

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

JANUARY 2016

Volume 42, Number 1

## Officials to meet with FCA on proposed I-395 HOT lanes project

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Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and private partner Transurban have reached an agreement on an expansion of the High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on Interstate I-395 in the Northern Virginia/Washington, D.C. region. This plan is to bring the I-95 express lanes north eight miles to the D.C. line, replacing the High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) system on I-395 up to the area near the Pentagon.

The plan is to add an extra lane to the existing two-lane HOV system while making relatively minor changes to the rest of the I-395 highway. VDOT Secretary Aubrey Layne told the local governments



A view of I-395 from the South Abingdon St. bridge. The FCA is holding an informational meeting on the proposed HOT lanes project on January 25 at the 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Photo by Bob Bradley.

of Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the City of Alexandria about the plan in November, and he told *The Washington Post* he was looking forward to working with them on the program. Construction would be slated to begin in 2017, with an opening two years later.

The plan is different from one proposed several years ago, in which Arlington County prevailed in a 2011 lawsuit against VDOT, which persuaded the state to drop the plan. This time around, the plan is to extend the HOV lanes, but in virtually the same footprint as stands today, according to Mike McGurk, a senior corporate relations associate for Transurban.

One major change from the previous plan is that there will be virtually little, if any, disruption at the Shirlington Circle, something Fairlington residents would likely want more information on. They will get their chance on Monday, January 25, at 7 pm, during an informational session to be held at the Fairlington Community Center. McGurk said representatives from Transur-

Continued on page 11

# Coming up ...

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

## January 13 board meeting

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

## Special FCA meeting January 25

The FCA will hold a special meeting on Monday, January 25, at 7 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center focusing on the proposed HOT Lanes construction project for I-395.

## Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, [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 website 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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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182  
571-403-1943 • [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA  
Circulation: 3,449 households

**Editor:** Bob Bradley

**Assistant Editor:** Christine Chirichella

**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

### — 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:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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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
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

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## Calendar

### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, January 4, 6:30 pm  
Lost Dog Café  
2920 Columbia Pike

### **FCA monthly meeting**

Wednesday, January 13, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### **MLK Day holiday**

Monday, January 18

### **Fairlington Diners**

Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 pm  
Rabieng Thai Restaurant  
Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

### **FCA special meeting on I-395**

Monday, January 25, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### **Abingdon Listening Session**

Tuesday, January 26, 7 pm  
N Fairlington CC,  
3005 S. Abingdon St.

## *Santa makes special visit to Fairlington*



*Photo by Guy Land.*

More, page 25

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

### **Contributing writers this month:**

Bob Bradley, Jennifer Davies, Robert Dietz, Gretchen Fallon, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan

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



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FCA enjoyed a busy 2015, marked by the launch of the Fairlington Farmers Market (which fast became one of the community's favorite assets), our first-ever history walk, a visit from Congressman Don Beyer, work on the expansion of our neighborhood elementary school, and engagement with Arlington and Alexandria on various development issues.

The year 2016 promises to be equally active. Two new topics lead the way this spring. We will wrestle with the implications for Fairlington of the plan to extend HOT Lanes up 395 to the Pentagon. Join us later this month for a briefing by Transurban, the private contractor that operates the HOT Lanes. Then in March we'll whet your appetite for improving the interior of your unit through a special home renovation expo and workshop. You ranked this high on our survey of resident interests last year.

Of course, we will continue with several of our popular community activities, including the Fairlington 5K, plant walks, the Fourth of July parade, and a variety of interesting speakers.

The work of FCA is done by volunteers, and they deserve the hearty thanks of all of us. I begin by thanking the board, several of whom retired last month. Carol Dabbs, Mark Jones, Joe Hartman, and Gretchen Fallon left the board after making major contributions. Fairlington is a better place because of their work. Fortunately, they will continue to help us out.

Ed Hilz, Kent Duffy, Jonathan Ansley, and Chris Weathers return to the board, providing strong leadership continuity. They are joined by newcomers Vernola Schlegel and Evan Harvey and former board member Hugh Baumgardner. That's a good blend of fresh faces and seasoned experience.

Key project leadership also comes from non-board volunteers, such as the 5K team, the master gardeners who coordinate our plant walks, the historical society leaders who craft the history tour, and the group that's exploring composting options.

Communication is critical to our success, and we appreciate our communications team: Christine Chirichella, Bob Bradley, Beth Andrews, and Noemi Riveira.

It's also important to recognize the businesses that advertise in this newsletter. Their ads are our primary source of income. Please patronize them.

I hope one of your new year's resolutions is to carve out a little time to help us. We have a lot on tap this year. We need you.

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

# ***The Sales Numbers for 2015 are in!*** **Take a 'SNEAK PEAK' at BONNIE'S** **2015 Real Estate Report**

January to December 12, 2015

<b>MODEL</b>	<b>VILLAGE</b>	<b>HIGHEST PRICE</b>
<b>Clarendon</b>	<b>Arbor</b>	<b>\$510,000</b>
<b>Dominion</b>	<b>Meadows</b>	<b>\$547,900</b>
<b>Barcroft</b>	<b>Arbor</b>	<b>\$435,000</b>
<b>Monticello</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>
<b>Mt. Vernon</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>\$425,000</b>
<b>Hermitage</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>\$397,000</b>
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>Villages</b>	<b>\$316,900</b>
<b>Buckingham</b>	<b>Commons</b>	<b>\$385,000</b>

*\*Source MRIS Database*

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## ***New FCA board takes the helm; secretary post remains vacant***

Fairlington residents returned five members and elected three new ones to the FCA board at December's annual meeting. The secretary's position went unfilled, and the new board will elect a secretary at the January 13 meeting.

Returning to officer slots are President Guy Land and Treasurer Ed Hilz. Director Jonathan Ansley was elected Vice President, replacing Kent Duffy, who chose not to run again for an officer post. Duffy was elected to a director position instead.

The other newly elected directors are incumbent Chris Weathers; Hugh Baumgardner, who previously served on the board roughly a decade ago; and newcomers Evan Harvey and Vernola Schlegel. None of the director candidates faced any opposition.

No one had signed up to run for the secretary post prior to the election, and voters were encouraged to write in a name. While four names were submitted, no name received the majority that the association's bylaws require for election. As a result, the board will fill the



*The 2015 FCA board at the December 9 meeting. From foreground at left, Treasurer Ed Hilz, Chris Weathers, President Guy Land, Joe Hartman, Secretary Carol Dabbs, Vice President Kent Duffy, and Jonathan Ansley. Not pictured, Gretchen Fallon and Mark Jones. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

vacancy at the next meeting. Anyone interested in serving as secretary should contact any board member or email [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).

—Guy Land

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## ***Listening session to discuss Abingdon construction plans***

The FCA, in collaboration with the Fairlington Villages condo association, will host an informational briefing and listening session on construction plans for Abingdon Elementary School on Tuesday, January 26, at 7 pm, in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Representatives from Arlington Public Schools (APS) will be available to provide an update and respond to questions.

After the county board unanimously approved the use permit for the school expansion in September, APS staff has been working with county staff on the details for a building permit. This process typically takes four to six months.

APS hopes to have the major elements for the building permit in place by late January. A key issue has been

crafting a phasing plan that will accommodate the construction needs while minimizing impacts on school operations during the school year.

APS expects to develop a short list of eligible contractors in the spring—through a Request for Qualifications—and then invite them to bid on the work, with a decision to be made on the contractor in late April or May. The contractor will be asked to begin work on site as soon as possible after the contract has been awarded. While full-scale construction mobilization can take 60 to 90 days after the contract decision, some steps, such as putting up fencing and protective barriers around trees, can begin right away.

APS staff notes that adhering to the construction schedule is critical for the project to be completed by the beginning of school in the fall of 2017. Plans call for the addition of 30,000 square feet of space to accommodate 136 additional students, addressing Abingdon's current overcrowding problems.

—Guy Land

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# Re-opening of AMC theater highlights Shirlington changes

Changes continue for the Village at Shirlington, as new and improved offerings open to the public.

On November 17, 2015, the AMC Shirlington 7 movie theater re-opened after an extensive improvement effort. While finishing touches are still being completed, the improved facility features a remodeled lobby and interior, reclining seats, first-floor bathrooms, an improved sound system, and new screens. Assigned seats are expected “soon,” according to an AMC representative. In the future, beer and wine will be available for sale. The remodeled theater will show a mix of independent and mainstream films.

Hula Girl Bar & Grill, a brick and mortar restaurant from the owners of the popular food truck, opened in late November 2015 in the former space of Aladdin’s. The restaurant currently opens at 5 pm, although lunch service is expected to begin soon. The venue offers Hawaiian-inspired fare, such as poke, ahi tataki salad, and waiialua root beer sticky ribs.

Looking forward, Palette 22, a restaurant that will blend the experience of small-plate dining with the work of local artists, is set to open its doors during the first quarter of 2016 in the central location formerly occupied by Extra Virgin. Dudley’s Sport & Ale is slated to open during the second quarter of 2016. The ownership team consists of operators of the Shirlington restaurant Copperwood Tavern, together with the general manager of the Washington Nationals as an investment partner. Their plan is to significantly improve the venue at the location of the now closed Bungalow, including adding a first for the village—a rooftop bar.

Anchored by long-time favorites such as the Carlyle Grand and Guapo’s, Shirlington now features more than



*The AMC Shirlington 7 theater has comfortable recliners and reserved seating in which to relax while watching the latest films. Photo by Bob Bradley.*

20 different restaurants plus additional retail shops. Hospitality venues constitute two-thirds of Shirlington’s retail offerings.

Additional upgrades set for 2016 include improved awnings, storefront tile, and planter areas for the north side of Shirlington, as well as increased attention to landscaping.

—Robert Dietz

## Virginia DMV to close at Four Mile Run Drive

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles recently announced that its facility at 4150 S. Four Mile Run Dr. in Arlington is slated to close this year and move to Fairfax County. The new location will be the Barcroft Plaza shopping center at 6345 Columbia Pike in the Falls Church section of Fairfax County, about four miles away from its current location.



*The doors of the Department of Motor Vehicles at Four Mile Run Dr. in Arlington will soon be closed for good. Photo by Bob Bradley.*

The new DMV is expected to open April 15, at which time the Four Mile Run location will close, said DMV spokeswoman Brandy Brubaker.

Arlington County will retain its DMV Select office at the county

government building in Courthouse at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. The DMV Select office offers various vehicle title and registration services, but does not issue driver’s licenses, learner’s permits, or ID cards.

Another smaller DMV will open in April 2016 in Ballston near the Virginia Square Metro station, which will draw some of the customers who now go to Four Mile Run. The new facility, however, won’t be a full-service DMV and won’t have dedicated parking due to its proximity to transit.

In two years, another new DMV will open at the site of the former Northern Virginia Training Center on Braddock Rd. in Fairfax, said Matt Wells, an advisor for the DMV, at a recent public meeting on the issue.





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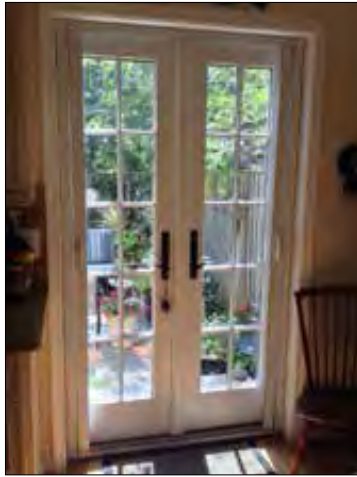




## French doors open to the patio

When Mews resident Gretchen Martin remodeled her kitchen in 2009, she knew she wanted to “open up” the downstairs of her Dominion model—to make things open and airy, create a sense of spaciousness, and enhance the natural light. An integral feature of that choice was to replace the dining room window with a pair of French doors.

The Andersen doors now bring in more than double the light of the original window and give access from the dining room to the patio—but with a twist. Martin wanted the doors to open outward, not inward, to prevent them from taking up floor space on the inside. In addition, the doors come with a “pocket” screen feature—in fact, the screens do not slide back into the jamb as pocket doors would, but rather coil up into a hidden roll. (In an aside, Martin cautions that the roll-up screen feature is probably not the best choice for a house with small children—“They can be a little hard on the mechanism.”)



*French doors let in more light.  
Photos by Gretchen Fallon.*



*French doors open outward onto the patio*

asked neighbors if she could see that feature. “Everyone was very accommodating!” she says.

With the knowledge that French doors were doable, Martin began the months-long process of assembling documents in order to present her plans to the condo

board and secure a variance. She knew this was a necessary step because installing French doors would require knocking out a wall and replacing an original element, the window, with a new element, the doors. A structural engineer’s report confirmed that there would be no impact on a load-bearing wall, and design graphics from the contractor confirmed that the doors would conform to Fairlington’s exterior architecture.

“Every condo board is different,” says Martin, so it’s wise for homeowners to consult their association for variance policies before beginning a large project. “The rules vary, sometimes only slightly, from one neighborhood to the next,” says Martin, “and some boards consider exceptions, while others do not.”

Seeking the board’s approval for a variance is not really difficult, Martin says, as she closes the bulging work folder documenting her remodeling. “It’s just a matter of going in prepared with the necessary plans, reports, and specifications.”

—Gretchen Fallon

Every condo association in Fairlington has its own rules when it comes to making changes, additions, or improvements to your dwelling. For example, as a general policy Fairlington Villages does not permit French doors. Consult with your condo association before embarking on any remodeling project.

## Remodeling Expo set for March at the FCC

A Home Remodeling and Renovation Expo is set for for March 5 at the Fairlington Community Center. The Expo will run from 9 am to 1 pm and will have several vendors in attendance to provide tips on what you can and cannot do to your Fairlington unit.

On hand will be contractor/vendors who are familiar with the quirks of Fairlington construction who will touch on subjects like doors, floors, windows, kitchens, bathrooms, attics, and basements, to name a few. There will be seminars on choices for bathroom fixtures and surfaces, for example, and vendor tables with detailed information and projects A to Z. You will also be able to discuss your specific needs with a contractor.

—Bob Bradley

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*I-395, continued from page 1*

ban and VDOT will be at the meeting. The FCA is trying to involve county officials, as well.

As was the case with the I-95 express lanes, which opened in December, drivers who meet the HOV3 rules will be able to travel for free in the I-395 express lanes, as long as they have an E-ZPass Flex transponder switched to the HOV setting. Drivers who don't meet the three-person carpool standard will have access to these new high-occupancy toll lanes if they are willing to pay a variable toll that rises as high as it takes to maintain free-flowing traffic. Those drivers would pay the toll via E-ZPass.

"This proposal is not the same as proposals in the past," Layne told the *Post*. VDOT had originally planned for the I-95 express lanes to extend up to the Potomac River, but cut the project off just north of the Capital Beltway after Arlington County filed its lawsuit.

The new plan, Layne said, will guarantee funding for new or enhanced transit service and carpooling along the I-95/I-395 corridor.

The HOV ramp now under construction at Seminary Rd., near the Mark Center, still will be for HOV traffic only, even under the HOT lanes plan. Drivers who enter the HOT lanes there will have to meet the HOV rules, so toll payers will be excluded. It has not yet been determined how that will be done.

The state also must begin an environmental assessment on the impact of converting the HOV lanes to HOT lanes. In addition, the *Post* reported that Layne said the state will begin a study to identify transit, carpool, vanpool and other strategies to improve travel along the corridor. He said these studies would be coordinated with the affected jurisdictions.

Jennifer Aument, Transurban's general manager for North America, said in a statement, "Our 95 express lanes customers are experiencing significant time savings on I-95 and have communicated strong support for extending the lanes to D.C. We are pleased to have an opportunity to work in partnership with VDOT to meet that demand."

While the plan adds a lane in the middle of the interstate, it does not significantly affect the footprint of the highway, according to McGurk. Some extra space may be needed for sound walls, he added, but the plan does not call for the state to take any private properties.

—Bob Bradley

## ***Weighing options for 36th and Quaker intersection***

Back in September, condo board members and residents of Fairlington Glen met with City of Alexandria traffic planning staff to discuss the problematic intersection of S. 36th St. (in Arlington) and Quaker Ln. (in Alexandria). FCA board member Jonathan Ansley also attended the meeting. The perennially difficult intersection has been examined for safety concerns over the last 10 years.

Glen residents describe the intersection as dangerous—it has been the site of several broadside, or "T-bone," accidents and many more near-miss accidents over the years involving cars making a left-hand turn either into or out of Fairlington at S. 36th—from 36th onto northbound Quaker or from northbound Quaker onto 36th. In either case, at peak hours, the turning car must cross three lanes of congested traffic on southbound Quaker—often the intersection is simply blocked by cars queuing for the stoplight at King St.

Most Glen residents, who routinely use the intersection, were reluctant to prohibit left turns into or out of 36th, said Jay Yianilos, Glen board President. And the city, said Bob Garbacz, Chief of Alexandria's Transportation Division, was reluctant to do anything that would

worsen peak-hour congestion or impede right turns onto King. Also, Garbacz added, the city did not want traffic on Quaker to back up so much that drivers would be tempted to cut through Fairlington.

In the past, city traffic planners have responded to the Glen's concerns and attempted to address the left-turn safety issue by installing "Do not block the intersection" signs. Now, planners will re-survey the area and consider installing plastic bollards on southbound Quaker that would prevent cars from entering the far-right turning lane until just a few car lengths before the intersection at 36th.

—Gretchen Fallon



*A car makes the precarious left turn from Quaker Lane onto S. 36th in Fairlington. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*



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## Abingdon celebrates the holiday season

The school community came together for several events and programs in December to help one another while having fun at the same time. Highlights included:

### **“Hunger Never Takes a Holiday” AFAC Food**

**Drive:** Abingdon collected 577 pounds of food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The annual drive supports upwards of 2,200 Arlington families. This year, the food drive focused on collecting items such as cooking oil, sugar, and flour to create “baking kits.”

### **Holiday Shoppe**

**success:** This popular annual event allowed students to shop independently for their loved ones in the safety of the school gymnasium with assistance from Abingdon staff. This year, parents and students were treated to wonderful musical performances from the Abingdon Glee Club, Abingdon Strings, and Fairlington’s own “Brown Family Duo” of 3rd-grader Clare Brown and father Neel. In addition, the kindergarten team of teachers raised upwards of \$500 at their “Bakery for Books” to buy new books for classroom libraries.



*The Abingdon Glee Club sings from the heart for the holidays.*



*The Abingdon Strings add some music to the Holiday Shoppe festivities.*

**Gift Card Tree:** Staff and parents donated gift cards to fulfill specific needs for selected Abingdon families. Their generosity helped ensure all could enjoy the holiday.

### **Abingdon’s architecture teacher gets a holiday**

**wish:** A very successful “Donor’s Choose” campaign resulted in Mr. McDavitt receiving a 3D printer! Donors came from as close as Fairlington and as far away as California, including the final donation from the Bill



*The Gift Card Tree at the Abingdon School will help those who need it most. Photos by Jennifer Davies.*

and Melinda Gates Foundation! Mr. McDavitt commented on the website upon completing the funding goal, “You have helped fund the only program of its kind at the elementary level, and helped it leap into the future of real-world design and production.”

## Book Buddies

Seeking Abingdon book buddy volunteers! Book Buddies is a University of Virginia-developed program that focuses on improving the performance of struggling readers through

individualized lesson plans and one-on-one tutoring. The site coordinator provides initial training and continual volunteer support throughout the school year, and creates student lesson plans for the week. Lesson plans include:

- Re-reading familiar books at the student’s current reading level
- Playing games and activities to help the students see patterns in words
- Writing
- Introducing new books

Volunteers are truly the heart of the Book Buddies program. Consider donating 45 minutes once or twice a week and share your love of reading with a child in your community. Please contact Emily Ulliman for opportunities by email at [eau9qc@virginia.edu](mailto:eau9qc@virginia.edu) or phone 703-969-4914.

## Key Abingdon dates

January 4 – School Resumes

January 9 – Movie Night

January 12 – PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm

January 18 – No School (MLK Holiday)

January 29 – Movie Night

—Jennifer Davies

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— Edward Getterman,  
Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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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 now-traditional trip over the river and through the woods to L'Auberge Chez Francois.

Here's what's planned for January:

Monday, January 4, 6:30 pm, Lost Dog Café, 2920 Columbia Pike, 703-553-7770. [www.lostdogcafeairlington.com](http://www.lostdogcafeairlington.com). An amazing array of sandwiches and other dishes is available; each can be customized. Free parking under the building after 6 pm, accessed from Walter Reed Drive.

Tuesday, January 19, 6:30 pm, Rabieng Thai Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-671-4222, [www.rabieng.com](http://www.rabieng.com). It's just beyond Bailey's Crossroads—very close to Fairlington. This is a favorite of several of our regulars.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail, include your name and how to contact you, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send an email to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in January to discuss *Last Friends*, a novel by Jane Gardam.

In August, the Book Group read *Old Filth*, Gardam's humorous and compelling story of Sir Edward Feathers, a successful barrister and judge, born in Malaya, raised in pre-war England and now retired. In October we discussed the second book in Gardam's trilogy, *The Man in the Wooden Hat*, which follows Feathers' wife, Betty, from their courtship to their final days. In January, we will tackle *Last Friends*, the story of the Feathers' marriage as seen through the eyes of Betty's lover, Terry Veneering. If you haven't read the earlier books, you have time to catch up! They are relatively quick reads.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! If you're into literary fiction, join us in January, no strings attached. We are

meeting on Tuesday, January 26, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

## **Card players welcome**

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

## **Fairlington Babysitting Co-op**

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Email the coordinators, Katarina Lesandric-Tonin and Rebecca and Eric Carpenter, at [fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com](mailto:fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com) to request more information and an application.

## **Applications for 2016 Tree Stewards now being accepted**

The Tree Stewards 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 at the Fairlington Community Center will be held on Tuesday evenings, starting February 2, through April, 2016, 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.

Classes are limited to 25 people and there is a fee of \$120, but scholarships are available. 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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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Evergreens bring color all the year 'round*

If not for evergreens, winter's landscape would be stands of leafless tree limbs and branches. This time of year, these trees and shrubs become centerpieces of green, blue, and red with variations of yellow and white.

The term "evergreen" actually is a misnomer since these specimens are deciduous. What's unique is they replace what they lose.

Look beneath the canopy of a magnolia. The understory is covered with crumpled leaves, the average size being 6 inches long and 3 inches wide. Look around and you'll find red aggregates (fruit) which resemble mini footballs.

Underneath a holly, you'll find spent yellow leaves. With pine, cryptomeria, and spruce trees, you'll locate brown needles as well as dead branches.

On your dog, baby, or personal walks or runs this winter locate the specimens below. Despite the cold, you'll be treated to a show of foliage.

**Deodar cedar:** Located at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) entrance. The needles are a greenish-blue and soft on your fingers. It has a graceful pyramid shape.

**Foster's holly:** Planted in pairs at the sides of the FCC building. They are narrow, conical-shaped and full of red berries, which draw singing and nesting mockingbirds. The glossy leaf has the typical spines (points), but is miniature and narrow.

**Cryptomeria:** All around Fairlington, but a noticeable one is on the traffic circle median (S. 34th and S. Stafford Streets). Its foliage is cord-like and resembles the fabric of a rope. The delicate-looking greenery is apparent even from a distance.

**Black pine:** There are four that line the tennis courts on S. 36th St. in Fairlington Mews. This tree's branches are unlike others in that the limbs are crooked (and sometimes horizontal). They work as a low screen since their growth habit is close to the ground. Pines are identified by how many needles are in a fascicle bundle (which attaches to the branch). There are two needles in the black pine's bundle.

**White pine:** Located across S. Abingdon St. from the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon St.). Its needles are a whitish-green with five to a bundle. These needles are very soft.

**Colorado (or blue) spruce:** Located behind the bus stop at the corner of S. 29th and S. Buchanan Streets. There's another southbound off the traffic circle median at S. 36th and S. Stafford Streets. What creates the "blue" look are silvery-white leaf pores, occurring in lines on each needle. Pyramidal, these trees are the perfect "stand-alone" specimens in a front-yard landscape. The bluish color is artistic in a standard "green" landscape.



*Black pines screen the Mews tennis courts on S. 36th St. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

**Magnolia:** Drive down S. Stafford St. (just past the FCC) and you'll find one at the intersection with S. 32nd Rd. Stately, pyramidal and full, it bears one of the largest leaves of any tree. Each leaf—glossy, thick and undulating—gives the tree's habit a full, dense appearance.

**Colorado red cedar:** Sits at the intersection of S. 30th and S. Buchanan Streets (northeast quadrant). The bark is a cinnamon-red and peels in thin, soft strips. How can you tell it belongs to the juniper and not cedrus genus? Notice the pale blue cones (fruit) which cling to the branches.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)



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# Stay in Fairlington!

Locaviva this month describes local organizations that can help seniors with household tasks, transportation, technology, and the like, at the same time providing volunteer opportunities for neighbor-to-neighbor services for all ages. Social and educational opportunities are often even more popular than service requests.



Underlying the “village” movement, as described by the FCA Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies, is the desire to remain in one’s community for as long as one is able, among a diverse group of ages and families. Many Fairlingtonians can’t imagine living elsewhere, and some organizations that can help you stay in your home include Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV), At Home in Alexandria (AHA!), and Goodwin House at Home.

- **Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) ([www.arlnvil.org](http://www.arlnvil.org))** provides access to support services such as transportation, social and educational activities, household tasks and errands, and technology assistance to those 55 and older in Arlington County. A number of individuals in Fairlington are either members or volunteers. Once you have joined (\$500 a year single; \$750 household), there are no further charges during the year.

If you would like to get to know some ANV members—and consider joining or volunteering—go to one of its Wednesday morning 10:30 am coffee and conversation speaker events. In January, the group will meet at the Westover Market Beer Garden, 5863 Washington Blvd. On January 6, Jane Franklin of Jane Franklin Dance will speak about her nonprofit group, which helps others through dance and body movement. On January 20, a staff member from Arlington County will discuss its Transit Benefits and Programs for Seniors. Take a friend to an event and find out more about Arlington’s local “village.” Feel free to call the ANV office at 703-509-8057 for more information.

- **At Home in Alexandria! (AHA!) ([www.athomeinalexandria.org](http://www.athomeinalexandria.org))** serves functions similar to ANV for those 55 and older in Alexandria (\$550 a year single, \$800 household). Its western boundary does not at this time include the Alexandria portion of Fairlington. However, anyone in Fairlington can join as an Associate Member (\$250 a year, of which \$200 is

tax deductible) and participate in over 100 social and educational events each year. AHA! welcomes you to its next TGIF Happy Hour on Friday, January 22, from 5 to 7 pm at the Sheraton Suites Fin and Hoof, 801 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria.

- **Goodwin House at Home ([www.goodwinhouse.org/athome](http://www.goodwinhouse.org/athome))** helps you stay in your own home as long as possible and also covers the costs of future health care needs in assisted living or a nursing facility. This relatively new option available through Goodwin House combines the security and care coordination of a continuing care retirement community with the independence of living in your own home. More expensive than joining a village, but less expensive than entering Goodwin House itself, this may offer a flexible alternative for some. To attend an informational seminar, send an email to Ann Lam at [alam@goodwinhouse.org](mailto:alam@goodwinhouse.org).

Remember, volunteers of all ages are essential to making the two local villages—Arlington Neighborhood Villages and At Home in Alexandria—a success.

Locaviva has been a pilot project to give Fairlington residents information about local services and opportunities that can make life easier and more fun. This month’s entry is our final one in the series. We have encouraged readers to become Locavivists by learning more about local options each month, telling us about their experience, and adding their own favorite sources. Just send a message to our dedicated email account ([locavivists@gmail.com](mailto:locavivists@gmail.com)). We’ll post results on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page.

## Third annual Fairlington 5K set for April 23

The third annual Fairlington 5K will step off on April 23, 2016, as announced at the FCA’s meeting in December. Board member Joe Hartman, who is spearheading the effort, said the race benefits the Abingdon School PTA and local charity A Cure for Ellie. More than 700 runners took to the streets of Fairlington last year and a similar crowd is expected this year. You can register for the race at [fairlington5k.com](http://fairlington5k.com).

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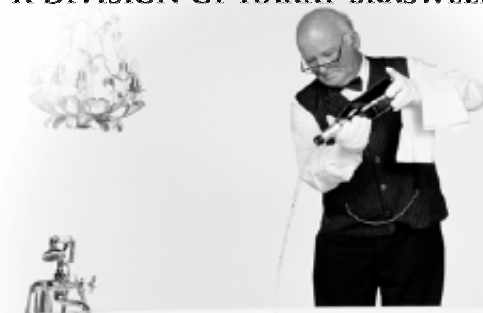
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- Classes incorporate relaxation, variety of poses, breathing exercises and meditation
- Reasonable prices and flexible makeup policy
- Optimal teacher/student ratio, individual instruction, and experienced, friendly, attentive instructors

**Bring a copy of this ad and try a class for FREE**

Is your computer broken or your data in jeopardy?  
 Or is your small business in need of IT support?



### Arlington Virginia Computer Repair

<http://avcr.us> | [help@avcr.us](mailto:help@avcr.us) | 703-486-0200

*Data recovery, computer repair and IT consulting with a personal touch*

- AVCR is a local alternative to big box stores and mail-in data recovery services.
- We live and work in Barcroft. Our family-owned and operated business has been serving Arlington since 1999.
- All work is given personal attention from our seasoned IT experts. We don't outsource your repair or data recovery.
- Our experts also serve local small businesses for IT support, business consulting, web design, one-on-one training and more

**Bring this ad to receive a 10% discount  
 on our labor rate for your first case!**



## Reinaltt Painting & Design



Email us: [rrhomeimprov@gmail.com](mailto:rrhomeimprov@gmail.com)  
Call us: **703-801-9151**

## 30% Discount on Tax Preparation

We can prepare your Federal & State income taxes. Fairlington homeowners our specialty for 25 years. Convenient Mark Center / N. Beauregard St. office.



Visit [www.cpa-coker.com](http://www.cpa-coker.com) for more information. Call today to schedule an appointment and get a **FREE** Retirement check-up!

**Charles Coker, CPA** 703.931.3290  
[charles.coker@cpa-coker.com](mailto:charles.coker@cpa-coker.com)

Call Today for a  
Free Estimate

**Dave Pearce**  
703.201.6303

## The Window Factory

*Vinyl Windows*  
Sales and Custom Installation

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

*You won't find a  
better warranty!*

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## Fairlington greets Santa



Warm temperatures drew hundreds of Fairlingtonians of all ages out to welcome Santa when he visited Fairlington on the fire truck in mid-December. Special thanks to Capt. Shamblin and the team at Fire Station 7 for making this such a great community event. Thanks also to Fairlington Villages for providing the Santa suit.

The event was sponsored by FCA.



# Mini-ads

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

## House for Rent

**END UNIT-FULL SIZE.** (1500 sq ft) updated Clarendon (2 bdrm; 2 bath) on tree-lined Stafford St. Kitchen and bathrooms remodeled and hardwoods in great shape. Energy efficient windows. Pool, tennis, basketball, playground. One off-street parking spot. Metrobus 100 yards from home. Rent \$2,350 + utilities. Security deposit. Lease. No pets. 703-930-5646 after 10AM.

## Help Wanted

**ARLINGTON DOG WALKERS** is hiring 1-2 energetic and responsible midday dog walkers to work with our clients in Fairlington and surrounding areas! Pay is \$16-20 per hour, and hours required are between 11am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. Qualifications are: Must be dog lover, and have paid or volunteer experience with dogs. Must be honest, responsible, and punctual. Must be able to pass a criminal background check. Must have own reliable form of transportation. Must have phone that can send and receive text messages and/or emails. If you believe you would be a good fit for our team, please email Lali at arlingtondogwalkers2@gmail.com and tell us why!

## Services

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

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

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

**NEED A REALTOR?** Call Logan Goolrick, 703-517-1394 or email [Logan@gmgservices.com](mailto:Logan@gmgservices.com). My extensive experience in Home Remodeling in the Fairlington Community will give you an edge whether you're buying or selling a home, or looking for an investment property. Bi-lingual in Spanish & English.

**EXTRAORDINARY MASSAGE.** Clinical, certified Neuromuscular Therapy for pain relief. Soothing traditional massage for deep relaxation. Feel better, faster. In Fairlington. 703-304-2827 [www.amtamembers.com/zwicker](http://www.amtamembers.com/zwicker)

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

**MARKETING/PR/SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SMALL BUSINESS.** Blackwell-Black and Associates can help you grow your business. Marketing strategy, implementation. Public relations, media. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, email management. Contact us for free consultation. [mrblackwellandassociates@gmail.com](mailto:mrblackwellandassociates@gmail.com)

**MEDITATION WORKSHOP AT FAIRLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER.** On Saturday, February 6, from 9 AM to 4PM. See Enjoy Arlington Brochure at Fairlington Center or any Public Library for details. Check class number 240813A. Or visit [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us). Or call Rita at 703-728-3053 for more information.

**DAYTIME YOGA AT FAIRLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER.** Starting on January 20, a Yoga class will be offered at South Fairlington Community Center on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 10:15. See Enjoy Arlington Brochure at Fairlington Center or any Public Library for details. Check class number 240919A. [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us). Or call Rita at 703-728-3053 for more information.

## Gardening/Landscaping

**SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING** doesn't stop in winter. We prune, mulch, gather leaves and remove weeds. We also paint the home interiors of our landscaping customers in the colder weather. Call Bill at 571-213-9567 or e-mail at [billsullivan41@gmail.com](mailto:billsullivan41@gmail.com).

## Home Improvements

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

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

**WINTER SALE.** Bathroom and kitchen renovation. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 571-212-4151. Visit us on the web: [fairlingtonbathroomsandkitchens.com](http://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.

# Mini-ads

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

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

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

**INTERIOR PAINTING.** Chelsea Paint and Paper, Inc. Painting, wallpapering, and plastering. 25 years experience. Professional, clean, neat, reliable. Licensed, bonded, insured. References available. Free estimates. Steve Chute. 571-216-9338/703-912-1450. Chute285@aol.com.

**HARDTIMES HANDYMAN SERVICES** Home and office repair, rental maintenance, painting, drywall repair, pressure washing, minor electrical and plumbing, to do lists and more. Free estimates, fair pricing and friendly service. Since 2008. Fairlington references available. Tim Miles cell 443-995-3825 work 703-768-6945 timmiles74@gmail.com

## House Cleaning

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

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

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

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

**B&A CLEANING SERVICES.** 25 years experience and owner operated. References available in all areas. Reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Office cleaning available. For free estimate and appointment call 703-501-9007 or e-mail bc42happy@gmail.com.

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

## 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

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

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

*Begin the new year by volunteering for FCA activities*



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

## MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

**E-mail:** admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

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

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



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 PRODUCER**



Pat Shannon  
Top Listing Agent and Producer

**FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH**



Arlington—2911 Dinwiddie Street. Lovely 2BR second floor Richmond unit on quiet street. Renovated kitchen and bath. Newer carpeting. Large separate basement and roomy balcony. Convenient to Shirlington \$307k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Alexandria— 204 Skyhill Road. Top floor condo walking distance to Old Town. Low condo fee \$260k. Call Pat Shannon



Alexandria—5247 Navaho Road. Large renovated open fl plan 4BR/5BA and hardwood floors. Reduced \$625k. Call Kristin Usaitis



Arlington— 4825 28th Street South. End unit townhouse, 2BR/2BA. Brand new stainless steel kitchen appliances, brand new carpet in basement. Quiet location close to bus line, swimming pool, shopping, and so much more \$369k. Call Neil Kelly



Arlington— 2836 Abingdon Street South. Beautiful 3 level brick townhome w/lovely enclosed brick patio. Updated lighting and gleaming hardwood floors on main & upper levels \$1,925/month. Call Nancy Kozlowski



Alexandria—208 Summers Drive. One mile to Old Town, Del Ray, shops & metro. Completely renovated Spanish style bungalow with gourmet kitchen \$995k. Call Doug Luzik

**SERVING FAIRLINGTON  
& ALL NORTHERN VA**

