BULLETIN

JANUARY 2012



Volume 38, Number 1



www.fca-fairlington.org

FCA monthly meeting

Note: No meeting in January.

New Year's Monday holiday Monday, January 2 Most government offices closed

County Board meeting

Monday, January 2, 11 am 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Room 307 Arlington

Fair Golds business meeting Thursday, January 5, noon FCC

MOMS Club Wednesday, January 11, 4 pm FCC

Fair Golds program Thursday, January 19, noon FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, January 23, 6:30 pm Ramparts half-price burger night Alexandria

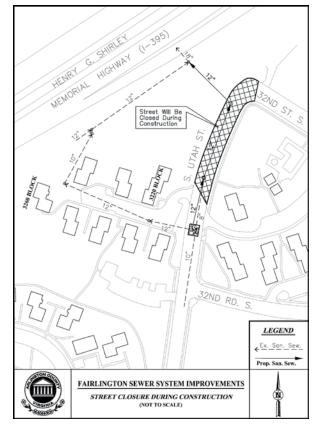
Book Group

Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 pm North Fairlington CC

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

The "big dig," part two

Part two of the sanitary sewer infrastructure improvement project is scheduled to begin later this month (or perhaps in early February). The county's Department of **Environmental Services** will install a new 12-inch sanitary sewer pipe on the northernmost (downhill) section of S. Utah Street in south Fairlington. The work constitutes the second part of the large sewer project that occupied the intersection of Utah and S. 34th Street and surrounding streets for many months last winter and spring. During construction on the "big dig," part two, the portion of Utah from a point north of 32nd Road S. to 32nd Street S. will be blocked off and closed to traffic. Barring weather delays, the project is scheduled to take six months.



Fairlington's infrastructure will benefit from the million-dollar capital improvement project, which will take about six months to complete.

The new line will bypass what is currently the main sewer line running down Utah and connect directly to the 18" outfall pipeline under I-395. In effect, once the new main is connected to the outfall, the currently existing pipe will provide dedicated sewer service for several buildings in the Commons (3220 and 3260 blocks) that experienced backups in the past during periods of high infiltration/inflow in the current Utah Street main.

The new pipe will be installed using the pilot-bore tunneling system: Construction crews will dig four access pits and run tunneling pipes between them. (Three pits will be dug in Utah and one in the I-395 right of way.)

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Special program: FCA will not host a speaker in January. The board will meet in executive session for agenda and budget planning.

8 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 Rosiland Jordan, President Bryan Pettigrew, Vice President Carol Dabbs, Secretary Ed Hilz, Treasurer **Directors** Kent Duffy Jacob Gelbaum Mark Jones Guy Land

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

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Happy new Year! 2012

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Made your resolutions yet?

The usual ones are on my list: eat less, work out more, improve that work-life balance, and of course, knit more! I'm one of those people who like the resolution-making tradition, mainly because it forces me to do a reality check. Am I having fun? Am I challenging myself? Am I sharing enough with others (no small thing when you're the oldest of six children)?

When it comes to the FCA, my 2012 resolutions are simple: work hard, bring as many people as possible together, and look out for our neighborhood's interests. We are fortunate to live in a vibrant community, filled with smart, passionate, and talented residents. So I'm adding one more resolution: Tap into your energies and opinions, and let them guide the FCA's work. Let me know if you're interested in volunteering!

We already have some good activities on tap for this year: another community development forum or two, speeches by police and fire officials from both Arlington and Alexandria, the return of All-Fairlington Day at Utah Park in May, the Fourth of July Parade (of course!), a meeting on local education issues, and a repeat appearance by Firehouse Santa and his elves in mid-December. What else piques your interest? Send me an e-mail so we can add it to the agenda!

One thing the FCA won't be doing in 2012 is inviting any candidates up for office this year to speak to Fairlington residents. The FCA is non-partisan, and we don't want to be seen as choosing sides. We will of course let you know about local candidate forums so that you can learn more about the people who want to represent you on the local or federal levels. We will consider bringing in officials who aren't up for election in 2012, since they may be working on issues that matter to Fairlingtonians.

I hope 2012 brings all of you and yours 366 days of joy, delight, and good memories. (Yes, it's a Leap Year!) Please let the FCA board know how we can help make life in Fairlington more enjoyable! As former FCA President Sam Anthony liked to say, we are here at your service.

Cheers, and Happy New Year,

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

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Safeway revamp is on track for this year



A large crowd attended the Safeway information session in November. At right, Fairlington resident and Safeway spokesman Avis Black talks with FCA treasurer Ed Hilz. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

On November 16 at the FCC, an overflow crowd of Fairlingtonians welcomed representatives of Safeway, Inc. as speakers at an information session about the company's plans to tear down and reconstruct the Safeway store at 3526 King Street. After months of hearing partial facts and speculation, residents were glad to receive authoritative comments about the new "lifestyle" Safeway, as described in slides, poster board displays, and remarks from store representatives. Leading the discussion was Safeway's Area Real Estate Manager, Avis Black, who is a long-time Fairlington resident. (Although the session was scheduled too late in November to be reported in the December *All Fairlington Bulletin*, it occurred, as was requested by the Alexandria City Planning Commission, before that agency's December 6 meeting; *see the story, page 9.*)

According to store representatives, our neighborhood Safeway was state-of-the-art when it opened decades ago, but times have changed and the new Safeway promises to be "a more attractive and accessible place to do shopping." For today's time-starved consumers, they said, the lifestyle model offers a larger prepared-foods section for the grab-and-go customer. There also will be a redoubled emphasis on fresh produce, a large variety of cheeses, a bakery with a hearth oven preparing baked goods daily, plus a beer and wine department with a wine steward. Among many other featured amenities, wider aisles and upgraded lighting will permit easy circulation around display cases. In addition, Safeway said shoppers will have access to a variety of services under one roof-a Starbucks coffee bar, a soup and sandwiches café with indoor and outdoor seating, a floral department, and a dry cleaner.

In early reports, parking seemed to be a concern, but store representatives clarified the parking situation: With re-development, the new upper-level store will increase in size by about 50 percent (from about 44,000 square feet to about 62,000 square feet), and the overall number of parking spaces, at ground level, will increase from 199 to 228 (228 is a lesser number than would have been called for under the city's zoning ordinance without the special use permit). Safeway representatives emphasized that the covered parking area would be well-lit, open, and airy. In addition, the plan calls for a separate, 3,000-squarefoot retail building on the current site, and residents were interested to know what type of business would be located there. Also of interest to meeting attendees was the store's planned truck-unloading dock, which will be relocated to the Braddock Road side of the site.

The tear-down and re-build project is tentatively scheduled to begin this summer and be completed in about a year, with re-opening in mid-2013. During construction, pharmacy operations will continue at a nearby site, which is yet to be determined; residents with prescriptions at the store pharmacy were told there would be about 30 days' notice before the location switch occurred. Residents concerned about noise during construction were reassured to learn that the project would require no pile-driving (usually the singular source of noise complaints during large construction). In addition, work would proceed daily from 7 am to 4 pm, with the start time an hour later on Saturdays and no work on Sundays. More information will be forthcoming as the construction date approaches.



Cell: 703.314.7374 • tom@thetomteam.com • www.TheTomTeam.com

Representative Moran offers candid assessment of traffic issues

At the special meeting on November 28 at the FCC, a large audience welcomed the Honorable Jim Moran (D), U.S. Representative for Virginia's 8th congressional district (composed of Alexandria, Falls Church, Arlington, and portions of Fairfax County). A senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Representative Moran serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and also serves on the Defense and Military Construction Subcommittees. Fairlingtonians and nearby neighbors listened attentively as Moran, an acknowledged expert on regional transportation issues, reviewed the region's traffic concerns.

Moran's knowledge is also quite local: When discussing nearby streets, intersections, and rights of way, Moran brought the added authority of having served as the mayor of Alexandria (1985-90) before being elected to Congress. He recalled that, going back decades, there have been many proposals for re-design or improvement for the Braddock/King/Quaker intersection. For example, one plan from the 1980s proposed a rotary (traffic circle) for B/K/Q, but the owners of Apple House nursery were

Pentagon report criticizes BRAC-133

In early December, as reported in the Washington Post, the Pentagon's inspector general released a report on BRAC-133, saying that the Army's decision to move 6,400 defense workers to the Mark Center complex "was based on a deeply flawed portrayal of the impact it would have on traffic" and that traffic engineers were seeing signs of Mark Center-area intersection "failure" as early as September last year. The report claimed the Army used bad traffic data to support its case for the move; it conducted surveys not at peak rush hour times, but on national holidays-the 4th of July and Memorial Day—when workers were off and school was not in session. According to the report, I-395 commuters already faced the most congested traffic corridor in the country, and the Mark Center location, miles from Metro or mass transit, left incoming employees with few options for getting there other than to drive. The Army disputed the findings of the report, and said that it was cooperating with state and local officials as well as providing \$20 million for traffic improvements.



Representative Jim Moran greets Fairlington resident Libby Garvey at the special meeting on November 28. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

unwilling to sell property necessary for the project.

The situation at B/K/Q and the Bradlee shopping center is familiar to Fairlingtonians who use King Street as a major entry/exit access: The back-ups can grow long at stoplights, which merely generates more pollution, and, at peak hours, people can be delayed getting in and out of the area. Several traffic studies have shown that much B/K/Q traffic is turning, not going straight. The most recent study from 2010 found that the simplest, leastcostly, and most efficient improvement—and one that would have the largest potential impact—is to provide more left turn lanes. Also under consideration is a major bus transit center on the King Street service road (basically, across King from S. Taylor Street). Despite the congestion, most people find that the surrounding roads are still fairly accessible.

On the subject of BRAC-133 (the newly opened U.S. Army headquarters building at the Mark Center at I-395 and Seminary Road in Alexandria), Moran shared the resigned dismay of many area residents. "I voted against it originally," he said. "It was the wrong thing to do for this region—taking those 6,400 people to that location. They should have been located within access to Metro or mass transit." A site at Springfield or Eisenhower Avenue would have been much better. In fact, he added, all the public discussion and controversy over the Mark Center location may actually undermine the relocation's original intent—security.

Continued on page 9

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Big dig, continued from page 1

Excavating the pits is a fairly large construction task, says David Donahue of DES; the procedure requires moving a lot of dirt, shoring up the openings, and eventually installing the manholes. The project has been on hold for a few months while the county discussed cost-saving measures with the contractor; the good news, reports Donahue, is that the short delay for negotiations permitted Arlington's DES to save nearly \$800,000 on the now million-dollar project.

During construction, jersey barriers will be placed on the sides of the street, and traffic detour signs will be installed to guide drivers and pedestrians. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the county's capital projects construction manager, Charles Boateng, at 703-859-0149 or cboate@arlingtonva.us.



Sewer construction last year. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

Moran, continued from page 7

By the end of 2011, 5,000 new employees were traveling daily to BRAC-133; the remaining 1,400 will join the commute early this year. In November, Moran said that the anticipated 20-minute traffic backups at Seminary Road were not yet occurring. "And that's good! But what we are seeing currently is backups at the Pentagon." And it's hard to imagine, he added, that the Mark Center area intersections won't fail eventually. In addition, for a time at least, any construction for road improvements and for the dedicated highway off-ramp will only exacerbate the congestion problem. Like area residents, Moran concluded, "We'll just have to wait and see."

Fairlington's views heard by Planning Commission

At the December 6 meeting of the Alexandria Planning Commission, commissioners voted to approve, and recommended that the City Council approve, Safeway's special use permit plan to build a new "lifestyle" Safeway store at the Braddock/ King/Quaker intersection near Bradlee. FCA president Rosiland Jordan, whose comments had been requested by the commissioners, joined a representative from the Northridge civic association to offer Fairlington's overall support for the new store, with modest qualifications—e.g., residents' concerns about the building's architecture, available parking, and the construction of a separate retail building on a corner of the store's current parking lot. In particular, Jordan encouraged the city to step up efforts to engage all nearby residents in plans to improve traffic at the B/K/Q intersection.

The commissioners had planned to vote on the Safeway proposal at their early November meeting, but delayed the vote until December when they learned from Jordan that Fairlington's nearly 3,500 households had not received a formal presentation on the scope and design of the project. The delayed vote permitted time for Safeway to conduct outreach to Fairlington residents in an information session, which occurred on November 16. At the December 6 meeting, commissioners welcomed Jordan's report on the Safeway presentation, and thanked her for representing the neighborhood's views in the discussion.

Emergency info goes mobile

The county has launched a new mobile app for smart phones as an easy way to get emergency information, on the fly, when a crisis happens. The "Arlington Prepares" app is available as a free download in the Apple App Store and the Android Marketplace. No matter your location or the time of day, with the app you can receive weather and traffic alerts; learn what to do in the event of a tornado, earthquake, fire, or other threat; get sources for local emergency news; and get quick access to Arlington Alerts. The Department of Technology Services, Office of Emergency Management, and Office of Communications collaborated on the in-house development of this appthe first mobile app for Arlington County, and the first emergency management app of its kind in the country. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search emergency.





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Pictures depict an actual Fairlington Village kitchen recently remodeled by GMG

Fairlington adds to the tree canopy

In December, several Fairlington condo associations added to the county's tree cover by welcoming new trees to replace some of those that were damaged or destroyed in the severe thunderstorm of August 5, 2010—the storm's unprecedented 75 mph winds seemed to concentrate their fury on this one Arlington neighborhood.



River birch and willow oak replacement trees will bring shade to the grassy area between 34th Street S. and Wakefield Circle buildings in the Commons. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

After the storm, the

county acted quickly to clean up downed tree limbs and branches, and the following fall, county landscapers restored the streetscape with replacement street trees in the public right of way. But Fairlington's seven condo associations learned in the storm's aftermath just how expensive it is to clean up tree debris and to pay for having a broken tree removed from the community's private property—and maintenance budgets seldom stretched to renewing the landscape by buying and planting new trees. Thus, Fairlington's newest trees arrived last month courtesy of the Tree Canopy Fund, a program of Arlingto-

Virginia 4 Trees license plates

Arlington's Urban Forestry Commission invites Arlingtonians to apply for a "Virginia Loves Trees" license plate (www.valovestrees.org). The plates aren't official yet, but they may be if the Virginia Department of Transportation receives 450 applications. If that goal is met, state Delegate Joe Johnson (D, 4th District) will submit a bill in the 2012 General Assembly session to authorize adoption of the license plate by the DMV. Tree advocates see this as an excellent opportunity to raise Virginians' awareness of landscape trees and urban forests.

Free tree workshop, on selecting, planting, and maintaining trees and shrubs. Wednesday, January 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, FCC. Sponsored by Virginia Co-operative Extension/Master Gardeners and Tree Stewards. Register at the Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

community groups and civic and homeowners associations can apply to TCF for grants that pay for tree planting; TCF approves grants once or twice a year, depending on the availability of funds. The Fairlington tree-planting effort was spearheaded by former FCA board director Brenda Kriegel, who undertook to gather information and do research on behalf of Fairlington's condo associations. She spoke before the county's Urban Forestry Commission to publicize Fairlington's tree losses, informed the association boards about the TCF application process, and filed the application for Fairlington Commons.

nians for a Clean Environment. The purpose

of the tree fund is to

arrest the decrease in

by granting applica-

tree cover in Arlington

tions from residents to

have trees planted on

private property. Trees

supplied by TCF have

diameters of about two inches and will

become at maturity

large canopy trees.

Neighborhood and

New lights coming to Utah Park field

New lights are coming to the diamond field at Utah Park. The county's Parks Development Division has scheduled the lighting replacements for after the end of last year's fall sports season; work will begin later this month (perhaps next month) and will be concluded before the start of the spring season.

The new, state-of-the-art "dark sky" field lights will control light pollution and preserve the night sky. Dark sky lights make good neighbors: They nearly eliminate light trespass—that is, glare, misdirected light, and light spillage intruding on the privacy of nearby residents. To preserve and protect the nighttime environment through quality outdoor lighting is the goal of the International Dark-Sky Association and related groups, and urban municipalities are increasingly adopting these goals. In addition, the new lights will be far more energy-efficient than the old ones.



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DeLong Home Improvement (DHI) is a licensed and insured General Contracting firm, specializing in **kitchen, bath, basement and whole-house** remodeling. We are a family business providing free estimates, personal service and superior results. Company owner Bob DeLong and his wife Anne are original 1977 Fairlington homeowners. Today, 90 percent of our business is in **Fairlington**, with more than 350 remodeling projects completed in all of the neighborhoods in the past five years.

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County Board, election news

In December, the Arlington County Board announced its intent to elect Mary Hynes the chair for 2012. On Monday, January 2, the board will hold its traditional New Year's organizational meeting, during which Chair-elect Hynes and board members will outline their priorities for the year. The public is invited to attend the meeting, which permits Arlington to boast that they are the only local government that "gets to work" on the New Year's holiday. The meeting will take place at 11 am in the county board room, Room 307, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

Former board member Barbara Favola, who was elected to the state Senate last November, resigned her board seat, effective December 31. The resignation allowed county election officials to set a date, March 27, for the special election for Favola's replacement on the board.

By late December, six Democratic candidates had announced their intention to run for Favola's seat: Melissa Bondi, Peter Fallon, Libby Garvey, Kim Klinger, Elmer Lowe, and Terron Sims. The Arlington County Democratic Committee announced a nominating process to select a candidate to run in the March special election: An unassembled caucus (or "firehouse primary") will take place on two dates at two locations. Originally scheduled for February 2 and February 4, the caucus dates and perhaps locations were undergoing change at press time; they will take place probably in January, probably on January 19 and 21. For updated information, check the ACDC Web site, www.arlingtondemocrats.org. Votes will be tallied and the winner announced at the end of voting. The winner of the firehouse primary will stand in the March special election. The winner of the special election will fill out the remainder of Favola's term, and then defend the seat in the November 2012 general election.

And in Richmond.... This year's Virginia General Assembly session convenes January 11 and runs for 60 days. Fairlington is represented in the GA by David Englin (D), Delegate for the 45th district and Adam Ebbin (D), newly elected in November for the 30th state Senate district.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/ LibrariesEvents.aspx. See also http://shirlingtonlibrary. wordpress.com.

FCA reports on an eventful year



FCA board members for 2012 include (L to R) Kent Duffy, Mark Jones, Vice-president Bryan Pettigrew, President Rosiland Jordan, Secretary Carol Dabbs, and Treasurer Ed Hilz. Not pictured, Guy Land and Jacob Gelbaum. A vacant director seat will be filled this year. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

In her annual report at the December meeting, FCA president Rosiland Jordan reviewed for the board the events and accomplishments of 2011. At this time last year, 2011 was expected to be a year of rebuilding after Sam Anthony's departure. Led by Reed Franklin, the board planned to focus on updating procedures and preparing for 2012 events. However, with the untimely death of Franklin over the Labor Day weekend this year, the FCA board required time to mourn the loss of their friend and pay tribute to him, and then regroup and reorganize their efforts.

The last few months of 2011 proved to be unexpectedly eventful. For example, FCA launched the first forum—in what it is hoped will be a continuing series of such sessions—on local development and real estate issues that may impact the quality of life in Fairlington, and FCA engaged with the City of Alexandria in public comments on the Safeway redevelopment plan. In addition, during 2011 the board hosted speakers at monthly FCA meetings, including Arlington County Board member Mary Hynes, Virginia Delegate David Englin, APS board chairman Libby Garvey, and U.S. Representative Jim Moran.

Faithful to long-standing tradition, FCA co-sponsored with Fairlington Villages the annual Fourth of July Parade and coordinated efforts to ensure Santa's return in December. And in more current developments, FCA continued to revamp the Web site and expand contacts with residents via Facebook.

Santa visited Fairlington

Groups of neighbors gathered on street corners last month to greet Santa's brightly lit sleigh as it made holiday rounds in Fairlington. Thanks go to ACFD Captain Rudy Eversburg, a close personal friend of the jolly old man in red suit and white whiskers, to the C Shift firefighter-elves of Station 7, and to Fairlington Villages for wardrobe assistance. *Photographs by Guy Land*.



CERT tips for winter preparedness

Community Emergency Response Team training is offered twice a year by the Arlington County Citizen Corps, Office of Emergency Management, and Fire Department. The next eight-session, 25-hour course begins in March. Until then, CERT offers the following winter-weather preparedness tips:

Make sure you have enough food (non-perishable, like canned goods) and water on-hand to last three full days. The suggested amount of water (primarily for drinking) is one gallon per person per day for each member of your household. (The three-day guideline applies all year-round, not just in the winter.) The neighborhood Harris-Teeter or CVS might not be open in a severe weather event.

Keep a working flashlight in your home and extra batteries for all your devices that need them. A battery operated AM/FM radio is a good idea, too. Give some thought to how you'd continue to operate without power for a few days (no lights, no ability to charge cell phones, no television, etc.). This is a great topic to pose to family members around the dinner table!

Take a few minutes to locate the fire hydrants nearest your home and workplace in case assistance is needed uncovering them following a major snowfall (as happened in 2010). It's easier to find them before they're buried.

Phone and online resources for inclement weather updates

Info hotlines

Public schools (toll free), 866-322-4APS (4277) PRCR, 703-228-4715

State roads

VDOT, 888-383-8368

To view a list of state-controlled roads in Arlington, www.arlingtonva.us>environmental services>state To enter a state road work request, www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp

Local streets

Snow service status updates, 703-228-6485 (may be a recorded message during/soon after storm) To report a snow issue, http://egov.arlingtonva.us/ snowrequest/Home/ESRI

To report a pothole, call 703-228-6570 or www. arlingtonva.us>environmental services>concrete To report downed power lines, Dominion Virginia Power, 888-667-3000

FAIR MUNITY Center news

MLK tribute: Join us for the 43rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Event on Sunday, January 15. Enjoy an inspirational evening of local and regional talent, including gospel from Larry Bland and the Volunteer Choir and a dance performance from DC-area artists collective Urban Artistry. Free admission, 7 to 9 pm, Washington-Lee High School (1301 N. Stafford Street). Contact 703-228-3329 or www.arlingtonva.us/prcr.

Winter classes

Online registration for winter classes began December 13. Start the New Year on a positive note by registering for classes. There's something for everyone at the FCC. For complete class listings, pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington* at the FCC or subscribe by calling 703-228-4747, or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr.

Beading fun for all

This is a family style beading workshop, designed to help a parent/caregiver and child learn the basics of beading through simple techniques. Make-and-take necklace and bracelet. All supplies are included. Saturday, January 21, 10 am to noon. FCC, one session, \$33. Instructor, Lee. Ages 7 to 12. Please register only the child. 240151A

Glass fusing for jewelry

Do you love the look of fused glass and want to experiment with it in your jewelry? In this three-session class, learn about compatibility, cutting, fusing, firing, and slumping your glass creations into pieces that you can use in jewelry. Monday, January 23, 7 to 9 pm, three sessions, \$89. Instructor, Lee. Ages 15 to adult. 240165A

Keep those New Year's resolutions: Work out at FCC fitness rooms

Start the year right with convenient exercise options at the FCC. Personal training services are available on Saturday mornings and there are a variety of classes in studio. Locker rooms and showers are available. Stop by FCC to purchase a fitness center pass good at Fairlington plus five other Arlington community centers: There are passes for ten days, and for three, six, or twelve months.

Tell Arlington's story, a celebration showcase

Join us for a reception to celebrate Arlington stories with interactive stations to listen, share, and learn about fellow community members. Friday, January 20, from 7 to 9 pm at the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., 22209. Free. For more information, call 703-228-0751 or go online to www.arlingtonstory.us.

Senior center events

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

Open play in the gym 13 and older, Saturday, 3 to 5 pm. **13 and younger**, whenever no other scheduled programming is ongoing. Check the FCC bulletin board or call the day-of to confirm availability.

FCC hours and contact Info

Monday through Friday, 8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

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

FCC programs

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

Master Gardeners plant clinic

Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.





"Fairlington has been my home for over 30 years. I'm proud of the work I've done to increase the effectiveness, accountability and transparency on the School Board. I will bring these skills to my work on the County Board."

-Libby Garvey

Visit http://www.libbygarvey.com

to learn when and where to vote!

Note: The Arlington Dems County Board Caucus will be held at only two locations on two different dates.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I have represented Fairlington on the School Board for 15 years and am a 34-year resident of this community. I recently announced my candidacy for the Arlington County Board seat just vacated by Barbara Favola. It's important to continue the tradition of effective leadership on the County Board to continue.

I'm proud of the progress we've made on the School Board and proud of our culture of continuous improvement. We think strategically and plan ahead which is why we could start rebuilding Wakefield this year. I am committed to our core services of public safety, education, transportation, infrastructure, and a safety net for our most vulnerable.

Our sense of community- of openness, of a place where the system *works* makes Fairlington and Arlington very special. We've got to keep it that way -- working for everyone -- and keep that sense of community -- as we grow and change. I hope I can count on your vote.

Thank you,

Libby Garvey

Authorized by Libby Garvey for County Board

DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Go evergreen-spotting in Fairlington

If not for an evergreen's foliage, how would landscape photographers achieve those elegant, snowy scenes that adorned your Christmas cards? And what pictures would accompany January and February on a calendar? A mound of snow on a leafless branch is empty and lonely if you look at it long enough. Driving through Waldorf, MD last month, I passed a swamp filled with barren, deciduous trees. It was a wasteland, save for the downy woodpeckers hammering away at the dead snags.

But Fairlington has many evergreens you may enjoy during a winter walk. And while many bird species migrate south, cardinals live here yearround. The best time to spot them is late afternoon when the male and female skitter about in low brush. Also look for the Cooper's hawk, a 12-inch tall bird bearing brown markings on its beige breast. One was perched on my van at the Bradlee Shopping Center in December.

Here are some evergreens to check out on winter walks around the neighborhood:

Hemlock. These are planted at the ends of many buildings in Fairlington. They reach just over the rooftop and are 25 feet wide. Each branchlet resembles a fishbone, with needles being less than an inch long. The hemlock's habit is airy and the branches tend to droop at the ends.

Spruce. There is one in the Arbor in south Fairlington, about 50 yards north of the pool entrance. Needles

of the spruce are erect and curved tightly like rope twine. More so than with any other evergreen, the spruce's branches are filled with needles that make branch tips droop. It has a triangular shape and sometimes can be found bearing holiday lighting. The tree reaches 60 feet tall and 30 feet wide.

American holly. Dressed for the holidays, the holly's shiny red berries stand out like the cardinal on a sunless winter day. The tree's habit is sort of egg-shaped and very dense. Three sit at the corner of S. Utah Street and 32nd Street S. near Utah Park. Due to the density and sharp terminal leaf points, the holly makes a safe nesting area for birds to protect their young from predatory hawks and crows.

Red cedar. A member of the Juniper genus, the cedar's trunk is a cinnamon-gray and peels in longitudinal strips up the trunk. The trunk itself is rippled, resembling bulging muscles. Look closely and you'll notice bluish-green foliage surrounding Wedgewood-blue fruit. Like hemlocks, cedars can be found planted at the ends of buildings throughout Fairlington.

Blue spruce. There is one at the Fairlington Villages office. In December, it supported strands of colorful lights. The branches are dense with bluish-green foliage up to two inches long. Grab the branch tip and you'll feel how hard these needles are.

Magnolia. The trees are stately and dense. The six-inch-long, three-inch-

wide leaves are undulating, glossy green and leathery through winter. Underneath the canopy, the soil is covered with its spent leaves. In October, the fallen fruit (an aggregate shaped like a mini-football) is filled with fire engine-red seeds that don't last long with our many squirrels. There's one on Quaker Lane where the Lindsay Cadillac parking lot ends.



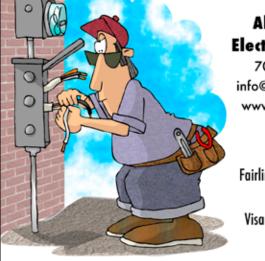
The male fruit of Atlas cedars form a carpet of Cheeto-shaped catkins beneath the trees. Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.

Atlas cedar. You'll find one at the entrance to the Fairlington Community Center. Notice the male fruit—a catkin—that is fuzzy, brown, and looks rather like a burnt Cheeto. The tree's needles are two inches long, bluish-green and stiff. The tree has a triangular shape and is quite fat (25-30 feet).

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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Animal Talk

New Year's resolutions (from your pet)

It is said that pets live very much in the moment. They don't fully remember what happened in the past—which is why if you leave the house and come back five minutes later, dogs will act like they haven't seen you in hours. (Cats will act like they never even noticed you were gone.) Pets don't worry about what's coming next—well, maybe with the exception of food or walks. If pets made resolutions, here's what I imagine they might look like.

From the dog:

- I will relax and take things in stride. I will take more walks and play
- more every day.
- I will love my people and show them every chance I get.
- I will wake up with a good attitude, ready to face the day.
- I will get into mischief, just because it's fun.
- I will be curious and try new things.

From the cat:

- I will find the sunny spot to nap in. I will choose what I want to do and
- when.
- I will make my decisions in my own time.



I will show you love on my terms, if you deserve it.

- I will set my own schedule.
- I will be both playful and lazy as I see fit.

As we enter the New Year, think about what lessons you can learn from your own pets and how you can live more in the moment. We are all so busy and stressed—but just think how we might benefit if we tried to see life through our pets' eyes and enjoy what they have to offer and teach us. This is my resolution this year. I resolve to appreciate that my pets might frustrate me because of the crazy things they do, their demands on my time, and their expense. But they bring me a lot of joy, keep me active and engaged in my community, and show me that it's ok to just be whoever we are. Happy New Year!

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant Editor



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ABING School news



Meet an Abingdon family



The Spindler family, Vickie and Dave, and Jessica (1st grade) and Ben (3rd grade).

Next door to you are countless Abingdon parents and students of past and present. As you learn from their personal experiences, it will become apparent that we have a gem of a school resting in the historic village of Fairlington.

Dave and Vickie Spindler are Fairlington residents and the proud parents of Abingdon students Ben and Jessica. The Spindlers love Abingdon Elementary and have contributed greatly to help the school grow and succeed. Here, they describe how and why they chose Abingdon: "The Abingdon parents we knew were very pleased with all aspects of the school. After touring the school, meeting Principal Uyeda, and seeing some teachers in action, our decision was easily made."

"We love the *Project Gift* program. Our children benefit from taking a wide variety of classes. The multiple intelligence approach exposes our kids to subject-exclusive professionals that teach technology, history, architecture, music, and art. Abingdon also has math and science labs that reinforce many of their core skills learning. It is a perfectly balanced learning paradigm. And the dedication of the Abingdon staff is special—truly amazing to watch. Every year the *Project Gift* Program gets bigger and better. The Abingdon teachers and staff find new, innovative ways to inspire and teach their students. It's a constant moving sidewalk of learning."

The Spindlers say that a prospective Abingdon parent should know that "it's the perfect school for a child to truly flourish and bring out their strengths! Abingdon is a very positive and happy environment."

Paige Whelan is Abingdon's Teacher of the Year



Paige Whelan is Abingdon's Teacher of the Year. Photograph by Kerry Abbott.

The Abingdon staff has selected Paige Whelan as the 2011-12 Teacher of the Year. Paige has been a favorite of staff, parents, and students throughout her tenure. This year she transitioned from teaching 5th grade into creating, leading, and teaching the new Tech Crew class. Paige teaches students to collaborate on innovative projects while employing a wide variety of equipment, software programs, and web tools. Abingdon is proud to have teachers of Paige Whelan's caliber. She possesses extensive classroom experience, technological expertise, as well as extraordinary talents in music and dance. Paige Whelan is the embodiment of the Abingdon learning culture.

Apple will consider Abingdon as resource site

In October, Principal Joanne Uyeda travelled to California to meet with Apple, Inc. executives when they learned about Abingdon's innovative strategies for integrating technology with the multiple intelligences learning model. They were so intrigued that they promptly visited Abingdon in November and December. The company's excitement led to an announcement that Apple is seriously considering making Abingdon an official resource site. In the spring, Apple will bring 150 visitors to tour Abingdon. The details about the special designation will be made available once Apple makes an official announcement.

Gunston Principal Madge Gill to present at Abingdon

Gunston Middle School Principal, Madge Gill will visit Abingdon on Tuesday, January 17, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. Come listen and ask any questions that you have about Gunston. Some current Gunston parents and students are also expected to attend.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president



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neighborhood news

Card players welcome

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

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group in and around the Fairlington area, meets at the Fairlington Community Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month at noon (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. This month, Fair Golds will meet on Thursday, January 5, for a business meeting and on Thursday, January 19, for a program meeting.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners near Fairlington. We focus on having a good meal with enjoyable conversation. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@ yahoo. com. For January, we've planned the following event:

Monday, January 23, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly—often with a large turnout. On Mondays, it's half-price for burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right-size table when we arrive. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

Book Group

Returning to his native Zimbabwe in 2008, journalist Peter Godwin witnessed the brutal aftermath of longtime President Robert Mugabe's refusal to cede power after violence-marred national elections. *The Fear: Robert Mugabe and the Martyrdom of Zimbabwe* is Godwin's account of Mugabe's campaign of terror against his own people and their courage in resistance. All Fairlingtonians are invited to discuss the book on Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a parent and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club may be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

In the last year members have also worked on several community service projects benefitting Abingdon Elementary School and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Our club also raised donations for and participated in the March of Dimes' March for Babies, which took place last May. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline, and even wardrobe styling for busy moms.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on January 11 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at laurencbailey@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Abingdon Junior Girl Scouts and Brownies begin cookie drive

Abingdon Junior Girl Scout Troop #4646 and Brownie Troop #1400 have delicious cookies on sale. The customary flavors are available as well as the new lemon flavored cookie, "Savannah Smiles." Please order now at abingdoncookies@yahoo.com.

Car decal contest winner will be a Wakefield HS student

The contest for the 2012-13 car-tax decal design, sponsored by the county treasurer's office, received a record 36 submissions by the end of last year. The competition is open to Arlington high school students, who submit designs "representative of the county," and the winning design will be reproduced on windshield decals that signify payment of personal property tax. In December, submissions were narrowed to four finalists, and residents can vote this month to determine the winner. To vote, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search Treasurer. The treasurer's home page has a link for viewing the four finalist designs and voting for your choice. Voting closes January 22 at noon.

The names of the four finalist artists will not be revealed until after the winning design is announced at the county board meeting on January 24. But the art department at Wakefield High School is abuzz with news that all four finalists are Wakefield photography students which means that, for the third year in a row, a Wakefield student will win the decal contest.

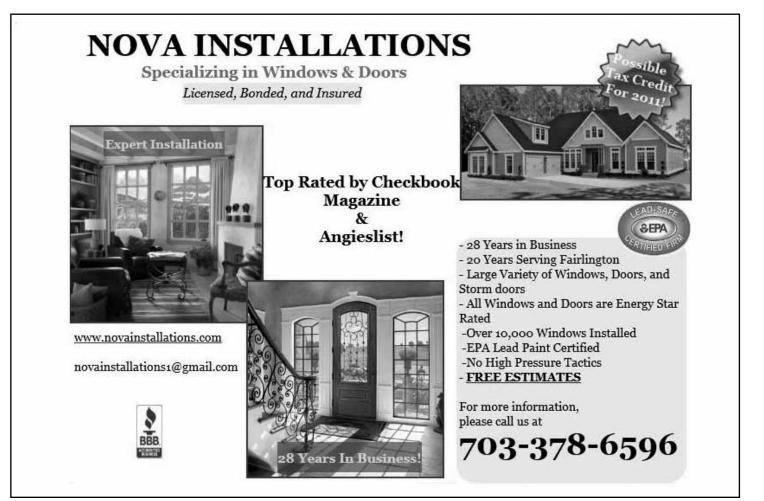
Goodbye, Nancy, and thanks

After 22 years in Fairlington, Nancy Hunt has sold her unit and moved to Charlottesville. Among a cadre of dedicated community volunteers, Nancy stands out for the breadth of her activities and the depth of her contribution to the entire Fairlington community.

From 1996 to 2002 Nancy served on the Fairlington Villages condo board, including two terms as president. A leader of the community-wide civic association, the Fairlington Citizens Association, Nancy served as FCA president from 2003 through 2005 and as FCA secretary in 2006 and 2007. During her tenure on FCA's board, Nancy increased Fairlington's voice in county affairs, ensured that our civic association was financially sound, and expanded the range of activities supported and sponsored by FCA on behalf of all Fairlingtonians. In 2004, she was appointed to the Arlington County Planning Commission and ultimately assumed the duties of commission chairman.

All residents now benefit from Nancy's tireless efforts to improve our community and from her long-term vision for Fairlington.

—Guy Land



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Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Jan 10th for Feb 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: Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street

MINI-AD FORM

Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. E-mailed ad text will not be processed until payment is received. Write key words from your ad on the check for reference. (Example: "Yard Sale" or "Lost Camera") Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

Please include the following information with all ads:

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