

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2015

Volume 41, Number 2

Arlington police captain to speak at February FCA meeting

Inside this month!

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Captain Stu Ellis, Third District Commander with the Arlington County Police Department, will be the special guest at the February FCA meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 7 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center. Captain Ellis will offer residents tips for keeping their persons and property safe and provide updates on any ongoing investigations in the community.



Captain Stu Ellis. Photo by Janis Johnston.

While for the most part crime trends have stayed low in the Fairlington area, in late 2013 the *Bulletin* reported incidents of vandalism in South Fairlington, where rocks were thrown through condo windows. In addition, this spring and summer, we reported on airbags being stolen from several vehicles in North Fairlington and an attempted abduction of a female jogger, both drawing the attention of the local news.

Most recently, in September, another five vehicles were broken into and the drivers' steering column airbags removed. Some other Northern Virginia jurisdictions have been hit quite hard with airbag thefts, mostly in Honda and Nissan models. There has not been any consistent pattern in Arlington, but, says Ellis, the investigation is still active.

Captain Ellis reminds us that as the weather gets colder and people wear more clothing, it becomes more difficult to recognize others. He advises being aware of our surroundings and report suspicious activity.

He also advises locking our vehicles. With Fairlington's proximity to I-395, there occasionally have been thefts from vehicles, most of which were left unlocked.

"Fairlington is known for neighbors looking out for each other and I hope for that to continue," he said.

As Commander, Ellis speaks with civic associations and property management companies in his district (like Fairlington) to address issues in the community and come up with solutions.

—Janis Johnston

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 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

February 11 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: Capt. Stu Ellis, Third District Commander, Arlington County Police

Regular board business:

- Approval of January minutes
- Officer Reports
- Committee Reports
 - Intergenerational strategies
- Unfinished business
 - Fairlington 5K
 - Abingdon school expansion
- New business
 - 2015 activities

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Find the latest AFB online at the FCA Web site the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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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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FCA Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 pm
Rabieng Thai Restaurant
5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

MOMS Club

Wednesday, February 11, 4:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 23, 6:30 pm
Ramparts Restaurant
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Make summer camp plans at the county Summer Activities Fair



February is the time to sign up for area summer camps. Stop by the Thomas Jefferson Community Center on Friday, February 20, from 7 to 9 pm to find out about all of the camps being offered in Arlington for summer 2015. Youth ages 13 and up can also pick up a volunteer application for Arlington County summer camps. The Thomas Jefferson Community Center is located at 3501 S. 2nd St.

For more information, visit www.parks.arlingtonva.us.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although the cold temps and occasional snow days still weigh on us, your FCA board has already turned its thoughts to spring and summer activities. To make these a success, we need your help. We're always searching for people who can give us a few hours every now and then.

Here's a quick look at things we are thinking about for this year. Some of them are already set, but others are still in the development or exploratory stage, and whether we do them may depend on whether you are willing to help us execute them. We recently posted a survey to ask for your input on these activities, and some preliminary feedback is below. See if any of these could earn a little bit of your time this year.

- **Fairlington 5K.** Based on last year's huge success, the FCA and the Abingdon PTA quickly agreed to do another fun run/walk, scheduled for April 11. We need sponsors—this is a fundraiser, after all. But we also need people to help with race logistics, water stations along the route, and runner registration.
- **Fairlington Farmers' Market.** We're eagerly anticipating the launch of the market in April. We hope you'll make a market visit part of your regular weekend schedule. And there's always room for some additional helpers with market details.
- **Electronics recycling.** This is a new one for us, but a number of you have said you'd like to see us try it, either as a stand-alone activity or coupled with a paper shredding opportunity. A small group of volunteers could make this a useful event for the community.
- **Summer concerts on the community center grounds.** This is also a new proposal that people have expressed interest in. Pulling it off will require a good bit of leg work.
- **Movie night at the community center.** This is another new idea that would require people to help craft a plan.
- **Workshop on home improvements.** Lots of Fairlingtonians seem to be interested in this. A good place to start is the May Home & Garden Tour sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society. But we could also do a focused presentation on this as well.

If you haven't weighed in on what you'd like us to tackle this year, there are still a few more days to logon to our survey, www.fca-fairlington.org. Then let us know how we can benefit from your talent and energy.

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

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Proposed design concept for Abingdon Elementary School to go before school board in February

A general design scheme for the expansion of Abingdon Elementary School is expected to go to the Arlington School Board in February, with a decision by the board coming in late February or early March. The culmination of over five months of work by Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff, the architectural team, and two major citizen advisory committees, the design outlines the general configuration of the building, parking, traffic, and green space that will accommodate 136 additional students at the school.



Left to right: Kent Duffy, Ed Hilz, and Steve Sockwell, Chair of Public Facilities Review Committee, talk about options for Abingdon's design at a recent school design review meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

Although discussions of the design's specific components are expected to continue into early February, and some major aspects could yet change, the general plan currently calls for building a three-level classroom addition near the center of the back side of the building, moving the gym to the western end of the building toward Court-Bridge, and converting the current gym to the cafeteria.

For the nearby community, much of the debate has focused on the proposed locations for parking and for the drop-off and pick-up of students. The option recommended by staff creates a loop road around the playing field, with parent drop-off occurring near the school's small playground and garden, while bus drop-off would take place near what is now the entrance to the building.

The project's traffic consultants note that the proposed loop road would help reduce the congestion at the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and S. 29th St. that occurs during student drop-off and pick-up times. Cars waiting to drop off students in the morning often back up onto S. Abingdon St., interfering with through traffic. The traffic consultants believe the loop road would minimize the likelihood of back-ups at the intersection.

A number of residents have objected to the proposed loop road, arguing that it creates safety issues, as students may try to cut across the field to the school, weaving in and out of cars waiting in the loop road. Nearby residents have also expressed concern about the loop road becoming a location for general parking. Discus-

sions are ongoing about the specifics of a gate that would keep the loop road closed except during drop-off and pick-up times.

At press time, advisory committee members were exploring alternatives to the loop road approach and encouraging APS staff to examine other options.

The design scheme assumes that some of the parking required for the expanded school will be off the school property, either on-street near the school or off-street in lots owned by the Fairlington

Villages condo association. APS will make a formal presentation at the condo board's February meeting for the dedicated use of some of the condo's spaces, likely in the parking lot next to the North Fairlington Community Center. No agreement has been reached yet.

The use of off-site parking allows the project to maintain more of the existing green space on the school property, such as the playing field, while satisfying the Arlington County code requirement for 116 parking spaces for a school of that size.

Earlier design options had envisioned an emergency access road across nearby Fort Reynolds Park, but that proposal is no longer being actively considered.

For the exterior of the building, the architects are proposing a blend of traditional and modern, with a style that fits comfortably within the surrounding community.

School board approval of the general design scheme will give the architectural team the go ahead to begin developing the specific details for the building.

APS and FCA expect to offer a "gallery walk" for Fairlington residents in April, in which more detailed drawings of the new school will be on display.

Later in the year, APS will go to the county for a use permit for the new facility.

—Guy Land

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Rob Swennes: rooted in giving back to the community



As market manager, Rob Swennes will be a fixture at the Fairlington Farmers' Market starting in April.

Starting Sundays this April, the much-anticipated Fairlington Farmers' Market (FFM) will open for business and Rob Swennes, director of the nonprofit Field to Table, will be the market's go-to person in charge.

Swennes and Field to Table were first contacted by members of the Fairlington Farmers' Market Planning Committee when the idea was first pitched by the FCA to bring a market

to the Fairlington Community Center (FCC). Once the county approved the FCC for use as a market site last October, Field to Table proceeded with getting the necessary permits to move forward with the FFM.

No stranger to Fairlington, Swennes owns two condos in North Fairlington, and strongly believes that this neighborhood will make an ideal location for the new market. "Fairlington is a self-defined community," he says, and typically markets are local, with a majority of customers living within two miles. He acknowledges that the market will bring change to the community, but he is confident of its success.

And even with the newly reopened Safeway and the Fresh Market organic grocery store across the street from Fairlington, Swennes firmly believes that the FFM will be successful. The Fairlington Farmers' Market will not only offer more local food than a grocery, he says, but also a place for people to gather and be social.

A successful market, he notes, "is one that is reflective of the community, not the company that runs it."

It all started in Westover

A retired contractor with the U.S. Navy Department, Swennes first got involved with farmers' markets about five years ago when a friend suggested bringing a market to the Westover neighborhood in North Arlington. Not content with sitting out his retirement years, this life-long vegetable gardener quickly bit at the opportunity to pitch in.

The organizing committee founded the nonprofit Field to Table to run the Westover market and Swennes took over the leadership after the original director left a few years back. Field to Table has managed the Westover Farmers' Market for three years.

"You don't make money managing a farmers' market, so there has to be something else to motivate you," he says. "I believe in giving back to the community."

Inspired by old world influences

Swennes and his family have lived in Arlington since 1973, not counting the time his job took him and his family to Germany for several years. While in Germany, he and his family periodically went to the local markets, where he saw how so much of the produce was a product of the local climate. He also saw the influence of the ethnic diversity brought to the market from immigrants in the community.

Swennes related memories of his children getting a special treat at the market each time they visited. "You want to make this a family experience," he states.

The Fairlington Farmers' Market will not only offer more local food than a grocery, he says, but also a place for people to gather and be social.

As for the future of farmers' markets, Swennes sees a lot more potential. "I get calls from farmers throughout the year looking for space in the Westover market, and from people taking up farming who are looking for space at markets," he explains. Field to Table's locavore philosophy draws upon the growing movement of buying fresh, local, in-season fruits and vegetables. Traditional grocery stores typically depend on transporting foods from around the globe to meet broader customer needs.

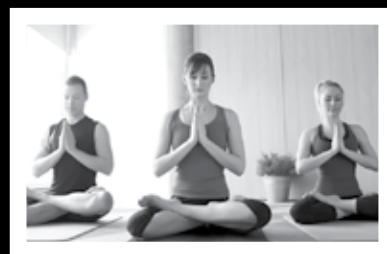
Market offerings this April

April is not usually known for its high yield of fruits and vegetables. So what will some of the offerings be when the market opens in April? Swennes says to look out for asparagus, apples, greenhouse tomatoes, and some end-of-winter vegetables like spinach and kale. In addition, he is lining up two or three vendors to sell fresh baked goods, a meat vendor, and local egg and cheese vendors.

—Janis Johnston



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Early bird registration now open for the Fairlington 5K



The enthusiasm was high as participants started off the 2014 Fairlington 5K. Photo by Janis Johnston.

Registration is now open for the 2015 Fairlington 5K, Fairlington's second annual neighborhood walk/run scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Last year, 800 participants entered this event, which raised more than \$21,000 to benefit A Cure for Ellie and education programs at Abingdon Elementary.

In addition to the 5K run, there will be a one-mile Fun Run/Walk option for families with young children and other non-runners. Registrants for the full 5K have the option to either run or walk the course that circles through North and South Fairlington neighborhoods.

Jointly sponsored by Abingdon Elementary and the FCA, the Fairlington 5K was the vision of Abingdon physical education teacher, Joe Reed, and FCA board member Joe Hartman. With the huge success of the 2014 race, Reed and Hartman are committed to making this an annual event.

"We were blown away by the high level of interest and energetic participation in last year's Fairlington 5K, and we're excited to build on that momentum to make it an even more successful event for Fairlington, Abingdon Elementary, and A Cure for Ellie in 2015," says Hartman.

Reed notes that there's already a buzz around this year's race. Registration is open and runners are signing up. "We are way ahead of the game compared to last year," he says.

Participants registering before February 28 will receive discounted early bird rates. Registration for adults is \$30/\$35 after February 28. Rates for youth ages 10 to 16

are \$15/\$20, and children ages six to 10 are \$12/\$15. Children five and under are free, however their race t-shirts need to be purchased separately. Registration rates for the Family 1Mile Fun Run/Walk are available for individuals as well as families with up to five members. For more information, visit www.fairlington5k.com and click on Register.

New this year! At the conclusion of the race, the Abingdon PTA will sponsor the Abingdon Spring Festival, which will include moon bounces, face painting, games, food, and much more. Registration for the 5K includes a race bib, race t-shirt, and admission to the festival. For community members not registered for the 5K, there will be a \$5 admission fee. Tickets can be purchased online at www.fairlington5k.com/pages/springfestival or on the day of the race. The festival is open to the whole community.

Again this year, proceeds from the race will benefit Abingdon Elementary as well as A Cure for Ellie, a local charity to benefit children and families affected by mitochondrial disease. At last year's race, Fairlingtonians were introduced to Ellie McGinn, a charming 5-year-old diagnosed with Leukodystrophy (LBSL). Ellie's parents, Arbor residents Mike and Beth McGinn, started A Cure for Ellie to help support research into mitochondrial disease, as well as funding other nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping children and their families stricken with LBSL.



Mike and Ellie McGinn watch as the race begins at the 2014 Fairlington 5K. Photo by Janis Johnston.

Last year's race received the support of more than 45 local businesses and individuals who sponsored the event and helped underwrite the cost. Once again, Reed is seeking support for the 2015 race. Visit www.fairlington5k.com and click on the sponsorship tab to find out about the opportunities for this year's race.

Whether you plan to run the route, volunteer to pass out water at one of the water stations, or come out to cheer on the runners, mark your calendars for this momentous neighborhood event.

—Janis Johnston



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Getting in shape for the Fairlington 5K

There may only be two months until the Fairlington 5K, but there is still plenty of time to get ready and start a training routine. You don't have to be a seasoned runner to participate in the race. A 5K race is equivalent to 3.1 miles—a pretty easy run for most intermediate and advanced runners. But whether you are a walker, a casual jogger, or haven't laced up your sneakers for a few years, running a 5K is not out of reach.



The Fairlington 5K attracts all levels of runners—from casual walkers to advanced marathoners. Photo by Janis Johnston.

For beginners, start by walking 30 minutes a day, five days a week. Gradually build running or jogging into your workout. For example, walk for 30 seconds, and then jog for 25 seconds. Beginners can build up each week, running for five minutes and walking for 1 minute. Eventually increase your running time and decrease your walking time as the race approaches.

You can easily train for a 5K inside using treadmills or elliptical machines if the weather leading up to race is too cold.

The best advice for any runner is to listen to your body. If you get sick or injured, rest. When your body recovers, continue workouts as planned. Being injured or sick is not the same as not wanting to run. There will be days when you do not want to run, but it's important that you fight through that because you may wake up the day of the race and not feel like running or walking.

Train your brain first, and your body second. Set goals initially and keep setting new ones whenever you run. Running with friends, wearing

a pedometer, and using apps on your phone are great ways to track your progress!

Don't forget to warm up before each workout and to check with your physician before starting any new exercise program.

—Joe Reed

Trees removed due to sewer repairs at Fairlington Community Center

Arlington County began work in January replacing a damaged sewer line in back of the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) across S. Utah St. The original sewer line was made of four-inch terracotta pipe and dated back to 1940, when the FCC was built.

According to Rachel Jackson, Arlington County Urban Forester with the Arlington Department of Parks and Recreation, the pipe developed several cracks over time and roots were getting in the pipe and causing further damage. Jackson noted that the line was replaced with a new six-inch ABS pipe, using a "trenchless approach" intended to minimize damage to the field and rain garden.

However, as a result of the reconstruction work, two trees were affected and had to be removed: a white pine near the rain garden and a maple on the slope between the service drive and the playing field. The county plans to install three replacement trees once work on the sewer line has been completed and the



Arlington County staff works to replace aged and cracked sewer lines on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center. Photo by Janis Johnston.

planting season begins. No decisions have been made at this time about the selection of the replacement trees or their locations.

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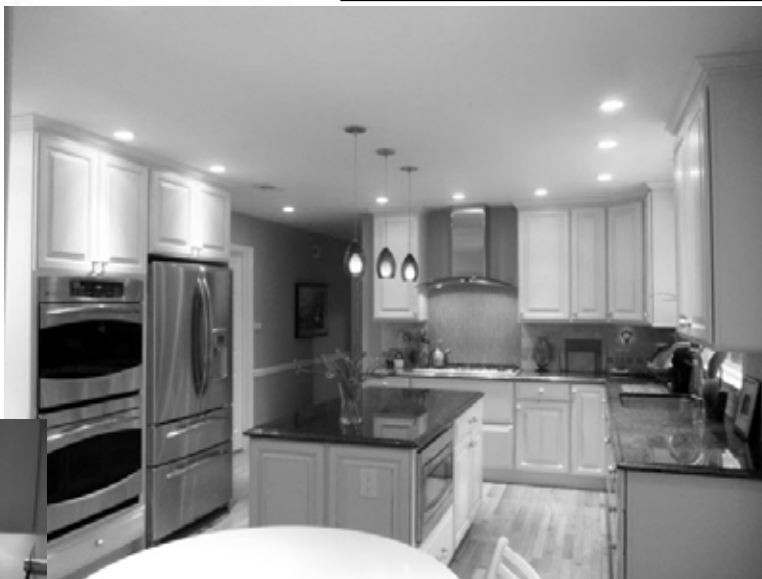
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CONSUMERS' CHECKBOOK



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Writers and editors needed for newsletter

Do you enjoy writing short newsletter articles? Do you have editing experience? Want to be the first to learn the “inside word” on community activities? The *All Fairlington Bulletin* is seeking writers and editors.

Our current editor, Janis Johnston, has done a great job putting out this newsletter for the past year, writing the bulk of the articles and maintaining the high editing and news standards the community has come to expect. But the demands of her new “real” job require more time, and she will be leaving her position with the newsletter. We are looking for experienced writers and editors who can help us maintain the monthly publication schedule.

The *All Fairlington Bulletin* is the primary medium for keeping our community informed on things that affect Fairlington. It’s an important part of the life of our community. If you have newsletter experience, consider becoming a key member of the editorial team.

Special thanks to Janis for her excellent professional work over the past year, during which we published our first-ever 36-page issue. Her facility at feature writing, adherence to deadlines, and careful editing ensured that the *All Fairlington Bulletin* would meet the highest standards of community newsletters.

Interested residents should contact president@fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land

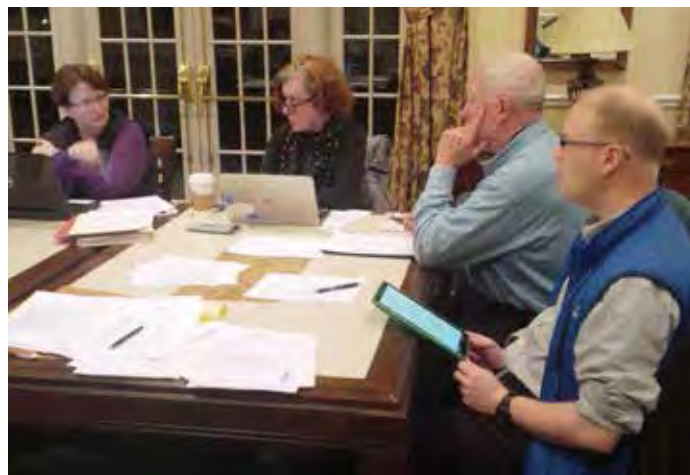
Winter wonderland or commuter nightmare?



Three Metro buses, and their passengers, became stranded in Fairlington with the first snow of 2015. Photo by Janis Johnston.

The winter storm the morning of January 6 wasn’t so fun for three Metro buses on S. 29th St. As Fairlington woke up to its first real snow fall of the winter, area residents received a bit more precipitation than they were promised the night before. The cold temperatures added to the mix to make roads icy and slick. Above, three Metro buses failed to get the traction needed to make it up the hill on S. 29th St. between S. Columbus St. and S. Buchanan St., preventing them from continuing their routes and disrupting the commutes of many Fairlington residents.

Getting down to business



Above, FCA Board members Joe Hartman (left) and Mark Jones work on new business for 2015 at the year’s first FCA Board meeting. At right, Carol Dabbs (Left), Gretchen Fallon, Ed Hilz, and Kent Duffy discuss ideas for new FCA sponsored activities for 2015. Photos by Guy Land.



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— Edward Getterman,
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Winter's cold brings out wildlife worth searching for

A crusty snow blanketed the landscape in early January. Walking my Beagle on a 12-degree morning, I heard birds chirping but couldn't find a one until I took a closer look. Since all birds don't migrate south, you'll notice many on a winter walk through Fairlington.

Inside a burning bush, a deciduous species of the genus, **euonymus**, I saw a **sparrow**, singing to me while "puffed-up" in speckled plumage. Inches away in this stiff-branched, leafless shrub was a nest covered in snow. I reached in and cupped out the powdery mound but felt no eggs. Even so, I figured the bird now had an overnight shelter while winds dropped the temperature.

Later, I heard songbirds inside an **American holly**. The stout, broadleaf evergreen dotted with red berries is a windscreen and predator guard for shut-eye nestlings waiting for worms in spring. I pulled one branch aside and saw **wrens** and



During the winter months, abandoned birds' nests can easily be spotted perched in trees. Photo by Janis Johnston.

sparrows perched on branches of a shrub that resembles a small tree. I released the branch to let them have their peace.

That afternoon, I heard a strange call and looked up to see a **blue jay** gripping a spindly branch of a **crape myrtle** tree. The bird flew from a nearby stand of **oaks**, **maples**, and **pines**, most likely in search of food. I was surprised to see a jay since its call wasn't the typical "creaky-gate" whine.

At the Fairlington Community Center, I noticed a **mockingbird** on a **foster's holly** branch, nibbling on berries. The **cedar waxwing** is another bird that remains in our area over winter and feasts on both holly and **crab apple** fruit.

Cardinals seem to be the most noticeable bird. Usually, one hears it rustling about in thick ground cover come late afternoon. In early January while cleaning up a patio off S. Utah St., I heard a minute-long rhapsody before looking up to find a lone male cardinal perched in a crape myrtle tree, staring down at me, its crest bent toward the ground. I had a trowel and clippers but no seed or bread crumbs to offer the solo artist.

Walk by some woods with tall deciduous trees and you'll likely hear and see a **downy** or **pileated woodpecker** hopping along a dead trunk high above the ground. Besides its pecking sound, a woodpecker is noisy in flight, with fast-flapping



Downy woodpecker.

wings and a scratchy, high-pitched call.

Even if you don't locate a bird of choice in winter, you'll locate a nest in the crotch of a shrub or small tree. It is interesting how a bird will sift through thick waves of foliage in an **arborvitae** to build a nest inside.

The smartest birds may be those that build nests in an evergreen vine such as **pyracantha** or **star jasmine**. Inside the former are two-inch long, pointed appendages which retard predators from invading a nest. I saw a nest with eggs just off a sidewalk and a few feet from the street in Old Town Alexandria last summer. No way was a predator going inside that thorny thicket to raid the nest.

Despite winter's lifeless-looking landscape, walk around and locate these examples of vigorous life that thrive mightily in frigid conditions.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net




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ABINGDON school news



Students hold successful AFAC food drive

As a result of their hard work, Abingdon students helped many local families realize their holiday wish of three meals per day during the month of January. During the school's December food drive, the students collected almost 350 pounds of food, which were donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC).

AFAC currently provides supplemental groceries to approximately 2,200 Arlington families per week. With the collection of non-perishable food donations, the students have helped AFAC stretch their own resources to purchase other necessary food items such as milk, eggs, chicken, and fresh produce. Each year, Abingdon typically hosts two food drives to help stock the shelves at AFAC, one in the winter and one in the spring. Thanks go to the families that generously donated to this important effort to help Arlington families in need.

Healthy eating adds up at Abingdon

Families at Abingdon may have noticed some subtle changes to



Abingdon's donations for AFAC fill a van and help to fill the pantry shelves. Photo courtesy Abingdon PTA.

the food served at PTA meetings and evening events this year. With the guidance of the newly formed Health & Wellness Committee (led by Fairlington residents Melody Kisor and Katherine Smith), the PTA is taking steps to encourage healthier living. While still serving crowd-pleasing options like pizza, we've managed to make great strides in improving nutrition and modeling healthy eating with a few additions, subtractions, and health-conscious improvements. Check out our new math!

+ Addition +	- Subtraction -	> Improvement >
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh whole fruit (i.e., apples, bananas, and oranges) Fresh vegetables (i.e., baby carrots and broccoli) Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sugary beverages (including soda and juice) Whole grain pizza crust instead of regular crust (when available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole grain pizza crust instead of regular crust (when available) Low-fat mozzarella cheese (when available)

Mark your calendars

February 6, 7:50 am:

Project GIFT: Changing Education Through the Arts Day



February 11, 12:26 pm:

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February 16:

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February 20,

6 pm: PTA movie night

February 24:

PTA meeting



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neighborhood news

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in February to discuss *All the Light We Cannot See*, the *New York Times* best-seller and National Book Award finalist by Anthony Doerr.

This is a novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. According to the *Washington Post*, the story is “enthralingly told, beautifully written...Every piece of back story reveals information that charges the emerging narrative with significance, until at last the puzzle-box of the plot slides open to reveal the treasure hidden inside.”

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, February 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In January, excellent beef pot roast was enjoyed by all who attended our gathering at the Silver Diner.

Here's what's planned for February:

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 pm, Rabieng Thai Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-671-4222, www.rabieng.com. It's just beyond Bailey's Crossroads—very close to Fairlington. We've eaten here several times; it's always great food in an informal atmosphere.

Monday, February 23, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. This is a local favorite that we visit frequently. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of

these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids or an afternoon to yourself, look no further than the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, the Co-op has been a community of parents helping parents right here in our neighborhood.

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.

For more information or to request an application, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

Card players welcome

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. No previous experience is necessary to enjoy this card game. We are happy to teach you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members (and their children) of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parents' Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and group activities such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old.

The MOMS Club meets monthly for general meetings. Please contact fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for meeting and membership information. Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us, and children are always welcome. For more information about the club, visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

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Animal Talk

Preparing your pet for a new baby

Fairlington has become a very popular neighborhood for both families and pet owners. But can the two peacefully coexist? How do you prepare your pet for a new baby? Here are some tips.



1. Desensitizing is key. Take the time before the baby arrives to introduce your pet to the sights, smells, and sounds that it will encounter once the baby arrives, that way they are not new and scary once the baby is here. Some sources even recommend carrying around a doll or playing a CD of baby noises for pets to get used to.
2. For dogs, training is also key. Take the time to brush up on important commands like sit and stay and un-train bad behaviors like the dog jumping on people. Introduce new commands like settle or shoo, where the dog is instructed to go to its bed or crate and stay there when you don't want it underfoot.
3. Think now about schedules. Begin making adjustments to your pet's schedule to resemble what you envision it may be post-baby. Recognize that you will have less time for your pet once your baby arrives, but your pet won't understand why. Start setting expectations now.
4. Adjust your attention level. If your pet is used to a ton of undivided attention, it could have a hard time adjusting to less attention once baby arrives. Start to cut back a little now so your pet won't feel cheated once the baby gets here.
5. Teach your pet to expect the unexpected. Children are unpredictable, and their behavior can cause problems with pets. By getting your pet used to loud noises, or being touched unexpectedly, you can decrease your pet's sensitivity to situations that it will likely encounter down the road.
6. Praise and reward your pet (yes, even cats) for exhibiting good or desired behavior.
7. Provide a safe, child-free zone for your pet to escape to if it does not want to interact with the baby.
8. Decide now whether you want the pet in the baby's room, and start to make adjustments in that direction.



Many local shelters and pet training organizations have baby preparation classes, so check them out if you feel you need additional help. With a little planning and patience, your pet can adapt to your growing family.

—Christine M. Chirichella



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Emergency preparedness and response training begins in March

Would you like to be better prepared for and able to recover from disasters large and small? Individuals who live and/or work in Arlington County are invited to participate in Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), sponsored by the county's Citizen Corps, Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department.

The eight-session, 26-hour course follows a national curriculum and covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, fire suppression and utility shut-off, disaster psychology, light search and rescue, team organization, and terrorism. Two courses, each of which meets six weeknights and two Saturday mornings, are scheduled to begin in early March and conclude with a mock disaster in early May. Contact ArlingtonCERT@aol.com for more information.

Vihstadt to speak in March

County Board member John Vihstadt will be the featured speaker at the March 12 FCA meeting. More information will be provided in the March *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

Start planning your spring vegetable garden

Winter is a great time to plan for the gardening season. Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners in Arlington and Alexandria kick off their 2015 public education schedule in February.

Planning the Vegetable Garden. Successful vegetable gardens begin with a sound plan. This program will focus on how to select vegetables that grow well together in both small and abundant spaces, get soil tested, and prepare your tools for the work ahead. This is the first of a series of three programs on vegetable gardening. Others are to be held in March and April.

This class is offered on Saturday, February 7, 9:30 to 11 am, and again on Tuesday, February 17, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The class is free, but advance registration is requested. Register at www.mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 with any questions or send an email to mgarlalex@gmail.com

Check your assessment: Arlington County real estate assessments were released in late January. Appeals must be filed by March 4. Call 703-228-3920.

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Mini-ads

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. Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504 www.homealone.petfinder.com

ANNIE'S PET CARE. Daily dog walks, cat visits, and overnight dog sitting in your home. Serving Fairlington since 2006. References available. Licensed and insured. 703-470-6664. ahealy.mailbox@gmail.com.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

ROOM 4 RENT. Perfect for female weekday commuter. Furnished bed, bath, street parking. Bus/metro. House w/cat. Write 70Nellie@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED. Alexandria CPA firm looking for experienced accountant to assist with income tax preparation and bookkeeping, part-time. Please email resume to christine@cpa-coker.com

 Join the Fairlington conversation on Facebook at the Fairlington Appreciation Society.

For sale: Cozy Fairlington t-shirts



Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington t-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available. To order, send an e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member. Call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number.

The Gentleman PLUMBER

A DIVISION OF HARRY BRASWELL, INC.



ALL SERVICES & REPAIRS
WATER HEATERS • SINKS • FAUCETS • DRAINS
SUMP PUMPS • BATHROOM REMODELING

703-562-4200
WWW.THEGENTLEMANPLUMBER-VA.COM
ONLINE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING!

Mark your calendar for the Fairlington Home and Garden Tour

Check out your neighbor's creative home and garden renovations at the Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, Saturday, May 16. Watch the *All Fairlington Bulletin* in March for ticket information.

Doggie-Do (and cats too!)
Neighborhood Pet Services

Affordable, affectionate care.
 whether you're here or there.

Walking, bark-park visits, play dates,
 boarding, daycare, sitting, and more...
 What can we do for you?

Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel
 www.doggie-do.biz 703.563-4973
 doggie-do@doggie-do.biz



Pet & Plantcare by Gerri, LLC

- Walking
- Sitting
- Playgroups
- Medications

Gerri Horan
 703.379.7719
 SINCE 1999



BONDED & INSURED

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: 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. The FCC is closed Sunday.
 Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

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 AND FOSTER
ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

4800 S. 31st Street | Arlington, VA 22206 | 703-998-3111

December TOP PRODUCERS



Rob Allen
Top Listing agent



Afroza Hossain
Top Producer

FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Reston—Mid-Century Modern in Coleson Cluster. 3 level 2BR/1.55BA TH w/HDWDs, updated BAs, floor to ceiling windows. \$357,700 Call Rob Chamberlain



Kingstowne—Gorgeous 4BR/3.5BA garage TH. Updates galore. Near Metro. \$585,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arl/Fairlington—1BR w/updated kit. & BA. Mins. to shops & restaurants. \$249,900 Call Marian Stifle



Fairfax/Random Hills—Spacious & updated 3BR/2BA w/HDWDs, gas fplc, eat-in kitchen, separate dining area, & balcony. \$320,100 Call Kristin Usaitis



Manassas—Spacious 2BR/2BA w/den, updated kitchen & 2 parking spaces. Near shops, restaurants, & 66. \$199,950 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arlington Village—Updated 1BR w/newer windows, newer HVAC, & deck backs to common area. \$295,000 Call Kristin Usaitis

**SERVING FAIRLINGTON
 & ALL NORTHERN VA**

