

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JANUARY 2017

Volume 43, Number 1

www.fca-fairlington.org

New FCA board selected at annual meeting

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Fairlington residents returned eight members and elected one new member to the Executive Board of the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) at December's annual meeting. FCA is the county-recognized umbrella civic organization for North and South Fairlington, as well as Park Shirlington and Shirlington House.

Returning to officer slots are President Guy Land, Vice President Jonathan Ansley, Treasurer Ed Hilz, and Secretary Lindsay Willmann. Board members re-elected for another year are Kent Duffy, Chris Weathers, Hugh Baumgardner, and Evan Harvey.

Joining the Board will be Jennifer Davies, a North Fairlington resident who previously served as Co-President of the Abingdon Elementary School PTA.

The candidates were elected without opposition. Officers and directors serve one-year terms and receive no compensation for their service on the board. All Fairlington residents and owners are members of the FCA.

President Guy Land reported on 2016's major activities and previewed items on tap for 2017, including a home improvement seminar scheduled for March 4 that builds on last year's highly successful contractor showcase that drew roughly 400 people.

Continued on page 21



The new FCA board. Front row: Secretary Lindsay Willmann, President Guy Land; Vice President Jonathan Ansley, Secretary Ed Hilz. Back row: Directors Hugh Baumgardner, Chris Weathers, Evan Harvey, Kent Duffy, Jennifer Davies. Photo by Christine Chirichella.

Coming up ...

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


FCA monthly meeting January 11

Work session: The board will hold a work session to consider the 2017 budget and the schedule of activities and programs for the year. There will be no guest speaker.

Regular board business:

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

Online resources:

 Find more information on the FCA website, 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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
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Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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Guy Land, *President*
Jonathan Ansley, *Vice President*
Ed Hilz, *Treasurer*
Lindsay Willmann, *Secretary*

Directors

Hugh Baumgardner
Jennifer Davies
Kent Duffy
Evan Harvey
Chris Weathers

Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

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

All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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Email editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

Email commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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 Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Calendar

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1
FCC closed Monday, January 2

Fairlington Diners

Monday, January 9, 6:30 pm
Ramparts
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Book Group

Tuesday, January 24, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, January 26, 6:30 pm
Rabieng Thai Restaurant
5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

Shirlington playground listening session

Saturday, February 4, 10 am
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington 5K coming April 29



Time to start getting in shape for the 4th annual Fairlington 5K Run/Walk for Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie. It's a good reason to carry out that New Year's resolution to improve your overall fitness. The race will be Saturday, April 29. See next month's issue of the Bulletin for more information.

Contributors this month: Christine Chirichella, Guy Land, Bill Sullivan, Chris Weathers.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The beginning of the New Year is always a good time for taking stock, for reflecting on the past year's activities and thinking strategically about goals for the coming year, and for reaffirming basic values and principles.

This is certainly true for FCA.

FCA is the vehicle by which the unique interests and character of our community get articulated, advanced, and enhanced. By reaching across condo and homeowner association boundaries, we provide a community-wide voice and craft activities that will improve the quality of life in all of Fairlington. Our work includes informational briefings, community events, and advocacy with elected officials and staff.

Our work over the past year—and what's on tap for 2017—falls loosely into three broad categories:

- **Monitoring transportation and real estate development issues.** The I-395 HOT lanes project will enter a new phase. The Alexandria Gateway project is preparing to launch construction. The county and Metro are looking at restructuring bus service. The King Street bridge will need major repairs.
- **Engaging with elected officials and staff.** This includes visits by county board members, the expansion of Abingdon Elementary, the renovation of the Fairlington Park playground, and the growing conversation about plans for the Four Mile Run Valley.
- **Enriching life in Fairlington.** We focus on promoting things you can only experience in Fairlington: the Fairlington Farmers Market, March's upcoming home improvement seminar, the Fairlington 5K, the Historical Society's Home & Garden Tour, the Fourth of July parade, Santa on the firetruck.

Accomplishing these things requires a dedicated group of volunteers. We would welcome the chance to deploy your energy and skills in service to your community. Shouldn't volunteering with FCA be one of your New Year's resolutions?

This month we will see the departure of one of those long-time volunteers, Christine Chirichella, who is moving out of Northern Virginia after 16 years in Fairlington. The list of her contributions over the years is long: FCA Board Vice President; assistant editor of this newsletter; author of the Animal Talk column; webmaster; Facebook administrator; co-chair of the Fairlington Villages Activities Committee and member of its Parking, Security, and Traffic Committee; mastermind of the North Fairlington Pet Happy Hour.

Christine epitomizes community volunteer spirit. We are all in her debt. Christine, thank you. And now, I encourage others of you to be inspired by her example and volunteer to help us. We need you.

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

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Home improvement seminar set for March 4



Contractor Harol Silva discusses home renovation options with Kent Keyser at last year's home improvement expo. Photo by Guy Land.

The second Fairlington Home Improvement Seminar will showcase the advice and expertise of remodeling and repair contractors who are well-versed in the fun and foibles of improving a Fairlington home. The day-long event will feature up to eight seminar sessions at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC), 3308 S. Stafford St., starting at 9 am on Saturday, March 4. Attendees will also have a chance to consult with contractors on a more personal basis after each session.

The seminar format will be slightly different from last year's home improvement showcase, but it builds on the popularity of last year's event and provides an opportunity for more in-depth discussion of home renovation issues and options.

Fairlington homeowners can find solutions to several different home improvement challenges. Remodeling contractors and repair and upgrade service providers, who are familiar to *Bulletin* readers, and neighbors who

have used those contractors' services will host seminars in the FCC large multipurpose room. Topics can include kitchen remodeling, bathroom makeovers, window replacement, electrical and lighting upgrades, flooring upgrades, and effective landscaping.

Contractors are currently being booked for the event. If you have recommendations for contractors who have done exceptional work in your home, contact FCA Board Director Chris Weathers at Chris.Weathers@SothebysRealty.com or 703-402-4648.

Updated seminar schedules will be published in the February and March *Bulletin*, on the FCA website at www.fca-fairlington.org, and posted outside the FCC's large meeting room on the day of the event. The seminar event is free and open to all residents and visitors.

—Chris Weathers

Defense bill sets helicopter study



Rep. Don Beyer. Photo by Kendra Best.

A compromise defense bill approved by Congress in December directs the Department of Defense (DoD) to study the effects of military helicopter noise on residents and communities in the National Capital Region. Fairlington residents frequently complain about the helicopter traffic to and from the Pentagon along I-395.

The amendment was pushed by Rep. Don Beyer (D), who represents Northern Virginia. Beyer had won House approval of the language back in the spring, and House and Senate negotiators included it in the final bill.

The measure calls on the DoD, in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, to develop recommendations for reducing the effects of military helicopter noise. The bill states that the study must take into account the views of the military, law enforcement, community stakeholders, and organizations working to reduce helicopter noise.

"My constituents understand and appreciate the military's mission in the National Capital Region, but that does not absolve the Pentagon's responsibility to minimize helicopter flights over residential neighborhoods," Beyer said in a statement.

—Guy Land

County seeks input on Shirlington playground

Arlington County staff want to hear Fairlingtonians' recommendations for improving the playground in the Jennie Dean Park area near Shirlington. FCA is hosting a drop-in listening session with county staff at the Fairlington Community Center on Saturday, February 4, from 10 am to noon.

Residents are welcome to stop in at any time to share ideas. See the next issues of the *Bulletin* for more information.

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Schools and Metro to drive county budget choices

Continued enrollment growth in Arlington schools and the funding difficulties facing the Metro system will create the biggest challenges for county officials as they set budgets for the coming fiscal year.

School superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy and county manager Mark Schwartz outlined the choices to community leaders at the December meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation. FCA is an active participant in the civic organization.



FCA President Guy Land (right) visits with Arlington County Civic Federation President Stefanie Pryor and Arlington School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy at the civic federation's December meeting. Photo by Bryna Helfer, Arlington County Communications Director.

According to Murphy, the current projected gap in funding for the schools for next year is \$22–\$28 million, with much of that attributable to the increased number of students the system will serve next year.

Enrollment in Arlington Public Schools (APS) continues to grow at a rapid pace, requiring additional resources from both the school system and the county. Over the past eight years, enrollment has skyrocketed by 35 percent (6,500 students) and additional growth of 16 percent (4,155 students) is projected over the next five years. Enrollment this year grew by over 900 students. Murphy notes that this is the equivalent of adding either a small middle school or a larger elementary school every year.

Enrollment growth is one of the factors behind the expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary in Fairlington, which will enable the school to accommodate roughly 140 more students.

Murphy pointed out that Arlington's high schools enjoy a 97-percent graduation rate. In addition, 95 percent of middle school students earn one or more high school credits, 79 percent of graduating seniors complete one or more advanced placement or international baccalaureate course,

and over 90 percent of high school graduates transition to college.

APS and Arlington County have a "revenue sharing" agreement under which the county transfers tax dollars to APS for the operation of the schools. Murphy said that other factors behind the budget gap are increases in health care and retirement costs and step increases in employee compensation.

Schwartz pointed out that school enrollment growth also puts added pressure on the county budget, as the county directly funds a variety of school-oriented services, such

Continued on page 21

County board acts on short-term rentals

The Arlington County Board has approved a county zoning ordinance that would permit and regulate short-term rentals through online services such as Airbnb, craigslist, and VRBO.

The new system would not preclude a condominium or homeowners' association from establishing its own rules about allowing (consistent with county regulations), further restricting, or prohibiting this type of activity. The by-laws of most of the condo associations in Fairlington currently prohibit short-term rentals and would not be affected by the new county rules.

The new regulations include limitations to protect the character of residential neighborhoods; ensure health and safety measures are in place; and regulate and limit

the short-term use in a manner that is consistent with other aspects of the county's overall plan for coordinated development in Arlington.

Under the provisions adopted by the county board, short-term rentals must be for less than 30 days; the unit must be the primary residence of the owner; no more than six lodgers or two lodgers per bedroom may rent the unit; all building code requirements must be met; and smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide detectors must be provided and accessible to all overnight lodgers.

The provisions took effect on December 31, 2016.

—Guy Land



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APS says Abingdon school project on track

Six months after major construction began, work is on schedule for the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School, with the new cafeteria and kitchen slated to open in January, according to Aji Robinson, Arlington Public School (APS) Project Manager for Abingdon. He noted that APS has encountered no major problems so far.

Robinson briefed the community at a November listening session jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association.

The cafeteria and kitchen will replace the old gymnasium, and construction is underway on the new gym at the west end of the school. That work is expected to be completed in the spring. Construction is set to begin on the new three-story classroom building on the north side of the building, with completion targeted for this summer.

Robinson noted that the contractor was able to accommodate worker parking onsite, though the lot at Fairlington Presbyterian Church remains available if needed for worker parking. Worker parking is not permitted in the neighborhood.



The former Abingdon parking lot is now a major construction site. Photo by Guy Land.

In response to a resident question, he said that the temporary classroom trailers (“relocatables”) would likely remain onsite throughout the construction period, to serve as swing space as different classrooms are renovated. As one class moves into their renovated

Continued on page 11

Developer proposes Shirlington land swap



Map of the proposed land swap area. Graphic courtesy Arlington County.

Arcland Property Company, developer of the Cube Smart storage building at 2631 Shirlington Rd., has proposed a land swap with Arlington County that would give the county ownership of additional property that Arcland owns next to the storage building. This property is currently used for a parking lot and a couple of other small buildings.

Arcland is proposing the exchange of those 3.5 acres for 2.3 acres of a 6.1-acre site on N. Quincy St. (“the Buck property”) that the county purchased in 2015. The county currently leases 2.5 acres of the 3.5-acre Shirlington Rd. site from Arcland, through 2023, and parks buses there.

According to a late November county press release, acquiring Arcland’s Shirlington Rd. acreage would enable the county to terminate its lease there with Arcland, saving about 5.5 years of lease payments, or \$4 million. The site could provide a long-term solution to the county’s need for space to park its ART bus fleet, which is expected to grow from 65 to 90 vehicles by 2020.

“This is a rare opportunity for the county to secure land on Shirlington Rd., zoned for light industrial use, that

Continued on page 11



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Abingdon school project, continued from page 9

classroom, another will need to move to the relocatable while their classroom is being improved.

Residents reported few construction-related issues, but GPS systems occasionally direct contractors to S. 30th Rd., which dead-ends at a circle. A sign has been posted to indicate that this is not a construction entrance.

Robison cautioned attendees about walking around the construction site. "I encourage people not to go down there," he said, "though technically it's open." He's especially concerned about people milling about after hours, since the contractor takes over the full site once school is out.

The construction work is scheduled to be substantially completed in time for the opening of school in September 2017.

—Guy Land

Land swap, continued from page 9

could accommodate our growing bus fleet," County Manager Mark Schwartz said.

In a December meeting with civic association leaders, Schwartz noted that no decision has been made on the proposed swap, and the county board is just beginning its discussion and review of the proposal. But Schwartz commented that "the basic math of getting more land than we have now is good."

The county's press statement said that the proposed exchange, if approved, would take place after November 20, 2017, the date by which the county must exercise its option to purchase the North Quincy St. site. The land exchange would involve no additional cost beyond the \$30 million that the county has already agreed to pay for the N. Quincy St. site.

—Guy Land

Fairlington celebrates the holidays

Fairlington was in a festive mood for the holidays. Chilly temps couldn't stop scores of excited children from welcoming Santa as he rode through Fairlington, hardy and talented carolers strolled the Mews, and several hundred

residents enjoyed Fairlington Villages' annual holiday party. *Photos by Guy Land.*



The 2016 Fairlington year-end real estate report will be available on **January 15th!**

We'll cover:

- **Sales price by model**
- **Listing stats for each association**
- **How Fairlington stacked up against other South Arlington neighborhoods**
- **Case studies on featured sales**
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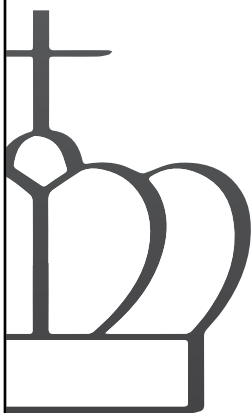
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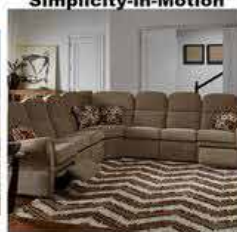


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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In December, a group of 14 enjoyed our now-traditional trip over the river and through the woods to L'Auberge Chez Francois for a wonderful meal, elegantly served, in their dining room, which was decorated for the holidays.

Here's what's planned for January:

Monday, January 9, 6:30 pm, Ramparts, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. We'll return to this perennial local favorite on a Monday, when the restaurant offers half-price burgers with the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu is also available.

Thursday, January 26, 6:30 pm, Rabieng Thai Restaurant, 5892 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041, 703-671-4222, www.rabieng.com. The restaurant is just beyond Bailey's Crossroads—very close to Fairlington. This is a favorite of several of our regulars and we always enjoy great food in an informal atmosphere.

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.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in January to discuss *The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap: A Memoir of Friendship, Community, and the Uncommon Pleasure of a Good Book*, by Wendy Welch.

"Once the dream of every bibliophile, owning one's own bookstore means something different in these days of Amazon.com and e-readers. Keeping an independent bookstore thriving is problematic in even the biggest cities and best of economic times, and it's especially difficult in a rural community of 5,000 facing a major economic downturn. Yet none of those factors deterred Welch and her husband from impulsively buying a ramshackle Victorian mansion and filling it with thousands of used books." —*Booklist*

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. 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 Elizabeth Shea, and Monica and Jeremy Wedemann, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Applications for 2017 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, 7–9:30 pm, starting February 21, through May 2, 2017, with some Saturday mornings TBD.

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 or email info@TreeStewards.org.

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Animal Talk

Moving with pets

Fairlington is a fairly transient neighborhood, since many residents work for the government or the military. Moving is a big undertaking and can be very stressful, for both you and your pets. Many of us consider our pets part of the family, and wouldn't consider moving without them.

While I have lived here for more than 16 years and loved being part of the Fairlington community, I am relocating this month outside of the area. In preparing for my own transition with my dog, I thought I would focus my last column on sharing some tips for moving with your pets.

- Make sure your pets are current on all vaccinations; carry appropriate vet records. Some states require health certificates if moving pets across state lines, so research this before you move.
- Outfit your pets with a collar and ID, and microchip them if possible.
- Secure your pets safely in your car. If the move is not drivable, research alternate transportation methods. Today, there are many options besides just stowing your pets underneath a commercial aircraft.

- If traveling multiple days, research places to stay in advance. Many hotels are pet-friendly and can accommodate both you and your pets.
- Bring your pets' food and water bowls, along with something to fill them. Bring all medications, leashes, toys, beds, etc. with you as well.
- Secure your pets on move day(s) while movers are both loading and unloading the truck, so they won't be underfoot or run away.

When you get to your destination, and your furniture and pet belongings are unloaded, slowly introduce your pets to their new surroundings and be sure there are no hazards or ways for them to escape.

Try to spend some quality time together the first few days so your pets know that this is their new home. Familiar items from your previous home will be a comfort, as will setting up a new routine. Be patient and give your pets time to adjust, and hopefully they will settle in fairly quickly and happily as long as they are with you.

If you cannot move with your pets:

- Try rehoming your pets using word of mouth/social networks.
- Be wary about using craigslist or other social media without vetting interested parties.
- If you have a good relationship with your vet, they can perhaps assist in finding a new home.
- If you run out of options, local shelters will accept surrendered pets to try to find them a new home.

—Christine Chirichella

Outstanding Volunteer



FCA President Guy Land recognized Christine Chirichella, the author of *Animal Talk*, for her many contributions to Fairlington over more than a dozen years. Photo by Lindsay Willman.

Coming in February

Capt. Adrienne Quigley, Arlington County Police Third District Commander, will be the featured speaker at the FCA meeting on Tuesday, February 7.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The colors of a winter landscape

Last month, the colorful rosebushes adorning landscapes in Arlington and Alexandria were just as noticeable as the holiday lights. Seen on median strips and residential landscapes, the variety, 'Knockout' bears large blooms in red, pink, white, and yellow. **Rosa 'Knockout'** is far different from our grandmother's roses in that it bears leaves everywhere on its globose (not vertical) habit. And it blooms from spring well into December.

Besides the rose, there are many other colors in the winter landscape. With some planning, you can invite these winter bloomers into your patios to enjoy color from December to March.

A 'veteran' of the landscape is the **Camellia**. Within its broadleaf evergreen habit are rosette-like flowers in as many colors as the Rose, though they have no fragrance. Camellia can grow from a large shrub into a miniature tree. It has a vertical shape and often is seen growing against something—be it a wall, fence, trellis, or building. Camellia looks best in full maturity when its shape becomes a dense, vertical presence. The genus has two species—winter and fall blooming—that are recognized by its leaf. Winter-blooming Camellia has a large leaf while the fall-bloomer has a smallish leaf. Both leaves have a terminal point at the tip and are glossy on top. Like the rose, Camellia is beautiful when its buds are full but not quite open—similar to the Rhododendron flower before it emerges.

Never to be underestimated is **Nandina**, which bears eight-inch-



Nandina. Photo by Guy Land.

long clumps of Holly-like, red fruit as it matures. It becomes a winter-interest specimen due to its fruit, which hangs on succulent stems from its fragile habit. Nandina has a tiny, evergreen leaf so in the wind, its branches will flutter. Fairlington homeowners cut the fruit clumps to insert them in holiday wreaths for their front doors.

Later this month, you will notice two flowering evergreens, both yellow.

Winter Jasmine blooms from late January into February. The smallish (one-inch-wide) bloom decorates pendulous, fountain-like stems for two to three weeks. Usually, Winter Jasmine is planted atop a wall where its flowing branches spill over to a walkway or driveway. On West Braddock Rd. in Alexandria, you'll notice this display on the left as you descend the hill before Russell Rd. (where the Civil War canon sits on the median).

Mahonia is another winter-bloomer that appears in February. In recent

years, the lemon-scented flower emerged in December or January. The flower is born on the very top of the shrub. Be careful when inhaling its lemon-scented fragrance as the terminal margins on the leaf are sharply pointed (like the Holly leaf). Under-rated in the landscape, Mahonia is harder to spot than the Rose, Camellia, or Winter Jasmine. Mahonia is tropical looking in that some leaves actually turn a shiny orange in color.

'Burford' Holly is the most prolific-fruiting species in the *Ilex* genus.

Its leaf is smaller (up to two inches) than the typical Holly leaf. When mature, the 'Burford' explodes in red fruit. This specimen can grow large, so keep it pruned to a suitable, patio-sized shape. 'Burford' bears a lime-green leaf, atypical of darker green Holly foliage.

Beautyberry's white floral display shows in summer but wait until you see its winter performance. From early December into January, tiny, metallic purple fruit clings to its thin, stiff branches, devoid of leaves. In my opinion, the specimen's name derives from the winter display.

Last but not least, **Winterberry** is the only deciduous Holly shrub. In winter, the only thing left on its barren branches are the red fruit which dots its yellowed, upright stalks. It is noticeable like Beautyberry for its explosion of colorful fruit on lifeless-looking branches.

—Bill Sullivan
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Another key focus was on the I-395 HOT Lanes project, which is slated to get underway next year. FCA hosted two briefings for the community on the project during 2016. Land said the main item of interest to Fairlington in 2017 will be a vote by affected residents on whether to install sound walls along I-395. FCA plans to host an informational briefing later in the spring on the sound wall choices. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will conduct a survey and identify the residents that are eligible to vote.

Other items on the FCA agenda for the coming year include a visit by Arlington County Police Third District Commander Capt. Adrienne Quigley, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7; a presentation by an Arlington County Board member tentatively slated for spring; the return of the popular 5K run/walk on April 29; and the Fourth of July parade.

Land indicated that FCA would continue to monitor real estate development near Fairlington. He reported that a preconstruction briefing on the Alexandria Gateway project at King and Beauregard Streets was planned for late December. FCA hosted a briefing on this project in 2016, prior to approval of the final permits by the City of Alexandria.

Treasurer Ed Hilz reported that the Association's year-to-date finances showed a net profit of roughly \$2,000.



FCA Board members Hugh Baumgardner and Ed Hilz enjoy a visit after December's annual meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

He noted that 2016 expenses are running ahead of last year's, largely due to FCA's financial sponsorship of the Fairlington Farmers Market and additional costs for the editing of the monthly newsletter.

Land issued a call for volunteers. "We could conduct additional activities for the community if we had volunteers to carry them out," he said. He closed with a special tribute to long-term volunteer Christine Chirichella, who is leaving Fairlington after 16 years.

Schools and Metro, continued from page 7

as resource officers and county-owned parks that serve a growing number of kids.

But the current big unknown for county budgeters is the amount of money Arlington will need to contribute to the support of Metro, which is facing a projected budget gap of \$290 million. The intergovernmental compact governing Metro calls for Arlington to pick up the cost of 8–9 percent of the system's costs.

"We can't afford to let Metro fail," Schwartz said. "That is not an option." But he noted that the Metro board "is dysfunctional on a good day."

Metro leaders have not decided how they expect to fill next year's shortfall, which complicates Arlington's budget planning.

Otherwise, Schwartz said the county is looking at about a \$5 million budget gap, which he felt could be fairly easily accommodated by adjustments to selected county accounts without requiring an increase in real estate tax rates. Based on current projections, revenues from real estate taxes are expected to increase two percent next year. Schwartz said it was "unlikely" that there would be any major new program in the budget for next year.

According to Schwartz, Arlington continues to suffer from a persistent office vacancy rate of roughly 20 percent, and that has a significant adverse impact on county revenues. Several factors explain the vacancy rate, including the loss of defense jobs due to the Base Realignment and Closure Act; federal sequestration, which cut defense spending; and shifting patterns of office needs, as workers seek alternative work styles that don't fit with the kind of traditional office space that has been available in Arlington.

The county board and the school board will begin major work on the FY2018 budget later this month.

—Guy Land

Lynn finds solutions



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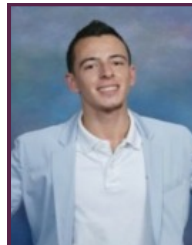
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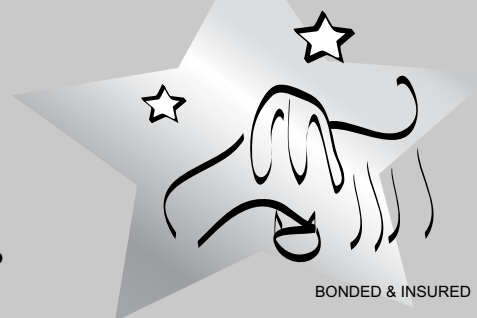


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March 4	Home improvement seminar
April 29	Fairlington 5K Run/Walk

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Looking for a change in location? Check out these listings.



\$549,900

5817 Pratt Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22310
4BR/2BA SFD
Harry Bowen 904-738-4419



\$1,199,999

1209 Cedar Dale Lane
Alexandria, VA 22308
6BR/4BA/ 1HBA SFD
Doug Luzik 703-304-7969



\$485,000

3021 22nd Street
Arlington, VA 22204
3BR/2BA/ 1HBA Interior TH
Pat Shannon 571-237-4767

A big thank you to the
community of Fairlington and
surrounding areas for your
generosity to *Toys for Tots* 2016.



We were thrilled with the
community response, and thank
you for the joy you have brought
to hundreds of local children
during this holiday season. We
are proud to be a part of this
giving community, and thank
you for your support!



*Did you know? We have an on-site notary. Monday-Friday 9-5pm
Call 703.998.3111 to schedule an appointment.*