

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JANUARY 2015

Volume 41, Number 1

## ***FCA to host community briefing on Abingdon School expansion project***

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Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff will provide the Fairlington community with an update on the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary School at a special briefing hosted by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) on Monday, January 26. The session, which begins at 7 pm, will be held in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

With Abingdon already experiencing significant overcrowding and more enrollment growth projected, the project calls for the addition of 27,000 square feet to the school to accommodate 136 more students. Other work will include significant renovation of the interior of the existing building, which has not seen major maintenance work in a number of years.

In November, Arlington voters approved a school bond referendum that authorized \$28.75 million for the work at Abingdon.

Two community advisory committees have been working with APS staff and the architectural design team to narrow options for accommodating the new building on the school property. Aji Robinson, APS project coordinator for the Abingdon work, points out that finding a way to fit the additional square footage on the existing property is a challenge.



*At a walk around Abingdon in November, Fairlington resident Linda Robinson (left), Elizabeth Gearin of the Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Abingdon PTA co-president Andrew Vitols talk about options for Abingdon's redesign. Photo by Guy Land.*

The groups have examined a variety of different options for configuring the new school, with the goal of creating a larger school that will offer a quality learning environment for students while having minimal adverse impact on the surrounding community. They have worked with "building block" models and done a "taste test" to help identify preferred building configurations.

A transportation consulting firm has examined traffic patterns and speeds in the

*Continued on page 5*

# 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](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org) or leave a voice-mail message at 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

## January 14 preliminary agenda:

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

## January 26 special briefing:

Arlington Public Schools staff will discuss the plans for the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School.

## Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA Web site, [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

Web design by Global Thinking, Alexandria, VA, [www.globalthinking.com](http://www.globalthinking.com).

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Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
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<a href="http://Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
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### Fairlington Citizens Association

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### — DEADLINE —

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

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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

[admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto: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 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
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**For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)**

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## FCA Calendar

### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 7 pm  
FCC

### Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 pm,  
Silver Diner, Arlington

### Abingdon Listening Session

Tuesday, January 13, 7 pm,  
Fairlington Villages Community  
Center

### MOMS Club

Wednesday, January 14, 4:30 pm  
FCC

### Fairlington Diners

Monday, January 19, 6:30 pm,  
Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub,  
Arlington

### Abingdon Community Briefing

Monday, January 26, 7 pm,  
FCC

### Book Group

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 pm  
FCC

## Register now for the Fairlington 5K



Mark your calendars and brush off your running shoes for the Fairlington 5K, Saturday, April 11, 2015. Back by popular demand, this neighborhood run/walk event drew 800 runners last year and raised more than \$21,000 for the Abingdon PTA and A Cure for Ellie. This year's race will conclude with Abingdon PTA's spring festival immediately following the race. Register now at [www.fairlington5K.com](http://www.fairlington5K.com) and watch for more information on the 2015 race and fun run in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2015 promises to be another busy one for Fairlington and the FCA.

A quick summary suggests the range of activities we'll be tackling: The Fairlington Farmers' Market will launch this spring. April will see the second annual Fairlington 5K run/walk. A variety of guest speakers, such as the Fairlington district police captain and an Arlington County Board member, will visit with residents. We'll continue our work on intergenerational strategies, help shape the expansion of Abingdon School, and monitor proposed nearby redevelopment projects.

These are things we're already working on, but we welcome your thoughts on other ways we can improve life in Fairlington. Logon to our online survey, available at [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org), and tell us the things you want us to consider in 2015. We welcome suggestions for new activities and also want to hear which ones you could help us with.

The work of FCA is all done by volunteers. This is a good time to acknowledge them, particularly those who helped lead our work over the past year. I begin with the FCA board, all of whom serve without compensation. Two members of last year's team have left the board. Carrie Street and Lisa Schwanger were terrific board members, providing key leadership on several initiatives. We thank them for their contributions to the community.

Returning this year are Vice President Kent Duffy, Secretary Carol Dabbs, and Treasurer Ed Hilz, along with directors Mark Jones and Joe Hartman. They are joined by Gretchen Fallon, Doug Penn, and Chris Weathers. We thank them for committing time each month.

Volunteers lead our communications efforts with the newsletter and website: Janis Johnston, Christine Chirichella, Beth Andrews, and Noemi Rivera.

Key project leadership also comes from non-board volunteers—the farmers' market committee, the intergenerational strategies steering committee, the inaugural 5K team, the master gardeners that coordinated our spring and fall grounds tours, our liaison to Santa for the fire truck ride, the Park Shirlington Redevelopment Advisory Committee, and the Fairlingtonians who enabled us to host a successful Fairlington Day.

I also gratefully acknowledge the businesses that advertise in this newsletter. Their ads are our primary income. Without them, our menu of activities would be much smaller. They are key partners in our community. Please patronize them.

I hope one of your new year's resolutions will be to carve out a little time to help us. We need you.

Guy Land, FCA President  
[president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)





2015 Looks to be a  
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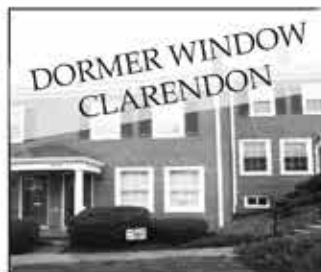


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vicinity of the school, identified the primary methods that students and teachers use for getting to school, and observed parking patterns in the area.

Some of the key discussion flashpoints that have emerged during the fall include the following:

- **Preservation of green space.** Accommodating the additional square footage will require the use of some land that is currently open space. Nearby residents have expressed a strong preference for maintaining the current playing field next to North Fairlington and the green space next to CourtBridge. While some options would significantly affect the playing field, other design concepts would have minimal effect on the field and adjacent green space.
- **Parking.** Arlington County code specifies the number of parking spaces that will be required for the expanded school. To meet code, the project must include at least 35 more parking spaces than what the school parking lot now offers. Meeting the parking requirement on site would result in the loss of considerable green space.

In lieu of providing all of the required parking on school property, APS staff members have been exploring options for counting some on-street parking places toward the required number. They are also discussing a potential arrangement with the Fairlington Villages condo association to use of some parking spaces in selected condo association lots.

Using both on-street and off-street condo parking to meet the parking requirement could enable the project to preserve more of the existing green space on the site.

- **Use of Fort Reynolds Park.** Several design options call for providing road access to the school across the county's Fort Reynolds Park, which lies between Fairlington Villages and Park Shirlington on S. 31st St. Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation staff have expressed concern about the potential destruction of trees that creating a road could require.

A study by the project's transportation consultants revealed that more students walk to Abingdon via the Fort Reynolds Park walkway than from any other direction.

- **Interior Improvements.** The design team and advisory committees have been reviewing interior considerations that have implications for the exter-

nal layout of the building. There is a strong preference that all classrooms have windows, as well as a need to increase space for special programs and enlarge the gym. While adding floors is likely, teachers want to minimize the number of floors that will serve younger students.

FCA has been actively engaged in the discussions with APS and county staff about the plans for Abingdon. In addition to having representatives on the two advisory committees, FCA is hosting a series of "listening sessions" for nearby residents and conducted a walking tour of the school property in late November. "We rarely get [this] degree of collaboration from civic associations," says John Chadwick, APS Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations.

FCA has also reached out to the residents of CourtBridge I and II, Park Shirlington, and Shirlington House to ensure that the larger community is engaged in the conversation.

The next listening session is Tuesday, January 13, at 7 pm in the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Although it is designed for people who live near the school, all Fairlington residents are welcome.

For more information on the Abingdon project, see [www.apsva.us/moreseats/abingdon](http://www.apsva.us/moreseats/abingdon)

—Guy Land

## ***Applications now being accepted for the 2015 class of TreeStewards***

The TreeStewards of Arlington and Alexandria are volunteers dedicated to improving the health of our urban trees through educational programs, tree planting and care, demonstrations, and tree maintenance throughout the community. New volunteer training will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting February 3 through April, 2015, along with some Saturday mornings. Fun and interactive training is provided by recognized experts in tree care and citizen advocates. Sign up now to learn how to care for trees on the streets, in parks, at schools, churches, temples, and in your neighborhood.

For more information and to complete an application, visit the TreeStewards' website at [www.TreeStewards.org](http://www.TreeStewards.org) or email [info@TreeStewards.org](mailto:info@TreeStewards.org).

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# Local historians pay visit to FCA Annual Meeting

At FCA's Annual Meeting held in December, historians from two local historical societies did what they do best: they told stories about Fairlington in its early years before there was a Fairlington. John Richardson, President of the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), and Cindy Kunz, board member of the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), continued the age-old tradition of passing down some oral history, along with promoting some of their current programs.

Some upcoming projects of the AHS include a "passport" project for students, directing them to 10 points of historical interest in Arlington where they can receive a stamp in their passport.

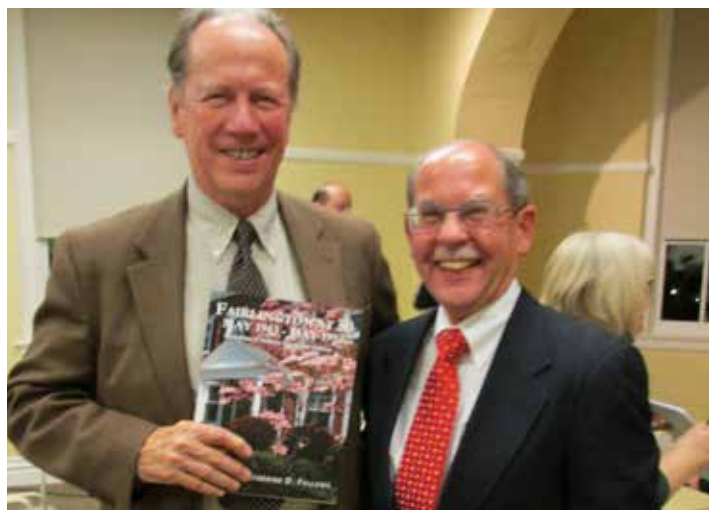
In addition, Richardson reported on exhibits at the Hume School, including the permanent exhibit of USS Arlington memorabilia and a new exhibit being installed called "The Black Experience in Arlington." He also acknowledged the recent passing of Sara Collins, past president of the AHS and founder of the Virginia Room at the Arlington Central Branch Library. For more information about the AHS, visit [www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

Kunz amused the crowd with the story of the two large architectural models of Fairlington that now hang in the Fairlington Community Center, attempted to answer questions about the mystery bridge at S. 28th St. and S. Buchanan St., and let us in on where some of the historic artifacts of old Fairlington reside—in her attic.

The FHS was created to continue the work of the Fairlington Historic Designation Committee, which was tasked with gathering historic documentation for Fairlington's designation in the National Register for Historic Places in 1999. The FHS has several ongoing projects, including



*Fairlington Historical Society leaders Patty Clark, left, and Cindy Kunz examine the architectural model of Fairlington at the FCC. Photo by Janis Johnston.*



*AHS President John Richardson, left, and FCA President Guy Land discuss Fairlington at 50. Photo by Janis Johnston.*

their upcoming biannual Fairlington Home and Garden Tour being held this May. On this popular tour, which draws more than 700 people, residents can see interesting renovations in both North and South Fairlington homes. The FHS is currently seeking volunteers to open their homes to the tour and to help out with logistics.

In addition to the tour, the FHS raises money by selling their book, *Fairlington at 50: May 1943 – May 1993*, and selling collectables at the fall Fairlington Villages yard sale. For more information about the FHS, visit [www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org).

—Janis Johnston

## What are your priority activities for FCA?

What things would you like to see your civic association work on in 2015? Another paper shredding event? How about electronics recycling? Is there any interest in monthly summer concerts or movies on the field at the community center? Log on and respond to a short online survey. Which activities would you be willing to help us with? What topics would you like to have guest speakers discuss?

A similar survey in 2013 led FCA to focus on laying the foundation for a Fairlington Farmers' Market, which will open this spring. These survey results do help guide the FCA board as it sets its work agenda for the coming year.

To fill out the survey, go to [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Completing the survey should take only a couple of minutes. We welcome your advice.



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# Community forum reviews neighbor-to-neighbor survey results

Results from the September survey, “Shall we expand neighbor-to-neighbor services in Fairlington?” prompted a lively discussion at the November 15 community forum sponsored by the FCA. The survey, which was developed by the FCA’s Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies, asked questions about respondents’ interest in both requiring help with a variety of household tasks and in helping neighbors in need with such tasks. Respondents were asked to project their interest in receiving or giving help over the next two to three years.

## Responses

Altogether, 313 households participated in the survey, a 9 percent return, indicating strong interest in the subject. Each response reported on expectations of all household members, so the population surveyed totals about 580 individuals. All seven condo associations are represented in the results. Fairlington Glen (with 26 percent of the total) has the largest share of responses, then Villages (26 percent), then Arbor (18 percent).

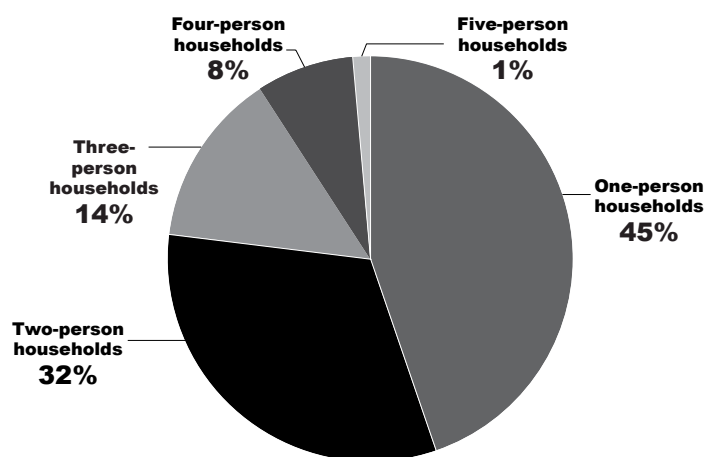


Figure 1: Size of households responding to the survey, all ages.

Every age group of household members is also represented, from dependents under the age of five to seniors 85 and older. Nonetheless, the age distribution of survey participants is older than the age distribution for all Fairlington residents found in the 2010 US Census. For example, in the 2010 Census, the Fairlington population over 55 amounted to 18 percent of the total, whereas in the survey, household members over age 55 were 35 percent of all participants. One-person households accounted for almost half of responses (as shown in Fig-



Intergenerational steering committee members Heather Marshall, left, and Phillip Rosen visit with guest speaker Candace Baldwin of Capital Impact Partners, at the November neighborhood forum. Photo by Guy Land.

ure 1), and about two-thirds of those households have at least one member age 55 or older.

## The willingness to help neighbors

We live in a generous community: 80 percent of all respondents said they would be glad to help a neighbor in need. Willing households come from every age group, even the oldest.

The kind of assistance most frequently offered is grocery shopping for a neighbor, friendly visiting, and transportation for errands and medical appointments. Many respondents are also willing to read aloud or make telephone check-in calls to a neighbor. Almost every task suggested got some response, and many other possible services were suggested, including tutoring students, repairing autos, and Spanish-English translation.

## The need for help

Only 15 percent of all households responding expect to need help from neighbors in the next two or three years, and an equal share simply want to have information about local services available, so they can make their own arrangements. About two-thirds of households responding to the survey expect to be self-sufficient. Among those who do expect to need help, two overlapping groups are particularly vulnerable: 81 percent are in households where at least one person is over age 55, and 68 percent live alone.

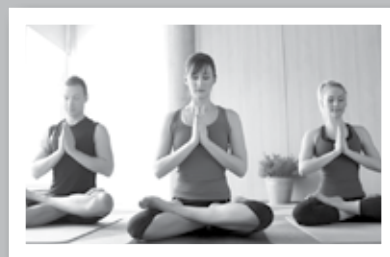
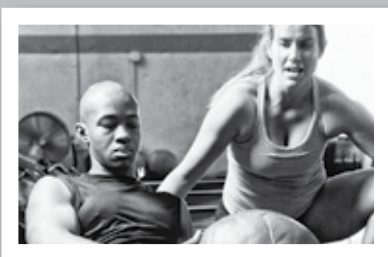
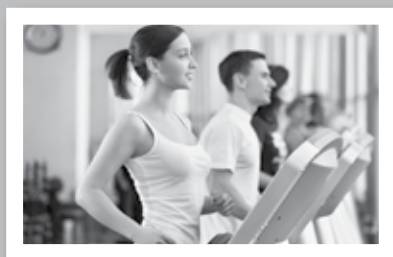
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The kind of assistance most frequently expected is for home maintenance, patio gardening and clean-up, moving boxes and furniture, and snow removal not done by condo management. The households expecting to need assistance are already paying for many of these services or relying on unpaid help from family or friends, particularly for transportation to medical appointments.

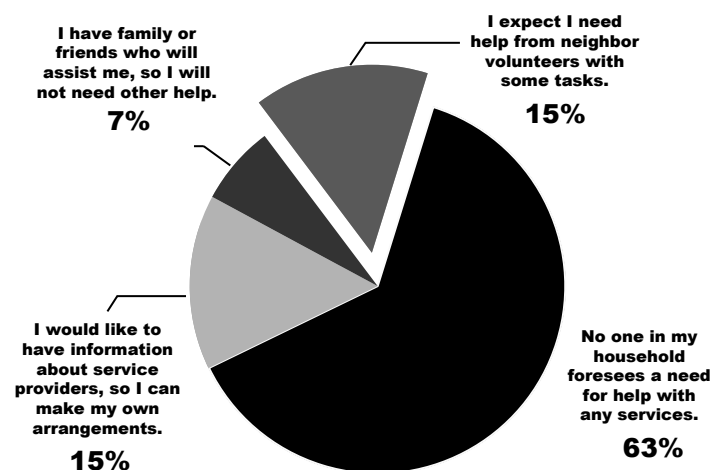


Figure 2: All households: Assessment of needs in the next 2–3 years.

Projected needs don't closely match the tasks for which neighbors are most willing to assist. For example, 132 households are offering to help with grocery shopping, but only 16 households foresee a need for that help; 110 respondents would make friendly visits, but only 11 respondents expect to want them. In contrast, only 19 households offered to help with home maintenance, but 47 households expect to need such help.

## Community forum prompts neighborhood discussion

A community forum on November 15 informed Fairlington residents about the committee's research and engaged the participants in a discussion of next steps. Guest speaker Candace Baldwin, Director of Strategy, Aging in Community for Capital Impact Partners, provided a context for the discussion, noting the robust movement nationally to build communities of mutual support. She noted that "intergenerational connections among neighbors can support older community members' confidence and ability to age in their homes, as well as create a shared economy within a neighborhood to support all community members." She described a variety of models that communities are using to support their neighbors, including time-banking, consumer cooperatives, and "villages" that coordinate volunteer services to members.

Attendees noted the difficulty of organizing volunteers and managing service requests, the desirability of involving residents of all ages, and the abundance of services already available (even if not well publicized). The consensus was that, with some genuine but not pervasive immediate need, now is the right time for experimentation, pilot projects, and incubation of ideas about how Fairlington can best support neighbors in need. Successful experiments might be shared and expanded as the needs grow.

In January, the Steering Committee will continue to seek advice from condominium leaders and interested residents as it finalizes its recommendations about expanding neighbor-to-neighbor services. The committee expects to submit those recommendations to the FCA Board in February.

—Carol Rosen

## Lending a hand in the neighborhood

If one of your goals for 2015 is to become a more active volunteer in your community, you don't have to look far to find a variety of interesting opportunities close to home. Whether you enjoy working with animals, fixing bicycles, helping prepare income tax returns for low income taxpayers, or delivering food to the hungry, there is always a need for volunteer help in Arlington.

As the neighbor-to-neighbor survey results show, Fairlingtonians are eager to lend a helping hand. Each month, the *All Fairlington Bulletin* publicizes volunteer opportunities. Here are just a few ideas to help get you start thinking about giving back and getting active in the community:

- Deliver food to the hungry ([www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org))
- Walk a dog or care for cats at the animal shelter ([www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org))
- Clear out invasive plants at a local park on a Saturday morning ([www.environment.arlingtonva.us](http://www.environment.arlingtonva.us))
- Drive a cancer patient to a treatment ([www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/index](http://www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/index))
- Repair a bike that will be sent to a developing country overseas ([www.bikesfortheworld.org](http://www.bikesfortheworld.org))
- Join an FCA committee or volunteer to help out at an FCA event ([president@fca.fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca.fairlington.org))
- Write a story for the *All Fairlington Bulletin* ([editor@fca.fairlington.org](mailto:editor@fca.fairlington.org))

For more information on volunteer opportunities in Arlington, visit <http://volunteer.truist.com>.



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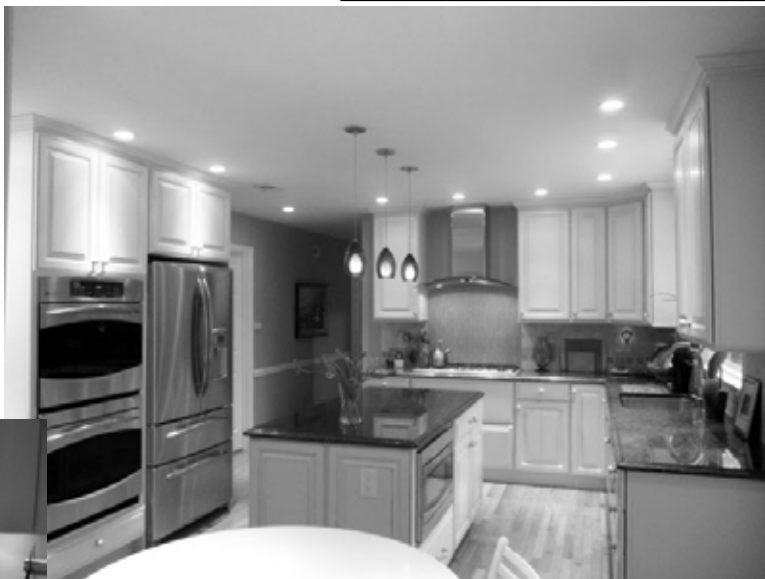
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# FAQs on the Fairlington Farmers' Market

With a farmers' market at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) scheduled to open this April, the following are some frequently asked questions about the market.

## **When will the market begin?**

The market is slated to begin in April 2015 and run through November.

## **What day and times will the market run?**

The market will take place on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm at the FCC.

## **How many produce/food vendors will be selling at the market?**

We anticipate having between 10 and 15 vendors in the inaugural year, with the possibility of expanding to up to 20 vendors in future years. Most vendors will be located along the plaza at the rear of the building, with a few of the large fruit and vegetable sellers setting up along the back of the FCC parking lot and on the service road off S. Utah St.

## **What will be sold at the market?**

All vendors will be producer-only and grow and/or make their products within 125 miles of Arlington. We will have four to five vendors primarily selling vegetables and fruits, but we plan to also have value-added foods and product such as pickles, flowers, coffee, and pastries. The market committee is in the process of determining the vendor make up and selecting vendors.

## **Will there be enough parking for both vendor trucks and shoppers?**

Patrons are encouraged to walk, bus, or bike to the market. For those who drive, there are 145 non-residential parking spaces surrounding the FCC and ample spaces along Quaker Ln. Vendors will be permitted to park in the FCC lot to unload their vehicles between 7 – 9 am and load from 1 – 2 pm. Other than the few vendors who will set up in the parking lot or service road, vendor vehicles will park on Quaker Ln. or along the large curbside area surrounding the FCC.

## **How can I find out about the best bus routes to the FCC on Sunday mornings?**

Currently, Metrobus route 25A drops off next to the FCC on Sundays, however, routes may change in the spring, so please check with the Metrobus map. There's also a Capital Bikeshare station in front of the FCC.

## **Will there be access to public restrooms during market hours?**

Yes. The FCC has public restrooms that will be open during market hours.

## **Whom do I contact if I see trash left behind after the market closes on Sundays?**

There will be a market manager on site during market hours who will collect trash from containers placed throughout the area and dispose of all bagged trash in the dumpsters behind the FCC. The market manager will also walk the premises and gather and dispose of any litter around the FCC plaza. Vendors will be required to maintain the areas around their stalls and remove any market-related debris before they depart.

You can direct questions or comments about trash to the market committee which can address your concerns; contact information will be posted to the website that is currently under construction.

## **Who will be operating the farmers' market?**

Rob Swennes, Director for Field to Table, Inc. will be the market manager for the Fairlington Farmers' Market. Field to Table also manages the farmers' market at Westover in Arlington. Visit their website at [www.field2table.org](http://www.field2table.org).

## **Will there be amplified music/sound at the market?**

No. The market will not have any amplified sound and will comply with the county's noise ordinance.

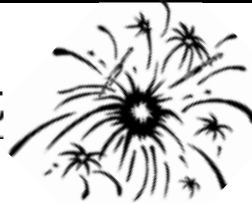
## **How can I keep up to date on market news?**

You can send an email to [fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the distribution list or follow them on Facebook (Fairlington Farmers Market). Work is being done to create a website and other social media outlets and these are expected to be up and running over the next few months. Latest news on the market will appear monthly in the *All Fairlington Bulletin* or online.

## **Whom do I contact if I want to volunteer?**

This market is volunteer-run and we'll need a lot of help! Please email [fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the fun.





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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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## ***Fairlington family takes over neighborhood bakery***



*Megan and Brad Hurst. Photo by Candy Kane.*

The Great Harvest Bread Company at Fairlington Center on Quaker Ln. is an important weekly fixture on many shopping lists—every family seems to have their own must-have breads and pastries. The bakery has been serving Fairlington, Park Fairfax, and the surrounding community for more than 20 years and, as of December 2014, is also owned and run by a Fairlington family. Brad and Megan Hurst had discussed starting a Great Harvest franchise in 2011, but none was for sale. When the Quaker Ln. bakery went up for sale, they were excited to take over a store so close to the community they know and love.

The Hursts, with daughters Ashley and Piper, have lived in Fairlington Glen and Arbor since 2005. They love that Fairlington is a community where neighbors share childcare, tools, and even butter. As their oldest entered Abingdon Elementary, the Hursts met even more friends, noticing that “there are so many people and resources, yet Fairlington feels like a small town because people care for one another and bond here.”

### ***Tutors needed to help early readers***

The Book Buddies tutoring program at Abingdon Elementary is looking for volunteers for its one-on-one reading program. Most of the students in the program are in the first grade. Tutors are asked to volunteer twice a week on Mondays and either Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 2:45 to 3:30 pm. Volunteers receive training, weekly lesson plans, books, materials, and ongoing support. For more information on volunteer opportunities with Book Buddies, email Andrea Leidolf at [andrea.leidolf@apsva.us](mailto:andrea.leidolf@apsva.us).

Great Harvest’s motto is: Be loose and have fun, bake phenomenal bread, run to help customers, and give generously to others. The Hursts look forward to giving back to their community; most leftover bread is donated to local organizations, and they have already donated fresh treats to an Abingdon event. As Megan emphasizes, “being deeply involved in our local community is important to us, and we are excited to be a neighborhood bakery.” The Hursts hope to bake phenomenal bread and sweets and connect with more neighbors as they help a community business thrive.

—Nicole Van Hoey

## ***Residents elect FCA officers and board***



*The 2015 Board of Directors: left to right, Ed Hilz, Treasurer; Kent Duffy, Vice President; Joe Hartman, Director; Guy Land, President; Mark Jones, Director; Gretchen Fallon, Director; Chris Weathers, Director; and Carol Dabbs, Secretary. Doug Penn, Director, not pictured. Photo by Janis Johnston.*

Fairlington residents returned six incumbents and elected three new members to the FCA Board at the December 10 annual meeting. The new members have all been involved in Fairlington activities.

Returning to officer slots are Guy Land, President; Kent Duffy, Vice President; Carol Dabbs, Secretary; and Ed Hilz, Treasurer. This is the third year that this officer team has served together.

Returning Board members Mark Jones and Joe Hartman are joined by first-timers Gretchen Fallon, Doug Penn, and Chris Weathers. Fallon previously served as editor of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. Penn has been an active member of the farmers’ market working group. Weathers has written articles for the *Bulletin*.

—Guy Land



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *On flowers, baseball, and memories of a notable Fairlingtonian*

Ten years ago, I stood on a Fairlington balcony with a gentleman who'd called for a landscaping estimate. He had a Southern accent and passion for plants.

"I don't much care what you plant," he said, "just as long as it's 'purdy.' And make sure you leave that plant, there. In the spring, it has beautiful pink flowers."

What he pointed to was a rhododendron, a plant I had put in the ground years ago for the previous resident of the Mount Vernon unit on S. 30th St. The "rhodo" was old and had gangly dead branches, but what evergreen foliage it had was vigorous.

He told me there was a good amount of shade in his "small yard" so I suggested a Carolina jessamine vine—a shade-loving evergreen with yellow, bugle-shaped, fragrant flowers in spring and early summer. He liked that idea, saying, "It'll be nice to see it out my kitchen window."

After chatting plants for 10 minutes, I did a double-take at his profile before asking, "Were you once the presidential press secretary?" My wife (at the time) had arranged the estimate and I hadn't really examined his name.

Smiling, he said, "Yes, I was." When I looked at my notebook and added, "Oh yea, Larry Speakes," he grinned and nodded.

When we finished discussing his garden, we turned to baseball,

another of his passions. He asked me to come inside, where he showed me autographed baseballs and a picture of himself and Henry Aaron, the one-time home run king of Major League Baseball. His shrine to the national pastime rivaled the mementos he kept from his days on Capitol Hill and the White House.

Once I had installed his new garden and collected payment, I said to him, "Maybe we can go to a Nationals game some time." He responded with that grin, saying, "I'd love that."

On his balcony that day, I remarked that he probably had no time to see his boy play Little League Baseball, given his demanding job. "Not at all," he said. "I hardly missed any of his ball games. We had enough people in the office to cover for one another."

"Covering for one another" was what he did for Press Secretary James Brady the day President Ronald Reagan was shot on March 30, 1981, while walking to a limousine after a speech in Washington.

"It was hectic in the office that morning," Speakes said, "and I asked Jim if he wanted me to go with the president, but he said he would go." He looked away and changed the subject.

Two years after I met Speakes, I asked him about attending a Nationals game. There was a pause. "Yea, I guess we could do that," he said.

When I picked him up, he was wear-



*Larry Speakes.*

ing a Nationals cap and sitting on his steps. I called out to him, and he looked at me, bewildered. We drove to the Metro station on King St. Ascending the platform, he took my hand, keeping his head down. It was then I knew something wasn't right. At Nationals Park, he told me he couldn't walk up the ramp because he was afraid of heights. An usher provided us two seats in the lower grandstand.

A year or so later, Speakes moved to an assisted living facility in his home state of Mississippi. He had Alzheimer's disease. In January, 2014, he died in Cleveland, MS, at the age of 74.

But it wasn't the ball game or his job as the president's right-hand man for press affairs that I remember about Larry Speakes. It was his love of flowers. He didn't know an azalea from a rhododendron but he admired them as much as anyone.

—Bill Sullivan  
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# neighborhood news

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## ***Fairlington Diners***

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In December, we enjoyed our annual outing to the L'Auberge Chez Francois, where the superb food and service were enjoyed by all.

Here's what's planned for January:

Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 pm, Silver Diner, 3200 Wilson Blvd., Arlington 703-812-8600, [www.silverdiner.com](http://www.silverdiner.com). There is a free parking lot in back of the diner. Modeled after the classic American diner, this regional chain offers comfort fare and jukebox tunes. The menu has recently been updated to add many innovative and healthy options.

Monday, January 19, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703-379-0122, [www.samuelbecketts.com](http://www.samuelbecketts.com). This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## ***Fairlington Babysitting Co-op***

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

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

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

## ***Card players welcome***

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

## ***Book Group***

Join the Fairlington Book Group in January to discuss *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*, a history of the peace conference that followed World War I, written by Margaret MacMillan.

Amazon describes the book as "a landmark work of narrative history....It offers a scintillating view of those dramatic and fateful days when much of the modern world was sketched out, when countries were created—Iraq, Yugoslavia, Israel—whose troubles haunt us still."

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:30 pm in the FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

## ***MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington***

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, January 14, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at [fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com) or visit [www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com](http://www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com). Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

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## **Health and Wellness Committee and the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB)**

Arlington Public Schools (APS) has a very active School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), with over 50 members of the community, school district, and health department. As stated on their new website, "The School Health Advisory Board assists with the development of health policies in Arlington Public Schools and the evaluation of the status of school health, health education, and the school environment and health services." (<http://apsshaw.weebly.com>).

While SHAB is struggling to have representation from many of the South Arlington schools, Abingdon is fortunate to have two representatives: Fairlington residents Nicole Van Hoey and Melody Kisor. Van Hoey also serves on the Food Allergy subcommittee, while Kisor serves on the Environmental Health and Asthma group.

SHAB reps share countywide information with the Abingdon community, and also share local successes with reps from the other schools in the district. For example, Abingdon has shared strategies to reduce food allergens in the classroom. Abingdon is also one of the first schools in the county to have a Health & Wellness Committee (currently part of the PTA, but soon to be integrated into a new school-wide Wellness Council).

For more information, or to join the Abingdon Health and Wellness



*Abingdon students and their coaches celebrate after a practice run for the Girls on the Run 5K race. Photo by Melody Kisor.*

Committee, please email [melodykisor@gmail.com](mailto:melodykisor@gmail.com). Community members are also encouraged to attend the bi-monthly open SHAB meetings at the APS Education Center (next to Washington-Lee High School). For more information, visit <http://apsshaw.weebly.com>.

## **Get moving!**

It's hard to go one block in Fairlington without seeing human and canine neighbors out for a walk, run, or stroll. Abingdon fits in beautifully with this community. In addition to taking P.E. class, students at Abingdon are encouraged to keep moving after school in fitness classes and clubs.

The PTA has partnered with Khary Stockton Soccer Programs to offer a variety of sports and fitness enrichment classes, including Tae Kwon

Do, soccer, and yoga. There is also the "Let's Go" walking club, run by Caty Blanco and co-sponsored by the PTA and Fairlington Dental.

Once again, Abingdon had a team for the fall season of Girls on the Run (GOTR). Led by Fairlington resident and Abingdon parent Katherine Smith, community member Emily Campos, and Abingdon teacher Christine Cunningham, the fall GOTR team consisted of eight girls and one honorary service dog, Ocho. After months of training, the team completed a practice 5K at Abingdon. On November 23, the coaches and four girls also completed the regional GOTR 5K, with over 2,000 other third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders from Northern Virginia. For more information about joining the spring GOTR team, please contact Katherine Smith at [smithkraz@hotmail.com](mailto:smithkraz@hotmail.com).



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## Holiday spirit alive in Fairlington

Fairlington is a fun and festive place to live during the holidays, with colorful lights and decorations all around and the arrival of Santa aboard Fire Engine 107. (Below) Children crowd around to greet Santa at one of his stops around the neighborhood on his annual ride through Fairlington. (Right) Sounds of the holiday season could be heard in the Mews as residents gathered to enjoy some warm cider and sing traditional carols. Photos by Guy Land.



## What's your car-free diet story?

Arlington County's Car-Free Diet, in collaboration with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, wants to hear your car-free or car-lite story! The coalition recently launched a new feature series on their website, [www.smartergrowth.net/walkableliving/](http://www.smartergrowth.net/walkableliving/). The series profiles first-hand accounts that demonstrate changing transportation needs and help illustrate the many different ways that we go about our everyday lives.

Go to [www.carfreediet.com/stories](http://www.carfreediet.com/stories) to share how you complete a regular task or errand—like grocery shopping, visiting the doctor, dropping your child off at daycare, or commuting to a job—without using a personal car. Tell your story and join with others to put a human face on how mobility and transportation choices are evolving in our community.



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*Celebrating 20 Years In Business!*

- Family Owned & Operated
- Lifetime Warranties
- In-House Crews
- 0% Financing Available



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Call Today for Your **FREE** Estimate!  
20% OFF all Fairlington projects!  
[www.SunshineContractingCorp.com](http://www.SunshineContractingCorp.com)

**TOP 200 RATED EXTERIOR REMODELER IN THE NATION 5 YEARS IN A ROW!**



### Windows

- Energy Efficient Replacement Windows



### Doors

- Energy Efficient Replacement Doors



### Attic Insulation

- Blown In R49

**SENIOR, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, POLICE & FIREFIGHTER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE**



# Mini-ads

## For Sale

**MINK FUR JACKET.** Reasonable price. Please call 703-577-0171.

**DOG CAGES/GATES.** Dog cages (\$10) and gates for medium size dogs, 20 lbs. Please call 703-577-0171.

**MINK COAT.** Lunarine three quarter length mink coat. Appraisal certificate available. Call 703-671-3584.

**AUTOHARPS.** RBI Chromaharp. 15 chords. 36 strings. Oscar Schmidt autoharp. 15 chords. 36 strings. Cases included. Call 703-671-3584.

## Services

**INCOME TAXES.** We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for over 25 years. Convenient Mark Center/N. Beauregard Street office, with evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington residents. Visit [www.cpa-coker.com](http://www.cpa-coker.com) for more information, directions. Call for an appointment with a FREE retirement check-up included. (703) 931-3290.

**WELLNESS.** Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage, Children's massage, reflexology, reiki & more. Private Sessions or Create a Class. Gift certificates available. [www.moorethanyoga.com](http://www.moorethanyoga.com). 703-671-2435.

**FOOT MASSAGE - REFLEXOLOGY.** Personal pampering, pregnancy & pregnancy labor induction & more. [www.moorethanyoga.com](http://www.moorethanyoga.com), 703-671-2435.

**INFANT MASSAGE.** Learn to massage your baby. Monthly classes. Certified Fairlington resident. [www.moorethanyoga.com](http://www.moorethanyoga.com), 703-671-2435.

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

## Gardening/Landscaping

**SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING.** Winter is the ideal time to clean up the garden. Call or e-mail Bill Sullivan @ Sullivan's Landscaping, Inc. for a free estimate. Remember, we paint the home interiors of our landscape customers during winter, only. I ask for a 3-room minimum. 571-213-9567 or [billsullivan41@gmail.com](mailto:billsullivan41@gmail.com)

## Improvements

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

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

**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](http://fairlingtonmaintenance.com)

**BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS.** NEW WEBSITE. [www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com](http://www.fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com)

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

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

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

**ELECTRICAL SERVICE.** Master electrician. Lights, fans, panel replacements. Licensed, insured credit cards Allegro LLC 703 314 1287 [info@allegroLLC.net](mailto:info@allegroLLC.net)

**SENIOR CRAFTSMEN, INC.** Biff Henley, bonded and insured. 703-403-5354. [Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net](mailto:Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net)

**CLIMATROL HEATING & COOLING CORP.** 703-981-6664. [www.climatrolhvac.com](http://www.climatrolhvac.com). Only \$79.95. Serving all Fairlington citizens. Family owned, operated, licensed and insured business. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, and our service is thorough. Have us professionally perform residential heating or cooling system inspection. Or if you currently have a problem, we will be happy to diagnose it. We can also inspect the accessory equipment including the electronic air cleaner, programmable thermostat, condensate pump and hot water heater at no extra charge! Read real reviews from satisfied Climatrol customers at Angie's List, Get 10% discount on repairs with this ad. We also perform FREE second opinion and heat exchanger and compressors.

**PAINTING.** Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Liscensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338 or 703-912-1450. [chute285@aol.com](mailto:chute285@aol.com)

**WITT CONSTRUCTION.** Popcorn ceiling removal, painting, crown molding, built-in cabinets. Fairlington resident. References available upon request. [garywitt44@gmail.com](mailto:garywitt44@gmail.com) 703-626-6429.

## House Cleaning

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

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

# Mini-ads

## FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

703-820-8635. We are family owned and operated. Call for a free estimate. Our service is detail oriented and thorough. Scheduling appointments if flexible. Your neighbor is our best reference. Educator, civil servant, and military rates apply. Serving Fairlington since 1978.

*Begin the new year  
by volunteering for  
FCA activities*



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

## Pet Services

### PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC.

Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call 703-379-7719.

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

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

A color version of this newsletter is available online at [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org).

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

## For sale: Cozy Fairlington t-shirts



Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington t-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available. To order, send an e-mail to [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org) or contact any FCA

board member. Call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number.

## The 3 important questions owners ask rental management

- How do I know my house is being taken care of?
- Will the tenants pay the rent on time?
- Will the property manager communicate with me?

*For answers contact us*



[www.PMA-DC.com](http://www.PMA-DC.com)  
Visit our website for information  
Or call 703.608.7840

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ALL SERVICES & REPAIRS  
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[WWW.THEGENTLEMANPLUMBER-VA.COM](http://WWW.THEGENTLEMANPLUMBER-VA.COM)  
ONLINE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING!

## Give us your views.

Go to [www.fca-fairlington-org](http://www.fca-fairlington-org) and tell us the new activities you would like FCA to sponsor in 2015.

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

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

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

Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel  
www.doggie-do.biz



## Pet & Plantcare by Gerri, LLC

- ★ Walking
- ★ Sitting
- ★ Playgroups
- ★ Medications

Gerri Horan  
703.379.7719  
SINCE 1999



BONDED & INSURED

### NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (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: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,  
3308 S. Stafford Street. The FCC is closed Sunday.  
Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

### MINI-AD FORM

Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. E-mailed ad text will not be processed until payment is received.

Write key words from your ad on the check for reference. (Example: "Yard Sale" or "Lost Camera")

Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (see newsletter for options): \_\_\_\_\_

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

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LONG AND FOSTER  
**ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA**

OFFICE

[ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com](http://ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com)

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

# November

## TOP PRODUCERS



Kristin Usaitis  
 Top Listing/  
 Top Selling Agent



Pat Shannon  
 Top Producer

## FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



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



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



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



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



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



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

**SERVING FAIRLINGTON**  
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

