

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



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www.fca-fairlington.org

The "big dig," part two

The sanitary sewer work now underway at the intersection of S. Utah and 34th Streets is part one of a larger two-part infrastructure improvement project. The current work involves enlarging the diameter of the existing sewer lines around the intersection, and it is scheduled to be completed by March.

Part two, scheduled to begin sometime this summer, will consist of the installation of a new 12-inch sewer line from the intersection of S. Utah Street and S. 32nd Road running north to the area of Utah Park, at the intersection of S. Utah and S. 32nd Streets. The sewer line that now exists in the area runs west of the Utah and 32nd Rd. intersection to I-395, and then south along the highway to near Utah Park where it connects to the line that goes under the highway. When the new sewer line is in place, the old (that is, currently existing) sewer line will be used to service only the houses in Fairlington Commons—none of the flow that currently goes down the hill on S. Utah Street from other parts of Fairlington will enter the old line. It is expected that the new configuration of old and new sewer lines will deliver a significant improvement of service to homes in the Commons that have experienced sewage back-ups in the past.



Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 7 p.m.

Note: No speaker/presentation in January.

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, January 6, noon
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.
Bombay Curry Company
Alexandria

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, January 12
FCC
Call for details.

Fair Golds social meeting

Thursday, January 20, noon
FCC

Thirty Somethings happy hour

Thursday, January 20, 7.30 p.m.
Capitol City Brewery
Shirlington

Book Group

Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m.
NFCC

Continued on page 3

Heed the "No Parking" signs

In November, county staff underscored the need for Fairlington residents to pay close attention to the "No Parking" signs around the S. Utah and 34th Streets intersection. If a sign says "No Parking" without stating a time frame, it means no parking at anytime—24 hours a day, seven days a week. Violating cars will be towed from these 24/7 no-parking areas, as will cars parked where there is a posted no-parking restriction during certain workday hours.

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Special meeting: There is no scheduled speaker for the January FCA board meeting.

7:05 p.m. Regular business meeting:

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

Sign up for updates

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

AFB on the Web

The AFB is posted online at www.fca-fairlington.org a week earlier than the hard copy hits your front stoop.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	800-552-7001
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

Board of Directors

Officers

Reed Franklin, *President*
Rosiland Jordan, *Vice President*
Carol Dabbs, *Secretary*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*

Directors

Kent Duffy
Mark Jones
Brenda Kriegel
Guy Land
Bryan Pettigrew

Fairlington-Shirlington 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

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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

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Calendar, cont.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, January 31, 7:30 p.m.
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on pages
22 – 23 and related articles for
details about calendar events.

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*Some images in this publication may be
digitally enhanced.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

First of all, I want to thank all of you for the trust you have put in me as FCA president. Before I talk about the upcoming year, I have to acknowledge the wonderful job that was done by my predecessor, Sam Anthony. No one will be able to match Sam's energy, enthusiasm, and optimism. All residents of Fairlington owe Sam a debt of gratitude for his three years as president of the FCA.

Also rotating off the board is Christine Chirichella, who served as vice president. Christine is every bit as committed to Fairlington as Sam, though her efforts were more often behind the scenes. We are grateful for all her hard work over the years. We are also losing a third officer, secretary Stan Hanzel. Stan brought his professional military sense of purpose and efficiency to the job, and he, too, will be missed.

The good news is that we still have a great deal of new and returning talent. Returning are Carol Dabbs, who will also reprise her role as secretary; Brenda Kriegel; Mark Jones; and Rosiland Jordan, who was elected to fill a vacancy late last year and will be serving as vice president this year. And in a class all his own is returning treasurer Ed Hilz, who has served as treasurer for longer than most of us have lived in Fairlington.

Our new blood consists of Kent Duffy, Bryan Pettigrew, and Guy Land, who is well known to many of us for his many years of leadership on the Fairlington Villages Board.

The FCA has a busy job ahead for 2011. We will continue to represent Fairlington before both the Arlington and the Alexandria civic federations. We will also continue to be a conduit for access to both the Arlington and Alexandria governments.

High on the list of priorities for many of us are schools (Abington Elementary in particular) and, of course, transportation, where challenges remain due to the HOT lanes proposal and the BRAC project. I also know many of you are concerned, as I am, about the cumulative effect that winter and spring storms have had on Fairlington's wonderful tree population.

Again, thank you for giving me the honor of serving as FCA president. I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Reed Franklin

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Talk on the street

Some little-known details about how things work on Arlington's public streets emerged when Wayne Wentz, chief of the county's Transportation Operations & Engineering bureau, spoke at the FCA meeting in December. Wentz's office covers several nuts-and-bolts aspects of the public right-of-way, including streetlights, curbside parking, and signage.

For example, when you call the county's streetlight hotline to notify them that a Fairlington streetlight is out, Arlington forwards the request for repair to Dominion Virginia Power, because the electric utility actually owns the lights and is responsible for their maintenance. The county tracks the request. In addition, it's interesting to know that Fairlington's "Colonial" lights, selected by Dominion, are considered less than optimal for streetlight design—the pole height and lamp glass cause glare and an unhelpful mix of light and dark for vehicles and pedestrians. The county is currently working on some way to retrofit the Colonials, perhaps with a foundation and pole that could be slipped over the existing pole, with a more modern, efficient fixture on top.

The county is moving forward with its initiative to convert the streetlights it owns (about 1,400) to the newer LED technology. While the "white" LED lights may seem brighter, they actually use less energy, Wentz explained, and are more dark-sky compliant than the older "yellow" lights. Moreover, LEDs provide a better balance of light and shadow, which improves safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Better still, conversion to LEDs means a smaller electric bill for the county. The industry promise is that LEDs use about 60 percent as much energy as the old style lights. Wentz said that a local experiment in the Courthouse area demonstrated decreased energy use down to about 40 percent. The expectation is that with conversion of all county-owned streetlights to LEDs, Arlington's annual streetlight electric bill will be cut in half, from \$2.2 million to \$1.1 million.

Because cars and parking are always topics of keen interest in densely populated Arlington, Wentz clarified some



Sam Anthony and Wayne Wentz at the December FCA meeting. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

common issues. First, no resident "owns" the street space in front of his house; rather, the county manages the public streets on behalf of all tax payers, primarily through time-limit restrictions on parking. If your car stays on the public streets without moving, for perhaps five to ten days, it is subject to the abandoned vehicle law, and enforcement falls to the police (703-228-4144). If your car is "housed" in Arlington, even with out-of-state plates, it must have a county decal (for purposes of assessing personal property tax or an administrative fee), and enforcement falls to the Treasurer's office.

Unlike most other jurisdictions, Arlington has no hard-and-fast driveway setback regulation (how many feet of the public street curb on either side of a driveway/courtyard entrance should be designated "no parking"). In Arlington, safety is the primary criterion for determining how the curb space is used, and creating a "no parking" zone derives from an engineering judgment.

For more information about public right-of-way issues, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and search by topic under Services, or contact the TEO bureau at 703-228-6570.

Share your surplus at AFAC

Now that the growing season has passed, the Arlington Food Assistance Center welcomes your donation of non-perishable groceries. Especially needed are low-sugar cereals and canned proteins (e.g., tuna, salmon). AFAC is located at 2708 South Nelson St., off Four Mile Run Dr., adjacent to Shirlington, where you can drop off donations Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, go online to www.afac.org.

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2011 FCA board elected



Top, at his last meeting as FCA president, Sam Anthony cuts his "farewell" cake, as witnessed by board members Rosiland Jordan, Christine Chirichella, Brenda Kriegel, and Ed Hilz. Bottom, new 2011 FCA board members are, from left, Rosiland Jordan, Bryan Pettigrew, Guy Land, and Kent Duffy. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

At the December FCA meeting, the following officers and board members for 2011 were elected:

Reed Franklin, president
Rosiland Jordan, vice president
Carol Dabbs, secretary
Ed Hilz, treasurer
Directors: Kent Duffy, Mark Jones, Brenda Kriegel,
Guy Land, and Bryan Pettigrew.

The board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month, except in August when there is no meeting. The term of office for board members is one year, and the duties are outlined in the FCA bylaws, which are posted on the FCA Web site.

Planning begins for this year's Home & Garden tour



The Fairlington Historical Society is currently planning the 2011 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, which will be held on Saturday, May 14, in conjunction with Arlington's Neighborhood Day. This is a biennial event that showcases the community's architecture, grounds, and the unique character of each of our neighborhoods. Proceeds from ticket sales will help fund FHS activities, including publication of the book, *Fairlington at 50*.

Nominations are now being sought for homes to add to the tour. Since many tour goers are looking for remodeling ideas, the tour committee is especially interested in including homes that have undergone major renovations. A goal of the tour is to include at least one home from each of the Fairlington communities, with examples of each type floor plan (Braddock, Clarendon, Edgewood, etc.).

The tour committee is also inviting neighbors who'd like to participate in the tour as volunteers. We'll need help before the tour with planning, advertising, ticket sales, and fundraising with local businesses, and on the day of the tour as guides and helpers.

More information is available at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.com. If you are interested in helping with the tour, or if you would like to nominate your home or garden, please e-mail us at FHSHomeTour@gmail.com or call Kevin Silvia or Patsy Hester at 703-578-3824.

Library seeks neat volunteers

Shirlington Library is looking for volunteer neat freaks—dependable people to come in an hour before closing each day to pick up books, straighten shelves, and make the children's area ready for the next day. If you like bringing order to chaos, you can find more information and an application on the library's Web site, <http://library.arlingtonva.us>, or call 703-228-7688. A background check is required.



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Snow removal ordinance: Common sense rules



Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

The county's new snow-removal ordinance was adopted by the county board in June 2010 in response to deficiencies in clearing Arlington's sidewalks and paths that were observed during the previous winter's record snow storms. The goal was to make sidewalks safe and passable for pedestrians. Under the ordinance, homeowners, property owners, and responsible parties, for both residential and commercial properties, have 24 to 36 hours, depending on the amount of snow that falls, to remove snow or ice from sidewalks adjacent to their properties. In addition to fines for not shoveling, the ordinance imposes criminal penalties on those who remove snow from their properties only to deposit it on public streets.

Given the difficulties all residents experienced getting around last January and February, the ordinance was, for the most part, welcome; but some people voiced concern that the elderly and infirm would be unable to comply. In December, county manager Barbara Donnellan said they do not envision draconian enforcement measures this season, nor will the county maintain a master list of residents who are 65 years old or disabled. Rather, individual homeowners who are physically incapable of complying with the ordinance are simply exempt. Moreover, the county will make every effort to contact homeowners and use common sense before issuing citations. "The first snow season will be a learning year," Donnellan said.

For more information, as well as to report any snow-related problem, view a map of state-controlled roads, and volunteer to assist neighbors, go online to the county's new winter weather Web portal, which is a clearing-house for all snow-and-ice issues: www.arlingtonva.us/portals/topics/TopicsWeatherWinter.aspx.

VDOT gains equipment, budget for snow plowing

—Excerpted from Sun Gazette Newspapers

Virginia Department of Transportation officials say they are updating snow-plowing policies to reflect what was learned from last season's blizzards. This winter, VDOT will have 2,600 pieces of equipment (up 600 from last year) available to plow Northern Virginia's roads; about 90 percent of the vehicles are owned by contractors.



VDOT is responsible for 17,679 lane-miles in Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, and Loudoun counties. While the Arlington County government is responsible for secondary roads within its 26 square miles, VDOT handles primary roads, including interstate highways, Lee Highway, Arlington Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, and Glebe Road. (With the county government recently having taken control of Columbia Pike, plowing that thoroughfare will no longer be VDOT's responsibility.)

VDOT priorities here are Interstates 95, 395, 495 and 66. The next priority includes high-volume roads such as Routes 1, 7, 28, 29, 50 and 123. After that, VDOT crews will focus on major thoroughfares in neighborhoods, then residential streets, and finally cul-de-sacs, in communities where the state is responsible for snow-plowing efforts.

Last year's statewide snow-removal budget was \$93.7 million, but with more than 50 inches of snow to contend with, costs ran higher than \$250 million, officials said. The statewide budget for this winter's efforts has been increased to \$115 million. In Northern Virginia, last winter's \$27 million snow-clearing budget was exceeded by \$100 million, officials said. This year's budget has been increased to \$33 million.

Let it snow...and keep these numbers handy

Report downed power lines:

Dominion Virginia Power, 1-888-667-3000

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

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

Snow clearing status, 703-228-6485

Parks snow desk, 703-228-6525

Sports and recreation (fields and leagues),
703-228-4715

County classes, 703-228-4715



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Meet your neighbors: *Dutch, a very special Fairlingtonian*

—By Christine Chirichella, Assistant AFB Editor

Recently I met Lynn Hertel, a 14-year Fairlington resident, and her seizure-alert dog Dutch, a gorgeous black Lab she received from Canine Partners for Life. Here are Lynn's responses to questions about her dog, which will help you understand the function and importance of service dogs and why you shouldn't interact with them when they are working.

How did you come to have Dutch: I had always suffered from migraines, but about three years ago I was diagnosed with an invasive, life-threatening, yet non-malignant brain tumor. Its removal left me with traumatic brain injury and worsening migraines. I essentially had to learn to read, walk, and talk all over again. Through a support group, I met a woman with a medical service dog who thought I would make an excellent candidate for one.

I completed an exhaustive application and spent time at CPL getting to know the dogs and trainers, which helped to make a good match. I also helped raised some funds—about \$3,500 of \$22,000 in training costs. As a team, Dutch and I had to pass an international test, and we recertify every two years. I have to fulfill many legal requirements or CPL can take him back.

How does Dutch work and help: Dutch alerts me to impending migraines, enabling me to take medication early to prevent or lessen them. Because I get fatigued quickly, Dutch monitors me to make sure I rest when needed. When he's trying to alert me that something is amiss, he will jump up and paw at me until I take medication or rest. He also aids me in walking and keeping my balance, and he can open doors with levered handles, push the handicapped access sign, pull my laundry basket, open cabinets, retrieve items like a phone or pill bottle, and pick things up off the floor. He responds to both vocal and hand commands. This has been a huge improvement to my quality of life, enabling me to live in the world independently and with more confidence.



Lynn works on training Dutch with treats. Photograph by Christine Chirichella.

How does Dutch know when to work: Working dogs wear "uniforms" that signal it's time to work. They get just as excited about working as they do playing. Dutch's uniform is a harness with a handle to help me walk. Out of uniform, he gets cuddling, exercise, and play time like a regular dog, but he always stays aware of how I am doing.

How should people respond to Dutch's sign, "Please do not disturb me, I'm working:" This is definitely the hardest thing for people to accept, but critical to the safety and success of our team. If distracted, service dogs are not able to do their job, and that defeats the purpose of having them. These dogs go through extensive training; they are not pets and should not be treated as such by the public. You should never interact with a dog in uniform, as difficult as that might be. When Dutch and I are enjoying one of our Fairlington walks and someone makes room for us or walks around us, it really helps. It's also important for people to not let their dog sniff Dutch. Say hello to me but keep a little distance.

Where can Dutch go; how long can he serve: Dutch is my partner and is like an extension of me. He goes everywhere—restaurants, doctor's appointments, even the pool. He flies for free. As a team we are allowed access anywhere and covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. He will be a service dog for eight to ten years, and then retire. I can keep him as a pet after he retires. Dutch is my miracle, my Amazing Grace.

Canine Partners for Life is funded entirely by donations, and through workplace giving programs in America's Charities or CFC campaigns. Learn more at www.k94life.org or call 610-869-4902.

This occasional column focuses on you, the residents of Fairlington. Do you have an interesting neighbor that you'd like us to interview? Or do you want to be featured here? Send an e-mail with details including contact information to communications@fca-fairlington.com.



**Lynn Gant &
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LYNN & LOIS FAIRLINGTON REPORT*

158 units were sold in Fairlington in 2010.
Here's breakdown by model and price range.

MODEL NAME	HI-LOW SOLD PRICE OF 2010	MODEL NAME	HI-LOW SOLD PRICE OF 2010
Arlington	471,000-471,000	Dominion	508,500-467,000
Ashlawn	354,000-351,500	Edgewood	392,500-359,000
Barcroft	508,500-467,000	Fairfax	325,000-316,500
Berkley	347,500-302,500	Georgetown	341,900-331,900
Braddock	270,750-223,100	Hermitage	374,900-348,230
Bradford	325,000-300,000	Monticello	390,000-350,550
Buckingham	360,000-350,300	Richmond	318,000-280,000
Clarendon**	446,000-383,000	Staunton	337,500-320,000

*Sold prices are the net sold price which includes any seller subsidy. All information supplied from MRIS. Date range of all sold units between 1/1/2010-12/10/2010. No Sherwood or Mount Vernon models were reported as sold per the MRIS. ** Excludes 4 level Clarendon models.

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Arlington Board sets priorities for state legislature

In December, the Arlington County Board announced its legislative priorities for issues coming before state government, as the 2011 Virginia General Assembly prepares to convene a 46-day “short” session on January 12.

“What happens in Richmond directly affects the programs and services Arlington County is able to provide,” said Board Chairman Jay Fissette, who called the board’s legislative priorities “reasonable and doable.” The four issues supported by the board are:

Transient Occupancy Tax reauthorization: Renew the county’s .25 percent TOT surcharge, which was first authorized for three years in 1990, has been reauthorized for three-year increments ever since, and expires January 1, 2011. The surcharge funds the Arlington Convention and Visitors Services.

Online travel companies/modifying state sales and local

Transient Occupancy Taxes: Ensure the collection from online travel companies of all state sales and local TOT levies associated with online travel sales. Ensure that all costs and taxes are transparent to customers in their online travel bookings of Virginia lodgings.

State funding for mandated local services: Request that the state reverse the trend and once again fully fund core government services including public education (K-12 and higher education), health and human resources, public safety, natural resources, and environmental services.

Government reform: Support streamlining efforts as long as they do not exacerbate the looming budget gaps and increase demand for services in local budgets across the Commonwealth.

For more information, go online to the General Assembly Web site, <http://legis.state.va.us>.

Arlington debt, by the numbers

Based on data published by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts in November, and reported in the *Sun Gazette Newspapers*, Arlington is one of eight of Virginia’s 134 cities and counties with a municipal debt of more than \$1 billion. The county government’s total indebtedness at the end of the 2009 fiscal year was \$1.139 billion, ranking it sixth among the eight. Fairfax County, the commonwealth’s most populous jurisdiction, had the largest total debt, at \$3.262 billion. It was followed by Loudoun County (\$1.322 billion), Norfolk (\$1.27 billion), Richmond (\$1.249 billion), Virginia Beach (\$1.236 billion), Arlington and Prince William Counties (\$1.089 billion), and Newport News (\$1.027 billion). The figures include all forms of debt, from bonds to loans from the state Library Fund to short-term indebtedness.

Among the eight jurisdictions, Arlington ranked fourth in per-capita debt, based on Census Bureau population estimates. Richmond took the top spot with a debt level of \$6,471 per resident, followed by Newport News (\$5,770), Norfolk (\$5,546), Arlington (\$5,240), Loudoun (\$4,392), Fairfax (\$3,262), Prince William (\$2,873), and Virginia Beach (\$2,835).

For more information, go online to www.apa.virginia.gov.

Dragonflies have landed in Barcroft

There’s something new to admire at Barcroft Park—an art installation, just east of the community center building, where 40 dragonfly sculptures form a circle centered on a figurative pond. Called “Destination,”



the kiln-cast recycled glass project is the work of local artist and Fairlington resident Cindy Coldiron. For this “green” project, Coldiron created the dragonflies using 40 hand sculpted clay models that were cast in plaster and silica. After the clay was removed, the molds were filled with discarded bottle, window, or plate glass. Colorants were added using frits and enamels; a special glow powder was added to some of the molds.

Most of the larger dragonflies were made from clear window glass, but you’ll notice that the colors seem to shade from green to aqua. Coldiron explains that the color shift is normal due to the iron oxide in the glass and the kiln firing. “If you look closely at most clear window glass or at the edge of a thick glass table top, you’ll see a greenish tint that’s enhanced by firing.” Coldiron’s work is the result of an individual artist’s grant, supported in part by the county through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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FAIRLINGTON AND ELECTRIC HEAT

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There are two different types of electric heat in Fairlington: straight electric heat and heat pumps. There are many schools of thought on which is better and many people believe that both have individual drawbacks. This month we'll try to distinguish between the two and give you the pros and cons of both.

Straight electric heat uses heat coils (similar to those found in your blow dryer) to heat your home which makes it very dry and somewhat expensive. Electric heat has output temperatures that exceed 115 degrees so it is perceived as being warmer heat but can cause static and excessively dry air. Humidifiers can often cure this while allowing you to run your heat at lower temperatures. It is quite common for many straight electric furnaces to lose one or more elements during the course of the heating season. If your house does not feel as warm as it did in previous years, this is probably why. If this happens, call us immediately to avoid any further problems.

Heat pumps have output temperatures of about 90 degrees which some people perceive as being less comfortable and colder than straight electric heat but heat pumps are also much more energy and cost efficient than straight electric heat. Keep in mind that in a normal home temperature should be maintained at about 70 degrees. Longer cycles are normal with heat pumps since output temperatures are lower. On cold days, 20 to 30 minute cycles are completely normal for a heat pump. Frost forming on your outdoor unit

sporadically when outdoor temperatures fall below 40 degrees is also normal with a heat pump. However, a block of ice encasing your outdoor unit is NOT normal and is usually caused by a lack of freon. If this happens, set your thermostat to emergency heat and call us for service.

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FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Holiday closings: FCC will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Master Gardeners: Limited space is still available for the 2011 Master Gardener Training Course at FCC. The first class is Tuesday, January 11 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For an application or more information, contact the Virginia Cooperative Extension office at FCC at 703-228-6414 or by e-mail at ex013mg@vt.edu.

Classes and workshops

At the FCC you'll find such recurring programs as free English classes, bingo, chess, and beginner strength training. Below, find special sessions or one-time classes and workshops. Get the complete description online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington*. For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747. Contact the FCC at 703-228-6588.

New view on weight loss—free

This program evaluates participants' diet and exercise based on hormonal influences, specifically fat burning hormone triggers. Tailor-made recommendations are given to each individual. Participants will learn the fundamentals of how metabolism is influenced by six fat-burning hormones. Inst.: Dr. Berg. One free session for adults, Thurs., Jan. 20, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. 240802A.

Meditation plus workshop

Learn to calm your mind and body, change your thinking, reduce

your response to stress, focus and heighten awareness, and breathe more efficiently. This workshop combines instruction, exercises, and discussion. Wear comfortable clothing; bring a pillow, blanket, and lunch if you like. Inst.: Interdonato. One session for adults, \$64, Sat., Jan. 22, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. 240813A.

Basic beading

Learn the fundamentals of beaded jewelry design using bead crimps, beading wire, leather cord, coil ends, head and eye pins, jump and split rings, basic loops, wrapped loops, and use of a bead board to make necklaces, a bracelet, and earrings. Supply fee of \$30 to \$40 to be paid to instructor. Good eye-hand coordination is helpful. Inst.: McCant. One session for ages 17 to adult, \$39, Sat., Jan. 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 240150A.

Beading fun for all

A great workshop for parent/care-giver and child to learn the basics of beading through simple techniques. Make and take necklace and bracelet. All supplies included. Register child only. Inst.: McCant. One session for ages 7 to adult, \$43, Sat. Jan. 29, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 240151A.

Basic wire wrapping

Learn the basic fundamentals of wire-wrapping using wire-wrapping jigs and other tools. Students will create a pair of wire-wrapped earrings designed and fitted for the individual student. Supply fee of \$15 to be paid to the instructor. Inst.: Hogan. One session for ages 16 to adult, \$39, Sat. Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 240103A.

FCC hours and contact info

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

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, closed.

Hours are subject to change. For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588. The center manager is Patrick Mallon, 703-228-6590, pmallon@arlingtonva.us.

FCC programs

The FCC has six multi-purpose rooms, art studios, a gymnasium, a state-of-the-art fitness room, day-lockers, accessible pre-school and school-aged playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, a fitness trail, a playing field, a picnic shelter, and accessible public restrooms. There is indoor open play for children 13 and under in the multi-purpose gym on Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 3 p.m.—children must be supervised by an adult (18 and older). In addition, there are a Senior Program, a creative pre-school (three to five years old), parent/child Co-op Program for children one and two years old, and summer camp.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Gardening is a labor of love...and proper care

After choosing a scrawny, three-foot pine tree with four measly branches for a Christmas tree, Charlie Brown said, "All it needs is a little loving." Charlie's message is also the credo in gardening. Even when a plant is stressed, it can live with proper care.

During last winter's 33-inch snowfall, the branches of many specimen shrubs could have been saved—if only we had gone outside to tap the bush's sides with a broom to knock off the snow and ice. With that simple treatment, squat shrubs would not have emerged from the storms splayed and broken.

During spring, summer, and fall, the "loving" attention required takes different forms, and some common sense questions will suggest the proper tonic treatment. For example, does the plant need shade? Pieris, aucuba, mahonia, and sweet box need full shade in order to flower and fruit properly. Or does it need full sun? Crape myrtle, lilac, buddleia, smokebush, salvia, and photinia need sunlight to flower profusely.

Is it winter hardy in our geographic zone? The vine Mandevilla, a Brazilian native, flowers in pink and white here for several months—



Dig up and divide overgrown liriope clumps. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

but come December, it dies due to the cold. What are its water needs? A newly-planted hydrangea needs watering three times a day to survive in our summer's heat and humidity. But a juniper, false cypress, or yucca will live with limited summertime irrigation.

Should it be fertilized? Acid-lovers boxwood, holly, yew, azalea, and rhododendron are fed Holly-tone (a fertilizer designed to feed plants that prefer acidic soil) in autumn. What is its soil pH? Most shrubs prefer neutral (7), but some, like those above, need acidic soil while others

need a more alkaline soil.

Is it wind and/or pollution tolerant? Does it need to be pruned, divided, transplanted, or pinched? Consider that the butterfly bush needs to be cut back to 14 inches in late February. If not, it develops woody trunks and gets leggy and unbalanced. Some gardeners radically prune crape myrtle in early March to foster more flowering in the summer.

Liriope becomes choked at the root ball if it is not separated every two to three years. Without that "tonic," you'll notice the foliage turning brown or yellow. When this happens, dig up the liriope, divide the clump in halves or quarters, and transplant all the new root balls. Also ask yourself, is the plant planted correctly? The top two or

three inches of a shrub should be situated above the soil line. Never bury the ball—it becomes oxygen-deprived and may drown in poorly-drained, tightly-compacted soil.

Sometimes a drought, a fungus, or a pest will kill a plant, and there's no tonic to apply. But outside of these "plagues," a plant will live with proper care. For our area, you can start by buying a plant that thrives in USDA plant-hardiness zone 6b through 7.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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ABINGDON *school news*



Wanted: Spanish language translators

About half of Abingdon students live in households where English is not the primary language. In most of them, Spanish is the native tongue. So, the PTA and school strive to provide communications to parents in both languages.

Lately, we're having a hard time getting consistent translating assistance. Some parents and teachers in the Abingdon community help with translations for *The Little Bird* (our bimonthly newsletter), our weekly backpack mail announcements, and our weekly electronic newsletter. We've even had success getting volunteer translation assistance through Craig's List. But, that support—for which we are so grateful—has been dwindling, leaving a larger and larger burden on the remaining helpers.

If you are proficient in Spanish and willing to volunteer some of your time to help us reach out to our Spanish-language parents, we'd sure love to hear from you! To volunteer or find out more, please contact Michelle at 703-625-9597 or michellecmarston@gmail.com. Thank you!

Shrek Forever After, FREE on January 7

It's time for our next Movie Night, so grab the blankets, PJs, and kids, and head over to Abingdon on Friday, January 7. We'll have a free showing of *Shrek Forever After* in the multipurpose room, followed by a raffle of the DVD copy of the movie and other

ABINGDON

A peaceful world starts here



Show your Cardinal Pride! Sport a bumper sticker for your neighborhood school while you sit in NoVA traffic. Contact Michelle at michellecmarston@gmail.com to get yours for just \$2 (\$3 for a car magnet).

Shrek-related prizes. This month raffle tickets will be available not only for 50 cents apiece, but also for each item of non-perishable food you bring for our Arlington Food Assistance Center food drive. We collected more than 200 pounds of food for AFAC for our Fall Festival in October.

The PTA will sell cheap eats—pizza for \$1 a slice, snacks and drinks for 50 cents. We'd like to thank our good neighbors at the AMC Loews Shirlington 7 movie theater for donating real movie theater popcorn. Members of the PTA will get their popcorn for FREE. Visit www.abingdonpta.org to download a copy of our membership form or join at Movie Night. You don't have to be a parent or teacher to join; you just have to care about your neighborhood school!

Doors open at 6 p.m., so come stake out a spot in the multipurpose room. The movie starts at 6:30. Our final movie night of the year will be on Friday, February 4th. Stay tuned for the title of our feature presentation.

January 19: Showcase to spotlight our youngest Cardinals

On Wednesday, January 19, Abingdon will hold its next Project GIFT

Showcase. These evening events give Abingdon students the opportunity to demonstrate for their parents and interested community supporters the wonderful way we learn through the arts at Abingdon. In addition to music and drama presentations from the Communications classes,

the Abingdon strings will perform, works of art and architecture will be on display, and science and math lab projects will be out as well.

The January Showcase will shine a spotlight on how we integrate the arts into learning at Abingdon for our youngest students. We'd like to extend a special invitation to parents preparing for kindergarten or looking for a different learning environment for their elementary-aged child. It's a great opportunity to see Abingdon in action.

Ever wondered how to make claymation movies?

Kerry Abbott, Abingdon's Communications teacher, will be sharing the secrets of claymation movie making at our next PTA meeting, January 25. At Abingdon, 3rd and 4th grade students learn about claymation movie making. A couple of years ago, they even won an award for a short film they wrote, created, and produced about the settlement at Jamestown! You can see some of the students' amazing productions online at http://web.mac.com/kerry_abbott/Site/_Welcome.html.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president

neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month, with the exception of July and August when there is only one meeting on the third Thursdays of those months. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

This month the Fair Golds will hold a business meeting on Thursday, January 6, and a social meeting on Thursday, January 20. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. Please feel free to join us at our meetings to see if Fair Golds is a group you would be interested in joining. We try to arrange a special program or engage a speaker for the second Thursday meeting of the month. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernetta Kukulich at 703-548-8571.

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 Diners

We're a low-key group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times month, and focus on having a good meal in great company. We had a lovely time at Sharon's in December, maintaining our traditional start of the holiday season with a gift exchange with lots of snatching! This month, we'll revisit Bombay Curry Company and return to Ram-parts for burgers. Come out and join us this month!

Sunday, January 9, 6:30 p.m., Bombay Curry Company, 3110 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, 703-836-6363. This excellent Indian restaurant is a favorite of the group; we found it by cross referencing *Cheap Eats* with the *100 Best Restaurants* rated by *Washingtonian* magazine several years ago. Add some variety to your life by joining us for a fun evening at this family-run restaurant. Call Carol at 703-379-6840 NLT Saturday, January 8, to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table

when we arrive.

Monday, January 31, 7:30 p.m., burger night at Ram-parts, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is an almost monthly event—burgers are half-price when you order a beverage. Please call Carol to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Prior to the day of the event, call at 703-379-6840. On the day of the event, call by 6 p.m. at 202-647-2624. For either event, please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Thirty Somethings

Please join us on Thursday, January 20, at 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the New Year at Capitol City Brewery in Shirlington. We will let the host or hostess know where we are located, so please ask if you have difficulty finding the group. If you want to be added to the list, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com.

Book Group

He is the greatest diarist in English. And although he died more than 300 years ago, he tweets! (See <http://twitter.com/samuelpepys> for snippets from the famous diary.) The subject of Claire Tomalin's *Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self* witnessed the Great Plague and the Great Fire of 1660s London, aided the Restoration of King Charles II, helped run a war against the Dutch, and left an astonishingly candid account of his daily life. Everyone is invited to discuss this biography of Pepys on Tuesday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center. For more information, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com or Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a stay-at-home parent, pregnant, or on maternity leave, and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington, VA chapter of the International MOMS Club may

neighborhood news

Continued

be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, family meal support, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth to 6 months and go all the way up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

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

If you would like to learn more about the club and meet other parents, please join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, January 12, at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are welcome. For more information about the club, the general meeting, or membership, please contact Angela Klaus (Membership VP) at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

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Owners of vehicles garaged in Arlington but displaying out-of-state license plates are assessed a \$100 annual fee. For more information and frequently asked questions go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Commissioner of Revenue.

DUI penalties

Police officials remind drivers that the maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction for driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2,500 fine, and a 12-month suspension of driving privileges. In addition, there are mandatory jail terms associated with these offenses, depending upon the blood alcohol level of the driver. Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles administrative fees may also apply.

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Wishes all the pets and
their parents in Fairlington
a happy and prosperous
New Year.

May you have abundant
head scratches, walks,
brushings, playtimes with
your friends, a warm
and cozy winter, and
plenty of treats.

Thank-you, Fairlington,
for trusting us with your
pets and your homes.

- Dior, Marilyn, Chris C.,
Mary, Damian, Janis, Kaïne,
Lori, Krissy & Wray, Chris G.,
Jesse, Pat, Peter, & Gerri



Celebrating 10 years in business
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artwork by Nicoletta Poli

<h1>Mini-ads</h1>	<p>COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will help resolve problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim 703-820-8767 - jandgonline.com.</p>	<h2>Gardening/Landscaping</h2>
<h2>For Sale</h2>	<p>I FLAUT! DO YOU? Does your child love playing music? For pleasure or competition? My passion is helping all abilities and ages thrive and learn. Adults welcome. Former GWU flute professor. Call 703-998-7223 for a free lesson. www.lynnhertel.com.</p>	<p>SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING paints home interiors of Fairlington residents during January and February, something we've done the last 15 years. If you need pruning, mulching or leaf removal during the winter, we do that too. E-mail or call Bill at billsullivan41@gmail.com or 571.213.9567.</p>
<p>SHUTTERS. Set of white plantation fauxwood shutters, 32" high, 39-41" wide, purchased for Claredon TH, in unopened box. \$70 OBO, contact Lynda 703-893-1171.</p>	<p>HEALING TOUCH. Massage therapy services. 1225 Martha Custis Drive Suite 2. Alexandria, Va. 22302. 5-10 minutes from Fairlington. Phone 703-980-5304. For more information check out: www.healingtouchmassagetherapy.biz.</p>	<h2>Improvements</h2>
<p>TUTORING. Experienced teacher-Fairfax County. Reading specialist. Assistive technology specialist. Writing specialist. All subjects welcome. E-mail Kamainow@comcast.net.</p>	<p>ORGANIZING. Too much stuff in all the wrong places? Call Linda for nonjudgemental and patient help with decluttering and organizing. 703-627-8096 or e-mail lrobistryn@msn.com. Fairlington resident who understands how to maximize our spaces.</p>	<p>HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.</p>
<p>EDGEWOOD END IN BEAUTIFUL MEADOWS COURTYARD. Newly renovated. Move-in ready. See www.3349sstaffordst.com or call 202-731-1784 for details.</p>	<p>MINDFUL MEDITATION FOR ENHANCED CREATIVITY. This 9-session group introduces you to meditation to enhance your creative potential. Held at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA. Group begins February 17th, 2011. Contact Rusty Lynn at rustylynn@earthlink.net for more information.</p>	<p>WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.</p>
<h2>Services</h2>	<h2>Child Care</h2>	<p>DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. An expert in Fairlington doors. Website: www.doorsolutions.biz (information/prices). Email Bill: bill@doorsolutions.biz.</p>
<p>INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. New home-owners and all-50-state taxes our specialty. Electronic Filing. Convenient location, evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for appointment 703- 931-3290.</p>	<p>CHILD CARE. Professional child care in my home. FT/PT. CPR and first aid. Excellent references. Worked with children for 23 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603.</p>	<p>PAINTING. Greg the Painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.</p>
<p>YOGA, REFLEXOLOGY, REIKI, INFANT-CHILDREN'S MASSAGE. Self-care starts with you. Create a class or purchase a private session to pamper you. Gift certificates available. Certified Fairlington resident. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.</p>	<p>CHILD CARE. Warm home setting and very nurturing environment. Experienced and licensed. Excellent references. Call 703-824-0385.</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com</p>
<p>HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS. Complete installation or repair of telephone, CATV, or data wiring and outlets. All work performed by owner/technician Al Hughes. 40 years experience. Licensed and insured. All services are schedule for a specific appointment time. All work guaranteed, with free estimate, if necessary. Call 703-354-4528 with any questions or to schedule an appointment.</p>		<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com</p>

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STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your remodeling needs. Kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Call 703-499-2249 for a free estimate. Visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

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

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PAINTING & WALLPAPERING. 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. We do faux finish. Call for free estimate 703-495-0781. Ask for Ricardo. rrhomeimprove.com.

R.R. HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC. Celebrating our 20 year anniversary with very LOW RATES. We do: painting, drywall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Call us. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151. rrhomeimprove.com.

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

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

B&A CLEANING SERVICES. 22 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Reasonable prices. We provide our own equipment and supplies. Call for free estimate 703-495-0781.

Pet Services

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

<h1>Mini-ads</h1>	<p>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.</p>	<p>DOG WALKER & PET SITTER-REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.</p>
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REASONABLE RATES.** Special rates
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NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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

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

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