

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume 38, Number 2

From Arlington and Alexandria police: The inside scoop on everyday safety and information sharing

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, February 2, noon
FCC

MOMS Club

Wednesday, February 8, 4 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 pm
Tempo
Alexandria

Fair Golds program

Thursday, February 16, noon
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 20, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on pages
23–24 and related articles for details
about calendar events.

Join your neighbors at the FCA meeting on February 8, to hear from local law enforcement officers on how to stay safe, keep your family safe, and keep from being a target. Arlington County Police Department Captain Brett Butler, commander of the Third District team, will be joined by Lieutenant Shirl Mammarella, deputy commander of Alexandria's Sector 3—they particularly look forward to residents' questions and are happy to stay and give answers

(from meeting's start at 7 pm until FCC's closing at 9). In addition, the officers will review recent crime activity (Larceny from Autos continues to be the single most typical crime in both Alexandria and Arlington), discuss issues of traffic safety, and review ways to navigate the overlapping jurisdictions that affect most of Fairlington.

From almost any point in Fairlington, you are within a mile of crossing from Arlington County into the City of Alexandria (and some Fairlingtonians on the north side of the bridge are already there—they actually *live* in Alexandria). Because Fairlington sits on the boundary line between the county and the city along King Street and Quaker Lane, public safety services (police, fire, EMS) are often shared. It is not at all uncommon, for example, to see ACPD Engine 107, lights and sirens, responding to a mutual aid call in Alexandria. Officers can explain the geographic boundaries between the two jurisdictions, the coordination between the police departments, the sharing of information and statistics from crime analysis units, and the division of responsibilities—particularly as they affect the areas around the intersection of Braddock Road, King Street, and Quaker Lane and along King Street from Quaker to 28th Street S.



*ACPD Captain Brett Butler and Auxiliary Officer Casey Cudworth at the July 4th parade last year.
Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.*

Continued on page 9

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting. You can find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and on Facebook at "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Special program: FCA will host police officers from Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to discuss issues of public safety.

8 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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— 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:

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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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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

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★

Presidents Day

Monday,

February 20

★

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.—John Donne

Such a moody observation from the English poet, lawyer, and priest, but John Donne's words remind us of an essential truth: We all belong to a community, and what happens to one person affects everyone.

In that light, then, the FCA is not "an island, entire of itself...." It IS all of Fairlington, from South 36th Street to South 27th Road, from South Abingdon to South Taylor and all the courts, cul-de-sacs, and places in between. Our neighbors here in northern Virginia know us as a visually distinctive, historic community. Yet it's all too easy, and all too common, for each of us to focus on just what's happening within our homes. We barely have the time to chat with neighbors or to get engaged in matters that affect our quality of life. We end up becoming islands, thanks to the demands of modern life—but it doesn't have to be that way.

Want to get to know your neighbors, learn more about the local issues that affect Fairlington's well-being, or take part in projects that make living in Fairlington fun? Volunteer with the FCA! All of us are members simply because we live here—but the FCA needs YOUR talent, YOUR interest, and YOUR skills to be more effective and responsive to community concerns.

In 2012, the FCA is looking for people who can help organize the Fairlington Day celebration in mid-May, the Fourth of July parade, and the Christmas parade featuring Captain Santa. If you'd like to learn more about the world of civic associations and how they interact with local governments, we can introduce you. We can always use a volunteer or two or ten willing to attend some of the many public meetings on traffic, development, and business issues in the area and to share news from those meetings with all FCA members. What's more, the FCA is a great way to meet new, interesting people!

Interested? Have questions? Drop me a line at president@fca-fairlington.org. Don't be an island! As always, I'm here for your feedback.

Best,

Rosiland Jordan, President
Fairlington Citizens Association
president@fca-fairlington.org

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What's the Arlington Way?

"The Arlington Way" is an umbrella term that county residents and administrators use to refer to the process of including community stakeholders in the decision-making process. At the January 2 County Board's New Year's meeting, new board chairman Mary Hynes announced that she wanted to more clearly define what is meant by "the Arlington Way" and more formally institutionalize the county's commitment to civic engagement. Specifically, Hynes proposes to create a sort of "map" of the many nonprofit groups and community associations that work for the county's improvement. In addition, Hynes hopes to develop a clear description of the Arlington Way to help outline the roles and responsibilities of participants in the decision-making process. For more information about board members' initiatives for 2012, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, search newsroom > press releases, or go to <http://news.arlingtonva.us/pr/ava/arlington-county-board-chair-mary-221295.aspx>.

It's in the bag

—Excerpted from the *Washington Post and Sun Gazette newspapers*

Will Virginia get a tax on single-use plastic bags? A Richmond delegate will renew his call to impose a tax of 20 cents per plastic bag in grocery stores, convenience stores, and drug stores. Last year, the measure forwarded by Delegate Joseph Morrissey was combined with a measure by then-Delegate Adam Ebbin (now state Senator for the 30th District), who called for a five-cent tax on bags, but the legislation never made it to the floor. The District and Maryland's Montgomery County both have recently instituted a plastic bag tax, to mixed reviews. Arlington County Board members have expressed support for the tax on plastic bags in the past, saying it would help promote recycling. But Richmond-watchers say the measure is unlikely to pass in the General Assembly this year.

General Assembly updates available

The General Assembly began this year's 60-day session in January. You can receive weekly e-mail updates on the 2012 session from Delegate David Englin (D), 45th District: Go online to www.davidenglin.org and sign up. You can contact Englin at DelDEnglin@house.virginia.gov, or at 703-549-3203 (district) or 804-698-1045 (Richmond).

County Board members will be available on Mondays



Arlington County Board chairman Mary Hynes joined Fairlingtonians at the 2010 4th of July parade and party. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

This year, Arlington County Board members will be available on Monday evenings to take questions from residents and gather information about topics of community concern. "Open Door Monday" is part of new Board Chairman Mary Hynes's initiative to engage the public in the county decision-making process and to provide a reliable opportunity for outreach.

The sessions will be held from 7 to 9 pm at rotating locations: Thomas Jefferson Community Center on the first Monday of each month, Gunston Community Center on the second Monday, Langston-Brown Community Center on the third Monday, Fire Station 4 in Clarendon on the fourth Monday (January and February), and the county government office at Courthouse Plaza on the fifth Monday (January, April, July, and October). (There will be no sessions on county holidays.) No appointment is required to attend, and all topics pertaining to local government are welcome.

Goodbye HOT, hello Express

Dr. Gridlock reported in the *Washington Post* last month that Transurban, the contractor that will operate the high-occupancy toll lanes on the Beltway, is launching a year-long marketing campaign to rebrand HOT as "Express Lanes" and to educate drivers about how the system will work. Fourteen miles of HOT lanes on I-495, now under construction, are scheduled to open later this year. HOT was always a troublesome moniker—the system is better described as "have high-occupancy in your car or else pay a toll." The campaign includes a new Web site promoting and explaining the Express Lanes. For more information, go online to VDOT Mega Projects, www.vamegaprojects.com/about-megaprojects/i495-hot-lanes.

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New lights going up at Utah Park



Portions of the new light poles were unloaded at Utah Park last month (left). Because the ground was too wet for the truck with the cherry-picker bucket, the contractor climbed the poles to remove the light fixtures (right). Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

Last month, the county's Parks Development Division got underway with the project to install new "dark sky" lighting at the Utah Park field. The new, state-of-the-art, neighbor-friendly lighting replacements will nearly eliminate glare, misdirected light, and light spillage onto surrounding property.

Last year, when the county determined that the old light poles were unsafe, the rickety wooden poles were replaced on a temporary basis with newer wooden poles. The current replacement project features new lighting technology and a new dark-sky design requiring fewer fixtures and poles: Because the new lights are more efficient, the eight old (but still relatively "new") wooden

poles will be replaced by six new concrete poles in different locations. The new layout will provide better light and save energy costs. In addition, the new concrete poles have a longer life expectancy than wooden ones.

For the lighting installation, the project managers are using a tunnel-boring process to connect the electrical wiring from pole to pole, which means that the field's playing surface will remain undisturbed. And the park's trees will not be damaged; a few trees were pruned to help facilitate the lighting design's overall efficiency. More good news: The eight wooden poles leaving Utah Park will be recycled for use in other facilities around the county, as will the old light fixtures atop the old poles.

Arlington County summer camp sign-up starts this month— February 22, online

- Go online to the county Web site, select Parks and Recreation, click on the link for "Register for classes and camps," beginning February 22, 7 am arlingtonva.us/departments/ParksRecreation/scripts/camps/ParksRecreationScriptsCamps-Main.aspx
- Phone registration begins February 29
- Carry-in registration begins February 29
- Non-resident registration begins March 7

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources registration office is located at 3700 Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington 22206, 703-228-4747. Call to subscribe to PRCR's free camp catalog.

Parks award nominations due this month

Nominations are now being sought for this year's Bill Thomas Park Service Volunteer Award, which is Arlington's highest honor recognizing an individual or group for outstanding support of the county's parks and recreation department. A nominee's contribution might include giving personal time, expertise, or a tangible gift. The award may be for a specific accomplishment or for accumulated activities over an extended period of time. Nomination submissions are due by February 24. For more information about the award and nominating process, go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search Bill Thomas Award.

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Information sharing is routine among nearby police departments. For example, a few months ago ACPD publicized information about a spate of burglaries in Falls Church, noting that Arlington's northern First District had also experienced burglaries that might be the work of the same crew of thieves. The Falls Church police reported a residential burglary that occurred sometime in the overnight hours of November 14/15. The house was occupied at the time, but the people were asleep. "The suspects entered the residence through an unlocked sliding glass rear door. The only item taken was a laptop computer. The computer was immediately exploited for banking information, and that information was used to attempt to purchase expensive goods at a large department store in the Metropolitan area." Furthermore, "the incident is not typical of a local juvenile stealing gaming devices and/or a homeless person looking for an opportunity. The suspects in this case are sophisticated enough to duplicate bank cards without the original cards in possession in an attempt to make large purchases immediately without the owner's knowledge."

That incident, said Captain Butler and echoed by Lt. Mammarella, should serve as a reminder about everyday safety: Lock all your doors and windows; lock your car; secure your possessions out of line of sight in your residence and in your car. Stay vigilant and report suspicious activity. For an emergency, call 9-1-1. If you just feel unsure or uneasy about something you've seen or heard, call the police non-emergency numbers: 703-558-2222 for Arlington, and 703-838-4444 for Alexandria. For more information and updates, come to the FCC on February 8 to talk to the experts.

Tree Stewards volunteer training starts February 8

If seats remain, you can sign up for the Tree Stewards volunteer training class that begins February 8. Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, February 8 through April 18, at the Fairlington Community Center. There will also be three Saturday morning sessions. For more information call 703-527-2349; to download an application, go online to www.treestewards.org. While at the Web site, you can learn some interesting facts about the role of oak and hickory trees in feeding wildlife and the possible need to water young trees—even if it has rained/snowed recently.

Watch King Street trees leaf out this spring



New honeylocust trees will leaf out in the service road median. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

Kudos to the City of Alexandria and their landscapers, who have added immeasurably to the greenscape along the heavily-traveled King Street corridor, with the addition of more than 60 new street trees. Over the last couple of years, the familiar white-flowering Bradford pears in the King Street median suffered from the affects of wind and snow storms. The damaged trees were removed and the remain-

ing trees were pruned, leaving the local streetscape with a slightly denuded look. At the end of last year, Alexandria City Arborist John Noelle supervised the installation of more trees than had been removed: 23 crape myrtles were planted in the median from Menokin Drive west to Park Center Drive and four new crabapple trees were planted in the King Street median nearby. In addition, 36 shade trees, honeylocust and Princeton elm, were planted in the grassy area that acts as a median between the King Street service road and the eastbound lanes of King between Quaker Lane and Menokin.

Noelle explains that he chose the crape myrtle because it is a tough tree that tolerates the heat, noting that Chinese elms once planted along King did not do well there. In addition, the crape myrtles are ornamental—"They should grow to become multi-stemmed trees, fifteen to twenty feet tall." The crabapples were inter-planted in an existing line of crabapples; a different species, says Noelle, would have stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb. For the service road median, the new honeylocust trees were planted among a number of existing Sophoras that are similar in shape but now in decline; and the Princeton elms were planted mostly in areas where the pears were lost. The honeylocusts will grow to 30-40 feet in height, and, in time, the elms will become large shade trees in excess of fifty feet. Noelle adds that he expects the trees to grow one to two feet per year, so that they will "provide a reasonable presence within five years." Always with the reminder that street trees can take a daily beating in heat or ice and pollution—they need to be watered and tended. As you're traveling to Safeway or the Post Office, you can wish them well and watch them grow.



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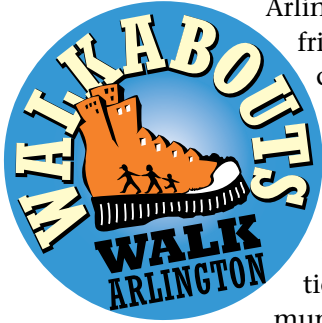
Pictures depict an actual Fairlington Village kitchen recently remodeled by GMG



Scan this tag with your mobile phone to download our contact information directly to your device



Fairlington's Walkabout route is kid- and dog-friendly



Arlington's reputation as a walker-friendly community has been celebrated for several years—last year, Arlington was named a gold-level Walk Friendly Community, an initiative sponsored by FedEx and the Federal Highway Administration. (Other gold-level communities include Ann Arbor, MI;

Chicago; Hoboken, NJ; Minneapolis;

San Francisco; and Santa Barbara, CA.) Since 2005, WalkArlington, the county's campaign to promote walking, has developed 19 self-guided Walkabout routes, highlighting the history, cultural attractions, natural resources, transportation options, and overall character of Arlington neighborhoods. WalkArlington describes the Fairlington route as "a .7-mile kid- and dog-friendly Walkabout [that] navigates the heart of historic Fairlington and highlights other nearby destinations as optional side trips."

Currently WalkArlington is sponsoring a contest for residents to name the next Arlington neighborhood to receive Walkabout status; the nomination period runs



through February 29. Competition rules and other information about existing Walkabouts can be found on the Web site at www.walkarlington.com.

Think spring with winter garden events from VCE and MGNV

It may be winter, but the folks at Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia are still thinking "green" and planning events to get spring off to a quick start. All events listed here are open to the public and are free unless otherwise indicated. For the most current information about an event, go online to the MGNV Web site at www.mgnv.org or the VCE Web site at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/arlington>; send an e-mail to mgaralex@gmail.com; or call the VCE horticulture Help Desk at 703-228-6414. To register for an event, call the Help Desk.

Cold frames and hot beds: Tuesday, February 14, 7 pm, Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Part of the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Lecture series. Get some ideas for extending your gardening season.

Seed starting: Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th St. S. How to start your vegetable garden from seeds indoors.

Save the date! June 9 – 10: Working with nature for beautiful and sustainable gardens. A two-day symposium at the FCC featuring Douglas Tallamy. Day 1 features a keynote presentation by Dr. Tallamy, chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of *Bringing Nature Home*. The book emphasizes how native plants can beautify our gardens while serving as central food sources for the insects, birds, and butterflies that are essential to a healthy local ecosystem. The presentation will be followed by break-out sessions with experts on elements of the Landscape for Life program, an eco-friendly approach to gardening from the U.S. Botanic Garden. On Day 2 participants will tour the VCE/ MGNV demonstration gardens in Arlington and Alexandria to see the Landscape for Life program in action. Registration fee of \$50 includes a box lunch. Saturday, June 9, 9 am to 3 pm, and Sunday, June 10, 1 to 4 pm.

Bob's Beautiful Bathrooms!



← New floor plans in lower level townhouse bathrooms; both have walk-in showers, out of view is the full-size linen closet in bath at far left.

Storage Solution !



← Elegant upper townhouse bathroom with custom vanity cabinet, rectangular sink with offset faucet; note glass shelving replacing medicine cabinet

→ Classic upper level Clarendon bathrooms, note "banjo" granite countertops, and shower "niche" and marble tile reflected in the mirror in bath on right



For information about our company, and to see details of these six bathrooms and many other projects, please visit our website at:

www.DeLongHomeImprovement.com

Group forms for baby boomers

Creative Community Connections is a social group, currently developing a relationship with the county's PRCR programming for adults, which is designed for new or about-to-be retirees. CCC in Arlington seeks to "build a community of peers, explore new ways to give back, stay healthy and active, and find new challenges and adventures." The group promises to "go beyond virtual connections and create experiences (events and trips) that bring like-minded people together," with an emphasis on enhancing the community.

CCC is organized and led by volunteers. For more information, you can sign up for the CCC e-newsletter at <http://arlingtonparks.us/creative-community-connections>. The January newsletter announced an upcoming trip to Arizona, a Chesapeake Bay grasses workshop, and the following talk on the basics of Medicare: Medicare myths and reality, February 23, 7 pm, at the Walter Reed Community Center (2909 16th Street S.). A staff person from the Rand Corporation will explain funding and cost saving issues regarding health care generally and Medicare in particular. Cost is \$2. Register online at the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us; click on "Take a class" and search by type for Creative Community Connections, Event #931101.

AFAC—22 percent increase in families helped last year

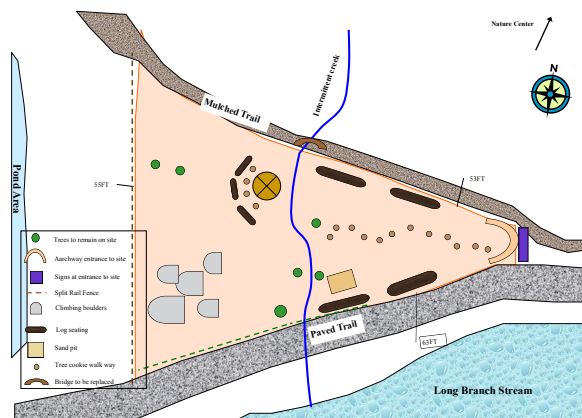
The Arlington Food Assistance Center reports that in 2011, the county's food pantry saw a 22 percent increase in the number of families coming to AFAC for food supplements. This year begins with a heart-healthy food drive continuing through February 14. AFAC is collecting the following perishable items: apples, broccoli, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cucumbers, grapefruit, onions, and potatoes. Non-perishable items needed are low-sugar cereal, whole wheat pasta, and canned proteins (chicken, salmon, and tuna). They request that you please take perishables to AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson Street off Four Mile Run, so they can be used right away.

Also, AFAC is seeking night-owl drivers for alternating Friday nights. The Trader Joe's in Bailey's Crossroads, and beginning this month, the Trader Joe's in Clarendon, donate produce and other items to AFAC on weekday nights. The pick-ups take place between 10 and 11 pm. A volunteer must be a licensed driver, be able to drive the AFAC van, be able to lift 30-40 pounds, and make a six-month commitment. For more information, contact Laura Jackson at laura.jackson@afac.org.

A natural area for kids to explore

Coming soon to the nature center at Long Branch Park, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road, is a Nature Discovery Area for children. The woodland area, the first of its kind in Arlington, will provide a designated space for kids to interact with natural features in the landscape—to play and explore, use their imaginations, test physical abilities—and just be outside. There will be no play "equipment." The only furnishings will be natural materials, like rocks, wood, and water. The space is designed to allow kids to create, climb, and play in a natural setting, minus worries about harmful plants/animals or the fear of someone getting lost.

The Nature Discovery Area, supported by a Park Enhancement Grant from the county, is located below the nature center, steps from a stream crossing, with access from a



paved trail and hiking trails. Currently, the site is under development (see design map, left), with a projected opening date later this year, probably in the fall. Some work has already been done in the space, with old trees being cut and cleared, making way for additional clean-up and for new features to be added. Park staff is calling for volunteers to help remove unwanted plants, put play features in place, come up with a name,

spread the word, maybe start a blog, and maintain the area once completed. Going forward, the park staff will be organizing workdays for volunteers. For more information, call the Long Branch nature center, 703-228-6535, or go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Nature Discovery Area. The Web page includes an e-mail link for people to sign up to receive notices about volunteer opportunities and progress updates.

Great backyard bird count, February 17 – 20

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, the 15th annual GBBC will take place this year from Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20. It's a great way to get outdoors during the winter for short walks. You can take part in the four-day event by counting the birds you see and then submitting your findings online. This gives the scientists a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent—where they're migrating, what the fluxes in populations are (a possible sign of disease), and how they're affected by temperatures.

No birding experience necessary. You don't need to know anything about birding to participate. Just map out a 15-minute walk from your front door and walk the route: Do it one day or every day. It can take as little as 15 minutes on just one day or you can count as long as you like each day of the event. For more information, go online to www.birdsource.org/gbbc. You can learn birding basics, see the page especially for kids, view the online photo identification guide, and find details on how to submit your numbers.

Fairlington lost and found department: 1923 class ring

Several months ago, a then-Fairlington resident found what appears to be a 1923 high school or college class ring on the sidewalk along S. Stafford Street across from the entrance to the pool area. An inscription inside the ring looks like four letters. For further information, contact Heather, 703-577-0823.



*A Cooper's hawk perched in north Fairlington last December.
Photograph by Carol Ann Linder.*



What snow?



On this balmy, 60-degree day in mid-January, with only a dusting and a couple few flurries so far this season, snow seems a distant memory. But there's still time for winter to descend in earnest. In that event, here are handy contact numbers/sites to find out what's going on around the county.

Snow news

Go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search snow

Info hotlines for closings/cancellations

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

Recreation/leisure classes, 703-228-4715

Sports fields/leagues, 703-228-4715

State roads

VDOT, 888-383-8368

To view a list of state-controlled roads in Arlington, www.arlingtonva.us>environmental services>state

To enter a state road work request, www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp

Local streets

Snow service status updates, 703-228-6485 (may be a recorded message during/soon after storm)

To report a snow issue, <http://egov.arlingtonva.us/snowrequest/Home/ESRI>

To report a pothole, call 703-228-6570 or www.arlingtonva.us>environmental services>concrete

Power lines

To report downed power lines or trees/branches on or near power lines, Dominion Virginia Power, 888-667-3000

Downed trees

Emergency or hazardous trees/branches blocking streets, 703-558-2222

Downed trees on state roads, VDOT, 888-383-8368

Non-emergency (trees/branches down in parks), 703-228-6525

Note: Fallen trees on private property that are not on power lines are the responsibility of the property owner.

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— Edward Getterman,
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Celebrate African American culture

at the 20th Annual Feel the Heritage Festival. On Saturday, February 25 from 12 to 5 pm at the Langston Brown Community Center (2121 N. Culpeper Street), join in the fun with live music and dance performances, delicious food, great vendors, free children's activities, and more. Visit www.arlingtonva.us/prcr for details.

Summer camp registration

Online registration for summer camps begins February 22, 7 am. Go online to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr.

Workshops and classes

Get the complete description online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of Enjoy Arlington.

For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr or call 703-228-4747.

Beaded wire jewelry

Saturday, February 4, 10 am – 2 pm. Adore the look of wire jewelry, especially with beads? Want to give it a try but don't know where to begin? Discover the basics of wire-beaded jewelry in this fun make-and-take class! Kits (\$10 - \$40) with various metals and beads are available for purchase from the instructor. Good eye-hand coordination is helpful. Bring reading glasses if you use them; prior experience with loops and wrapped loops in basic beading is helpful, but not necessary. Adults. Inst.: Lee. One session, \$41. 240152A

Paint your own pottery

Saturday, February 11, 10 – 11:30

am. Experience a fun and easy way to decorate your own functional pottery. The class is great for the whole family or just a relaxing day by yourself or with friends. Two pieces of pottery are permitted per registered student. Learn techniques in painting, sponging, and stenciling. All materials included. Finished pieces will be ready for pickup (after they are fired in the kiln) two weeks from date of the workshop. Ages 6 to adult. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult. Instructor, Drake. One session, \$33. 220101B

***NEW* Next step in fashion**

Four sessions, Tuesdays, February 21 to March 13, 4:30 – 6:30 pm. Project Runway, here we come! Take that next step beyond the basics of sewing. Learn fundamentals of fashion drawing while designing and sewing an intermediate project idea. All materials included. Ages 11 to 15. \$120. Instructor, Griffin. 220122A

Work out at Fairlington fitness rooms

Don't let your health and wellness resolutions go by the wayside. Check out exercise convenient for you at FCC fitness rooms. Personal training services are available on Saturday mornings and there are a variety of classes in studio. Locker rooms and showers are available. There is also a multi-purpose gymnasium. Stop by FCC to purchase a fitness center pass good at Fairlington plus five other Arlington County community centers. Ten day passes are available, as well as passes for three, six, and twelve months.

Senior center events

Arlington Mill Senior Center at Fairlington: Regularly scheduled pro-

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

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.

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 pm—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.

grams are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, except holidays, for residents 55 and older who hold a 55+ pass. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Color in the winter landscape: Avian edition

There are few blooms in the landscape this month, but non-migratory birds still show their colors. In addition to robins, cardinals, and blue jays, look for these fliers, perchers, or branch walkers on your next stroll through Fairlington. If you know a bird's call, you can identify it sight unseen. When you're online, visit Cornell University's ornithology Web site, www.allaboutbirds.org.

Cooper's hawk. Quiet and still, despite being 16 inches tall with plenty of girth. Catches its prey sleuth-like, swooping down at swift speeds. Rounded beige breast with apricot spots; brown and white striping on its fantail with an etching of brown on white underneath its wings. Smaller than the Goshawk (21 inches tall). Loud, repetitious "kek, kek, kek" call.

Great blue heron. Cruise the GW Parkway toward Mount Vernon and you're sure to see one standing motionless in the Potomac's shallow shoreline. I frequently see one in Hollin Hills (off Fort Hunt Road) in Alexandria, where it stands in a shallow creek that meanders through the woods. Has S-shaped, gray neck, black stripe from the eye to the back of its head. Body is football-shaped with long, gray feathers at the base of its black and white belly. Tail is dark gray and blunt; long yellow bill. Aggressive call is a "rok-rok-rok."

Gull. Whether ring billed or herring, you'll find them waiting for scraps in the Bradlee Center parking



The nuthatch walks sideways or upside down in search of insects.

lot. The young have brownish-speckled back while mature are all white; yellow bill matches its feet; has black tail with white spots. Calls are "gah, gah, gah" or "kyow, kyow."

Northern flicker. Woodpecker family member, 13 inches long, gray or beige belly with black markings; back is soft brown with black markings. Male has red throat and grayish neck; yellow patch underneath tail; black bib (resembling a throat scarf). Call is a "kee-kee-kee."

Dove. Also known as mourning and turtle dove. Head bobs as it walks, usually on bare soil in search of seed or grit. Has fat belly, buff-brown plumage with black markings above tail—notice a teal line around its dark iris. Seen in pairs, sitting motionless on wires or a fence. Flies up to 55 mph in a straight line. Pigeon or rock dove is bird of dif-

ferent genus. Call is a gurgly "cooo, cooo, cooo."

Cowbird. Unique coloring with black body and brown head—looks like a blackbird but smaller. Female never builds own nest but lays eggs in abandoned nests before leaving, letting other birds mind her eggs. Calls are varied, one being a ratcheting noise and the other sounding like dripping water.

White-breasted nuthatch. Has uncanny habit of walking upside down on a tree branch in frenetic search of insects. Breast is white and belly is apricot; back is gray with black markings near tail; head is white with gray stripe running from bill, up between the eyes, and down to the back of the head. Call sounds like doggie toy being squeezed repeatedly.

Carolina chickadee. Has black cap and black bib with white head and belly; undersides (left and right) are soft apricot; back is gray. Call is a two-toned whistle. Fast in flight, especially at feeders.

Downy woodpecker. Skips along, sometimes upside-down on a tree branch while smelling for insects. Its hammering sound is a repeated "thunk." Has black and white-striped head, white belly, and black back with white spots. Erect posture; head will rear way back before the hammering starts.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

To scoop or not to scoop? The only answer is, Yes.

Typically each spring we remind all Fairlington pet owners that it is the law (not to mention the considerate thing to do) to scoop your dog's poop. After reading a number of articles this fall about court cases involving neighbors warring over un-scooped dog poop, we thought we would get an early start on our annual poop rant.

In a community as large and densely populated as Fairlington, it is especially important that pet owners be diligent about picking up after their dogs. Not only is it unpleasant to look at and step in dog waste, it's also a health hazard and environmentally unfriendly. Pet feces can contaminate the water supply, putting all of us at risk of illness. Feces left on the ground can spread disease and create a messy, unsanitary, and unhealthy situation for the many children in the neighborhood. Leaving poop on the ground even puts other dogs at risk—my dog recently had a parasite called toxidia, which is caused by ingesting fecal matter. My dog likes to dig and eat the dirt, so this is an easy way for parasites to



be inadvertently transferred.

The problem of unscooped poop is so widespread that some communities have taken the lead in trying to identify the offending dogs/owners by using services such as one called PooPrints, which conducts DNA tests on un-scooped poop. All dog owners submit a cheek-swab DNA sample from each pooch to the association management, which maintains a database. Then PooPrints tests the

violating poop pile for a match.

The concept may sound ludicrous, but PooPrints indicates that there are few follow-up matching tests, because the program serves as a big deterrent.

And last but not least, I want to remind residents that even if you are considerate enough to consistently scoop your dog's poop, there is one final step in being a responsible pet owner: Dispose of the used bags in trash receptacles—not just here and there on the ground, wherever you feel like it. It is not only unsightly to see bags scattered all over Fairlington, but also against the policy of the condo associations. It takes only a few extra steps to throw the poop away instead of just assuming the trash collection crews will find every randomly tossed bag in the neighborhood. OK, end of the gripe. Please do your part to help keep Fairlington beautiful, safe, and healthy—and still pet-friendly.

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant Editor

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Meet an Abingdon family



The Beasey family moved from Palm Springs, CA and have loved Abingdon. Photograph by Dana Andy, Abingdon PTA co-president.

The Beaseys say that Abingdon “has provided a great place for the girls to make new friends, expand their learning, and grow with the community.” And the features that pleased them most? “The teachers, faculty, and staff seemingly have been hand-picked and matched appropriately for each grade level. From their main teacher, to the music teacher, to science, physical education, art, math, architecture, the school nurse, counselor, and cafeteria staff—each knows my four children by name and cares very deeply for them.” It’s no wonder that the Beaseys recommend Abingdon to parents now choosing an elementary school. “Of course! Abingdon! The curriculum designed for each grade level is second to none. The work that goes into the continual advancement of the technology is also top rate. And then there is the GIFT project, excelling the children in various art media in a way that is achievable yet fun. The yearly efforts put forth to continue

this grant and education focused around the arts is yet another example of how Abingdon wants the best education for the pre-school student through the 5th grader.”

And the family has found it possible to become involved as Abingdon parents. “I have a unique schedule as a dance instructor, so I had to be creative with my involvement. I am instructing a hip-hop dance class after school for the children of Abingdon. It is one way I can share my skill and passion with the children. I am teaching them discipline, patience, determination, hard work ethics, while all the time we’re moving and dancing and having a great time! I also spearhead a recycling effort that earns money for Abingdon.”

Abingdon 5th grader wins the Arlington County award for Outstanding Interpretation

The theme this year for artwork submitted to the National PTA Reflections program was “Diversity means....” Akash Masciangioli



Akash Masciangioli's winning artwork. Photograph by Dana Andy.

created artwork illustrating diverse musical instruments that create diverse musical sounds and are played in diverse cultures. In addition to advancing in the national competition, Akash was asked to present his entry as part of the annual awards ceremony in January. Since 1969, the national PTA Reflections program has encouraged students across the nation and in American schools overseas to explore their artistic talents. This program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in pre-school through grade 12, encouraging them to create works of art in the areas of dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts. More than 500,000 students participate through their local PTAs each year.

Kindergarten open house

Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda invites prospective Abingdon parents to attend one of three Kindergarten open houses, beginning this month. This is a perfect opportunity for you to learn all aspects of Abingdon Elementary, tour the school, and meet some staff, faculty, and PTA members. Come learn about our unique curriculum, witness Abingdon in action during a school day, and you will leave with an understanding of why so many parents consider our school a special place.

February 23, 9:15 to 10:45 am
March 6, 12:45 to 2:15 pm
April 12, 9:15 to 10:45am

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

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— Daniel, Reston, VA

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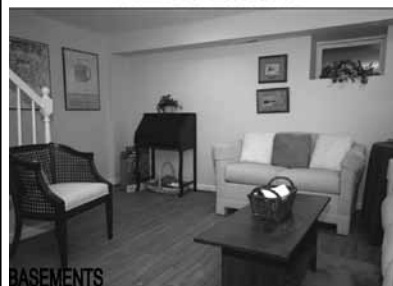
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neighborhood news

Fair Golds mourns the passing of members

The Fair Golds, a long-time Fairlington social group for residents over 55, has lost two long-time members recently. Annette Sirmon died November 7, 2011; she was 91. She had lived in south Fairlington for many years before moving to Goodwin House. A hiker and member of the Appalachian Trail Club, Annette is remembered for her love of the outdoors and all of nature. The *Bulletin's* gardening columnist, Bill Sullivan, remembers Annette as a person with a sunny disposition and a ready smile on her face. Another long-time Fair Golds member, Gertrude Frankel, age 92, passed away December 16, 2011. Gertrude and her family had lived in Fairlington since 1947. A graduate of Hunter College in New York, Gertrude had been a reference librarian for Alexandria for 45 years.

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.

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group in and around the Fairlington area, meets at the Fairlington Community Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month at noon (except in August). Regular 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. This month, Fair Golds will meet on Thursday, February 2, for a business meeting and on Thursday, February 16, for a program meeting.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners near Fairlington. We focus on having a good meal with enjoyable

conversation. For February, we've planned the following events.

Thursday, February 9, 6:30 pm, Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke St # C Alexandria 22304, 703-370-7900. This restaurant describes itself as one of Alexandria's best-kept secrets. Elegant but unpretentious, it's where many locals dine. The food is a blend of northern Italian and French cuisine featuring fresh seafood. Ample parking.

Monday, February 20, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria 22302, 703- 998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly—often with a large turnout. On Mondays, they offer half-price burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right-sized table when we arrive. 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. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Enter the shockingly constricted world of five-year-old Jack, who has known only the 11-by-11-foot *Room* of Emma Donoghue's title. Held captive with his loving and long-suffering mother by the sinister Old Nick, Jack must face the frightening challenge of escape. Join us to discuss the novel on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a 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 and go up

Continued from page 24

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 and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Our club also raised donations for and participated in the March of Dimes' March for Babies, which took place last May. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline, and even wardrobe styling for busy moms.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, February 8 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at laurencbailey@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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 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 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.

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

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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,
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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.

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