

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2011

Volume 37, Number 2

More trees make a better neighborhood

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 7 p.m.

Note: No speaker/presentation in February.

Fair Golds meeting

Thursday, February 3, noon
FCC

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, February 9
FCC
Call for details.

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.
Peking Gourmet Inn
Falls Church

Fair Golds meeting

Thursday, February 17, noon
FCC

Helicopter forum

Wednesday, February 23, 7 – 9 p.m.
County Board room
Arlington

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.
Ramparts Restaurant
Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on pages 19–20 and related articles for details about calendar events.

In the last several months, Fairlington has benefited from Arlington's commitment to renewing the urban forest, with special attention to replacing the county-owned street trees that were uprooted, broken, or damaged in the severe wind-burst storm of August 5, 2010. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, which manages Arlington's public trees, led the speedy clean-up after the storm and undertook the replanting effort. The county's Urban Forester, Dick Miller, conducted the assessment of Fairlington's street trees to determine each tree's health and prospects for survival or need for removal. PRCR's Forestry Section tree crew supervisor, Tony Ruth, supervised the subsequent pruning and removal of too-badly-damaged trees.



Staked striplings of pin oak, red maple, and London plane tree—replacements for storm-damaged trees—can be seen throughout Fairlington. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

On Fairlington streets, the county removed 24 trees due to storm damage and replaced them, almost one-for-one, with 23 trees—one storm-damaged tree on S. 34th Street could not be replaced because of the site's root mass. An additional 21 trees were planted, for a total of 44 newly planted street trees in Fairlington.

Even more leafy increases can be seen in the parkland areas of Utah Park (10 trees removed, 20 planted), Abingdon School/Fort Reynolds Park (12 trees removed, 20 planted), and the community center (eight trees removed, 14 planted). The one-for-one replacement of street trees is guided primarily by the finite public terrain between curb and sidewalk. But, says PRCR's Landscape and Forestry Supervisor, Jamie Bartalon, tree planting in county-owned parklands can take a broader view, by assessing the landscape and seeking to achieve the best forest composition for the site. Thus, explains Patrick Wegeng, PRCR's Environmental Landscape Supervisor, the new pin oaks and black gums in Fort Reynolds Park were chosen primarily because they will do

Continued on page 5

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 president@fca-fairlington.org 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 meeting: There is no scheduled speaker for the February FCA board meeting.

7:05 p.m. Regular business meeting:

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

Sign up for updates

Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to sign up for neighborhood news delivered right to your inbox.

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.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	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	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
703-243-1735 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 703-243-1735 #1.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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

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FCA plans for 2011

At its January planning meeting, the FCA board appointed delegates to the Arlington and Alexandria civic association federations and, guided by December's survey of residents' opinions, explored ways to support and foster participation. The board discussed potential speakers for upcoming meetings; events that FCA might sponsor; and ways to monitor local issues of concern.

Local, state, and federal elected officials topped the board's prospective line-up for 2011 speakers, particularly to address residents' concerns about public safety and transportation issues (BRAC and HOT construction). In addition, the board explored opportunities to work closely with the seven condo associations and to engage in innovative partnerships.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

A couple of weeks ago, I got an e-mail from a Fairlington neighbor about a dog that had escaped. The message was sent to a number of people who the owner thought might be out and about and could keep an eye out for the dog, or who might have ideas about how to find the dog. Don't worry, the dog was found relatively quickly and completely unharmed. (And you can learn more about dogs-gone-wild on page 13 of this issue.)

There were many good ideas offered and several people immediately went out to help look, but there was one suggestion that got me thinking. Someone suggested that the owner post a message on the Facebook page for the Fairlington Appreciation Society, which is the Facebook group for the Fairlington Citizens Association.

If you log onto Facebook and start typing "Fairlington" into the search engine, the Fairlington Appreciation Society page will come up. Anyone can join and anyone who joins can post on the wall. It's a great way to share information. For instance, a while ago, someone asked about window replacement in Fairlington and got feedback from people who'd been through that. It's certainly a good way to spread the word about lost pets, and all sorts of Fairlington events are listed there. If you have your own events that are in any way Fairlington related, please post them on the Facebook page.

We meet so many of our Fairlington neighbors walking around, at the pool, and, for some of us, at the bus stop. However there are a lot of people we won't run across in the real world who might be able to share good ideas online.

The great thing about the Facebook group is that, unlike the FCA Web site (which is also great!), anyone can post to the Facebook group. This means it will be whatever Fairlington residents make of it.

If you haven't joined the Facebook group, I encourage you to do so. I'd love to see it become a place where information is exchanged and lively discussions occur. If you're facing a repair or home project, you can ask hundreds of Fairlington neighbors with the click of a mouse and get advice that might save you a lot of time and money. Also, if your pet is lost, post a photo on the group and we'll all be on the lookout.

Sincerely,

Reed Franklin

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well on the site—they replicate a bottomlands hardwood grouping and their placement is designed to take advantage of ground moisture at the park's perimeter. At the same time, to enhance the overall landscape, the trees are aligned to form a pleasing cluster in their lower topographic setting. Wegeng, who selects the county's trees and manages site selection, says his goal is "the right tree in the right place."

For most of Fairlington's replacement street trees, Wegeng deployed pin oaks, red maples, and London plane trees. The plane tree, a hybridized cousin of the American sycamore, is resistant to a fungus that afflicts the sycamore—as a result, the London plane adapts well to city streets and has become the urban tree of choice in North America and Europe. The plane tree is easy to recognize: The outer bark peels away to create a mottled patchwork of white, tan, gray, green, and yellow—some people think it looks like camouflage. The pin oak, reports Wegeng, is a terrific residential tree, a "tough species" with a pleasing pyramidal shape, which is a popular landscape specimen for much of the eastern United States. It is a tall, stately hardwood that Wegeng likes for its verticality—an important consideration along Fairlington's narrow streets. The highly ornamental red maple is known for its strong physical form and bright fall foliage. The cultivar chosen for Fairlington, "October Glory," was developed for a brighter, longer-lasting red—it will be one of the first trees to show fall color, and the brilliant display will hold on longer into the fall.

Clearly, Wegeng's choices involved more than just a rote replacement, in the same spot, of the same kind of tree lost in the storm. Rather, he assessed the setting, noting the kinds of trees already in place, the surrounding canopy, and the need for shade, with an eye to improving the overall streetscape. If, for example, there was a red maple growing in the area, he added another red maple as a complement. Where a removed tree left an unsightly gap, he replaced it with two. All three tree types, says Wegeng, will provide a much broader canopy than would, say, replacements of cherry and ginkgo. And, too, they will add some welcome diversity to the trees already in Fairlington—an important feature of natural resource management's move away from creating a monoculture. Perhaps most important is the fact that these replacement trees have demonstrated success as street trees. "Pin oak is the toughest," says Wegeng, "and the London plane tree is a superior street tree because it can stand up to our area's periods of heat and dryness." In short, "we want them to survive," says Wegeng.

Currently, the replacement trees are dormant. But in the spring they will begin to green, and, with the arrival of warmer weather, some street trees will benefit from the helping hand of neighbors. In April, Wegeng will provide information about when, how, and how long/much to water a struggling street tree near your home, as well as information about ways residents can participate in the county's tree renewal programs. For more information about Arlington's trees, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search trees.



Red maple



London plane tree bark



Pin oak



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State legislators discuss issues of interest to local voters

Last month, the Arlington County Civic Federation held its annual legislative delegation program, hosting locally elected state legislators who represent portions of Arlington and Alexandria: State Delegates Robert Brink, Adam Ebbin, David Englin, and Patrick Hope, and State Senator Margaret Whipple. Senator Patsy Ticer could not attend. (Fairlington is located in Virginia's 45th district, represented by Delegate Englin.) FCA board member Guy Land attended the meeting and noted the following items of interest on the agenda:



Governor McDonnell's proposed infrastructure bank for funding road construction includes a provision for \$50 million to finance private developers who build roads under public-private partnerships. Potentially, as Delegate Englin noted, the proposal has implications for our area, particularly as it might affect the I-95/395 HOT lanes project. Despite Arlington County's opposition, the HOT project stalled two years ago only because the private road-building consortium, Transurban-Fluor, was unable to secure outside investment to underwrite the construction costs amid the nation's financial crisis. The infrastructure bank proposal would enable the state to provide the road builder with the financing that it could not get from Wall Street.

As a result of the 2010 census, all state legislative districts will be redrawn this year, and the elections in November 2011 will reflect the newly drawn districts. Because of redistricting, which could become a contentious and partisan issue in the General Assembly, it is expected that the schedule for primaries and elections will slide to later dates. According to Delegate Brink, legislators anticipate that primaries will shift from the scheduled date of June 14 to September 13. However, as officials noted, it is possible that the entire redistricting process could "go off-track," which might cause the timetable to shift dramatically—even to the extent that this year's November elections would follow the old districts. In addition, Virginia's redistricting is subject to clearance under the Voting Rights Act, which means that new districts must be approved by the Justice Department before they can go into effect. For the special session in April that will deal with redistricting, legislators were considering options to ensure new districts would be drawn and approved in a timely fashion.

For more information about the General Assembly session now underway, go online to legis.state.va.us.

A liquor store next to Starbucks?

Governor Robert McDonnell's proposal to privatize the state's 77-year-old liquor-sales monopoly could nearly triple the number of stores statewide that sell distilled spirits, from 332 state-run ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) stores to about 1,000 private retail outlets. Virginia is one of only 18 states that still control their alcoholic beverage stores. Under the scaled-back privatization plan, the state would continue to act as the wholesaler of liquor, buying from distilleries and selling to private retailers. It would allow Virginians to buy liquor in places where beer and wine currently are sold—grocery stores, convenience stores, big-box stores—or in private stores that sell alcohol. All liquor outlets would have to buy a license. As originally proposed, the plan calls for 1,000 licenses to be auctioned to 600 large stores, 150 free-standing package stores, 150 drug and convenience stores, and 100 small stores.

The privatization proposal was touted to accomplish two things: Get the state out of the liquor-sales business and bring in millions of dollars in revenue through the sale of the state's ABC stores. But the original plan met opposition: Budget-watchers said it would bring in less revenue to the state each year, and religious leaders objected to wider availability of alcohol, saying it would lead to increased social ills like underage drinking and drunk driving. The current, revenue-adjusted proposal will be taken up at the General Assembly session that convened on January 12.

Vote on car decals this month

The four finalist artists' designs for Arlington's 2011-12 car decals are now available for viewing, and voting, on the county's Web site. The public can vote on the designs through February 13, and the winner will be announced at the February 15 county board meeting. The four designs were selected from among 24 submissions by Arlington high school students in the annual competition, now in its seventh year. The winning design will be reproduced on about 155,000 decals (indicating that personal property-tax has been paid) that will begin appearing on Arlington vehicles this summer. To view the decals and vote, go online to www.arlingtonva.us, click on Treasurer, and go to decal design competition or go to www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/treasurer/forms/DecalVote10_11_sav.asp.



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For the birds, February 18 – 21



Hawk eyed: This red-shouldered hawk was spotted perched on a chimney in the Arbor on December 30. Photograph by Sara Elder.

an immense, detailed picture of winter birds. You can count birds for as little as 15 minutes on one day or for as long as you like each day of the event. Tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time, and then report the counts by filling out an online checklist at the GBBC Web site. You may also send in photographs of the birds seen—a selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery. Use the site's many participation tools to see, for example, how this year's numbers compare with previous years and what kinds of birds are found in Arlington, in Virginia, or in any participating location. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

The GBBC is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada and sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information, go online to <http://birdsource.org/gbbc>.

Chopper talk: Sponsored by the metropolitan area Council of Governments, there will be a Helicopter Forum on Wednesday, February 23, 7 to 9 p.m., in the Arlington County Board room, 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Room 300. Find out how this issue can be addressed and what can be done about helicopter overflights. For background information, see the story, "Helos sometimes fly off-route and too low," in the November 2010 *AFB*.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event, taking place this year from Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21. GBBC engages bird watchers of all ages, beginners to experts, in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Scientists use the counts, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, to assemble

Recycle opportunities every Saturday

Arlington's Department of Environmental Services runs twice-yearly E-Care recycling events, usually in April and October, for collection of household hazmat materials, including electronics (TVs and CRT monitors contain, on average, six to eight pounds of lead and other harmful materials that must be reclaimed.) The next E-Care event is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2011. But you don't have to wait for E-Care—you can recycle every Saturday at a county facility.

The county's household hazmat (HHM) disposal office accepts individual drop-offs (from Arlington households, not businesses) most Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (except during major holidays and scheduled E-Care events). Call the facility, first, to confirm open/closed dates: 703-228-6832. The HHM drop-off facility is located on the grounds of the Water Pollution Control Plant on South Glebe Road; follow the signs to the HHM entrance at 530 South 31st Street.

Household hazmat covers a wide variety of items, including cell phones, stereo/video equipment, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), lawn and garden chemicals, flammable cleaning solvents, and oil and latex paint. Computer monitors are accepted for a \$15 fee; televisions can be recycled for a \$20 fee. (For more information about computer recycling, call the Solid Waste Division at 703-228-6570.) Citizens are encouraged to confirm acceptability of their materials by first calling the HHM chemist at the facility.

For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search recycling.

Let it snow... and keep these numbers handy

Report downed power lines:

Dominion Virginia Power, 1-888-667-3000

Check with county inclement weather hotlines before venturing out in a storm:

Public schools (toll free), 1-866-322-4APS (4277)

Snow clearing status, 703-228-6485

Parks snow desk, 703-228-6525

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County classes, 703-228-4715



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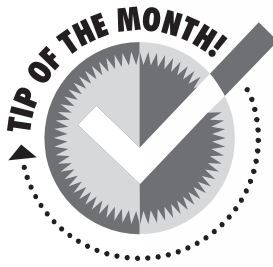
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Dogs gone AWOL, part one: Before the escape and when he's still in sight

Recently, I've witnessed a number of my neighbors' dogs making "great escapes," whether by wriggling out of their collars on a walk or slipping underneath the back gate. In a population-dense area like Fairlington, your dog running loose can be a scary situation for you, the dog, and passersby. But unfortunately, no matter how careful a dog owner you are, there will likely come a time when your dog inadvertently gets away from you. Will you know what to do?



your dog is familiar with, like "treat" or "ball," to entice it to come to you. Carry these reward items to show your dog what it would get for returning.

Other tactics include running in the opposite direction and making noise so your dog will chase you, or lying on the ground so it will wonder what you are doing and come to investigate. In our dog-friendly community, you also can likely enlist neighbors walking by to help you.

As a precautionary measure, microchip your dog and always keep an ID collar on it so veterinarians and animal control can easily identify it if picked up on the street. Spay or neuter your dog to decrease its urge to roam. Invest in behavioral training so your dog learns potentially life-saving commands like "come" or "stay."

If your dog has gotten away from you but is still in sight, don't panic. Resist the temptation to chase your dog, as it may think you are playing and run from you. Use the "come" and "stay" commands, or another word

When you get your dog back, praise it and give it treats. You always want to reward rather than punish a dog for coming back, even if you are angry and feel like yelling at it.

Next month we'll look at how to find a dog that has run away and is no longer in sight. Until then, prepare yourself with these tactical maneuvers, and hope that you never have to use them.

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant AFB Editor

Fairlington Community Center news

Open play in gym

13 and older, Saturday, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

13 and younger, whenever no other scheduled programming is ongoing. Check the FCC bulletin board or call the FCC the day-of to confirm availability.

Precious metal clay

Learn about the latest material in jewelry making. Students will make a pendant and dangle earrings from start to finish. Learn properties and types of PMC®, how to form, roll, texture, drill, make bales, prepare for firing, and finishing techniques, including patinas. A \$40 materials fee is to be paid to the instructor at the first session. Inst.: Coupe. One session for adults, \$90, Sat., Feb. 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 240131A.

Texture

Learn the endless possibilities of using modeling paste in paintings to create texture. This class concentrates on abstract acrylic pieces. However, representational and oil painters will find countless ways the same techniques transfer to their work. In the last class, we'll explore additives—glass beads, fibers, and sand—that will enhance the texture of your work and suggest a whole new creative direction. All supplies included. Inst.: Jernigan. Four sessions for ages 16 to adult, \$124, Tues., Feb. 22, 7 to 9 p.m. 240138A.

Teen Fitness Challenge: Physical training by teens, for teens. Contact Shanan Knox, sknox@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-7782 for more information or visit www.arlingtonva.us and search teen fitness.

Holiday closings: The FCC will be closed on Monday, February 21, for Presidents Day.

FCC hours and contact info

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

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, closed.

Hours 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.

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Raspberry White Chocolate Mousse**

***** All orders must be placed by 2:00 pm on Saturday
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February 14, 2011 from 7:00 am to 6:45 pm.*****

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triple dipped strawberries, & X and O cookies*

alexandriapastry@comcast.net

DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Beware these prickly, poisonous, or toxic plants

In this space, I usually elaborate on the many benefits of plants. But some can be prickly and some may cause rashes, sickness, and, in extreme cases, death. Let's examine a few:

Yew. It's the most poisonous plant in the landscape. The guilty toxin, found in the yew's seed as well as needled foliage, is taxane, an alkaloid that interferes with proteins during cell division. Deadly symptoms are staggering, muscle tremors, convulsions, difficulty breathing, and heart failure. In *Woody Manual of Landscape Plants*, author Michael A. Dirr notes that full-grown cows have died after ingesting small amounts of yew foliage. Reportedly, horses have the lowest tolerance to taxane, and they have been found dead near yew shrubbery. Deer are impervious since they safely metabolize taxane. Surprisingly, the red, berry-like fruit (aril) surrounding the seed is not toxic. Fatal poisoning in humans is rare, since a lethal dose would be 50 to 100 grams.

Poison ivy. You know it is threatening just from its Latin name, *Toxicodendron radicans*. Poison ivy is not in the ivy, or *Hedera*, genus. The culprit in poison ivy is urushiol, a yellowish, oily allergen that irritates the skin. Leaves, sometimes shiny, grow in threes with the middle leaf the longest. In some cases, it looks like a lilac leaf. Poison ivy rapidly ascends trees, sinking its thick, reddish, hairy roots deep into the bark's longitudinal furrows, and its tenacity is just as problematic as its skin-irritant properties. Removing it can require a screwdriver or even the



Yew berries. Photograph courtesy of www.about.com.

force-multiplier of a pry bar, a tool more commonly used to dislodge hubcaps.

Poison oak. It is not in the oak, or *Quercus*, family. Again, it is urushiol that causes skin irritation. The vine likes wet areas and, like poison ivy, it climbs trees. The leaf is heavily veined, trifoliate, shiny purple, and it turns scarlet in fall. The leaf margin is deeply lobed. In spring, when leaves are young, they resemble miniature hands.

Poison sumac. Again, blame urushiol. Sumac is a small shrub with pinnate foliage, with leaves that grow off the stems at even, opposite points. In the fall, it turns bright orange. The plant is found in Maryland, from Connecticut to Wisconsin, and throughout southern Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama. In Virginia, it is prevalent only in the swamps and along the riverbanks of the Tidewater area.

Barberry. A vigorously growing boundary shrub, barberry deters foot traffic with its plentiful and painful thorns—a feature that also makes it difficult to work with. When the branches are handled or disturbed, the black appendages break off in tiny spurs, frequently cutting into the skin of your fingertips. If you don't remove the thorn within hours, the entry point becomes white, puffy, and painful. It's prudent to wear heavy, rubberized work gloves when planting or pruning this specimen.

Surprisingly, *many* common plants are toxic, so avoid randomly tossing in specimen foliage when cooking. Here's a short list of common plants whose parts or entire make-up cause sickness: Azalea, Jimson weed, daffodil bulbs, caladium, asparagus berries, Daphne berries, delphinium seeds, elderberry roots, English holly berries, hyacinth bulbs, larkspur, ivy leaves, lily, oak acorns, pokeweed, privet, redbud fruit, mountain laurel, yellow jessamine vine, Mayapple, and oleander.

— Bill Sullivan,
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"No more lugging the CPAP machine case on trips and trying to find electrical outlets in hotel rooms! My dental night appliance is so much easier and less cumbersome." — Dena, Alexandria, VA

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If it's February....

It's that time of year again! Abingdon's Girl Scouts are selling the ever-popular Girl Scout cookies. If you don't have a Girl Scout ask you personally if you want to purchase cookies, you can still order them by e-mailing abingdoncookies@yahoo.com. If you'd like to support your local Girl Scouts, but don't want the extra calories, you can also purchase boxes for the scouts' chosen charities—local veterans' hospitals and the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

All the favorites are back: Lemon Chalet Cremes, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Dulce de Leche, Thank U Berry Munch, Tagalongs, and (of course!) Thin Mints. Each box costs \$4 and a portion of the price of every box you purchase will go to Abingdon's Junior and Brownie troops. No payment is due until the cookies are delivered (early to mid-February). And the Scouts will gladly deliver the cookies to your home. Thank you for your support.

Last Movie Night of the year coming up

Abingdon will hold its last Movie Night of the year on Friday, February 4. This time we'll be showing *Despicable Me*. Doors open at 6 p.m. so you can stake out a spot in the multipurpose room, and the movie starts at 6:30. We'll raffle off DVD copies of the movie and other film-related prizes when the movie is over.

The PTA will sell cheap eats—pizza for \$1 a slice, snacks and drinks for 50 cents. We'd like to thank our good neighbors at the AMC Loews Shirlington 7 movie theater for donating real movie theater pop-



Calling all prospective Kindergarten parents! It's time for Arlington Public Schools' Kindergarten orientation sessions. Come see what Abingdon has to offer on February 24, March 8, or April 14. Photograph by Michelle Marston.

corn. Members of the PTA will get their popcorn for FREE – visit www.abingdonpta.org to download a copy of our membership form or join at Movie Night. You don't have to be a parent or teacher to join; you just have to care about your neighborhood school!

Shopping around for a Kindergarten?

If you're the parent of a pre-schooler, you know that it's the time of year to start shopping around for a Kindergarten that is right for your child. We'd like to invite you to come visit Abingdon!

There are three scheduled Kindergarten orientations where you can meet with teachers and parents, learn how the school day works and the curriculum unfolds in the classroom, and take a tour. You can come to any, or even all, of the following orientation sessions:

Thursday, February 24, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, March 8, 12:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 14, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Or are you ready to look at middle schools?

At the other end of the elementary school spectrum is the transition to middle school. At our next PTA meeting, Tuesday, February 15, we will host a presentation by Gunston Middle School Principal Madge Gill, accompanied by several former Abingdon students who now attend Gunston. They'll give a presentation about the school and answer your questions over a free pizza dinner from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Abingdon library.

Even if you're not an Abingdon parent, but have children ready to attend middle school and want to know more about your options, we invite you to come meet Ms. Gill on February 15. Of course, your prospective middle schooler is also welcome at the meeting. And we have free babysitting for younger children. Spanish language translation will also be available.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president



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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), will meet at noon on Thursday, February 3, and Thursday, February 17, at the Fairlington Community Center. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernetta Kukulich at 703-548-8571.

Learn to play canasta

2011 is a New Year and a great opportunity to learn an old card game. Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of canasta. No previous experience is necessary to enjoy this card game. We are happy to teach you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month. We focus on just having a good meal in great company. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Sunday, February 13, 6:30 p.m., Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-671-8088, pekinggourmet.com. This excellent Chinese restaurant is a local favorite, as well as the favorite of several U.S. presidents. From Fairlington, it is west on Rte. 7, just beyond Bailey's Crossroads, on the left. This continues our recent practice of dining on Sundays once a month. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 by 6 p.m. on Saturday the 12th if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation.

Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m., half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we visit monthly—usually with a large turnout. 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 202-647-2624. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly; include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op accepting new applications

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids but don't know who to call should consider joining the Babysitting Co-op. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Babysitting Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations. The Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and can use them to pay for sittings.

Sittings may be requested during the day, evenings or weekends. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made. The Co-op holds quarterly social events where children play together, parents converse, and a few business items are discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for April at the Fairlington Community Center.

For an application or more information, contact the FBC via Google Groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/fairlington-babysitting> or by email at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

Thirty Somethings will not meet in February. We will meet again in March. If you want to be added to the list, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com.

The Book Group will not meet in February. The next meeting will be on March 22. For further information, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com or Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

neighborhood news

Continued

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a full- or part-time stay-at-home parent and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club may be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth to 6 months and go all the way up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

In the last year members have also worked on several community service projects benefitting Abingdon Elementary School, the Arlington Food Assistance Center, and the March of Dimes. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline.

If you would like to learn more about the club and meet other parents, please join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, February 9, at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are welcome. For more information about the club, the general meeting, or membership, please contact Angela Klaus (Membership VP) at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx.

Seeking Home & Garden Tour homes

The Fairlington Historical Society's 2011 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011 and will showcase the community's architecture, grounds, and the unique character of our homes.

The tour committee is seeking nominations for homes to add to the tour. Since many tour participants are looking for renovation ideas, we are especially interested in including homes that have had major renovations. As in past tours, we hope to include at least one home from each of the Fairlington neighborhoods, with examples of each type floor plan (Braddock, Clarendon, Edgewood, etc.). The tour committee is also inviting neighbors who can dedicate some time to volunteer and help with planning, advertising, ticket sales, and fundraising with local businesses, and, on the day of the tour, as guides and helpers. If you would like to nominate a home or garden, or volunteer, please e-mail us at FHSHomeTour@gmail.com or call Kevin Silvia or Patsy Hester at 703-578-3824 by March 1, 2011.

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JON NORDLING, LLC. A Class "A" General Contractor with over 20 years experience, our range of projects include: additions, major renovations, kitchens, bathrooms, basements, and reconfiguring interior spaces for better layout and function. You will receive a comprehensive and thoughtful evaluation and proposal, with options, for your project. Once hired, your project will be top priority for Jon and his team. There IS a difference in the work quality and the level of detail when Jon handles your remodeling needs-you'll see it. For a positive and enjoyable experience, contact Jon at jon@jonnordling.com or 571-215-3691.

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

PAINTING. Greg the Painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.

HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

CUSTOM FINISH CARPENTER. 15 years experience in all general carpentry, specializing in finish carpentry. Doors, windows, casings, base boards, dado rails, window seats, bookshelves, closets. No job too small! Fairlington resident. Contact me for free estimate at (C) 301-801-1370 or (H) 571-970-5623. jamesfreeman.carpenter@gmail.com

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest & affordable. Specializing in detailed cleaning. Serving Fairlington for over 13 years. LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

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.

HOUSE CLEANING. Experienced, honest, detailed cleaning. Excellent references from Fairlington residents. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move-in/out. Call 703-820-2116 or 703-597-1226.

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Call for our New Year's specials. We are family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. We are great with pets. Our prices are reasonable and our service is very thorough. Call for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

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

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.

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

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

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.

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NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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

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

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: _____ Phone (h): _____

Address: _____ Phone (w): _____

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

Category (see newsletter for options): _____

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____

*** Long & Foster Arlington/Alexandria Office ***

Attention Renters

Rent vs. Buy Chat

**February
25
Tuesday**

This is Your Date!

6:30-7:30 PM

Learn the advantages of buying verses renting.

***4800 31st Street South * 703-998-3111* Arlington, Va. 22206 ***

A Tradition in Fairlington

Renter's vs. Buyer's Chat

- **Learn the tax advantages of ownership.**
- **Perform a personalized rent vs. buy analysis.**
- **See how closely your rent payment compares to a mortgage payment.**
- **See how to start saving for your future.**
- **Let your income & good credit work for you, not your landlord.**
- **Welcome to your renter's forum. Let us show you.**

When: 2/25/11

6:30-7:30 pm

**Where: *Join us at our
newly renovated sales office-***

4800 S. 31st. St.

**Intersection of S. Buchanan St. &
31st St, S.-in Fairlington Villages.**

**Who: All renters
& buyers.**

RSVP 703-998-3111

**Mortgage rates are
historically Low!**

**Sales prices have
become affordable to all!**

Let Us Help You Save

- **Call us prior to this CHAT with your rental info and we will provide your personalized Rent vs. Buy analysis.**

Call us at 703-998-3111

or

Email our Broker at:

Steve.Crime@longandfoster.com

*** Let Our Knowledge & Expertise of Fairlington Save You Thousands!!**



Plan Ahead Now !
Get your home ready for the
Spring Market.
Free Market Analysis

Voted Top Sales Office
Industry Leader
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***investment properties**
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Agents licensed in VA, DC,MD