

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

FEBRUARY 2016

Volume 42, Number 2

County cable administrator to meet with FCA in February

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Arlington County's Cable Administrator Rob Billingsley will attend the February meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association to talk all things cable-connected.

Billingsley and a representative from Verizon will be on hand at the February 10 meeting at the Fairlington Community Center to provide information and answer questions about Fairlington's cable provider, Comcast, and Verizon's plans for FIOS (fiber optic network) in the area.

As the Arlington County Cable Administrator, Billingsley is responsible for overseeing all the terms of the franchise agreements between Arlington County and Comcast and Verizon. He said one of the first items he and the Verizon representative will discuss is the expected schedule for Verizon to complete its buildout of the fiber optic network in Fairlington. Buildout is the actual laying of the cable underground.

"And you can hardly put anything in the ground (in Fairlington) without hitting something," he said. He used electrical, telephone lines, and water and sewer lines as examples of the many items buried in and around Fairlington.

The agreement between Comcast and the county expired on June 30, 2013, but several issues have caused that agreement to be extended several times. The current extension is valid until the end of June this year, Billingsley said. He also said the franchise agreement is usually 15 years in length, and that negotiations are ongoing.

The Verizon representative is expected to discuss exactly what FIOS is and what it can do, and where Verizon stands at the moment in its effort to lay the cable.

Billingsley also said that just because FIOS cable may be right outside your Fairlington door, doesn't mean it gets connected immediately. There is a process each condo association must go through with the company, and each of Fairlington's seven condo associations would have to reach a separate agreement with Verizon, unless they decided to join forces. Then they would also have to abide by county rules and regulations relating to connectivity.

Billingsley last spoke at the FCA meeting in March of 2013.

—Bob Bradley

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

FCA February 10 preliminary agenda

Special presentation: Arlington County Cable Administrator Rob Billingsley will discuss Comcast and Verizon FIOS issues.

Regular board business:

- Approval of January minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Find the latest *AFB* online at the FCA website the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

Web design by 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	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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— DEADLINE —

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

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E-mail editorial announcements to:
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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:
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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern Street, Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Presidents Day

Monday, February 15

Book Club

Tuesday, February 23, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 pm
California Pizza Kitchen
1201 S. Hayes Street, Suite F
Arlington

Civic federation gets APS update



FCA President Guy Land (left) and former FCA Secretary Carol Dabbs visit with Arlington Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy at the January meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation, the umbrella organization for all the civic associations in Arlington. Murphy provided an update on progress toward the goals of the APS strategic plan. FCA participates in the discussions of the Civic federation. Photo by Raj Adusumilli.

Contributing writers this month:

Kendra Best, Bob Bradley, Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan, Michelle Woolley

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FCA is one of the few civic associations that doesn't require membership dues. Under our bylaws, all residents and owners in Fairlington are automatically members of the association, with the ability to vote at the annual meeting and participate in all FCA activities. Most civic groups charge annual dues and use these dues to finance the organization's activities.

FCA's operational revenue comes primarily from advertising in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. Fortunately, we've had a solid, and growing, set up of reliable monthly advertisers. Because of strong advertiser support, over the past couple of years we've been able to expand the size the newsletter.

Part of this is attributable to the value of Fairlington as a potential customer base for advertisers. But another part is a reflection of the quality of this newsletter, both in its professional approach and in the fact that it is very Fairlington-centric—this is often the only place that you can get the details on things that affect our community. And there are lots of things going on in the Fairlington area that we try to cover. I often hear from county leaders that ours is by far the best civic association newsletter in Arlington.

We all benefit from the diligent work of the people (mostly Fairlington volunteers) who have made this newsletter such a quality publication over the years.

We use the net income from the newsletter to fund our work and support activities that benefit the community. That includes routine administrative things like maintaining a website (several years ago our site was hacked and we had to spend several thousand dollars for a complete rebuild of the site) and contracting for professional accounting services, as well as paying taxes on our newsletter income.

The newsletter revenue also covers the costs of community events, such as the Fourth of July celebration (which we split with Fairlington Villages) and December's Santa Ride, and provides adequate cash to pay up front the costs of the 5K and next month's home improvement showcase. Of course, we try to line up corporate sponsorships for some of our major activities as well.

We also maintain a cash cushion, so that we can respond to promising community opportunities, cover unanticipated expenses, and weather any temporary decline in advertising revenue.

So Fairlington residents get the benefits of a vibrant civic association without having to pay dues, and our advertisers get access to a good group of potential customers. That's a win for everyone.

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

A color version of this newsletter is available online at
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Fairlington assessments show mixed pattern

Residential real estate assessments across Arlington County showed a modest increase in 2016, but the picture for Fairlington was more varied, with many units either reflecting no change or experiencing actual declines in assessments. Countywide, assessments were up 2.8 percent.

Clarendon I models (1,500 square feet), which predominate in South Fairlington, were up a little less than 1 percent, while most Clarendon II models (1,383), which are more common in North Fairlington, declined almost 1 percent.

Several larger models showed the greatest assessment increases. The Arlington model, which has 2,145 square feet, had an assessment increase of 1.7 percent, to \$540,300. North Fairlington's Dominion I model with 1,800 square also went up 1.7 percent.

Unit Type	Square feet	2015	2016	Percent change
Arlington	2145	531,500	540,300	1.7
Ashlawn	1470	382,400	379,400	-0.8
Barcroft	1490	360,800	351,800	-2.5
Braddock	711	242,900	242,900	0.0
Bradford	1009	314,400	309,400	-1.6
Clarendon I North	1500	421,000	424,600	0.9
Clarendon I South	1500	421,000	424,600	0.9
Clarendon II North	1383	405,300	401,900	-0.8
Dominion I North	1800	503,200	511,800	1.7
Dominion I South	1830	464,200	464,200	0.0
Dominion II	1689	443,900	447,600	0.8
Edgewood	1400	369,000	368,000	-0.3
Georgetown	922	337,900	335,000	-0.9
Monticello	1712	387,500	374,000	-3.5
Mt Vernon	1860	396,400	399,700	0.8
Richmond	1031	305,000	307,600	0.9
Sherwood	1257	336,100	338,800	0.8
Staunton	1121	310,100	312,700	0.8

Source: Arlington County real estate assessments
<https://propertysearch.arlingtonva.us>
 *Units of the same type may have different assessments.

Ashlawn, Barcroft, Bradford, Edgewood, Georgetown, and Monticello units saw their assessments fall. This differs from last year, when units generally saw a modest increase or remained level.

Real estate agents who routinely work Fairlington note that it continues to be a popular market, with units selling quickly.

According to Bonnie Blaszczyk, a RE/MAX Allegiance

agent who has handled Fairlington properties for many years, "2015 continued to be a strong year for Fairlington sales, especially the sales of the larger units. Thanks in part to low inventory, sale prices rose and 'days on market' dropped significantly. Going forward, 2016 looks to be a healthy year for Fairlington."



Many Fairlington units either reflected no change or experienced actual declines in assessments. Photo by Guy Land.

Kay Houghton, a Keller Williams Realty agent who specializes in Fairlington, noted, "Whether assessments show a modest increase or a slight decrease, the housing market in Fairlington remains strong. With interest rates holding steady at historically low levels, demand remains high. Due to the wonderful community and close proximity to the District, Fairlington continues to be one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the area."

County officials said the value of the average Arlington residence (existing single-family properties, including condominiums, townhouses, and detached homes) increased from \$580,100 to \$603,500. Existing commercial property, which includes apartments, increased 1.3 percent in value.

Real estate assessments are based on previous sales figures, so they may lag behind current resale prices. Residential assessments are based primarily on neighborhood sales occurring July 1, 2014, though August 31, 2015. Individual assessments of similar units can vary, and assessments for specific units may not reflect the current fair market value for that unit as determined by the marketplace. This may be particularly true for units that have had major internal improvements.

Individuals who wish to challenge their assessments must do so by March 1. The assessed value provides the basis for owners' annual real estate taxes.

—Guy Land



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Third annual Fairlington 5K steps off on April 23

Get your running and walking shoes on for the third annual Fairlington 5K road race set for Saturday, April 23 at 8 am.

In 2015, the second year of the Fairlington 5K race, there were over 600 participants, and it helped raise \$22,000 for A Cure for Ellie Fund and Abingdon Elementary School.



The third annual Fairlington 5K road race steps off on April 23. Photo by Kendra Best.

This year's 5K race and Fun Run will again help support Abingdon Elementary and Ellie McGinn, a Fairlington resident and Abingdon second-grader who was diagnosed with Leukodystrophy, a degenerative brain and spinal cord disease. The McGinn Family recently announced a joint research project between the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University that will provide a roadmap towards nanotherapy for LBSL.

The outcomes will be a very powerful tool for testing new effective medications that will hopefully save Ellie and other children like her. There are three milestones within the project that require funding. The first milestone of \$60,000, which was reached in October 2015, will allow the project to begin. The second milestone, \$231,000, will be needed to keep the project going over the next two years.

A silent auction is set for April 15 at the Fairlington Community Center. There will be an open bar for those of age and food will be served.

Joe Reed, a physical education teacher at Abingdon Elementary, and a founder of the race, is seeking donations. He can be contacted at josephcreed@gmail.com.

Registration costs are the same as last year at \$35 for adults, \$20 for those 11 to 16, and \$15 for children ages 6 to 9. Children under 5 are free. For information and to register, go to fairlington5k.com.

—Bob Bradley

Board plans agenda for 2016

Getting down to business to begin the new year, the FCA board in January unanimously elected Lindsay Willmann FCA secretary. The position went unfilled at December's annual meeting. The board also discussed major activities for the year, including the upcoming home improvement showcase and potential Fairlington Day activities.

The Board named Treasurer Ed Hilz and Director Evan Harvey as Fairlington's representatives to the county Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). NCAC recommends community improvement projects, such as sidewalks, streetlights, and park improvements, to the county board. Waiting in the queue for future funding are the installation of sidewalks along the 31st St. hill to Shirlington, replacement of street lights down the 31st St. hill, and installation of a sidewalk along Abingdon St. between 31st Rd. and 31st St. Funding for NCAC is normally included in the county's biennial bond issue.

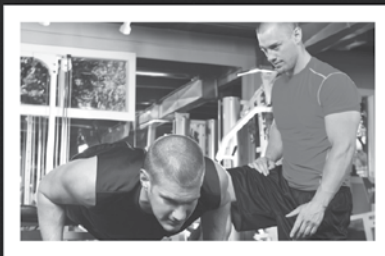
The Board has decided not to sponsor Fairlington Day festivities this spring, though a possible fall set of activities remains under consideration. With the home improvement workshop coming March 5, the Fairlington 5K run/walk occurring on April 23, and the Fairlington Farmers Market opening for a second season in late April, Fairlington already has an active agenda of community events for the spring.

Director Kent Duffy suggested coupling any neighborhood day celebration with other community activities, such as the farmers market or activities at Abingdon Elementary, as a way of capitalizing on those other activities and strengthening FCA's relationship with other organizations in the community.

Executing FCA-sponsored events requires the help of volunteers. That's particularly true of any Fairlington Day celebration. If you would be interested in helping with such an event, please let us know.

—Guy Land

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Officials meet concerning helicopter noise

A December meeting addressed helicopter noise affecting Arlington that was attended by Arlington County and federal officials, as well as approximately 100 concerned citizens.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, representatives from the Air Force, Marines, Army and Coast Guard, plus the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Arlington County staff member Brian Stout were on hand. County Board member Libby Garvey chaired the meeting.



At a December 16 meeting helicopter noise was discussed by Arlington County and federal officials.

There was a presentation about the seven helicopter routes that impact Arlington and the altitude limits. Interestingly, per current FAA guidelines, helicopters can fly as low as 50 feet. In order to stay under airplane flight paths, they have upward limits that range from 200 feet to 700 feet in what is called Zone 5, which covers all of Arlington.

One of the problems revealed was that any helicopter pilot [military (75 percent), police and medevac (24 percent), or other (1 percent)] can request to fly outside of that zone, and these requests are routinely granted by the FAA unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

Another issue is the limited number of ways to file complaints or get information.

Garvey agreed that she would pursue these issues and would try to post information on Arlington's website in the future.

A number of better routes over Crystal City, Aurora Highlands, and the Pentagon City neighborhoods were suggested. Other suggestions were made as to how pilots

could fly at higher altitudes with respect to ground elevations. It was also suggested that guidelines, training and GPS equipment could be useful.

The V-22 Osprey (capable of vertical takeoff and landing) was the subject of several complaints, but no response was given, according to the Federal Civic Association newsletter of Jan. 5.

—Bob Bradley

Enrollment open for March/April preparedness and response training

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.

Classes are taught by personnel from the county's fire department, police department, Office of Emergency Management and, also, CERT members themselves. Two courses, each of which meets six weeknights and two Saturday mornings, are scheduled to begin mid-March and conclude with a mock disaster the first Saturday in May.

To date, nearly 750 county residents have completed this free training, which is typically offered twice a year and is open to those who are 18 and older (16 and 17 year olds may participate if accompanied by an adult/parent). Many complete additional requirements to become active-duty, deployable members of the all-volunteer Arlington County CERT and its neighborhood teams.

CERT members have been deployed a number of times during recent years to conduct damage assessments and mitigate hazards following major weather events and to provide support to the county's emergency management personnel, as needed. Space in this training is limited and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact ArlingtonCERT@gmail.com for additional information.

—Bob Bradley

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Virginia DMV office to stay at Four Mile Run

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles office on Four Mile Run Drive in south Arlington, will not be closing after all.

Delegate Alfonzo Lopez, who represents much of Arlington, helped facilitate a deal that renewed the government's lease at 4150 S. Four Mile Run Drive, and Lopez said it will even get a reduction in the rent.

When news broke that the office was to close and be relocated to the Barcroft Plaza shopping center in the Falls Church area, it was not well received. Lopez held a community meeting to hear residents' concerns about the plan. Fairfax County's Mason District also disliked the plan, saying the new DMV there would cause parking and traffic problems.

Although the plans for the DMV at Barcroft have been shelved, Lopez said in a statement that the agency is moving forward with plans to open an additional office in the Ballston area to increase service for all Arlington residents.

"It's good for the community and it's good for the state," Lopez told Arlnow.com. "I think everyone wins with this deal—the state government, the property owners and Arlington County. It's really good news for South Arlington, for all of Arlington in terms of DMV convenience."

—Bob Bradley

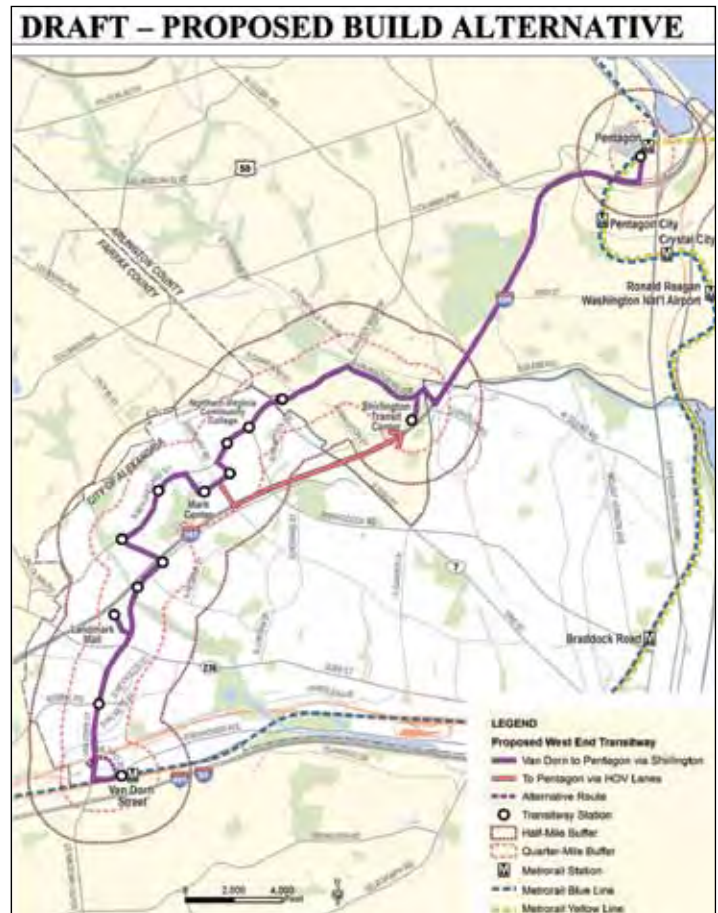
Transitway would connect Van Dorn and Pentagon Metro stations

Alexandria is conducting public meetings on the West End Transitway project, which would connect transit centers along the north/south route of the Van Dorn and Beauregard Streets corridor. Plans would create a Bus Rapid Transit system (BRT) linking the Van Dorn Metro station in the southernmost corner of Alexandria, at the Fairfax County line, to the Pentagon in the north. The system would run primarily along Van Dorn and Beauregard Streets, and it would connect neighborhoods along the route and transit (bus) centers at Landmark, Mark Center, Shirlington, and the Pentagon.

Currently, the city is conducting public meetings to explain and assess three alternative plans. One option

is to do nothing. A second is to improve the current bus service to "frequent and continuous" service without requiring additional infrastructure building or funding. The third option, called the "build" alternative, would include frequent and continuous bus service in dedicated transit lanes (along a significant portion of the corridor), as well as funding for infrastructure improvements such as "high-quality stations with rider amenities."

The objectives of the proposed transitway include: provide direct, reliable, higher-speed, higher-capacity transit service; respond to proposed development projects; connect with the existing and future regional transit



The proposed north/south transitway would connect population centers in Alexandria and Arlington.

network; curtail growth of traffic congestion; serve as a catalyst for continued economic development; avoid or minimize negative impacts on the community and the environment; and deliver a cost-effective project.

A map of the proposed West End Transitway can be found on the project website, www.alexandriava.gov/WestEndTransitway.

—Gretchen Fallon

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Animal Talk

Off-leash dogs still a big problem in Fairlington

The FCA was recently alerted to an alleged dog attack in the Mews that also resulted in a personal injury/assault. A man was walking his beagle on Christmas Eve when a large black Labrador retriever charged and pinned the beagle to the ground by its neck. The beagle's owner tried to intervene and stop the attack, calling out to the other owner to get the dog under control and on leash. The lab's owner allegedly punched the beagle's owner in the face, knocking his glasses off and causing a gash under his eye and a bloodied chin. Animal Control was notified, but could not ticket the lab's owner because the incident happened on private property. The police also were called and the condo association notified. At the time of publication, the beagle's owner was pursuing pressing charges for assault.

Recently, I was personally involved in two off-leash incidents in the span of one week. One involved an aggressive dog charging me and my on-leash dog. As a result, I was bitten by my own dog as I tried to keep the dogs apart. In the second incident, the off-leash dog was friendly. But having been bitten earlier in the week, I decided to confront the owner and ask that he keep his dog on leash. I explained how I had been bitten earlier in the week, and he replied, "You need to chill out." Luckily this incident didn't result in

the owner becoming violent, but he clearly was annoyed that I confronted him.

In each of these incidents, the attacking dogs' owners were breaking county/city code and condo association rules. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (www.aspc.org), leash laws:



Keeping your dog on a leash isn't just smart practice, it's also the law. Photo by Bob Bradley.

- Protect dogs from traffic
- Curb dogs' natural instinct to chase children, get into trash, or dig up landscaping
- Allow for the safe passage of the public

Both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria have leash laws in place for everyone's protection, but many residents do not abide by them. Perhaps dog owners are just trying to get exercise for their dog. Perhaps they think their dog is well-trained or "nice" and won't cause a problem. However, the bottom

line is that dogs are animals, and unpredictable. Even if your dog is well-trained, all it takes is seeing one squirrel across the street for a dog to be injured or killed. Even if your dog is friendly, other dogs or people it encounters may not be.

All it takes is one encounter to cause serious repercussions. You may recall a story featured in the March 2015

All Fairlington Bulletin where a dog in south Fairlington was killed by an off-leash dog. In that situation, the attacking dog was euthanized as a result. That's two deaths that could easily have been avoided.

Fairlington is a very busy place, dense with cars, buses, people, children, and other dogs. I urge everyone to take this issue seriously and protect your pets and the community by keeping your dogs on leash as a matter of course.

—Christine Chirichella

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Remodeling showcase on March 5 will feature wall-to-wall experts

The first Fairlington Home Improvement Expo will showcase the advice of remodeling contractors who are well versed in the fun and foibles of renovating a Fairlington home. The expo will be held on Saturday, March 5, from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center.

It's free and open to all residents and visitors.

What are options for remodeling my Barcroft kitchen? Can I rearrange the appliances in my Clarendon kitchen? Can I replace my Berkeley's spiral staircase? What are the latest trends in remodeling the main bathroom? How do the plumbing stacks limit my choices? Is there a better way to get to the attic? What are the classic paint color schemes, and what are some newer variations? Are there built-in storage options for the basement? How can I change out the patio's pebble paving? When does it make sense to replace the HVAC

system or get a heat pump? How do I choose among all the replacement-windows possibilities? Fairlington homeowners can find answers to these questions, and much more, at the expo.

Continued on page 23



Whether deciding to remodel a kitchen or a bathroom, redo the look of your Fairlington patio, or just choose the desired color schemes for painting the inside of your unit, help will be on hand at the remodeling showcase and expo on March 5 at the Fairlington Community Center. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

County vows Shirlington Crescent planning effort

Arlington County said it will begin an extensive community planning effort this year for the area known as Shirlington Crescent, a process with the goal of bringing major economic, environmental and cultural changes to the area.

Plans for revitalizing parts of Nauck and the Four Mile Run corridor began with a study conducted in 2014. This study outlined approximately 95 acres along Four Mile Run Drive and Shirlington Road for the community planning process to focus on.

The goal for this planning effort is to "develop a vision and area plan which could re-evaluate land use goals and objectives." To do this, the county will consider various aspects of the existing Crescent and how to improve or change them, including economic development.

The county also plans to take into consideration open space, transportation, affordable housing, urban design, cultural resources and historic preservation.

Baby-ready pets

Baby-Ready Pets offers preparation and assistance to help expectant families prepare their home and their pets for the arrival of the new baby and to make sure that it is a safe and (relatively) stress-free experience for all. This seminar is based on a program created by the Providence Animal Rescue League and the Rhode Island SPCA, and has been endorsed by the ASPCA. The Animal Welfare League of Arlington's staff will present Baby-Ready Pets for expectant parents in a two-hour workshop at the League.

After the program, participants may call or e-mail follow-up questions if they need additional support. Participants will also receive helpful handouts and a CD of baby sounds to help desensitize their pets to the sounds of the new arrival. This is a human-only class, please leave your pets at home. Baby-Ready Pets sessions are from 6:30-8:30 pm on February 8 at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive.

There is no fee for the class, but donations are welcome. Reservations are required and space is limited. To register, go to www.awla.org/event/baby-ready-pets-10/.



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Alumni enjoy being parents of next generation of Abingdon students

Fairlington and Abingdon are well known for their strong sense of community. Imagine the ties between neighborhood and school when current and former residents choose Abingdon for their children. There are several Abingdon families who are sending a second generation of students to the school. Rebecca and Clark Kennedy, parents to 1st grader Brady, and Jenifer and Chris Hornback, parents to 2nd grader Henry, are two such families.

Clark and Rebecca both attended Abingdon in the 1990s. Clark grew up in Fairlington Glen (his parents are still residents). The Kennedys currently live in the Claremont neighborhood. Jenifer Hornback grew up in Claremont and now resides in Fairlington Arbor. She attended Abingdon in the 1980s. "When deciding where to move after college, moving back to South Arlington was an easy decision," Jenifer Hornback said. "Then when my husband, Chris, and I were deciding where to purchase a home a few years later, Fairlington was the obvious choice."

When the Kennedys and Hornbacks had children ready for school, they decided on Abingdon after considering other options.

"Both my husband and I loved our time at Abingdon and have very positive memories. When it was time to sign [Brady] up for Kindergarten I was going to apply to Arlington Traditional School and Claremont just to keep my options open. I went on the Abingdon school tour that you are required to go on, I was so impressed with

everything they had at Abingdon, I did not even turn in my applications [to the other schools]," said Rebecca.

The Hornbacks had similar observations.

"There are so many wonderful choices for families in this area for elementary schools, but after touring several, Abingdon was the right choice for our family," Jenifer said. "We were drawn in by the creative arts focus and the strong sense of community amongst the students, teachers and families. This was the same strong sense of community I experienced back in the 1980s."

When asked about influential teachers, Rebecca and Jenifer mentioned Mrs. Swylock (formally Ms. Whitten), aka the "Queen of Science" who retired in 2013.

"When we got to middle school, the 6th grade science teacher at Gunston said she always knew who came from Abingdon because we would know so much about science," Rebecca said.

"I also vividly remember my favorite teacher, Ms. Whitten, the new science teacher," Jenifer said. "She sparked my lifelong interest in science." Jenifer holds an environmental science degree.

Abingdon's current and popular fourth grade teacher, Mr. Utley, was also identified as an educator who made a big impression on the Kennedys.

"Both my husband and I had Mr. Utley for 4th grade," Rebecca said. "I was in his first class at Abingdon when he was a brand new teacher. He is both of our favorite teacher. It was part of our decision to send Brady to Abingdon, because we want him to have Mr. Utley, too."

"We would visit him every couple of years at the end of the school year to say hello after we graduated. After Brady was born he gave us a card that said 'I can't wait to see him in my classroom in 2018!' "

As the school prepares for extensive renovation and expansion next year, both Rebecca and Jenifer remember distinct features about the school that have not changed in over 30 years.

"The two things I remember most from my first day at Abingdon were the huge open library and the open classrooms," Hornback recalls. While the library will

Continued on page 23



Jenifer Hornback attended Abingdon Elementary School in the 1980s, while her son Henry is currently a second-grader at the school. Photo courtesy the Hornback family.



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In January, we enjoyed the excellent food at Rabieng.



The Fairlington Diners gather at Auberge Chez Francois in December. Photo by Deb Berube.

Here's what's planned for February:

Monday, February 8, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern Street, Alexandria, 703-998-6616, rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when they offer half-price burgers with

the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu is also available.

Thursday, February 25, 6:30 pm, California Pizza Kitchen, 1201 S. Hayes Street, Suite F, Arlington, 703-412-4900, m.cpk.com. Located in Pentagon Center, near Costco, this is a special request by one of our regular members. This national chain offers a wide variety of dishes, small and large.

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 an email to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in February to discuss *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*, by Katherine Boo.

According to a Booklist review, "While the distance between rich and poor is growing in the U.S., the gap between the haves and have-nots in India is staggering to behold. This first book by a New Yorker staff writer

(and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the Washington Post) jolts the reader's consciousness with the opposing realities of poverty and wealth in a searing visit to the Annawaldi settlement, a flimflam slum that has recently sprung up in the western suburbs of the gigantic city of Mumbai."

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

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.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators, Yulia Tuinstra and Anne Viser, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Rabies and micro-chip clinic March 24

A low-cost rabies and micro-chip clinic will be held at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington on March 24 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 p.m. Bring proof of a prior rabies shot (a rabies certificate, not a tag) to get a three-year rabies shot. Without it, your pet will receive a one-year shot. Waiting is outdoors, so please dress for the weather.

All dogs must be on leash and cats must be in carriers. Waiting is outside so dress appropriately for the weather. Rabies shot: \$10.00. 24PetWatch MiniChip: \$30.00.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Now's the time for a little maintenance

It's February—darkness sets in late afternoon, sub-freezing chills arrive overnight, squirrels struggle to bury acorns in rock-hard soil and winter's winds drop temperatures by 10-15 degrees.

So what can be done in the patio this time of year? It's not the time to decorate, but it's the ideal time for garden maintenance. Here's a winter to-do list:

Clay pots: Bring them inside or remove the dirt. Terra cotta is porous, and water, air, wind and ice can form. Consider a pot filled to the top with dirt. When frozen, it pressurizes a pot's circumference, causing cracks or breakage. If left outside, empty the dirt and wrap it in plastic. Better yet, store it in the shed.



In order to preserve your clay pots for spring planting it is best to bring them in doors to keep them from damage due to freezing temperatures. Photo by Bob Bradley.

Mandevilla vine: Ever popular in Fairlington patios and available at the nursery in mid-April, it's an annual in our plant hardiness zone

(6B-7). In Central or South America, it is native and thus, a perennial. To tweak nature, cut the foliage of the vine, pot the root ball and store it in the basement. In mid-April, re-plant the root ball in the ground. You may have a new garden "perennial."

Ivy: It's everywhere in Fairlington. Contained, it's a handsome evergreen perennial. Unmonitored, it becomes invasive. How so? First, while rooting along the ground, it "steals" water from existing shrubs. When ivy grows up into shrubs or branches, it can retard growth and shield sunlight a plant needs for survival. Consider the modern "McMansions" where a builder constructs a 3-story home next door to a ranch home. It literally changes the microclimate of the landscape around the ranch by sunlight deprivation. If the plants around the ranch home's landscape need sun, these plants can suffer and may die. So, if Ivy in your landscape is wild, trim it back now to protect your garden's plants.

Leaf removal: Since most leaves (aside from some oaks) have fallen, now is the time for a cleanup. Yes, leaves are a natural organic fertilizer but a thick blanket of leaves is unnecessary and clutters the branches of shrubs. Plus, when thick leaves remain on the ground all

winter, they "mat" and freeze. When frost subsides, they become soaked with water and become malodorous (not to mention cumbersome to rake and bag).



Ivy is everywhere in Fairlington. It is a nice evergreen perennial but it can become invasive. Photo courtesy of National Park Service.

Window wells: Most Fairlington homes have them. It's a common landing place for leaves, trash and even paint chips. Occasionally, animals nest here to "shelter" from wind. So it's wise to remove the bunched leaves, since they can freeze and hold water like a sponge? When the leaves thaw, water may drain down through your basement window. Plus, it's a messy view from inside.

—Bill Sullivan
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School news, continued from page 17

more or less remain the same except for a few updates, the open classrooms will be no more starting in 2017.

Current students probably share Rebecca's memories of them.

"I had 1st grade with Mrs. Robinson [retired in 2014] in an open classroom. I don't remember much about being distracted or hearing the other classes too often but I did like how I could always peek in to see my friends in other classrooms when walking in the halls." It is safe to say that we can still find students checking in on their classmates in neighboring rooms.

While the school approaches its 70th anniversary, it has experienced many changes to its physical structure to meet the needs and growth of many generations, not to mention different learning environments, the core of being part of the Abingdon family remains the same.

Rebecca, who served on the school's Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) realized the special relationship the school has with Fairlington.

"I hope it can continue to remain the amazing diverse school that it was in my time and that is still is today," she said. "I love the sense of community the school has. Fairlington is a small and unique part of Arlington and having the school in the middle of the neighborhood like that gives it a different feel then some of the other schools in the county that are off of major roads or not nestled into the neighborhood.

"Part of my goal (on the BLPC) was to make sure Abing-

don stayed part of the neighborhood. I wanted to make sure the style and size of the building itself fit with the rest of Fairlington so it can continue to be a part of the community.

"At the same time I wanted to make sure that the inside was up to date and fit in with the other schools in Arlington. Technology is a big part of schools today and I wanted to make sure that the new school can handle it and have the ability adapt and change as technology changes though out the years."

Abingdon's strong past will help prepare it for an exciting future. It can't be long before a third generation of students will walk the halls.

—Jennifer Davies

Key Abingdon dates

February 1 – Grade preparation day – No school for students

February 9 – PTA meeting, 6:30 pm, library

February 10 – Early release

February 15 – President's Day, no school

February 18, Kindergarten information session 9:15-10:45 am

February 18, Math and Science Night "Wild West", 6:30-8:00 pm, cafeteria

February 19, PTA Movie Night, 6:00 pm, cafeteria

Remodeling showcase, continued from page 15

Remodeling contractors and repair and upgrade service providers, who are familiar to *Bulletin* readers and to neighbors who have used their services, will have information tables in the FCC's large meeting room. There you can browse through displays of completed renovations and ask questions about your home's specific needs. There will also be seminars in the FCC's adjacent classrooms on topics such as "Kitchen remodeling," "Bathroom make-overs," and "Electrical and lighting upgrades." In one classroom session, for example, a contractor may discuss ways to merely update the kitchen or completely re-do it.

Another contractor may speak on what is involved in a whole-house renovation. And another may discuss several options for a typical bathroom remodeling. Closer

to the date, check the schedule for classroom seminars so you won't miss the ones targeted to your needs.

The seminar schedule will be published in next month's *Bulletin*, and it will be updated and posted outside the FCC's large meeting room on the day of the event. Expo participants, contractors, and presenters may direct inquiries to FCA board member Chris Weathers: chris.weathers@cbmove.com or 703-402-4648.

Mark your calendars now for next month's Home Improvement Expo ... and prepare to be amazed!

—Gretchen Fallon

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Fairlington home remodeling showcase and expo March 5

Home remodeling experts will be on hand at the Fairlington Community Center on March 5 to give advice and tips on remodeling or just sprucing up your Fairlington condominium. The showcase and expo runs from 9 am to 1 pm.

Mini-ads

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

For Sale

LOVESEAT/ROCKER. 2-person oak wood cushioned loveseat/rocker. 703-845-8659. \$125

Services

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for over 30 years. Convenient Mark Center/N. Beauregard Street office, with evening and weekend hours. **30% discount for Fairlington residents.** Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for an appointment with a FREE retirement check-up included. (703) 931-3290.

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

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

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLANNING by Melissa Voight, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER Professional. Tel: 703-289-5044. Securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, member FINRA/SIPC.

Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Now is the time for garden clean-ups. Tidy up your patio now before it's time to plant in mid-March. Call Bill at Sullivan's Landscaping for a free consult. I also paint home interiors of my landscape customers in winter. Email Bill at: billsullivan41@gmail.com or call: 571.213.9567.

Home Improvements

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

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

WINTER SALE. Bathroom and kitchen renovation. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 571-212-4151. Visit us on the web: fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

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

BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS. NEW WEBSITE. www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com

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

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

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

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

GRACE & ALBERTO. Alberto Matias Construction. Serving Arlington and Alexandria since 1989. We are offering granite and ceramic for the coming season. gracedelcarmenmatias@gmail.com 703-795-4506.

MARIO'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS. 18 years experience, kitchen and bath remodeling, tile, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, panel replacements, painting, wallpaper removal, drywall. Call Mario 703-501-7506. mzambrana60@yahoo.com

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Mini-ads

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

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

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES. 20 Years of experience, references available. We provide supplies and equipment. Affordable prices. We are family owned. Please call us for a free estimate. Johanna & Mauricio. (202)591-9104 or jdmontecino@gmail.com.

HOUSE CLEANING. Honest, affordable, experienced, excellent references from Fairlington residents. Specializing in detailing cleaning. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, one time, move-in/out, offices. Call 703-597-1226.

MAID JUST 4U. Reliable, honest, affordable. 15 years in Fairlington. References available. Call for a no obligation free estimate and detailed explanation of our services 703-870-1553 Visit our website at www.MaidJust4u. cleaning
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MOLD and odor remediation. We are certified by the IICRC plus years of experience give us an edge to evaluate and remediate mold and odor problems. Call us for a free estimate 703.870.1553.

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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

PETSITTING, DOG WALKING. Longtime Fairlington resident now retired. Very reasonable rates! Call Barbara at 703-307-7749 or email bramsey937@hotmail.com

PET LOVERS. Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving and responsible care for your dogs and cats. Reasonable rates, bonded and insured. Excellent references. Call 703-941-6113.

Sign up now for the April 23 Fairlington 5K Run/Walk

Join friends and neighbors at this year's Fairlington 5K Run/Walk and help fund A Cure for Ellie. Sign up for the April 23 event at fairlington5k.com. Last year more than 600 runners and walkers participated.

Coming in March: Presentation on Arlington County Community Facilities Study, March 9."

Begin the new year
by volunteering for
FCA activities



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

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (Dec. 10 for Jan. issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Mailing Address: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

Include with ad copy: Name, address, phone #, email address, and ad category (see Mini-ads for options).

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FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



Arlington— 2825 Abingdon Street South. 3 lvl, 2BDR, 2 BA end unit townhome. Conveniently located for pool, tennis and tot lot. Vacant and ready for you to move in \$2,100. Call Britt Grouby



Arlington— 4825 28th Street South. End unit townhome with hwd floors, 2 BR/2BA \$369k. Call Neil Kelly



Alexandria— 208 Summers Drive. Completely renovated Spanish style bungalow. 4 BR/2 BR \$995k. Call Doug Louzik



Arlington— 2911 Dinwiddie Street. Lovely two bedroom second floor unit on quiet street. Renovated kitchen and newer carpets. Large separate basement. \$307k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Alexandria— 5210 Maris Avenue. Well maintained 2 lvl, 3 BDR, 2.5 BA in a quiet setting. Lovely patio. Open and spacious floor plan \$373k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Arlington— 1811 24th Street South. Gorgeous all brick TH w/2 huge master suites. 2 Full & 2 HB. 3 fireplaces, elevator and garage \$725k. Call Pat Shannon

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 & ALL NORTHERN VA**

