

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN

Fairlington Citizens Association

www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2010

Volume 36, Number 2

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 7 p.m.

Fairlington Diners Night Out

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

Bear Rock Cafe

Shirlington

Fair Golds Business Meeting

Thursday, February 4, noon

FCC

Family Fun Night

Friday, February 5, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

FCC

MOMS Club Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 3:30 p.m.

FCC

Fair Golds Program

Thursday, February 18, noon

FCC

Thirty Somethings

Thursday, February 18, 7:15 p.m.

Capitol City Brewery

Shirlington

Fairlington Diners Night Out

Monday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.

Cassatt's

Arlington



School Board to Address Budget Challenges

Sally Baird, chairman of the Arlington School Board, will speak at the February 10 FCA meeting. A South Arlington resident for more than 20 years, Ms. Baird began her term on the school board in 2007. Currently working on its budget for fiscal year 2011, Arlington Public Schools is considering funding cuts to meet a projected \$47 million shortfall. To gather stakeholder input, APS conducted an online, open-access survey during two weeks in December, with results posted online at www.apsva.us/budgetvk.



There were two surveys, one designed for staff/teachers and another designed for community/parents—of the 3,584 responses to the community survey, 65 percent self-identified as parents of an APS student. The survey results posted online are raw data without analysis. The accompanying text offers the following caveats about interpreting the results: The results may be skewed since individuals can complete the survey multiple times, and often the respondents completing the survey represent special interests within the population.

In the survey for staff/teachers, the top three choices for “maintain/do not eliminate” were: maintain the existing arts programs, 65.71%; maintain the existing small class sizes, 57.98%; and maintain the existing classroom technology, 57.38%. In the survey for community/parents, the top three choices for “maintain/do not eliminate” were the same (with respective percentages of 55.61%, 54.24%, and 43.69%).

Abingdon School PTA co-president Michelle Marston: “We will continue to advocate for maintaining exemplary program funding for Project GIFT, which includes instrumental music, architecture, 21st century communications, and science and math labs. With just \$115,000 in funding from APS, Abingdon has turned its test scores around, added nearly three weeks of instructional time to its school year, and made learning an exciting experience for our students. It would be a shame if APS were to dismiss Abingdon’s success story by eliminating exemplary program funding at our school.”

Upcoming dates to watch include the County Manager’s proposed budget on February 20; the Superintendent’s proposed budget on February 23; and the School Board’s adopted budget on April 29.

Continued on page 3

Coming Up ...

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

Preliminary Agenda

7 p.m. Special Program: Arlington School Board chairman, Sally Baird, will discuss upcoming budget challenges.

8 p.m. Regular Business Meeting

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

AFB on the Web

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

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USEFUL CONTACTS

| | |
|---|---|
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| Police, Arlington (non-emergency) | 703-558-2222 |
| Animal Warden | 703-931-9241 |
| Dominion (power outages) | 888-667-3000 |
| Fairlington Community Center | 703-228-6588 |
| Metrobus Complaints | 703-228-7929 |
| Miss Utility | 800-552-7001 |
| Pothole Patrol Hotline | 703-228-6485 |
| Shirlington Library | 703-228-6545 |
| Street Light Hotline | 703-228-6511 |
| www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm | |
| Helicopter Noise Complaints | Colonel Steward Remaly Jeryl.Ludowese@jfhqncr.northcom.mil |

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
703-243-1735 • fairlingtonisfun@yahoo.com

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:
afbeditors@yahoo.com

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:
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Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

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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 703-243-1735 #1.

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Calendar, cont.

See Neighborhood News on pages 22 – 23 and related articles for details about calendar events.

Got Snow Photos?

Got good pix from the blizzard of December 18 – 19, '09? Please send your Fairlington-locale snow photos to the *AFB* for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue. (We like the idea of a snow photo in August.) Send an e-mail, subject line "Snow photo," to afbeditors@yahoo.com with the photo as attachment (the original electronic jpg file). Include your name for the photo credit line, and describe the location/activity.

Contents

Features

| | |
|---|----|
| School Board Chair: Budget | 1 |
| FHS Celebrates History, Preservation. | 5 |
| FCA Plans for 2010 | 7 |
| Jobs with the 2010 Census | 7 |
| Property Tax Calendar | 9 |
| Local Home Sales | 9 |
| Shirlington Stores Survey | 11 |
| Family Fun Night, Part Two . . . | 11 |
| Financial Classes | 11 |

Departments

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Community Center News. | 15 |
| Patio Gardening | 17 |
| Animal Talk. | 19 |
| Abingdon School News. | 21 |
| Neighborhood News. | 22 |
| Mini-ads | 25 |

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we continue working on our New Year's resolutions and plan ahead for 2010, I want to reflect on last year and remember the Arlington County staff who made a difference to Fairlington.

Joanne Uyeda, Principal of Abingdon Elementary School: Principal Uyeda leads a team of teachers and administrative staff who have raised the standards of learning at the elementary school. The curriculum balances science, the arts, and the good ol' three Rs. The results are increased scores, more kids from Fairlington and nearby communities attending, and students who are excited about school. I respect teachers, as their workday does not end once they leave the classroom, and the principal shares this burden—and then some. A 2006 Principal of the Year, Ms. Uyeda makes Abingdon school a gem in the community and a safe and academically challenging environment.

Michelle Nuneville, Captain and commanding officer of District Three of the Arlington County Police Department: Captain Nuneville is no stranger to Fairlingtonians. She and her officers appear annually at our citizens association meetings, discussing the safety of our community. Many of you will have seen her at our July 4th parades. And she joined county officials at our May 2009 walking town meeting. Given that part of our community lies in the City of Alexandria, Captain Nuneville coordinates public safety with her Alexandria counterparts. The result is a community with low crime rates and a place where residents can enjoy the streets and sidewalks with their pets, neighbors, and families.

Patrick Mallon, Manager of the Fairlington Community Center: Patrick is a member of the county's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department. If you have not been to the community center at 3308 South Stafford Street, I encourage you to visit. Patrick is the leader of a staff who ably maintains this great facility and works to develop more Fairlington-centric activities—the December Fairlington Fun Night was one example. He does what it takes to get the job done, and he does this with a friendly and professional demeanor. I've seen toddlers, teenagers, and adults using this community center for social, health, and civic-minded activities.

My column does not permit me to recognize the hundreds of county staff who make a difference to this community, but I ask you to take the time and be thankful for the good things we have in Fairlington, and remember the staff who make a difference.

I remain,
Faithfully,

Sam Anthony

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Memories and Artifacts Emerge at the FCA Meeting



Jill Wilson and Margaret Shannon display unearthed treasures. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

Show and Tell

An overflow crowd of enthusiastic residents shared fond memories of our neighborhood during the Fairlington Historical Society's presentation at the FCA meeting in January. Long-time residents recalled a time in the 1970s and 80s when, after the condominium conversion, the tennis club was in full swing and Fairlington attracted lots of young single home buyers, many federal employees and congressional staffers. Several attendees confirmed the notion that people tend to stay in Fairlington or come back to Fairlington: They lived here as children and returned decades later to buy homes, or they bought a home, moved away, and returned 10 years later, or, instead of moving, they switched units or bought multiple units—all testimony to the staying power of our community.

That Fairlington does, indeed, *have* a fascinating history, sometimes buried in back patios or secreted in walls or beneath old tiles, was demonstrated when two residents produced 12-inch-tall green glass Coke bottles from the 70s. Mews resident Jill Wilson found hers during a plumbing repair that required taking out the wall in the basement laun-



FHS officers Patricia Clark, Terry Placek, and Cynthia Kunz with FCA president Sam Anthony at the January meeting.

dry room. Mews resident Margaret Shannon, a professional historian, had cautioned her construction crew to save anything found when digging out the exterior access to an old coal chute: They unearthed a Coke bottle identical to Wilson's and a square glass milk bottle from the 1940s. And another Mews resident, Chandra Burnside, added to the collection by e-mail: She removed a piece of paneling covering the dead space under the stairs and discovered a fully intact, clear glass 16-ounce Cherry Smash bottle.

Documenting and Preserving the Past

FHS officers Terry Placek, Cynthia Kunz, and Patricia Clark have witnessed the trends in ownership and applauded the found treasures emerging from our walls over the years—more important, they were

instrumental in obtaining historic designation for Fairlington. The work began in 1988, with lots of different people walking the grounds, taking photos, and documenting the structures. The FHS formed in 2000, and this year marks the 10-year anniversary of FHS's founding, after the group successfully secured Virginia Landmark (1998) and

National Register (1999) status for Fairlington. Since then, residents often turned to the FHS with questions during a remodeling: Can we put in a skylight? Can we switch from slate to shingles? FHS emphasizes that they have no authority to vet construction-choice decisions—authorization and enforcement remain the province of the seven condo associations—but FHS can provide guidance on what is consistent and appropriate for Fairlington's built environment. Thus we're fortunate that FHS is developing a style guide for Fairlington, with the help of a local architect. In addition to providing links to expert resources, the style guide will review colors, designs, materials, and surfaces that preserve Fairlington's historic character.

For more information, go online to www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Learn about Arlington's Backyard Treasures, February 4: You can learn some surprising things about plants, animals, and insects in our densely populated urban environment at a meeting for the Natural Heritage Resource Inventory, a multi-year effort to survey and document all of Arlington's natural resources. Within the county boundaries are globally-rare natural communities, ages-old forest remnants, wetlands and springs, a number of state champion trees, and unique locations harboring many uncommon plants and wild flowers. The program, introduced by County Board Chairman Jay Fissette, will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 4 at the Central Library auditorium, 1015 N. Quincy Street.

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The FCA Supports Issues and Events for 2010



Planning is underway to officially open the newly completed picnic shelter in Utah Field Park as part of the county's Neighborhood Day celebration in May. Photograph by Ed Hilz.

The 2010 FCA board reported in January its strategic goals for the new year, to include work on transportation, communications, neighborhood conservation, and the development of an FCA handbook (see the January 2010 *All Fairlington Bulletin*, page 5). In support of these goals, the following are issues and events of a short-term or time-specific nature that FCA will sponsor or support during 2010.

FHS style guide: With the help of the county office of historic preservation, the Fairlington Historical Society will develop a style guide to educate the public about historic preservation and highlight its role in our community's cohesiveness. Through the guide, FHS hopes to provide residents: background information on Fairlington's unique history and built environment (architecture, construction, use of space, and landscape design); comprehensive guidelines (including expert advice and links to useful resources) for maintaining Fairlington's common property and for renovating private spaces, while upholding the criteria for the community's historic designation (with its tax credit advantages); and a framework for supporting a "community memory." The FCA will provide a forum/conduit for gathering and disseminating related information among the seven homeowners associations. To that end, FCA will schedule fact-find meetings with the association boards to obtain their input and ideas.

The 2010 census: The FCA recognizes the need for an accurate count of our community in order to share appropriately in county, state, and federal resources. The FCA's March meeting speaker will address this topic.

Neighborhood Day, May 15: Fairlington's participation in this traditional county celebration will center on the newly built picnic shelter in Utah Field Park. FCA will

coordinate the event and will seek to enlist the support and assistance of community groups.

July 4 parade: FCA again will work closely with Fairlington Villages (and expand efforts to recruit volunteer assistance from other homeowners associations) to organize this popular annual event. The parade features an ever-growing crowd of residents marching up S. Abingdon Street, entertainment and refreshments in the North Fairlington Community Center parking lot, and support from the Fairlington fire station and 3rd District police officers.

Firehouse: The FCA will monitor the status of this county facility, which is an important and popular landmark in Fairlington. We will do whatever is possible to ensure the firehouse remains as a part of our community and, to that end, we will provide updates, as needed, on the FCA Web site and in the *AFB*.

Abingdon School: Amid news of county budget cuts and potential impacts on Fairlington's neighborhood school, FCA will continue to offer a forum for various stakeholders to voice their opinions and discuss the issues. In December, PTA and parents coalition representatives explained their concerns, and a member of the county school board will discuss budget challenges at the February FCA meeting.

Fairlington community yard sales: The FCA will continue to support the spring and fall yard sales, which are organized by Fairlington Villages and held in the North Fairlington CC parking lot.

Jobs in Arlington with the 2010 Census

The 2010 census needs lots of Arlington census takers. A census job offers pay of \$20 an hour, flexible hours, paid training, and the chance to work independently in one's own community. For more information, including a practice test, contact www.2010censusjobs.gov or call the toll-free jobs line to arrange a test to be eligible for a census job, 1-866-861-2010. *Note:* Learn more about the census at the FCA meeting in March, when a demographer from the county's Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development will discuss how the 2010 census reflects changes in Arlington's population over the last 10 years and how changes may affect Arlington's representation in Congress and how federal funds are spent in the community.

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Property Tax Calendar for 2010



January 1: Assessments are determined by the Department of Real Estate Assessments each year, based on fair market value as of January 1.

January 15: Notices of assessment are sent out around mid-January. If you have not received your notice, you may need to notify the DREA of a new address. It is your responsibility to do this so that you will receive the notice. (See the box, at right.)

March 1: The deadline for filing a request for Review of Assessment.

April 30 (or thereabouts): The Arlington County Board sets the tax rate at the end of April. For 2009, the tax rate was \$0.865 per \$100 of assessed value. An additional \$0.01 per \$100 was added to this for storm-water system maintenance.

May 15 and September 5: Property owners should receive a tax bill around these dates, about four weeks prior to the payment due dates. Homeowners with mortgages usually pay property tax through an escrow account with the mortgage-servicer. If, however, you pay into escrow and also receive a tax bill, forward the bill to the mortgage company. You should ask them to request, in writing, the bill from the Treasurer's office for future billings. It is the mortgage company's responsibility to request a tax bill for payment of your taxes and the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that the taxes are paid on time.

June 15 and October 5: Real estate property taxes, installments 1 and 2 respectively, are due.

For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Departments>Treasurer>Real Property. You can also call 703-228-3920 for real estate assessments and 703-228-3090 for real estate payments.

Address Changes

If your mailing address has changed, you must notify Arlington's Department of Real Estate Assessments, and you must contact DREA directly. Failure to do so means you may not receive future tax bills (which could mean penalties and interest applied to delinquent taxes). DREA can accept a change of address notification ONLY with the signature of an owner. They will accept changes by mail, FAX, or as an attachment to an e-mail—an e-mail alone is not acceptable. Send your new mailing address to:

Arlington County Department of Real Estate
Assessments
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 611
Arlington, VA 22201
FAX: 703-228-3440
Email: realog2@arlingtonva.us.

Arlington Home Sales Higher than Regional Trend

In mid-January, based on data collected by the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems Inc., the area's multiple-listing service, the *Sun Gazette* newspapers reported that home sales across Arlington in 2009 were up 12 percent from a year before, higher than the Northern Virginia increase of nine percent. "The county's real estate market was able to show gains [in December] even though many first-time home-buyers had rushed to complete transactions by the end of November in order to qualify for a federal tax credit, which has since been extended. That push for a November closing meant that many jurisdictions across Northern Virginia saw lower sales in December." Six of nine Arlington zip codes surveyed recorded "up" figures in total number of homes sold in December over the same month last year; three zip codes recorded "down" figures. For zip code 22206: "Sales totaled 14, down from 25. The average sales price of \$387,364 was down 6.3 percent, while the median sales price of \$399,950 was up 3.1 percent. Homes spent an average of 30 days on the market, down from 41." For more information, go online to www.sungazette.net and search Arlington>real estate.



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Family Fun Night, February 5

Come join the excitement at the second Fairlington Fun Night on Friday, February 5, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the FCC. There will be games, crafts, music, food, and conversation, and once again there will be something for everyone: Active games for younger kids in the gym, board games, ping pong, Wii games, and Dance, Dance Revolution for bigger kids and adults, plus snacks and Valentine's Day crafts for all. Adults, with or without kids, can play Scrabble, listen to music, relax, and visit with neighbors. *New:* This time, there's a special room with Wii exclusively for teens! For more information, contact Paula Mathews at Bethanypaula@aol.com.



At the December Fun Night, neighbors enjoyed games, crafts, sports, and a gingerbread house workshop. Photographs by Karen Keyes.

Women Get Money Smart in Five Easy Classes

The Arlington office of Virginia Cooperative Extension will offer a five-session course on investing, which begins in February and is ideal for women who are new to investing or want to take charge of their financial future. Classes will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on consecutive Wednesday evenings at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street. The cost is \$20 for the accompanying textbook. To register, contact Jennifer Abel at 703-228-6417 or jabel@vt.edu.

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Feb. 3 | Financial basics |
| Feb. 10 | Investing basics |
| Feb. 17 | Investing for retirement |
| Feb. 24 | Insurance basics |
| Mar. 3 | Planning for future life events. |

What You Said about Stores in Shirlington

In the November *AFB*, the FCA asked Fairlington residents to weigh in on the kinds of stores that would make welcome additions to the mix of dining/hospitality options now available in Shirlington. FCA treasurer Ed Hilz conducted the survey from November 1 to 20, and the results are in, showing strong support for the following services: hardware store, deli, book store, pizza shop, clothing store, drug store, pet store, florist, house wares store, and quality quick food. The information has been forwarded to Federal Realty Investment Trust, the owners of Shirlington, and it is hoped that neighborhood desires will guide FRIT in selecting tenants to fill storefront vacancies.

Shirlington Library News: For complete program descriptions, please see the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx.

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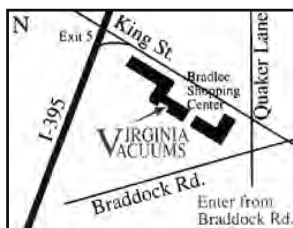
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WHO WE ARE:

DeLong Home Improvement (DHI) is a licensed and insured General Contracting firm, specializing in **kitchen, bathroom and basement** remodeling projects. We are a family business providing free estimates, personal service and superior results. Today, 90 percent of our company's business is in **Fairlington**, with 200+ projects completed in all of the neighborhoods in the past four years. Company owner Bob DeLong and his wife Anne are original Fairlington homeowners, with a townhouse purchased in 1977. DHI's office and workshop are in Clifton VA.

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DHI employs three full-time crews who will rotate through your home depending on the skills required at various points. You'll meet Bill, Mike, Jay, Benjamin, Carlos and Dave. These are our employees, not unknown subcontractors and not day-laborers. When you hire DeLong Home Improvement you receive the benefit of our crews' 100+ years of combined experience in the construction industry, and our Fairlington expertise.

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KITCHENS, BATHS, BASEMENTS!

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FAIRLINGTON *community center news*

Winter Classes at the FCC

Get the complete class description online or pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington* at the FCC. For more information, call 703-228-4747. Online registration began in December at www.arlingtonva.us (search PRCR>classes).

Kids' Art

New! Block-buster art workshops, \$29

240107B Thurs., Feb. 11, 7 to 9 p.m.

240107C Thurs., Feb. 25, same time

New! Coptic bookbinding workshop, \$53

240105A Sat., Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New! Storytelling series:

Bookmaking workshop, \$26
220111B Sat., Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to noon

220111C Sat., Feb. 13, same time

220111D Sat., Feb. 20, same time

Teens and Adults Art

Basic beading workshop, \$40
240150A Sat., Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Photography

Next Step: Digital SLR cameras, \$134

240172A Thurs., Feb. 25, 7 to 9 p.m.

Senior Center Events

Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for residents 55 and older. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information.

February 12, Valentine's Day project

February 16, Getting the most of

your senior years

February 18, Capitol hospice

February 26, Birthday celebration

Fairlington Cooperative Preschool

Registration for preschool for three to five year olds (beginning September 2010) starts in February. Call 703-228-6430 for details.

Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup

Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday, or Friday-only, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For tots 12 to 36 months (1 – 3 years old). Contact prfairlingtonplaygroup@fastmail.net.

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Help desk, 703-228-6414.

Open Play in Gym for those 13 and older

Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.

Family Fun Night, Part Two

February 5, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Come join Fairlington families for games, fun, and community spirit.

FCC Hours and Contact Info

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, closed.

Hours were effective February 1 but are subject to change. For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588. The center manager is Patrick Mallon, 703-228-6590, Pmallon@arlingtonva.us.

FCC Programs

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

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- ** Chicken Breast Stuffed with Sun-dried Tomato, Basil Mozzarella Cheese, and Roasted Asparagus*
- ** Grilled Salmon and Shrimp with Grilled Asparagus, and Fingerling Potatoes with a Lemon Garlic Sauce*

CHOOSE TWO HEART SHAPED PASTRIES

- ** Raspberry Marquis*
- ** Petit Four (Lemon Poppy Seed)*
- ** Chocolate Ganache (Truffle with Raspberry Glaze)*
- ** Raspberry White Chocolate*

**** All orders must be placed by 2:00 pm on February 13. Orders can be picked up on February 14, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm*

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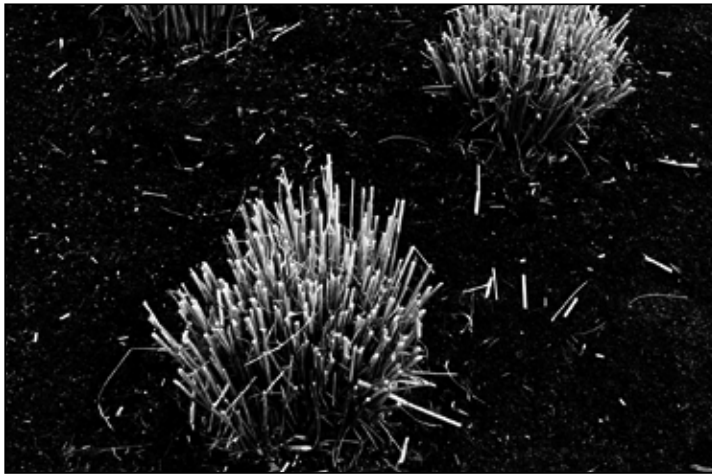


Beauty Found in the Barrenness of February

Absent the colorful blooms of spring and summer, one needs imagination to find beauty in February's cold and barren landscape. But it's there. For certain plant genres, in fact, now is show-time.

Let's begin in Shirlington. On the median strip between WETA and the Shell station, there is a collection of **Miscanthus sinensis** (Chinese ornamental grass) that has been radically pruned, so that new green foliage emerging in May won't be cluttered by dead stalks. Right now, you see a mass of—as a friend once called it—one-foot-tall, beige “shaving brushes.” In summer, the six-foot-tall blades will dance and lean in the wind to provide an attractive screen for interstate traffic.

Anywhere you drive in Fairlington you will notice **Nandina domestica**. As children, we were somehow drawn to the fruit of the holly, which is pretty sprinkled among the glossy green foliage. But with Nandina, the same red berries hang in heavy clumps from limp branches. In winter, they are a deep scarlet and will catch your eye from 75 yards away, even while driving. The Nandina is an evergreen, though the lance-shaped, smallish leaves are almost a blue-green with a string of red along the outer margin. On dwarf Nandina, the entire shrub becomes scarlet in winter. And they're quite hardy—the ones at the Shell station



Neat looking “shaving brushes” are hard-cropped Chinese ornamental grasses. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

managed well in our 16-inch Christmas week snowfall.

From September to early April, the flowers of the **Camellia** are noticeable. The rosette-shaped blooms with the half-inch-wide yellow centers show in red, pink, and white all year, except from May through August. Camellia comes in both a fall and winter-blooming species. When the flower is yet to bloom, fat pointed buds fill the branches (similar to the rhododendron though not sticky).

One shrub I don't care for is the **Euonymus japonica “Aurea”**—its yellowish-green leaves look unhealthily chlorotic. But come winter that yellow fills the dormant landscape, and the euonymus foliage, too, will shout for the passerby's notice from a block away. When every other shrub is either green or leafless, this one becomes one to admire. Up close, there is white and yellow variegation mixed in

with chlorophyll-green on the oval-shaped leaf. Prettier is the **Wintercreeper Euonymus**, a ground cover that crawls laterally and shows off a cream-colored leaf with a pink outline in cold weather. Its long strands can get tangled in nearby shrubs, but they're easy to prune and contain.

If you like a soft blue color, think about planting the **Deodar cedar**, **Colorado spruce** or **Blue Atlas cedar** this spring. Look for dwarf cultivars that will fit your patio. Due to a thin, white line on the needle, the foliage “turns” blue to the

eye. The leaves on these three specimens are erect and radiate from the stem, resembling a scrub-brush. Mixed in with evergreens, the blue-needled conifer is the perfect complement for a mix of color in winter.

To welcome orange into your winter garden, try **Pyracantha** (firethorn). Yes, it has thorns, but the shrub tends to espalier well against a fence or wall, and it doesn't grow wide. In addition to a white flower in April to May, the bush becomes filled with orange (sometimes yellow) fruit in fall and early winter—thus its common name. Where Preston Avenue meets I-395 in Parkfairfax, there is a collection of pyracantha growing against the cement foundation of the pedestrian bridge which crosses the highway into Shirlington. It's beautiful and much better looking than a bare cement facade.

—By Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

Choosing the Right Pet

I recently adopted a year-old border collie mix. I've always owned and loved this breed, so I know they are high-energy dogs, which can be a challenge. If you are thinking about getting a new or second pet, it's tempting to choose with your heart. But choosing the right pet to match you and your life is vital to being a happy pet owner. Below are some factors to consider:

- **Age.** Puppies and kittens are adorable, fun, and have a lot of energy. However, they can require a lot of training and may wreak havoc on your schedule and property. Do you truly have the time and patience younger pets require? Older pets, often overlooked at shelters, may already be trained or housebroken.
- **Lifestyle.** Are you sedentary or active? How many hours do you work or are you gone each



Photograph by Christine Chirichella.

day? If you prefer to come home at night and relax, a very active or young pet may not be right for you. Be realistic in assessing your own needs.

- **Energy Level.** Certain breeds have high energy and exercise needs. Does your energy level match that of your pet? Can you provide it with adequate exercise?

- **Household.** Who else lives in your household? Do you have children or elderly parents to care for? Be sure that everyone meets and feels comfortable with the prospective new pet and knows their role in taking care of the pet. Learn how to successfully introduce a new pet into your home.

I recently found a great online survey tool, "Meet Your Match," on the Washington Animal Rescue League Web site, www.warl.org.

Many other Web sites offer helpful information and resources on selecting a pet, so do some research before making a decision. With a little homework, honesty, and soul-searching, you can choose a pet that is right for you and your family.

—By Christine Chirichella, AFB
Assistant Editor

Great Backyard Bird Count

Dust off your binoculars and put them to good use February 12 to 15 by joining the Great American Backyard Bird Count. It's a fun way to kick the winter doldrums, get outdoors for short walks, and assist research scientists at the Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Just count the number and types of birds you see, and then submit your findings online. This gives scientists information about where birds are migrating, fluxes in populations (possibly a sign of disease), and how temperatures affect the birds. No experience required: You don't need



to know anything about birding (although past counters warn that GBBC participation may lead to a full-blown birding habit). Map out a 30-minute route from your front door (or do two 15-minute laps). Walk your route on one or all of the four days of the bird count. By-state tallies from

last year's count show that there were 51 participants in Arlington; 83 in Alexandria; 86 in Fairfax. The species most frequently sighted by Arlington counters was the Canada goose (436). That's not surprising since the Canada Goose was the bird with the most numerous sightings throughout Virginia (26,949). The common grackle came in second in Arlington, with 210 sightings. To learn birding basics, view an online photo identification guide, and see how to submit your numbers visit the GBBC Web site, www.birdsource.org/gbbc.



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Abingdon Girl Scouts have fun while building friendships and valuable leadership skills. Photograph by Michelle Marston.

February is Girl Scout Cookie Time

Abingdon Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts are selling Girl Scout cookies, and the classics are still around: Lemon Chalet Cremes, Trefoils (shortbread), Do-Si-Dos (peanut butter sandwiches), Samoas (caramel, coconut, and chocolate), Tagalongs (chocolate covered peanut butter on a vanilla cookie), and, of course, Thin Mints. They've also added two new flavors this year: Dulce de Leche (with milk caramel chips) and Thank U Berry Munch (with cranberries and white fudge chips).

Cookies are \$3.50 a box. All profits go to the Girl Scouts, with 60 cents from each box going directly to the selling troop. That money funds the troop's activities for the year. Last year, the Brownies earned enough to take the troop rock climbing—what an experience!

If you are interested in ordering cookies, contact the cookie manager, Beth Andrews, at gscookiesabingdon@verizon.net. Payment is due when you get your cookies. Thanks for supporting our girls.

Learn More about Architecture Class at Abingdon on February 16

For several months now, you've heard about how important the "Wheel" classes that are part of Project GIFT are to Abingdon. Now come learn about how this special class is used to supplement regular science, social studies, and math learning from our architecture teacher, David McDavitt. On February 16 from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m., prior to the PTA's regular business meeting, Mr. McDavitt will give a presentation about this extraordinary program. Join us for a free pizza dinner in the Abingdon

Elementary Library to hear all about architecture at Abingdon. And feel free to stick around after the presentation to see what else the Abingdon PTA is up to.

Next Movie Night is Friday, February 5

Please join us for the next Abingdon Elementary Movie Night on Friday, February 5. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:30. The PTA serves pizza for a dollar a slice and drinks and snacks for just 50 cents. Thanks to the generosity of our neighborhood movie theater, AMC Loews Shirlington 7, we're now featuring real movie-theater popcorn. Bring your blankets and pillows to get comfy on the multi-purpose room floor or take a seat in one of the chairs. The feature-length, live-action film *Scooby-Doo! The Mystery Begins* will be shown in February.

There will be one additional movie night on Friday, March 12. The films are always family friendly and are a great way for a cheap family date night.

Johnny Rockets Spirit Night on March 3

Abingdon Elementary will be having its next fundraising spirit night on Wednesday, March 3. Join us for dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. that night. Johnny Rockets will donate a portion of each purchase to the PTA to help us support our teachers and students. Make sure to tell your waiter or waitress that you're there to support Abingdon Elementary School.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president

neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), will meet at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month, with the exception of the months of July and August when there is only one meeting on the third Thursdays of those months. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

In February, the Fair Golds will have a business meeting on Thursday, February 4, and on Thursday, February 18, a program on "Personal Safety and Security" with Heather Hurlock, Crime Prevention Specialist, Arlington County Police. We always welcome guests and/or new members. The only requirement is that you be over 55 years of age. Please feel free to join us at one or more of our meetings and see if Fair Golds is a group you would be interested in joining. We try to arrange a special program or engage a speaker for the second Thursday meeting of the month. If you would like more information about Fair Golds, feel free to call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernetta Kukulich at 703-548-8571.

Fairlington Diners

We're a diverse group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month, and focus on having a good meal in great company. This month, we'll explore a restaurant in Shirlington for half-price burgers, as well as return to Cassatt's, where we had a great meal a couple of years ago. Come out and join us this month.

Wednesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m., Bear Rock Cafe, 4251 Campbell Ave., 703-575-8055, www.bearrockcafe.com. In addition to half-price burgers on Wednesdays, there are a variety of sandwich choices for \$5.99 with the purchase of a beverage. Join us for good company in an informal atmosphere.

Monday, February 22, 7:30 p.m., Cassatt's, 4536 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA, 703-527-3330. This is a New Zealand-style cafe that we enjoyed very much a couple of years ago. Come try a Kiwi Burger, which does not feature fruit but an egg on top. There's plenty of parking in back.

Please call Carol to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Prior to the day of the event, please call at 703-379-6840. On the day of the event, please call by 6 p.m. at 202-647-2613. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly at either number, and include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Fairlington Thirty Somethings

The F30s stepped out in January for fabulous margaritas and guacamole at Rosa Mexicano in Washington, DC. This month's happy hour will be on February 18, at 7:15 p.m., at the bar at Capitol City Brewery in Shirlington. With luck you'll spot the sign, and we will also let the hostesses know where the group is assembled. Come on out and get things rolling for the New Year—and please let Jeff know you're coming.

The Fairlington 30-Somethings is a social group for people who live in Fairlington. Members range from their mid-twenties to their mid-forties. Singles and couples are welcome. The F30s have monthly happy hours that tend to alternate between Shirlington and another local neighborhood in Arlington or Alexandria. They also sometimes organize other activities, such as attending concerts or plays and inner-tubing or beach trips. Kavita Kalsy and Jeff Hewitt would love your help with organizing events. If you'd like to be on the e-mail list or help organize, please e-mail kkalsy@hotmail.com or j.b.hewitt@verizon.net.

Wakefield Senior Wins Full Scholarship

Congratulations to Wakefield student and Fairlington resident Jeremy Letournel, who was one of seven APS seniors selected as a Posse Scholarship recipient. Each student will receive a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to college, worth more than \$140,000 each for their leadership.

neighborhood news

Continued

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Looking to meet other parents in Fairlington? Join the MOMS Club® of Arlington-Fairlington, VA chapter of the International MOMS Club® (MOMS Offering Moms Support) designed for stay-at-home and part-time at-home parents (moms and dads) in Fairlington.

Members and their children participate in monthly meetings, weekly age-specific playgroups, member planned outings, community service projects, family meal support, Parent's Night Out, and much more. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions.

For more information, contact Lorna Loring at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com. Or join us for our general meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 3:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Community Center (please walk if possible due to the construction).

Book Group

The Book Group will not meet in February. We will meet again on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center to discuss *The Senator's Wife* by Sue Miller. For further information, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.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.

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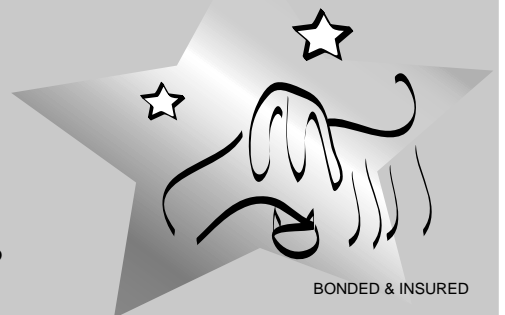


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| <p>TELEPHONE WORK by Hughes Communications: Need a new jack for a computer modem, fax machine, new 2nd line or just for convenience. Call me with questions or for an appointment. Recently retired; over 30 yrs experience. Licensed and insured. Save 40% off Verizon prices. Owner/ Technician. Al Hughes 703-354-4528.</p> | <h2>Home Improvements</h2> | <p>KITCHEN CEILING. Serving Fairlington since 1978. We have developed several ceiling designs. Talk to us about your kitchen renovation needs. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com</p> |
| | <p>HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.</p> | |
| <p>COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767 - jandgonline.com.</p> | <p>WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.</p> | <p>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. fairlingtonmaintenance.com</p> |
| | <p>HANDYMAN. Senior Craftsmen, Inc. Biff Henley. Licensed, insured, bonded. 703-403-5354. Seniorcraftsmen@Verizon.net</p> | |
| <p>HEALTH INSURANCE. Paying too much! We offer affordable plans for individuals and families. Call DiGennaro Health Insurance Brokerage 703-402-6633. Ask for Terry.</p> | <p>HOME INSPECTOR. Biff Henley, Senior Craftsmen, Inc. American Home Inspector Training Institute Certified. 703-403-5354.</p> | <p>AWESOME HANDYMAN/ PAINTING/REMODEL SERVICES. Painting, drywall, carpentry, tile, kitchen and bath remodeling, renovations. Free estimates. Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Serving Northern Virginia for over 25 years. Class-A lic/insured Virginia contractor. 703-929-4676.</p> |
| <p>COMPUTER PROBLEM? Don't overspend to fix it. We provide free estimates, evening hours, weekends, and on-site services. We can handle anything computer related. BeltwayPC. com 571-969-1122</p> | <p>DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. Very experienced in Fairlington. Visit - www.doorsolutions.biz - for information- prices-contact.</p> | |
| <p>MAY ISLAND RESTAURANT. Chinese, Japanese, Fusion specials. 1669 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302. Phone 703-575-4455. mayisland1.com</p> | <p>PAINTING. Greg the painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.</p> | <p><i>Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.</i></p> |
| | | |

Mini-ads

R.R. HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.

Celebrating our 20 year anniversary with very LOW RATES. We do: painting, drywall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Call us. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151.

BATHROOM AND KITCHEN RENOVATIONS.

We are large enough to do it right, small enough to care. We have many years of experience renovating kitchens and bathrooms in the Fairlington community along with an established reputation for offering honest, professional and dependable service. Licensed and insured. Call GMG Services Corporation 703-354-4270 or e-mail us at sales@gmgservices.com.

PROFESSIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT.

We know your neighborhood! Whether you want to renovate your kitchen or bathroom, finish your basement or simply brighten up your house with a fresh coat of paint, we're the ones to call. Licensed and insured. For professional and dependable service call GMG Services at 703-354-4270 or e-mail us at sales@gmgservices.com.

HANDYMAN SERVICE. Got a long list of "to do's"? Call GMG Services for your handyman needs. We are qualified, reliable and reasonably priced. Most importantly we offer you peace of mind: we have a longstanding and established reputation in the Fairlington community for offering honest, professional and dependable service. GMG Services 703-354-4270 or e-mail us at sales@gmgservices.com.

EXCEPTIONAL INTERIORS.

Kitchens, bathrooms, interiors. Cabinetry, Wainscoting, Faux Painting, Design Consultation. G. Witt Construction. 267-221-8335. 571-312-5999.

PROFESSIONAL PAINTING. 25 years experience. Licensed, bonded, and insured. Clean, neat, reliable. Painting, plastering, wallpaper hanging and removal. References available. Reasonable rates. Call Steve Chute at 571-216-9338 or 703-912-1450.

FAIRLINGTON'S Stephen Samuel – available to meet all home repair/remodeling/renovation needs – painting, wall and ceiling repair, carpeting, flooring, kitchen and bathroom upgrade, carpentry, welding, plumbing, and more. Inside and outside work. Photos at www.myspace.com/caribbeanize. 703-405-9479. Great work, great references, GREAT PRICES!

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your remodeling needs. Kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Call 703-499-2249 for a free estimate. Visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, experienced, honest and affordable. LICENSED, BONDED, & INSURED. Regular, one-time, or move-out cleaning available. Specializing in detailed cleaning. No machines to talk to. 703-820-1808.

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

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trust-worthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are reasonable, our service is thorough and we love pets. 703-820-8635.

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

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

PURRFECTLY KLEEN CLEANING SERVICE, INC.

Residential green cleaning. Professional, English speaking, thorough and reliable service. We are licensed and insured, with workers legal to work in the United States. References from long time clients are always available. Visit our website for pricing and details on the services we provide. www.purrfectlykleen.com. Contact 703-509-8393 or e-mail info@purrfectlykleen.com.

Pet Services

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC.

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

BOW-HOUSE PET CARE. Pet care in your home. Dog-walks; mid-day visits; holidays and vacations. Accredited. Bonded & Insured. Licensed. We'll "sit" for your pets. 703-998-3307. www.bow-housepetcare.com. References available.

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

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Reliable, flexible, and friendly midday, holiday or vacation care for your pets. Serving Fairlington for over 10 years. Excellent references 703-765-0990.

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|--|---|--|
| M ini-ads | FOR RENT. Top floor, great view-one bedroom apartment. North Fairlington. Kitchen/bath upgrades, washer/dryer, attic storage, private balcony, wall to wall carpet, storm windows. No smokers, no pets. Available February 1st or sooner. John and John Team 703-820-9723. | |
| HOME ALONE FELINES. Loving, professional in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com. | Help Wanted | |
| Real Estate | MAKE EXTRA MONEY!! Need 9-12 year olds to deliver flyers, 10 cents a flyer! 800 count. Call Bonnie B at 703-801-7592. | |
| FSBO. Beautifully renovated Berkeley unit 29th/Buchanan. Contact Patti 703-850-0781. | | |

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Feb. 10th for Mar. issue)

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

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: fca.fairlington.ads@gmail.com

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

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: _____ Phone (h): _____

Address: _____ Phone (w): _____

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

Category (see newsletter for options): _____

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____



Serving Fairlington & all of Northern Virginia
Your Neighbor for over 35 years.

Featured Listings of the Month
For more details or pics, visit our office or our website
703-998-3111 **ArlingtonSouthSales.Infre.com**



Fairlington
Arlington, VA
Braddock □ Updated

2 BRs/1 BA
Sq ft: 1,220

Price: \$349,000
MLS# AR7228253

Aurora Hills
Arlington, VA

3 BRs/2 BAs
Colonial

Price: \$740,000
MLS# AR7220537



Douglas Park
Arlington, VA

3 BRs/1 BA
Sq ft: 1,800

Price: \$424,900
MLS# AR7229615

Tower Villa
Arlington, VA

2 BRs/2 BAs
Sq ft: 1,500

Price: \$472,000
MLS# AR7224896



Saxony Square
Alexandria City, VA

2 BRs/1.5 BAs
Sq ft: 1,182

Price: \$95,000
MLS# AX7205237

Courtbridge
Arlington, VA

1 BR/1 BA
Sq Ft: 748

Price: \$259,000
MLS# AR7231265



Brilyn Park
Falls Church, VA

4 BRs/3 BAs
Split Level

Price: \$599,000
MLS# FX7145663

Sandy Shores Vista
Deep Creek Lake

5 BRs/5.5 BAs
Log Home

Price: \$789,000
MLS#: GA7046096



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