to 8:30 pm. Come be a part of the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, take a photo with Santa, listen to live holiday music, or take a horse and carriage ride around Shirlington. Donations of nonperishable food items are being collected for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Check www.villageatshirlington.com for additional details.

Santa Paws. Pet photos with Santa.

Date and time TBD. Dogma Bakery and Boutique wants to help you celebrate 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 can be purchased for a fee, with proceeds going to local rescue organizations. For more information, call 571-422-0370



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7th annual breakfast with Santa and holiday food drive.

Saturday, December 16, 8 to 11 am 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. Please call 703-820-0440 and ask for Madison or select option 2 for the sales department to make your reservation. Seating is extremely limited.

ACPD to host "Fill the Cruiser" Holiday Toy Drive.

Help make the holidays bright for Arlington County children in need by donating to the third annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) is asking for donations

of new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17. Officers will be collecting toys in Shirlington at 2700 S. Quincy St. on Tuesday, November 28, from 6 to 8 pm. Those wishing to donate toys but unable to attend can drop off donations at police headquarters at 1425 N. Courthouse Rd. until December 15.

Santa's route through Fairlington

1. Leave Station 7 at 3 pm.

2. Left onto S. Abingdon St.

3. Left onto S. 31st 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., cross bridge onto S. 34th St., and turn right on S. Wakefield St.



9. Turn left onto S. 36th St., cross over S. Utah St. and S. Taylor St.

10. Left onto S. Stafford St., continue to the Fairlington Community Center parking lot for a 15 minute stop (3308 S. Stafford St.).

11. Left onto S. Stafford St., continue past S. 32nd Rd.

12. Left onto S. 32nd St.

13. Left onto S. Utah St.

14. Right onto S. 34 St. and return to fire station.

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Affordable housing developer to acquire Park Shirlington

An affordable housing development group is slated to purchase the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St., with plans to maintain the property as workforce and affordable housing. The sale is expected to close in early December.

The purchaser is Standard Property Company, a multi-family real estate investment and management firm specializing in affordable housing, in partnership with the National Foundation for Affordable Housing Solutions. Arlington County is also expected to participate in financing the acquisition through a loan from the Arlington Housing Investment Fund.

Representatives of the purchaser team briefed the FCA Board on their plans in November. Noting that the current owner of the property (Home Properties, Inc.) was nationally marketing Park Shirlington to other developers, Joe Oullette, a principal at Standard Property Company, said that the purchase was designed to take the property off the market and maintain it as workforce and affordable housing.

Oullette said that detailed plans for the property had not yet been developed but that the general plan was to

retain the existing buildings and “sprinkle in” additional units.

The Arlington Housing Commission approved the financing package on November 9. The Arlington County Board was tentatively scheduled to consider the proposed acquisition on November 28.

In 2013, Home Properties proposed to replace the existing 294 apartments with 750 new apartments in five buildings that would be three- to five-stories high, with most of the units being market rate with rents competitive with others in Shirlington.

These plans were put on indefinite hold in 2014 when Home Properties announced a change in its business strategy, exiting the new development business in order to concentrate on acquiring and upgrading older properties.

FCA expects to schedule a briefing for the community on Park Shirlington plans in the spring.

—Guy Land

Election day in Fairlington

A cold, damp, Tuesday did not keep Fairlington voters away from the polls as they cast ballots in last month's general election. Fairlington residents vote in two locations, the Fairlington Community Center (“Fairlington,” precinct 12), and the North Fairlington Community Center (“Abingdon,” precinct 22).

Voter turnout was up at both precincts from the 2013 gubernatorial race. The Fairlington precinct saw a 16.8 percent increase in voter turnout, while the Abingdon precinct saw an 18.9 percent voter increase. Given the strong turnout, lines fluctuated during prime voting hours in the morning and late afternoon.

In voting results, the two Fairlington precincts generally followed patterns throughout the county and emulated the county's strong support of Democratic candidates. According to unofficial returns from the Virginia Department of Elections, Ralph Northam heavily carried both precincts. Fairlington's Abingdon precinct went for



A long line of voters stretched down the sidewalk in front of the Abingdon precinct voting place, evidence of the large turnout in last month's election. Photo by Yvonne Sayres.

Northam with 79.8 percent, while his totals dropped off a bit in South Fairlington, to 76.9 percent. Countywide, Northam received 80.1 percent of the vote to Ed Gillespie's 18.9 percent.

In the races for lieutenant governor and attorney general, both Democratic candidates won the county by just under 80 percent. Justin Fairfax garnered 66,687 votes in Arlington in the race for lieutenant governor, ahead of state Sen. Jill Vogel's 17,594.

Attorney General Mark Herring was re-elected with 67,111 votes, ahead of John Adams' 17,366 votes.

Locally, Erik Gutshall won the race for Arlington County Board, while Monique O'Grady claimed victory for the Arlington County School Board seat. Gutshall will be Chair Jay Fisette's successor, as Fisette did not seek re-election after 20 years on the board. O'Grady will take the seat of incumbent James Lander.

—Rebecca Sayres

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Economic development and planning

Vihstadt gave a fairly detailed overview of economic development challenges and efforts in the county. He said that the main challenge for county officials is balancing residential and commercial tax assessments, which have to be the same rate under Virginia law. The county has been struggling with a higher commercial vacancy rate, which means that it leans more on residential property taxes. In order to raise revenue, the county has to look at raising taxes or cutting spending, both of which present challenges.

The county is making efforts to attract a variety of employers, including trade associations, large and small businesses, and non-profits. For example, Nestle USA is moving to Rosslyn and will add 750 jobs to the county at an average salary of \$100,000 per year.

Modern workplace changes, however, continue to drive down the need for commercial space—employers are leasing less space for the same number of employees because of a trend towards assigning employees smaller office space and allowing remote work. In addition, Arlington is surrounded by highly competitive neighbors, as the D.C. metro area has ramped up development and the Silver Line has made other surrounding areas appealing to employers.



Libby Garvey visited with constituents after the meeting.

In the planning process, the county is currently working with the community on two significant projects. As Fairlingtonians may already be aware, the county is examining possible improvements to the Four Mile Run Valley in Shirlington. This area is one of the few remaining in the county that is zoned for light industrial, and Vihstadt noted that the businesses there provide many useful services, such as auto repairs and pet care. It also



A large crowd turned out to hear a discussion of county board issues.

contains a variety of county parks and arts facilities. Vihstadt noted that the county will not touch the dog park after hearing from the community.

The other planning process involves Lee Highway improvements, and the county is considering whether anything should be done to update aging strip malls along that corridor. It's also considering adding affordable and market-rate housing at commercial centers, and improving the streetscape to make it more pedestrian-friendly.

Elsewhere in the area, Vihstadt said that there will no longer be a hotel at the Gateway Development in Alexandria at the intersection of Beauregard and King Sts.

Population growth

Fairlington parents with children in public schools are aware of increasing growth in the student body, requiring additional space and school boundary changes. Vihstadt noted that Fairlington is probably isolated from changes to school boundaries because of its geographic location on the edge of the county. And while he understands resistance to boundary changes, he also emphasized that "There are no bad schools in Arlington."

Arlington has several new schools at the elementary and middle school level being built across the county. Of special interest to Fairlington, Abingdon Elementary is entering the last phase of its renovation, and the community will be able to tour the school in late January or early February.

The school system has found ways to increase capacity at its high schools by retrofitting current space,

Continued on page 17

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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rather than adding on, but that may not be enough in the long-term. There is consideration being given to whether to plan for a fourth high school at the intersection of Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Dr. Vihstadt noted that the school board and county board are working closely to address these capacity challenges.

The other challenge that comes with population growth is that the county itself needs more land, which is becoming an increasingly prized commodity in an area of only 26 square miles. The county recently added two new tracts to its portfolio: the Buck property near Washington-Lee High School and the former Virginia Hospital Center campus on Carlin Springs Dr.

The Joint Facilities Advisory Commission reviews county facilities and property and advises the county on possible uses. In addition to more space in schools, the county needs space for storing school and ART buses. Vihstadt highlighted the need for more money for land acquisition, but also the need to be creative with limited space.



Fairlington Glen residents Thora Stanwood and Michelle Woolley got an early seat for the November presentations.

Transportation and infrastructure

Looking at transportation issues that impact the whole region, Vihstadt would like to see a dedicated funding source for Metro. Even though work has been done to fix Metro's cost inefficiencies, he believes the system fundamentally needs more money. One option for a funding source is a new county sales tax, but that requires General Assembly dispensation, adding another consideration as to how exactly the region improves Metro. Every county with at least one Metro station has to pay in to the system, and Loudon County will be an

additional funder when the Silver Line crosses its border.

Vihstadt sits on the board of the Virginia Association of Counties, and he and a Fairfax County Supervisor joined forces to advocate for dedicated funding. Vihstadt says that he sees more opportunities for working across political divisions at the local level rather than at the state or federal level.

After residents at the meeting raised the issue of street lights that had been out for months, Vihstadt encouraged any resident to email him with the location of non-working lights and offered staff assistance in attempting to expedite repairing the lights. He noted that one challenge with street lights is that they can be owned by VDOT, Dominion Energy, or the county.

Vihstadt also encouraged residents to contact him if they see areas where street parking is not marked, but seems that it should be allowed. The county's public safety and engineering experts may disagree as to whether parking should be allowed, but he said that periodically they do find areas where spaces can be added. In response to a resident comment, Vihstadt agreed that the most recent street paving project in Fairlington did not impact parking as much as the last paving project.

Related to street paving, Vihstadt noted that county residents can visit the county's website and enter an address to see how a street is rated under the Pavement Condition Index. The index rates streets on a scale of 0 to 100 and helps inform paving decisions. When planning paving projects, the county tries to aggregate them geographically so crews are not zig-zagging across the county.

In response to complaints about the pedestrian bridge that connects N. Quaker Ln. to Shirlington over I-395, Vihstadt plans to press VDOT on making improvements. VDOT admits the bridge is an eyesore, but because it is structurally sound, VDOT has no plans to improve the 45-year-old structure. Vihstadt doesn't think this is acceptable given that VDOT has revenue from toll lanes that is supposed to be available for pedestrian projects. He's looking to find ways to incentivize VDOT to make some cosmetic improvements.

Finally, regarding issues near and dear to Fairlington, there are no proposals to close Fire Station 7, nor are there any expected service changes to bus routes that serve Fairlington through 2018.

If you have issues you'd like to discuss with Vihstadt, you can contact him at jvihstadt@arlingtonva.us.

—Michelle Woolley



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Voting continues on I-395 express lane sound walls

A second set of ballots was mailed in early November to North Fairlington residents who would be impacted by sound barriers proposed as part of the I-395 express lanes project. Less than 50 percent of the initial ballots were returned, requiring a second round of balloting. Those receiving ballots have 14 days to return them.

Following the briefing on the sound walls at the October FCA meeting, at which affected residents asked for more information about the impact on the surrounding property, representatives of VDOT and the private contractors working on the project scheduled a special briefing for nearby North Fairlington residents in mid-November.

Ballots for affected units in South Fairlington were scheduled to be mailed in late November, and are to be returned within 21 days. According to Geoff Vetter of AECOM, the private contractor that is coordinating the public outreach on the sound walls, the mailing was delayed due to concerns that the design team was working out in November.

A Draft Noise Impact Decision Report identified the individual units that are “impacted and benefitted.” Those units are eligible to vote on whether they want sound barriers. Neither the condo associations nor FCA is eligible to vote. Owner/resident votes count more than owner/non-residents, and both count more than renters.

The proposed walls are 25 feet high and require 10 feet of clear space on either side, which may require VDOT to acquire a small amount of property from adjacent condo associations.

In terms of upcoming project work, the contractor will be setting a temporary barrier on the west shoulder of northbound I-395, demolishing the existing barrier, and then beginning construction of underdrains, duct banks, and the new median barrier. Work will also begin on a previously approved sound wall on southbound I-395 south of Seminary Rd.

—Guy Land

A fun Fairlington Halloween

The Abingdon Elementary parade, extravagant courtyard decorations, and scary costumes make Halloween a favorite Fairlington celebration. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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Poinsettias and songs



Wakefield High School Choir members visited the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center in November to sell poinsettias as a fundraiser for the choir. Photo by Guy Land.

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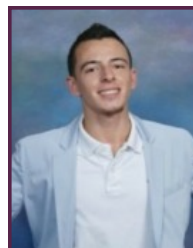
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neighborhood news

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. In November, we visited Clyde's, as we often do this time of year, and had a lovely, relaxed meal.

For December, we'll have just one event, to allow space on our calendars for all of the other annual events we attend.

Saturday, December 16, 1 pm, L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066, 703-759-3800, www.laubergechezfrancois.com. (This is a change from the planned date of the 15th because L'Auberge is closed for private events that date.) As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, we'll enjoy lunch (either à la carte or the three-course prix-fixe lunch for \$44, including a glass of wine, plus tax and gratuity) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting.

Because we do need a reservation, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, no later than 6 pm on Thursday, December 14. Leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change.

If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

The Fairlington Book Group is taking a break for the holidays. We aren't meeting in December, but invite you to join us in the new year for our discussion of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. We will meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We hope you'll join us in January.

Card players welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we

are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. 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. Email the coordinator, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Fairlington MOMS Club®

The Fairlington MOMS Club® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great listserv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlington-momsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The Fairlington MOMS Club is the local chapter of MOMS Club International.

Need a Fairlington holiday gift?

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

Filled with photographs, history, and stories of Fairlington's development and neighborhood life, and featuring an update to 2003, the book is a perfect holiday gift for neighbors and former neighbors. Download the order form at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.

—Cindy Kunz

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Abingdon artists fill the school with dots and leaves

Abingdon students' imaginations and artistic creativity are on display everywhere, thanks to a school-wide art project that has added beautiful installations of student work throughout the school. Art teacher Lauren Muscarella explains that she, fellow art teacher Cathy Stark, and librarian Megan Fatouros collaborated to inspire students with the book, *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds.



Matisse-inspired dots created by Abingdon first-graders. Photo by Lauren Muscarella.

"Each grade level learned about a new artist and their style, and viewed some of their artwork to create their very own artist-inspired Dot."

- Pre-K students studied Mark Rothko, learning about color relationships and using a brayer to roll ink onto their Dot.
- Kindergarten students learned about Color Field Painting and used vibrant colors to mimic Morris Lewis' artwork.
- First-graders learned about Henri Matisse—the King of Color—and how to draw with scissors to create their own collage.
- Second-graders learned how Yayoi Kusama painted dots in



Abingdon leaf installation. Photo by Lauren Muscarella.

repetition, sometimes filling entire rooms.

- Third-graders learned about Piet Mondrian's use of primary colors and geometric shapes to create planes of color.
- Fourth-graders viewed Wassily Kandinsky's use of shape and color to create interesting compositions.
- Fifth-graders learned about Josef Albers' use of color relationships and composition to show interactions between colors.

Students also worked on a school-wide leaf project. Pre-K made rubbings of real leaves. Kindergarteners learned the types of lines, drew the lines in crayon, and then painted their leaves. First-graders created patterns with lines and shapes in crayon and then painted their leaves. Second-graders drew the veins of the leaf and created patterns using warm or cool colors in each section.

Third-graders created animal print patterns; fourth-graders created patterns using Zentangle designs; and fifth-graders learned about hues of color to create their Zentangle designs. Art teachers glued each leaf onto a large background paper to create a color wheel installation. The leaf installation will stay up for the remainder of the school year.

Abingdon celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Latin Dance Fiesta. Photo from Abingdon GIFT Twitter Feed @AbingdonGIFT.

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Abingdon students and staff participated in a number of fun and educational activities. Abingdon Parent Liaison Caty Branco organized five Latin dance classes, where students learned El San Juanito from Ecuador, Cumbia from Colombia, and Calypso from Venezuela. Students showed off their dances to parents and the Extended Day program at an after-school fiesta.

Parent volunteers assisted Ms. Branco in creating class presentations about Latin culture and countries. Additionally, students and staff from El Salvador, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Spain shared interesting facts about their countries of origin during morning announcements. To finish off the celebration, staff were invited to a Latin Luncheon, where parents and Latino staff shared their culinary gifts. Abingdon is very proud to celebrate its community and embrace its diverse cultures.

—Carrie Lewis



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The Little Presidents: One talented mom, her vision, and a surprise invitation

South Fairlington resident Catherine Ladd had a vision for her sons and their friends for Halloween. The group had been inseparable since kindergarten and typically trick-or-treated as sports players in the past. This would be their last time to participate in Abingdon Elementary's annual Halloween parade in Fairlington.

The boys played Little League baseball together, visited the Little League World Series, and were diehard Washington Nationals (Nats) fans, going to games and always Nats Winterfest. "Why not do something different, something extraordinary this year?" Ladd thought.

That's when she came up with the idea of the "little" presidents, replicated after the Nats' "Racing Presidents." Ladd, a stay-at-home mom and interior architect by trade, embarked on the project five weeks prior to Halloween. "I have never designed costumes so extensive before," she said. It required her to papier-mâché the head, paint it, and design a sturdy interior. The project took over her first floor with the multiple figures in various stages of the design process.

On Halloween, the friends walked in the parade as little



The petite presidents made their debut at the Abingdon Halloween Parade. Photo by Guy Land.

presidents and mascot Screech. The costumes immediately caught the attention of bystanders and ArlNow.com. Real-life Screech saw the photos and tweeted, "Give those boys first place!"

The Racing Presidents and Screech embraced the opportunity to acknowledge such dedicated fans. They organized a surprise assembly at Abingdon and came bearing Nats swag

for the students and an ultimate invitation for the boys. Would they come to Nats Park "in costume" to race the presidents in the spring? The boys' stunned reaction was captured by extensive media coverage in ArlNow.com, *The Washington Post*, and on the Nats Facebook page, which received 56,000 views and 2,000 likes.

Ladd, who was presented with a signed Bryce Harper jersey during the assembly said, "I was inspired by the boys, their love of baseball, and their close relationships, which were formed and strengthened here in Fairlington. I am grateful to the Nats, who brought a sense of fun and excitement to Abingdon and our community. We are looking forward to a great race in the spring."

—Kathleen Branch

Fall around the FCC

Fall activities at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) featured soccer matches on the field and a bluegrass band, led by a North Fairlington fiddler, at the Fairlington Farmers Market. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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Letter to the Editor

I wanted to give some insights on the proposed sound barriers, from the perspective of someone who previously worked for about 10 years in the field of acoustic engineering.

Decibels, the measurement of sound levels, are on a logarithmic (versus linear) scale. As a result, a doubling (or halving) of sound levels equates to 3 decibels.

The article in the November 2017 *All Fairlington Bulletin* said the sound barriers would cause “only” 5 dB reduction. The word “only” is misleading and misplaced. 5 dB is a considerable reduction from an already reasonable 67 dB. It represents more than a 50 percent reduction in sound levels.

A further clarification that a savvy investigator might want to ask for from the Department of Transportation engineers is whether the decibel levels provided were “A-weighted.” A-weighting is the appropriate filter

shape that matches the human ear. If their sound levels aren’t A-weighted, that indicates they haven’t really thought things through. The chances they’re not quoting A-weighted decibels is extremely low, however, if they are decent engineers.

Food for thought. Hope this is instructive.

Jeff Cohen
Fairlington Villages resident

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writer 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.



Join us for Christmas

Advent Quiet Day
December 9, 2–5 p.m.

Caroling
December 10, 5 p.m.

Christmas Pageant
December 17, 11 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
December 24, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Fairlington Presbyterian Church
3846 King Street, Alexandria, VA
703-931-7344 | www.fpcusa.org



I'm a loving mother of three, proud grandma of a baby boy, and owner of **Mint Leaf Cleaning, LLC**. Our company was created to provide high quality services to busy families like mine and adjust our services to your needs.

Our large clientele in the Fairlington area has been referred by a friend or family member and we hope you help us to continue expanding. Bringing the best of our services and helping more families!

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Mini-ads

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

Services

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. Fairlington home-owners our specialty for over 30 years. Convenient evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for an appointment with a FREE Retirement Check-up included. (703) 931-3290.

WELLNESS with MOORE THAN YOGA offers: Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage (monthly classes), children's massage, reflexology (personal pampering, pregnancy & labor induction), Reiki & more. Private session or create a class. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767.

IRS ENROLLED AGENT Can prepare your individual and business income taxes, provide advice, and respond to IRS and State tax letters. Bookkeeping and Small Business / Government Contractor support services too. Former Fairlington resident with 25 years of experience. Flexible time and place appointments. Visit www.alexandria-tax-bookkeeping.com for more information, or call Christine R. Coker at 703.407.7545.

LUXURIOUS IN-HOME MASSAGE.

Enjoy a restorative massage in the comfort of your home by an experienced, fully licensed Parkfairfax therapist for a very affordable price. Therapeutic and relaxing 70-minute massage for \$70. First-time special: 90 minutes for \$80. Call Mark Herrenbruck, Encore Massage. 703.987.0283.

TRAINER. Trainer with over 20 years experience for strength, flexibility or boxing. Numerous past and present clients from Fairlington. Call Don for consultation at 571-286-8544.

FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS.

For your Home, Business, Celebrations & Events. Delight someone special or treat yourself! Free Delivery in Fairlington. Floral subscriptions available. Talk to Eva at Floral Focus By Design LLC 703.829.5527 or contact@floralfocusbydesign.com.

Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. This month is a good time to plant since our nights are cooler. And any month is suitable for a clean-up and mulching. Contact Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping. E-mail or call. billsullivan41@gmail.com 571.213.9567

Home Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

BATHROOM RENOVATION SALE.

Example: Clarendon II. New tub, faucets, toilet, tiles for wall and floor, vanity and top, painting, medicine cabinet, light fixture. Labor included. \$6,900. Fairlington Maintenance Service. Call 571-212-4151 or 703-379-7733.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS.

Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. E-mail vsison0117@yahoo.com.

DOOR SOLUTIONS. A Fairlington doors expert. 1,000's of pleased customers. For contact, scheduling, and useful door information, please visit: www.doorsolutions.biz

JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS.

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

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

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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?

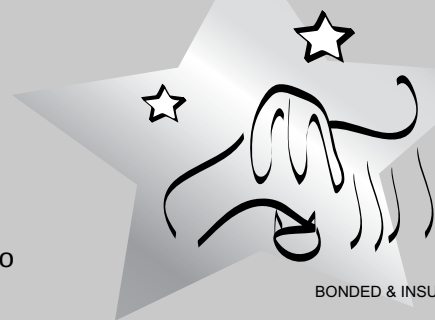
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STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS.

18 years experience, kitchen and bath granite counter top remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, crown molding, painting, wallpaper removal, drywall. Call Mario 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com

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FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

703-820-8635. We are family owned and operated serving Fairlington since 1978. Your neighbor is our best reference. Call for a no obligation free estimate and detailed explanation of our service.

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable and experienced. Good references. Flexible scheduling. Reasonable rates. We are licensed, insured, and employees covered through Worker's Comp. We bring our own equipment. Weekly, biweekly, monthly, occasionally, one-time, move in/out, offices. For free in-home estimate, call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

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

PET LOVERS. Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving, responsible care for your cats and dogs. Middays, holidays, weekends. Bonded and insured. Excellent references. Call 703-941-6113.

DOG WALKER. "My business is going to the dogs...your dogs." Longtime Fairlington resident and dog walker. EDFMcGO@gmail.com 703-477-1425.

FETCH-N-WALK PET SERVICE. Local Fairlington resident will Fetch your pet & Walk them. Together, we will Walk, Talk and Play! \$10 for 30 minute session or \$28 for a block of three. On-call service for regulars! Let's Meet-n-Greet! TEXT Noreen at 703-623-6020.

Real Estate

SEEKING 1 BDRM RENTAL IN FAIRLINGTON – JAN 2018. Previous Fairlington renter for 8 years in same unit, great references & credit. One person, small well-trained dog. Responsible, work full-time in DC. Contact: dunning66@msn.com

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.

Email: 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).

30% Discount on Tax Preparation

We can prepare your Federal & State income taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for 25 years.



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charles.coker@cpa-coker.com



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Professional Appraisal • Professional Photos • Postcards Sent to the Neighborhood on the Listing • Broker's Open • Open Houses Door Knocking • Social Media Outreach • Education: UVA Undergrad, Three Master's Degrees (Psychology, Management, Public Relations (Georgetown)) • Extrovert • Air Force Veteran • Northern VA Local (Third Generation) • Third Generation NOVA Realtor ParkFairfax Resident • Military Relocation Professional Certification • I have a vendor/ contractor list

Looking to Buy:

Buyer looking in Alexandria/
Arlington \$300-\$350,000 range

Rented:

6623 10th Street, B2,
Alexandria, VA, 22307

For Rent:



6037 Crown Royal
Circle, Alexandria,
VA 22310 • **\$2350**
3BR/2BA/2HB
2 Fireplaces
3 Level Townhouse
2060 Sq Ft • Next
to Van Dorn Metro
Available Now

Sold:



5264 Ballycastle
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VA (beat out two
other offers)
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For sale Price TBD/ For rent \$1625 2BR/2BA •
ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED 5340 Holmes Run Parkway
#304, Alexandria, VA, 22304, **Available Now**

Marlene really hung in there during tough negotiations and consistently tried to think outside the box. She is also very responsive - I felt like we were in constant communication throughout the process. Thanks again, Marlene!

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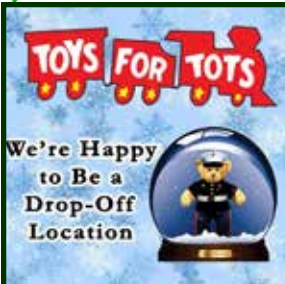
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Bill Groom 703.283.2596



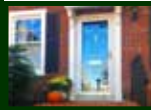
4605 31st Rd., S #C-2 2BR/1BA Sherwood
For Rent \$1975/mo. Rob Chamberlain 202.486.5930



4848 28th St., S #B 2BR/2BA Clarendon II
For Rent \$2100/mo. Larisa Martin 202.280.0000



4855 28th St., S #A2 2BR/2BA Mt. Vernon
For Rent \$2500/mo. Joanne Ritchick 571.215.3350



2922 Dinwiddie St., S 3BR/2BA Dominion II
For Rent \$2775/mo. Pat Quinlin 703.835.7312



3405 Stafford St., S #A 3BR/2BA Dominion
For Rent \$3000/mo. Barbara Kirkland 703.405.5920



3412 Wakefield St., S, 2BR/2BA Clarendon
For Sale \$430,000
Sandra Graves 703.577.5633



4675 Lawton Way #101, Alexandria, VA 22311
For Sale \$370,000 2BR/2BA
Julie Flory 703.599.3111 or Joanne Ritchick 571.215.3350



3074 Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22206
For Sale \$ 519,000 3BR/3BA/1HBA
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During the month of
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