# **AFAIRLINGTON**BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2018

Volume 44, Number 2

#### www.fca-fairlington.org

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### Fairlington community invited to the "new" Abingdon School

Members of the Fairlington community are invited to visit the newly expanded and renovated Abingdon Elementary School when the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) holds its February meeting at the school, located at 3035 S. Abingdon St. A brief overview of the renovation project, followed by a tour of the school, will occur on Wednesday, February 21, at 7 pm. Note the change in date (as well as location) from FCA's normal monthly meeting date.

Over the past 18 months, the school has undergone a significant transformation, including a new gymnasium and cafeteria, a three-story classroom addition, and upgrades to the existing interior spaces. Residents have only been able to see these changes from the outside. This will be the neighborhood's first opportunity to visit this valuable component of our community.

FCA is inviting members of the Arlington School Board, Arlington Public Schools (APS) officials, Principal Joanne Uyeda, and the leadership of the Abingdon PTA. The meeting is also expected to spotlight faculty and staff members who live in Fairlington.

Continued on page 9



A staff member takes supplies inside the new entrance to Abingdon in preparation for the first day of school in September. Photo by Guy Land.

#### 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 monthly meeting February 21

**Special presentation:** Note date and location change. The meeting will be held at Abingdon Elementary School, 3035 S. Abingdon St. The meeting will feature a tour of the newly renovated and expanded school, with presentations by Arlington Public Schools officials, Principal Joanne Uyeda, and leaders of the Abingdon PTA.

#### Regular board business:

- Approval of January minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

**Meeting minutes:** Minutes of prior meetings can be found on the FCA website.

#### Online resources:

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



Find us on rule.

Appreciation Society. Find us on Facebook at Fairlington

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

Web design by Avatar Systems Ltd., Alexandria, VA, www.avatar-systems.com.

If you see something immediately

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#### **Fairlington Citizens Association**

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#### **Officers** Guy Land, President Chris Weathers, Vice President Ed Hilz, Treasurer Evan Harvey, Secretary

#### **Directors** Hugh Baumgardner Jennifer Davies Kent Duffy Rebecca Sayres Lindsay Willmann

#### **Fairlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee**

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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#### – DEADLINE —

6 PM, **10th of month** preceding publication month for commercial advertising, mini-ads, and editorial copy. Send material on disk with paper proof to: FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182 Email editorial announcements to: editor@fca-fairlington.org Email commercial and mini ads to: admanager@fca-fairlington.org Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

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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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#### Calendar

#### West End park forum

Wednesday, January 31, 7 to 9 pm Patrick Henry Recreation Center 4643 Taney Ave., Alexandria

#### **Home Improvement Seminar** Saturday, February 3, 9 am to 2 pm

Saturday, February 3, 9 am to 2 pr FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

#### **Fairlington Diners**

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 pm Guapo's in Shirlington

#### President's Day

Monday, February 19 FCC Closed

#### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 7 pm Abingdon Elementary School 3035 S. Abingdon St.

#### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, February 26, 6:30 pm Samuel Beckett's in Shirlington

#### **Book Group**

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

#### **Diaper donations**



Hosted by Fire Station 7 and coordinated by Fairlingtonian Shana Stapleton, a diaper drive collected diaper donations for the Greater DC Diaper Bank, a nonprofit helping families in need in our area. Photo by Guy Land.

**Contributors this month:** Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Cindy Kunz, Guy Land, Carrie Lewis, Beth McGinn, Joe Reed, Rebecca Sayres, Bill Sullivan, and Chris Weathers.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Curious about what the newly renovated and expanded Abingdon Elementary School looks like inside? Come join us in celebrating the completion of this major construction project on Wednesday, February 21. FCA

is moving our monthly meeting from the Fairlington Community Center to Abingdon Elementary so we can spotlight the school.

The Abingdon renovation project reflects the collaborative process that Arlington is known for—substantial engagement of the community in planning the project, encouragement from Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff, strong school board support, and endorsement by the county board.

Much of the planning for the new school lay with the Building Level Planning Committee, which worked with APS and the architecture team in identifying key educational requisites that parents, teachers, and neighbors felt the school should satisfy.

That committee was chaired by PTA Co-president Jennifer Davies, who now serves on the FCA board. FCA's representatives were Carol Dabbs, a former FCA board member who lives in Fairlington Meadows, and Anne Wasowski, who sits on the Fairlington Villages condo board. Several other Fairlington residents—teachers and parents—were also on the committee. Watching this group energetically explore design ideas was inspiring. Many of the final design elements flowed directly from their recommendations.

At the same time, the Public Facilities Review Committee looked at the project to assess how it would fit with a variety of county policies, such as zoning, parking, traffic, stormwater management, and landscaping. This committee is the county's vehicle for addressing broader community concerns.

FCA Board Member Kent Duffy and I were FCA's formal voice in this process, while FCA Board Treasurer Ed Hilz represented the county's Urban Forestry Commission. Fairlington Villages was represented by Board President Terry Placek, Vice President Cindy Kunz, and Kim Malinowsky.

Early on, both groups recognized the community's desire to maintain the playing field and track. Multiple conversations with APS officials, the professional design team, and county staff led to a creative proposal for satisfying the county's parking ratios—dedicating 15 spots in the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot for school use during school days. We are indebted to the Fairlington Villages board for accepting this agreement.

The commitment of APS leaders, particularly Ajibola Robinson (the project manager) was evident throughout the project. Aji's patience and insights kept the project on track, while John Chadwick, APS Assistant Superintendent for Facilities, was always responsive to FCA.

The successful completion of the new Abingdon Elementary thus reflects extensive collaboration. Come check it out on the 21st.

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

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#### Home Improvement Seminar coming up February 3

The third annual Fairlington Home Improvement Seminar is set for Saturday, February 3, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Remodeling contractors and repair and upgrade service providers who are familiar to *Bulletin* readers, and neighbors who have used those contractors' services will participate in the event.

These Fairlington experts will share their knowledge, previous projects, and new products through a seminar format in Room 118, the large multipur-

pose room. Seminar sessions will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion of remodeling, repair issues, and clever options to fit Fairlington's unique floor plans and living situations. Topics can include kitchen remodeling, bathroom makeovers, window replacement, electrical and lighting upgrades, flooring upgrades, and landscaping.

The sessions will begin promptly at 9 am and will last 30 minutes each. Contractors will allow for questions from those in attendance. These sessions will be limited and first-come, first served, based on room occupancy codes.



Art Dunn of NOVA Installations discusses window options with Fairlington residents at last year's home improvement showcase. Photo by Guy Land.

In addition, participating contractors will be set at tables in Room 134 to provide individual consultation.

Contractors slated for the event include DeLong Home Improvement, Frosty's Heating & Cooling, GH Contractors & Handyman Service, Liquid Plus, Nova Installations, Silva Construction, and Sullivan's Landscaping. Other interested contractors may still inquire about participating by contacting FCA Vice President Chris Weathers at Chris.

Weathers@SothebysRealty.com or 703-402-4648.

The Seminar is free and open to all residents and visitors. Please plan to attend and welcome these contractors who pour their hard work and care into improving homes in our neighborhood.

A final schedule will be posted on the FCA website, on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, and outside Room 118 the day of the event.

—Chris Weathers

#### Update on Shirlington sexual assault case

The December 2017 *Bulletin* covered a sexual assault case that occurred this past November in Shirlington near the intersection of S. Randolph St. and S. 31st St. The woman reporting the crime was attacked from behind while loading her car. Police were dispatched to the area to respond to reports of a rape. The assailant was described as a tall, thin, black male in his 20s. Though he was pursued the evening of the assault, the assailant still remains at large.

The *Bulletin* spoke recently with Capt. Adrienne Quigley, Commander of Arlington County Police Department's (ACPD) Third District, to get an update on the incident. Capt. Quigley noted, "No arrests have been made and no suspects have been identified."

However, while there is no new information that can be reported at this time, police are still actively working on the case, for example, redoing interviews and sending physical evidence to the lab.

The ACPD has also worked with Arlington County and the adjacent properties to improve lighting, trim trees, and conduct security surveys to observe any potential security weaknesses and make recommendations for improvements.

As always, residents should lock their vehicles, park in well-lit areas, travel with a group if possible, and stay off cell phones to ensure awareness of personal space and surroundings.

If anyone has information on the identity of the assailant or details surrounding this incident, please contact Detective N. Brooks of the Arlington County Police Department's Special Victim's Unit at 703-228-4169 or email nkbrooks@arlingtonva.us. To report information anonymously, contact the Arlington County Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

—Christine Chirichella



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#### Fairlington 5K online registration now open

It is hard to believe, but the Fairlington 5K is now in its fifth year. What started in 2013 as a way to bring the community together in the spirit of health, wellness, and charity, has quickly grown into a Fairlington tradition. Each April, hundreds of Fairlingtonians flood the streets to run and walk, and many more have started lining the streets to cheer them on.

The race, which is co-sponsored by the FCA, "A Cure For Ellie," and Abingdon Elementary, draws about 600 participants each year. Money raised helps fund ongoing medical research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, which aims to help nine-year-old Fairlington resident Ellie McGinn.



Betty Young celebrates her first-place finish in last year's race. Photos by Guy Land.

McGinn suffers from a rare neurogenetic condition known as Leukodystrophy-LBSL. The disease slowly robs children of their ability to walk, then stand, and then to coordinate all fine and gross motor skills.

A portion of the proceeds also benefits reading and physical fitness programs at Abingdon Elementary.

Last year, McGinn and her parents kicked off the race with an emotional "thank you" to their fellow neigh-

bors. This year, McGinn will be joined by six-year-old Marco Ferguson who, along with McGinn, is one of only 100 people in the world who have been diagnosed with LBSL. Ferguson and his family are flying in from New Zealand just to attend the race and thank the Fairlington community for making research for a cure possible.



Ellie McGinn waves to friends at last year's 5K.

This year's race will be held Saturday, April 28,

beginning at 8 am. The race starts near Abingdon Elementary; crosses the I-395 overpass; winds past the South Fairlington Community Center; and then ends back at the school. There is also an optional "1K Walk & Fun Run" for families with small children. Dogs and strollers are always welcome. Temporary road closures will be announced prior to the race so that residents can plan accordingly.

The cost of registration for adults is \$35 and includes a t-shirt. Children ages six to 16 can participate for just \$20, and children ages five and under are free. Register before February 28 for an "early bird discount." Register at www.Fairlington5K.com.

—Joe Reed

#### Project continues at Walter Reed and Arlington Mill intersection

In late summer, Arlington County began implementing a new lane realignment at Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Walter Reed Dr. to field test the signal timing plans for the intersection improvements. This pilot program is ongoing and part of a larger improvement project along S. Walter Reed Dr. between Arlington Mill Dr. and Four Mile Run Dr.

The project is designed to improve the transportation facilities on this short, but critical segment of S. Walter Reed and encourage more bicycle and pedestrian trips, improve access to Shirlington, and better support motorists and county service vehicles that rely on this connection. The key change realigned westbound Arlington Mill to one left-turn lane and one right-turn lane in order to improve crossing for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Design plans for the improvement project are now complete, and preparations are underway to advertise

the project for construction. The current schedule is to advertise this winter and begin construction in spring/summer 2018.

Once the pilot period has finished testing the realignment and signal timing, the county will proceed to other major enhancements to the intersection and the slip lane.

Signs will soon be posted near the intersection to explain that the pilot project is the first step towards the S. Walter Reed Dr. Improvement project. The county is seeking feedback on how the intersection is working. You can email swrdimprovements@arlingtonva.us.

For complete project details, visit https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects and search "South Walter Reed Drive Improvements."

—Christine Chirichella

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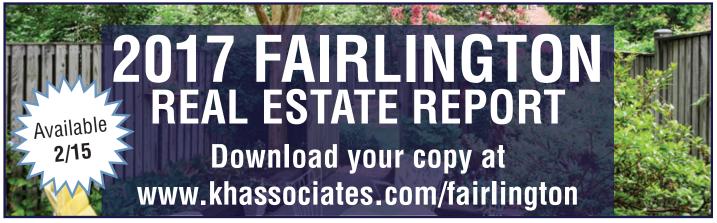
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Each KW office is independently owned and operated Abingdon school, continued from page 1

FCA particularly encourages neighbors who live near the school and patiently tolerated disruption during the construction to examine the completed project.

The project, which cost roughly \$30 million, added 136 classroom seats, eliminating the serious overcrowding issues that had plagued it for several years.

The renovation and expansion is the end result of a process of community engagement and collaboration that started over four years ago, when parent advocates first approached FCA for help in securing support for funding in Arlington Public School's 2014 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

FCA Board Member Jennifer Davies, who spearheaded the parent advocacy group and later served as Abingdon PTA's co-president, recognized the importance of a strong neighborhood-school relationship. "In the 2013–14 school year, it was very apparent that the school was showing its age," Davies said. "In addition, a rapid increase in school enrollment (consistent with growth across the county) put added strain on the building's infrastructure. The school needed both an expansion and a renovation."

With the support of the Abingdon PTA, Davies first approached FCA for their help. Recognizing that a strong and thriving school is vital to any community, FCA lent its leadership to help advocate for the school's renovation and expansion. FCA remained involved throughout the process, with representatives serving on

#### Abingdon tree replacements



A row of newly planted community trees.

In response to requests from FCA and others, the final plan for the school maintained at least the same number of trees on the site, though it was necessary to cut down a number of existing trees during construction and replace them once the work was over.

In past years, FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society had planted trees on the Abingdon grounds to mark the 10-year anniversaries of Fairlington. Although most of those trees

had to be taken down, 16 new ones were planted in January and will contain special markings indicating that they are Fairlington community trees. Over a dozen additional trees were planted in the area between the track and the Fairlington Villages tennis courts.

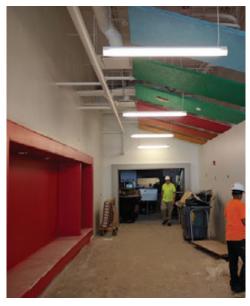
two advisory groups that guided the planning for the project.

"A vibrant and modern neighborhood elementary school is an important component of Fairlington property values," said FCA President Guy Land. "This project was important to the whole community, not just the dozens of families whose kids go to Abingdon."

Continued on page 15







The Abingdon project included the addition of a three-story classroom wing, a redesigned parking lot and entrance road, and major improvements inside the building. Photos by Guy Land and Arlington Public Schools.









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#### Fairlington's 75th lookback: Fairlington and I-395

Today, Interstate I-395—or Shirley Highway—is an eightlane freeway currently under construction to convert HOV to (HOT) express lanes and under discussion to add sound barriers. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), there are 52 lane-miles of roadways and ramps, four freeway junctions and numerous local ramps, and several interchanges to the reversible express (HOV) roadway, all within a 2.5-mile section of Shirley Highway.



Widening of Shirley Highway and building of bridge, 1966. Courtesy Fairlington Properties, Realtors.

When Fairlington was built, however, things were quite

different. Imagine that I-395 essentially stopped at King St. And imagine that there was no bridge between North and South Fairlington. This was the case for Fairlington's first residents. Leesburg Pike (King St.), or Route 7, was a two-lane road, and what became Shirley Memorial Dr.—ultimately, I-395—had been a two-lane path that would soon be made into a highway.

The Shirley Memorial Highway was named in honor of Henry G. Shirley, the head of the Virginia Department of Highways (now VDOT), who died just a few weeks after approving work on the new roadway. Construction began in October 1941 on what was designed as a fourlane highway and referred to as State Route 350, running from U.S. Route 1 near the Pentagon south to the Occoquan River near Woodbridge.

The section of the highway from the Pentagon to State Route 7 opened with mostly two lanes in October 1943. All four lanes were opened a year later, but the full length of the highway was not completed until 1952.

All of Fairlington's original drawings contemplated that a bridge across Shirley Highway would connect North and South Fairlington and would be built at the same time as the community and the highway were being constructed. The Defense Homes Corporation, which built Fairlington, conveyed the necessary land, but the bridge was not built. In 1944, the corporation informed Arlington County that:

"...the plans for Fairlington provide for a bridge over Shirley Memorial Drive, connecting South Abingdon gency will permit." (Fairlington at 50: 1943–1993, p. 79)

The state of emergency lasted until Shirley High-

in the North side with

34th Street South in the

The bridge will be built

by Federal Works Agency with Government funds.

Its installation has been

deferred because of the

this time of the War Pro-

duction Board to grant the

necessary priorities for the

release of requisite materi-

soon as the state of emer-

als. The work will proceed as

emergency and the refusal at

South side of the project....

way was widened in the 1960s. At that time, the long-awaited bridge was built.

Between 1965 and 1975, Shirley Highway was reconstructed to Interstate Highway System standards and des-



The current bridge at street level. Photo by Guy Land.

ignated as Interstate 95. Original plans called for I-95 to cut through Washington, D.C., connecting with the Capital Beltway (I-495) in Maryland. However, community opposition halted this plan in 1977, and funds were instead devoted to the construction of the region's Metro subway system.

The I-95 designation was rerouted onto the eastern half of the Beltway, and the remaining portion of the Shirley Memorial Highway north of Springfield was redesignated I-395.

—Cindy Kunz

#### Sources:

Fairlington at 50: 1943–1993, Fairlington Historical Society, Catherine B. Fellow Memorial Edition, 2012.

A History of Roads in Virginia, Virginia Department of Transportation, 2006.

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Quantity	Туре	
59	1 Bedroom	1+ Bathroom
151	2 Bedroom	1+ Bathroom
12	3 Bedroom	2+ Bathroom
	3 4 2 Quantity 1 3 1 Quantity 59 151	3 1 Bedroom 4 2 Bedroom 2 3 Bedroom  Quantity Type 1 1 Bedroom 3 2 Bedroom 1 3 Bedroom Quantity Type 59 1 Bedroom 151 2 Bedroom

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### Arlington's Streetlight Management Plan benefits Fairlington

The upkeep of Fairlington's streetlights has historically been a challenge, with multiple parties involved and no clear direction to residents on what to do if a streetlight is out. The November 2017 sexual assault/rape case highlighted the neighborhood's streetlight problem, and coincidentally, Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt spoke at the November FCA meeting, just a week after the assault.

At that meeting, residents raised the issue of streetlights in Fairlington Commons that had been out for months. Vihstadt encouraged any resident to email him with the location of non-working lights and offered staff assistance in attempting to expedite repairing the lights. He noted that one challenge with streetlights is that they can be owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Dominion Energy, or the county.

The Commons outage was of particular concern at Wakefield Circle. Vihstadt and fellow county board member Libby Garvey brought up the issue at a weekly meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, on which they both represent Arlington. Dominion Energy was present to discuss the issue of service and response time in a broader context. Prior to that meeting, Vihstadt told Fairlington residents in an email, "Just let me know what you would like to do and I will be happy to interface with Dominion."

#### Getting down to business



FCA Board members (left to right) Rebecca Sayres, Jennifer Davies, and Lindsay Willmann focused on plans for Fairlington's 75th anniversary at the January FCA meeting. Photo by Guy Land. After the meeting, Vihstadt responded to Fairlington residents' concerns, stating, "[Dominion Energy] is prepared to focus on Fairlington's situation if I can get [them] specifics in terms of streetlight location/address, ideally with the ID numbers typically affixed via metal plate to each pole. A few cell phone photos would also be helpful to show context with the street."

The residents took inventory of the streetlights that were out and passed that information along to Vihstadt, who intervened and, true to his word at the FCA meeting, helped rectify the situation.

Backing Vihstadt's concern is Arlington's Streetlight Management Plan (SMP), implemented in 2015, which focuses on researching new streetlight technology, investigating ways to enhance the appearance of our streetscapes, updating lighting standards, and improving outage reporting. The SMP will also guide county staff on the selection of future streetlight technology, optimization of maintenance, and general service delivery needs.

Overseen by the SMP Community Advisory Panel, the SMP has collected data and conducted research and analysis, including assessing the county's current streetlight inventory and operations, partnerships with other agencies (such as Dominion Energy), and best practices among similar jurisdictions.

The county is in the process of converting all Arlingtonowed streetlights to light-emitting diode (LED) technology, with approximately 85 percent of county-owned lights already converted. LEDs help improve sustainability by reducing emissions and our carbon footprint and consuming 75 percent less energy. They also last five times longer than high-pressure sodium bulbs, helping to reduce overall maintenance and operating costs.

However, due to concerns surrounding a recent American Medical Association report that LED lights may have negative health and environmental impacts, the county is researching long-term impacts in making a final decision around LED streetlights as part of the SMP.

Arlington County maintains 7,000 of the 19,000 street-lights throughout the county, with the remainder serviced by Dominion Energy or VDOT.

Continued on page 19

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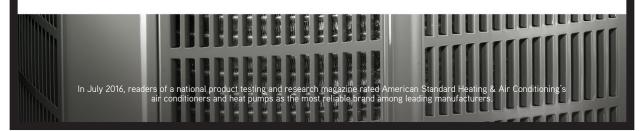
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Abingdon school, continued from page 9

#### **Project challenges**

Like any major project, the planning and building phase was not without its share of challenges. Fairlington residents whose properties abutted APS property had obvious concerns. These included worries about construction impacts on condo building foundations (none were found); construction-related traffic and parking in the neighborhood (APS took steps to mitigate that); preservation of trees; and whether the new school's design would fit in with the neighborhood.

FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association, along with APS, held more than a half-dozen sessions for nearby neighbors to brief them on the status of the project and to hear their concerns about adverse impacts and disturbances related to the project.

A major priority of the community was the preservation of the playing field and the green space it provides. In order to maintain the field while meeting the county's parking requirements for the school, Fairlington Villages agreed to dedicate 15 parking spaces in its community center parking lot for school use on school days.

#### Meeting outline

By holding its February meeting at Abingdon, FCA hopes to continue its engagement with the school and spotlight additional opportunities to work together.

Ajibola Robinson, APS Project Manager during the renovation, will provide a brief overview of the scope of what was done to the building. School Board member Monique O'Grady has been invited to attend, as well as other APS officials. Principal Joanne Uyeda will suggest



The FCA tile in Abingdon's new legacy wall. Photo by Guy Land.

how the renovation helps foster educational achievement by Abingdon students.

Following a brief presentation, members of the community are invited to tour the school. From the open and airy cafeteria that features a wall with individual tiles designed by students and staff, to the "penthouse" classroom with views of Washington, D.C., to the new gymnasium, now large enough to accommodate the entire school for assemblies—something that was not possible before the renovation—residents will be able to see first-hand the improvements that have been made to the building.

"Ultimately, the renovation and expansion had three main goals: to increase capacity and address overcrowding; to modernize the interior by improving function for learning for the 21st century; and to improve safety," Davies said. "We recognize the support and patience the entire community has afforded the school these past couple of years and we look forward to celebrating its future successes with all of Fairlington."

—Jennifer Davies and Guy Land

### Arlington County launches draft Public Engagement Guide

Arlington County recently launched *Engage Arlington: A Six-Step DRAFT Public Engagement Guide*, which offers a consistent approach to establishing public engagement processes for various capital projects.

The county has been working with both internal and external stakeholders on developing a formal guide to improve engagement and communication with the community. The guide is intended to clearly and consistently lay out how engagement around different capital projects should be planned, implemented, and assessed in order to become more effective at meeting the needs of the Arlington community.

Because of the diversity of capital projects across the county, different projects may require different levels of communication and engagement. This guide is intended to help identify the appropriate steps across the lifecycle of capital projects. This draft integrates feedback from the community and staff gathered over the last year, including an online survey and webinars in January.

To learn more, go to www.arlingtonva.us and search "public engagement guide."

—Christine Chirichella

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### I-395 sound wall voting nears conclusion

Voting on the I-395 express lanes sound walls is expected to be completed in February, with the results to be announced in February or early March.

Voting concluded in North Fairlington in December and began in South Fairlington in January. VDOT and the private contractors held an informational briefing for Fairlington Mews residents January 11. Residents expressed a number of concerns about the proposal, including closeness of the walls to units and the visual impact of the walls.

Residents in The Citizen apartment complex in Shirlington were also voting in January and February. Voting by residents in Parkfairfax has concluded. Separate sound barriers are under consideration in those areas.

If the proposed sound barriers are approved by the community, construction would likely occur by the fall.

—Guy Land

### City of Alexandria hosts replicas of China's "Terracotta Warriors"



Photo courtesy www.vmfa.museum.

The City of Alexandria is hosting two replicas of the famous "Terracotta Warriors" in Market Square, 301 King St., to celebrate the exhibition "Terracotta Army: Legacy of the First Emperor of China," at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) in Richmond.

The exhibit in Richmond includes 10 of the original life-size figures, along with more than 130 works of art drawn from the collections of 14 art museums and archaeological institutes across the Shaanxi province in China. "Terracotta Army," which includes more than 40 objects never shown before in the United States.

As part of the exhibit, eight life-size replicas have been placed in key locations throughout Virginia, including Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Each replica stands six feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds. The VMFA exhibit and the Old Town replicas will be on display through March 11.

### West End park and programming forum

The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will host a forum on Wednesday, January 31, from 7 to 9 pm at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4643 Taney Ave., to receive direct input from associations and civic groups on their ideas for park and program improvement. Part of Fairlington is located in the West End of Alexandria.

The public was encouraged to complete the West End Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Survey by January 21. Survey results will be discussed and provided at the meeting, and will be posted on the web.

The forum is an opportunity for staff to provide associations and civic groups with information on recent improvement activities in west end parks (parks planning district III) and recreation facilities and program enhancements.

In addition, participants will get answers to questions on the status of park and recreation plans and receive comments on future park, recreation, and program improvements.

Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting may send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Jack Browand, Division Chief, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or by email to jack.browand@alexandriava.gov.

—Christine Chirichella

### Rep. Beyer hosted helicopter noise forum

Roughly 150 people attended a January 16 forum on helicopter noise hosted by Rep. Don Beyer at Abingdon Elementary. The forum provided public input for a Department of Defense study required as part of legislation introduced by Beyer and approved by the House in 2016.

The *Bulletin* will provide a full story next month.

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### FCA appoints representatives for local government activities

The newly installed 2018 FCA board held its organizational meeting and work session January 10, selecting delegates to the Arlington and Alexandria civic federations and a county advisory committee.

The four officers—president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary—will serve as delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation, while Fairlington Villages Board Member Melanie Alvord will be FCA's delegate to the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations. FCA maintains an active membership in both groups, which represent civic associations on county and city matters.

FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz was chosen to be Fairlington's representative to the Arlington County Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) for another year, with newly elected board member Rebecca Sayres serving as alternate representative. The NCAC recommends community projects to the county board for funding.

The FCA board also appointed members to its internal bylaws and audit committees.



### Search for Arlington projects with new county tool

Interested in locating and learning more about county projects happening around Arlington? Check out the My Arlington—Projects map. The new tool, a collaborative effort across multiple county departments, provides a map view of county government projects: daily work, transportation, parks, water and utilities, facilities projects, and private development.

The My Arlington—Projects tool combines data from a variety of sources—the Planning and Projects area on the county website, including development and site plan data; Open Data portal; staff in departments who input daily work. But it goes a step further to display everything on a map. The same information will be added to the My Arlington mobile app. For more information go to https://my.arlingtonva.us/projects.

Streetlights, continued from page 13

To report a streetlight outage, call 703-228-6570 or report it online at https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem. You'll need to provide the exact location of the streetlight and a pole number. A pole number typically begins with two letters. County-maintained poles are black with yellow text.

If the streetlight is identified as not being serviced by Arlington, the county will report it to Dominion Energy or VDOT, who will then independently investigate and repair the problem per its schedule. Depending on the type of problem, repairs typically take anywhere from two weeks to 45 days or longer.

For more information on the Streetlight Management Plan, visit https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/streetlights-management-plan.

—Christine Chirichella



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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 December, we made our annual pilgrimage to L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls and had a wonderful meal in holiday-decorated surroundings.

Here's what's planned for February:

Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 pm, Guapo's in Shirlington, 4028 Campbell Ave., Arlington, VA 22206, 703-671-1701, www.guaposrestaurant.com. This family-owned restaurant is among the largest in Shirlington, but one we have not yet visited. It has an extensive menu. They anticipate opening another location soon at Washington Harbour in Georgetown.

Monday, February 26, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22206, 703-379-0122, www.samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed on previous visits. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, 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 at yahoo.com.

#### **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in February to discuss *The Guns of August* by Barbara W. Tuchman.

"In this landmark, Pulitzer Prize-winning account, renowned historian Barbara W. Tuchman re-creates the first month of World War I: thirty days in the summer of 1914 that determined the course of the conflict, the century, and ultimately our present world." —Amazon.com

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and dropins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

#### Beat the winter doldrums

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. Some card playing experience is helpful, but we are happy to teach you the rules of Canasta. 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 coordinator, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

#### Fairlington MOMS Club

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA® is a group for moms of young kids to find friends, get support, and have play opportunities for the kids. The Club participates in a number of annual service projects to help our community, four big annual parties, routine playdates and crafts, and moms' night outs. We have a great list-serv for sharing advice and connecting to other Fairlington families. We welcome all moms! Please email fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for information on joining and visit us online at www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. \$30 in annual dues goes to support the club's work and service projects. The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA is the local chapter of International MOMS Club®.



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# ABING School news



### Abingdon Read-A-Thon gets underway: Help support student reading

From February 5 to 16, Abingdon students of all ages will take part in the annual Read-A-Thon, under the theme "Abingdon ♥ Books." The Read-A-Thon is designed to build excitement around reading and encourage students to spend time enjoying books. Students will read at school and at home and log their hours on individually-tailored online pages. Classes that log the most reading time will win prizes, including gift cards that teachers can use to stock their classrooms.

The Read-A-Thon also serves a major fundraiser for the Abingdon PTA. Proceeds will help fund PTA activities throughout the year. The PTA provides significant support to Abindgon students and staff, including funding professional development opportunities for teachers; organizing appreciation events for school staff; hosting community-building activities such as school dances; and assisting families in need with food, winter coats, and other essentials.

Local businesses are encouraged to sponsor the Read-A-Thon. For as little as \$250, your business ad will appear on every individual reader's page, every class donation page, and the general Abingdon donation page. Abingdon readers, families, and friends will learn more about your business and know you support their reading project. To sponsor the event, go to www.read-a-thon.com/donate and enter 19270.

In addition, individual community members are invited to support the

Read-A-Thon by making donations, either directly to Abindgon students they know personally or through the general link at www.read-a-thon. com/school/individual. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated.



Abingdon Teacher and Support Employee of the Year, (respectively, left to right) Sara Edmonds and Deb Staren-Doby. Photos from Abingdon Twitter Feed @AbingdonGIFT.

#### Congratulations to Abingdon's Teacher and Support Staff of the Year

Hearty congratulations go out to Abingdon Teacher of the Year, second-grade teacher Sara Edmonds and Support Employee of the Year (and Fairlington resident) Deb Staren-Doby. Ms. Edmonds and Ms. Staren-Doby were selected by their colleagues for this honor. The next step is consideration for Arlington County teacher and support employee of the year. Good luck Ms. Edmonds and Ms. Staren-Doby!

### Construction comes to a close



Abingdon's new field and pre-K playground are already in use!

Students and staff are celebrating the completion of construction and are enjoying their beautiful new facilities. The last few projects, including replacement of the front field and new pre-K playground, were finished just before the holidays—much to students' delight. Spacious, modern art and music classrooms and a new staff lounge were also completed.

—Carrie Lewis



One of Abingdon's beautiful new music rooms.



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



#### A winter plant tour of Fairlington

February is the most dormant time of year for gardening, at least in our locale. So let's step outside our patios to see what the landscape does offer at this time of year in Fairlington's common areas. No matter the season, there's always something to admire in nature.

Fairlington Community Center (South Fairlington): Walk over to the right side of the building and just behind the bench are two Holly 'Winterberry' plants. Winterberry is the only deciduous Holly specimen. It loses its leaves but reveals vivid red fruit, which clings to brown barren branches. It's a pretty sight, even prettier than on evergreen Hollies when the fruit is hidden by the leaves. Against a snow-covered ground, the roundish fruit really stands out.

King St. corridor (Mews): When you're driving on King St., notice the tall evergreen Junipers just behind the new pinewood fence. The contrast in colors (tan fence and greenish-brown foliage) is beautiful. These Junipers are 'Red Cedar' cultivars. Look at the bark and you'll notice exfoliating strips of cinnamon-gray. It's very soft and different from most other tree bark textures. These sturdy trees provide a screen to the traffic as well as mitigating pollution from vehicle exhaust. The fence recently was installed after the row of Photinia trees was removed.

**North Fairlington Community Center (Villages):** Just to the right of the entrance are two Atlas Cedar

trees. They are smallish (18-feet tall) for now and offer stiff, one-inch-long needles. With maturity, three-inch-long, egg-like cones will appear on the upper branches. These are noticeable since the majority of evergreens are just that, green.

Wakefield circle (Commons, **near pool entrance):** To the left and the right are dwarf Southern Magnolia trees. The leaves keep their thick, leathery-like shape and texture in winter. They are lustrous green on top and a pale greenishbrown on the underside. Some fruit (aggregates) cling to the branch tips though most have fallen onto the ground. The seeds either are gone (eaten by birds) or brown—far different from their bright-red color in autumn. These trees are dwarfs (20-feet tall). A standard Southern Magnolia is huge (60-feet tall with a 40-foot spread). Notice the flower buds on the branch tips (where the aggregates have fallen off). They are suede-like, pointed and pale green. In early summer, white fragrant flowers will appear.

Behind the pool and out on the lawn are two groups of Juniper shrubs. They grow in clumps, staying low to the ground while their branches spread horizontally. They are a rich-green color all year long and love full sun. These specimens are ideal for nesting birds due to the dense branching.

North Fairlington (Villages, Dinwiddie and S. Columbus): On the median is a huge Sawtooth Oak tree. The copper leaves cling to the branches during winter. Each leaf is narrow with little points on the margin. Look on the ground and you'll find the acorns—one-inch-wide caps with tiny appendages. This leaf isn't the standard-looking Oak leaf but resembles the leaf of a Viburnum.



Fairlington cryptomeria. Photo by Guy Land.

#### Circle at S. Stafford and S. 34th:

In the center is a Cryptomeria tree, a pyramidal evergreen with both drooping and upright branches. Look closely—each branchlet has twisted, cord-like foliage, each needle just a half-inch long. And the fruit is a round cone with bristles. Peek inside the tree's habit and you'll notice the soft bark in vertical strips, the color of which is an orange brown. This tree is sort of compact, reaching 20 feet in height but just 14 feet in width. There aren't many in Fairlington, so enjoy.

—Bill Sullivan www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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Sales and Custom Installation

- · Double Pane Glass
- Clear
- · Low-E
- · Low-E w/ Argon

You won't find a better warranty!

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#### **House Cleaning**

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

#### 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 free estimate and detailed explanation of our service.

**HOUSE CLEANING.** Reliable and experienced. Good references. Flexible scheduling. Reasonable rates. We are licensed, insured, and employees covered through Worker's Comp. We bring our own equipment. Weekly, biweekly, monthly, occasionally, one-time, move in/out, offices. For free in-home estimate, call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

#### **Pet Services**

**HOME ALONE FELINES.** Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services. homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504; www.hafr.org



Enhance your community by volunteering for FCA activities.

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



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 (Feb. 10 for Mar. 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.

Email: 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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### Redeem this coupon for \$20.00 off of your next visit!

COUPON Code: FAIRC Limit one coupon per client.

If you're looking for a quality, caring animal hospital for your furry family member, come and meet the dedicated team at Fairfax Animal Hospital. Call us today at 703-820-2557 to schedule an appointment!

5818 D- Seminary Rd, Falls Church, VA 22041 **Phone:** 703-820-2557

**Learn more at:** www.fairfaxanimalhospital.com

#### 30% Discount on Tax Preparation

We can prepare your Federal & State income taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for 25 years.



Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information. Call today to schedule an appointment and get a **FREE** Retirement check-up!

Charles Coker, CPA 703.931.3290 charles.coker@cpa-coker.com



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Our office has been located in the Fairlington Community since the 1970's! WE are your neighborhood experts! 4800 S. 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22206 office # 703.998.3111



"Spring Ahead" don't wait to buy, sell, or rent!

Call our office today to speak to a licensed qualified agent.



Listed for Sale \$529,900 3BR/2BA/1HBA 3113 Groveton Street

Alexandria, VA 22306 Julie Flory 703-599-3111 Joanne Ritchick 571-215-3350



Listed for Sale \$875,000

7BR/5BA 6476 Second Street Alexandria, VA 22312 Pat Shannon 571-237-4767



0BR/1BA 1909 Rhodes St #29 Arlington, VA 22201 Bill Groom 703-283-2596



Listed for Rent \$1,975/mo.

1BR/ 1BA 1754 Corcoran St., NW #46B Washington, DC 20009 Kristin Usaitis 703-863-0367



2922 Dinwiddie St., 3BR/2BA Dominion II Pat Quinlin 703-835-7312





Listed for Rent \$1,395/mo. Listed for Rent \$1,457/mo. Listed for Rent \$1,950/mo.

1BR/1BA 1225 Martha Custis Dr. #1403 Alexandria, VA 22302 Rob Chamberlain 202-486-5930



Listed for Rent \$2,457/mo.

2BR/2BA/2HBA 3928 9th Rd., S Arlington, VA 22204 Rob Chamberlain 202-486-5930



Listed for Rent \$2,725/mo. Listed for Rent \$2,900/mo. Listed for Sale \$469,900

2004 S. Pollard St. Arlington, VA 22204 3BR/1BA/1HBA Pat Shannon 571-237-4767





2864 Abingdon Street, S 2BR/2BA Clarendon II Nancy Kozlowski 703-824-7614



Listed for Rent \$2,600/mo.

3578 Stafford St., S 2BR/2BA Clarendon Julie Flory 703-599-3111 Joanne Ritchick 571-215-3350



3059 Buchanan St., S #A2 1BR/2BA Monticello Pat Quinlin 703-835-7312



