

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JULY 2012

Volume 38, Number 7

www.fca-fairlington.org

A Fairlington Fourth!

FCA monthly meeting

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

Independence Day parade

Wednesday, July 4, 10 am
Fairlington firehouse

Great American Bake Sale

Wednesday, July 4, 10 am
North Fairlington CC parking lot,
at the parade after-party

Abingdon Book Bus rolls

Monday, July 9, 5 pm
Fairlington streets

MOMS Club

Wednesday, July 11, 4 pm
FCC

Fair Golds social/business meeting

Thursday, July 19, noon
FCC

Book Group

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

See Neighborhood News on page 23
and related articles for details about
calendar events.



Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

It's time to break out the red, white, and blue and join the neighbors for Fairlington's annual Independence Day celebration. The July 4th parade up S. Abingdon Street and the after-party in the North Fairlington community center parking lot, sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the FCA, are one of Fairlington's most popular neighborhood traditions. Join the flag-waving crowd: March in the parade or cheer from the sidelines. We all look forward to seeing residents' colorful get-ups—top hats, tutus, and tiaras—and the ever-more-inventive decorative displays on bikes, trikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons. On dogs, too!

As always, we'll meet up on Wednesday, July 4, in front of the Fairlington firehouse at about 9:45 am, with anticipated step-off for the parade at about 10. Perennial crowd-pleasers are the flashing lights of Engine 107 providing escort and police cruisers providing traffic control. At the after-party, there's more traditional fare: Enjoy free hot dogs and cold drinks, and buy sweet treats to support the Great American Bake Sale.

July 11 FCA meeting: The FCA meeting on Wednesday, July 11, focuses on ways for citizens to engage with their elected officials. Featured speakers are state Senator Adam Ebbin and Representative Jim Moran's legislative aide Clare McIntyre. Come learn about state and federal constituent services.

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

July 11, 7 pm, special program: Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin, representing the 30th district since January 2012, will speak about the General Assembly's impact on concerns to residents of northern Virginia. In addition, the legislative aide to Representative Jim Moran, Clare McIntyre, will discuss ways constituents can interact with their elected officials.

Check the FCA Web site closer to the date for details.

Regular business meeting:

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

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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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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E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
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For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Hurricane season, June 1 to November 30



The National Hurricane Center reports that NOAA (National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration) predicts a “near-normal” hurricane season in the Atlantic Basin this year. Based on the period 1981-2010, an average season produces 12 named storms with six hurricanes, including three major hurricanes. For hurricane preparedness before an event and when severe weather threatens, much emergency information can be found online, at the county Web site and at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently spent a few weeks at my company's headquarters in Qatar, and the experience has me thinking about community—where it comes from, how it grows, and what we all must do to enhance it.

Qatar has considerable oil and gas reserves, enough to make it the highest per capita income nation in the world. You can see the money at work: Hardhats, cranes, and backhoes are everywhere. The downtown skyline glitters at sunrise. Doha wants to be a financial hub to rival Dubai, London, and Hong Kong. The country is also trying to set a new standard for environmental sustainability by 2030, complete with standard LEED-certified construction and the widespread use of renewable energy and water technologies. The 2022 World Cup in soccer is coming, and Qatar wants to host a future Summer Olympics.

However, it has some problems. Despite a popular bus system, traffic jams are common. The sidewalks often run out. Crosswalks don't exist. The expatriate and local communities don't usually mix outside work.

Then there was the massive fire at what friends call the ritziest shopping mall in Qatar. The alarms never sounded, neither in the mall nor at the nearby firehouse. The sprinklers never turned on. Two firefighters were killed. So, too, were fifteen children, all expatriates, at an onsite daycare center. Read that again: two firefighters, fifteen children. Authorities arrested several people, including the mall's management. They also launched an investigation of the country's fire safety regulations and practices. The expatriate community is skeptical that the investigation will lead to change. Because they're not citizens, expats believe they don't have the clout to hold authorities accountable. The mall fire made many realize that despite the luxury apartments, the nannies, and the fancy restaurants, they're far away from home.

So....community. It's important, I think, to stake your claim and then work to protect it. Here at home, get to know your neighbors, both next door and across town. Figure out who's in charge, and make sure they're acting in your community's best interest. Take the time to get involved so that Fairlington, and all the things that make this a great place to live, will be here for generations to come.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you! Send e-mail to me at president@fca-fairlington.org with your ideas and concerns.

Best,

Rosiland Jordan, President
Fairlington Citizens Association
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Parking—it doesn't get any better

At the FCA meeting in June, president Rosiland Jordan opened the floor to questions or comments about issues of concern to Fairlingtonians. Not surprisingly, parking was on the minds of many residents, because on-street parking can be at a premium in our neighborhood at the best of times. This summer, south of the bridge in particular, the county's seasonal repair of sidewalks, curbs, and



Curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs on S. Stafford Street temporarily caused scarce street parking last month.

Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

gutters removed available parking spaces on S. Stafford Street for weeks. In June, that dearth of parking was exacerbated by the Mews' parking lot resurfacing work—three or four courtyard lots at a time disgorged their cars onto the streets (and even the bridge) for several days to compete for scarce spots. But the Mews' paving work is finished, and the county's curb and gutter repairs will conclude with a valuable infrastructure improvement.

There are other parking and traffic concerns that don't go away. Some residents have observed a noticeable uptick in what they think must be commuter parking on the streets. Some residents continue to see "unauthorized" vehicles taking up street parking—commercial trucks, RV-type vehicles, and "warehoused" cars (see the story, below, left). Others have noticed drivers running through stop signs and failing

to stop at zebra crosswalks—particularly the one at the S. Stafford St. circle near the FCC. There were also questions about the processes residents must initiate to request traffic-calming measures or permit-parking-only zones. To address all things parking, the FCA plans a fall meeting where speakers from county staff who write the code and police officials who enforce it will discuss what residents can do about any parking and/or traffic concerns.

No long-term free parking for campers, abandoned cars

The county manages more than 53,000 on-street spaces as part of the overall transportation infrastructure. Front-line management comes through the police department's Parking Enforcement Unit, which enforces the parking laws and responds to citizens' parking complaints. Arlington police want to remind residents that it is a violation to park a recreational vehicle (camper-truck, camper-trailer, camper-shell, or other RV-type vehicle) on county streets for more than five days. In addition, a car is considered to be "abandoned" if it is warehoused or stored on the street, unmoved, for more than 10 days.

When police are notified of a violating vehicle, the enforcement unit comes out, marks the vehicle's tires, marks the pavement, and then returns to check in five days or 10 days. If the vehicle has been moved (one block or one foot), the day-counting "clock" starts over again. For questions about the regulations or to report a violating camper-type vehicle or abandoned car, contact the parking enforcement unit by e-mail, kjones2@arlingtonva.us, leave a voice-mail message at the abandoned-car hotline, 703-228-4144, or call the police non-emergency number, 703-558-2222.

Great American Bake Sale, July 4





The 10th anniversary Great American Bake Sale will raise money for non-profit Share Our Strength. Bring donated home-baked treats (no frosting or fillings, which melt in the heat) to the North Fairlington community center parking lot before the parade, 9 to 10 am. To mark the 10th anniversary, we'll hold a pie-tasting contest, to select the "Best Pie in Fairlington." Enter your pie before the parade. Slices of all pies will be sold at the bake sale. To volunteer, call Cathy, 571-480-9260.



2012 FCA board: Jacob Gelbaum, Guy Land, Mark Jones, Carol Dabbs, Kent Duffy (seated), Ed Hilz, Rosiland Jordan, Michelle Woolley, and Bryan Pettigrew.

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APS plans for more students

Enrollment in Arlington Public Schools for the school year just completed showed continued growth, and total enrollment could hit 100 percent of available capacity within a year or two, as reported by APS officials at the June meeting of the Arlington Civic Federation. The school system recorded 21,845 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, representing a growth of 604 students (2.8 percent) over the previous year. APS Superintendent Patrick Murphy explained the proposed \$538 million FY 2013 – FY 2022 capital-improvement plan (CIP), the first 10-year CIP, which addresses the capacity issue. The plan noted: From FY 2009 to FY 2012, APS enrolled nearly 3,400 more students, an overall increase of more than 18 percent, and they expected student enrollment to grow 3 to 4 percent a year for the next five years. Growth has been concentrated at the elementary-school level, where APS expects to reach capacity by the 2012-13 school year. The CIP proposes building two new elemen-

tary schools plus three major additions at schools on APS property. Funding will be part of bond referenda presented to voters in November 2012 and November 2014.

School officials have known the growth was coming and taken steps to address it. Since 2005, the school system found room for more than 2,500 seats in the schools and added trailers (sometimes called portable classrooms or “relocatables”) where needed. A projected total future enrollment of 24,000 remains below the “baby boom” peak of the early 1960s, when the school system had more than 26,000 students enrolled, but the system also had much more capacity at that time. Enrollment began falling in the 1970s, leveling out at about 15,000 through much of the 1980s. As a result, a number of school buildings were closed, sold off, or converted to other uses during the “baby bust” demographic era. For more information, go online to www.apsva.us/cip.

APS per-student cost is highest in region

Arlington Public Schools this past year spent more per student on education than any other jurisdiction in the metropolitan Washington area, and its increase in per-student spending from the year before also was higher than any other jurisdiction. The data come from the Washington Area Boards of Education, which published its annual comparison of operating school districts in Northern Virginia and suburban Washington at the end of last year, as reported in the *Sun Gazette*.

Arlington spent \$18,047 to educate each of its approximately 22,000 students, up 4.2 percent from the year before. Arlington’s FY 2012 per-student cost was 2.4 percent higher than that of Alexandria (\$17,618), 10.1 percent higher than Falls Church (\$16,309), 22.1 percent higher than Montgomery County (\$14,776), 40.8 percent higher than Fairfax County (\$12,820), 57.2 percent higher than the city of Manassas (\$11,476), 63.9 percent higher than Loudoun County (\$11,014), 82.5 percent higher than the city of Manassas Park (\$9,888), 83.2 percent higher than Prince William County (\$9,852) and 96.7 percent higher than Prince George’s County (\$9,176).

The WABE, to which all suburban school districts belong, uses its own method to calculate per-student costs, and the comparison figures are not necessarily those reported by the school systems. Arlington school officials, for example, have long described their high per-student spending as the result of a relatively small school system coupled with extensive educational choice.

County rating remained AAA in advance of June bond sale

In May, a county press release announced that, for the 12th consecutive year, the major ratings agencies Moody’s, Fitch, and Standard & Poor reaffirmed Arlington County’s debt as having the highest, triple-A rating. Arlington is one of about 40 municipalities in the United States to hold this distinction.

At the same time, Moody’s maintained the “negative outlook” forecast issued last year, due to the county’s indirect linkages to the weakened credit profile of the U.S. federal government. Three dozen other local governments remained on Moody’s negative outlook, including nine jurisdictions in Northern Virginia. Standard & Poor, however, projected that Arlington’s economy “can withstand any long-term adverse base realignment and closure implications and impending federal budget cuts due to its diverse economy and proactive economic development strategies.” High ratings for municipal bonds generally lead to lower interest rates that communities must pay on their debt, because investors find the bonds more attractive with a decreased possibility of default.

In June, in order to finance projected capital debt, the county issued \$108 million of General Obligation Public Improvement bonds on the institutional investor market. The county received an average interest rate on the 2012 bonds of 2.77 percent—described by a county press release as one of the “lowest overall rates Arlington has ever seen.”

"HOW'S THE MARKET?"

In my daily encounters, many people in Fairlington ask me about the real estate market. The information below, from RBI Market Statistics, shows monthly statistics for all properties in 22206. (not just Fairlington).

They compare April 2011 activity with April 2012! I believe they reveal a very low inventory market, with many properties selling in just a few days. Great time to be a seller. Call me for your Free Market Analysis!

Sold Summary

	Apr 2012	Apr 2011	% Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$10,560,700	\$13,997,250	-24.55%
Avg Sold Price	\$364,162	\$378,304	-3.74%
Median Sold Price	\$375,000	\$372,500	0.67%
Units Sold	29	37	-21.62%
Avg Days on Market	50	45	11.11%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$370,659	\$381,688	-2.89%
Avg SP to OLP Ratio	97.5%	97.9%	-0.39%
Ratio of Avg SP to Avg OLP	97.8%	98.1%	-0.31%
Attached Avg Sold Price	\$359,846	\$366,834	-1.90%
Detached Avg Sold Price	\$485,000	\$508,300	-4.58%
Attached Units Sold	28	34	-17.65%
Detached Units Sold	1	3	-66.67%

Notes:

- SP = Sold Price
- OLP = Original List Price
- LP = List Price (at time of sale)
- Garage/Parking Spaces are not included in Detached/Attached section totals.

* RBI market statistics

Inventory

	Apr 2012	Apr 2011	% Change
Active Listings	47	87	-45.98%
New Listings	48	63	-23.81%
New Under Contracts	10	5	100.00%
New Contingents	37	31	19.35%
New Pendings	47	36	30.56%
All Pendings	73	58	25.86%

Financing (Sold)

Assumption	0
Cash	2
Conventional	17
FHA	4
Other	1
Owner	0
VA	5

Days on Market (Sold)

0	0
1 to 10	12
11 to 20	4
21 to 30	3
31 to 60	3
61 to 90	2
91 to 120	1
121 to 180	2
181 to 360	2
361 to 720	0
721+	0

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Mosquito season is now

Bug bites are really, really in season this summer. As early as this spring, the *Washington Post* cited a report from the bug experts warning that we're in for a veritable "onslaught" of mosquitoes, ticks, and other bugs this year. Although mosquito bites are mostly an annoyance, mosquito-transmitted infections we see here can be serious, like encephalitis and West Nile virus—fortunately they're rare, say infectious disease specialists. (Other mosquito-borne illnesses like dengue fever and malaria are even rarer outside the tropics.)



Still, to thwart this year's oversupply of blood-sucking bugs, public health officials recommend regular use of DEET or proven natural repellants like lemon eucalyptus oil. The most important precaution is to eliminate areas of standing water around your yards and patios, which only serve as breeding grounds. Virginia Cooperative Extension says breeding sites can include any container that holds water for days at a time—kiddie pools, buckets, flower pots/trays, rain-collecting indentations in tarps, gutters, and especially the black corrugated drainpipes that are used to take water away from downspouts. For more information, go online to the Arlington County Health Department, www.arlingtonva.us >Human Services >Public Health >mosquitoes.

Weather gurus predict another oppressive summer

The *Washington Post's* Capital Weather Gang predicted in May that "after 2010 and 2011 produced the two hottest summers on record," people may have hoped for some relief this year. But, no. Normal, here, is mostly hot and humid, and "this summer will exceed normal with ease." The experts say this summer has a 50-50 chance of making the Top 10 warmest on record since 1871. While acknowledging the difficulty of making such a long-range forecast, they said "signals favor a historically hot summer with a strong chance of breaking into the Top 25 hottest on record and chances of cracking the Top 10 about even."

Firefly festival, July 15: Come celebrate the humble firefly, nature's night light, at Fort C.F. Smith on Sunday, July 15, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Learn about this amazing bug that has glow-in-the-dark eggs. It uses a special protein and enzyme in combination with oxygen to create its blink. Bring a picnic blanket and dinner. There will be bug hunts, games, crafts, walks, and more. Cost is \$5/person or \$20 maximum/family. The event will be cancelled if it's raining. For more information, call 703-228-6535.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Fairlington residents,

In recent months I have noticed numerous yard sale and lost pet signs posted on trees in Fairlington with staples and push pins. I also noticed trees with rusted nails from signs posted in past years! Posting of signs in this



Not in Fairlington. Photograph courtesy of wildlifetrends.com.

way can be damaging to trees and their bark. Many of the street trees in Fairlington have been here for almost 70 years and they need to be protected. I don't know about other homeowners associations in Fairlington, but in the Glen posting signs on trees is actually in violation of our association handbook. I also found out that Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (sec-

tion 34) prohibits posting of real estate and political signs on trees. Also, proposed changes to the county ordinance will prohibit posting of all signs on trees. Occasionally, signs are posted temporarily by the county for street work, but the signs are put up with tape wrapped around the tree. I hope residents will help keep our old trees healthy and alive for many years to come by using e-mail listservs and other means to inform their neighbors about lost pets, sales, and other events.

Tina Masciangioli
Fairlington Glen

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.



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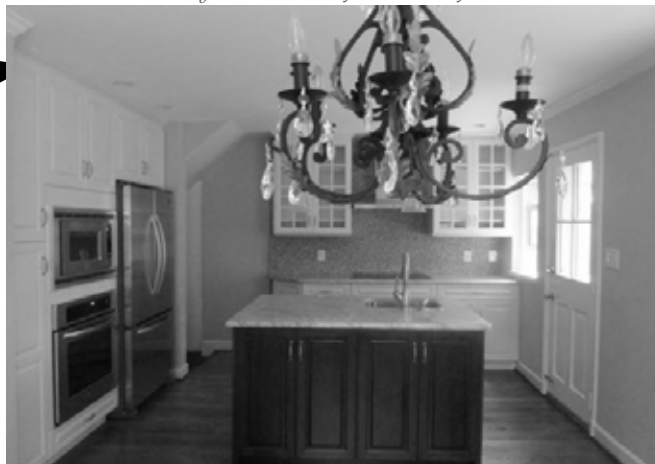
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Historical treasure in our own backyard



Left, Guy Land and Patty Clark. Right, WAMU reporter Rebecca Sheir and Stephen Powers. Photographs by Guy Land.

On a sunny Saturday in May, Fairlington residents Patty Clark and Guy Land joined a volunteer work crew to restore a 200-year-old landmark in Fairlington—one that few residents even know exists. This historical treasure—a nub of stone enclosed by an iron railing—is what remains of survey marker South West 4. SW4 is one of the original boundary stones set to mark the limits of the District of Columbia in the survey ordered by President George Washington in 1790. The District's ten-mile-square shape was surveyed in 1791, and half-ton stones of Aquia Creek sandstone were placed at one-mile intervals along the boundary lines. Alexandria and Arlington are now home to stones because, in 1847, the southwest quadrant of the surveyed area south of the river was retroceded to Virginia.

Today, 37 of the 40 original stones remain—three are missing completely, one is in storage. SW4 sits just along the chain link fence that separates Fairlington Mews from King Street, about one hundred yards west of S. Wakefield Street, mostly hidden from view by the photinia hedge. Century-old reports say that farmers repeatedly hit the vertical marker with plows, destroying the top. After being repositioned when the road was widened, the remaining portion of SW4 has sunk low into the ground and is now worn down to the size and shape of a patio paver.

Over the last two hundred years, most of the stones have fallen on hard times—disrepair, obscurity, and fluctuating public interest. In the early 1900s, the Daughters of the American Revolution installed protective iron-rail fences around them. In this century, restoration of the stones and sites has been undertaken as a special project of the American Society of Civil Engineers; volunteer teams, led by ASCE member Stephen Powers, organize clean-up work sessions twice a year. Ultimately, the proj-

ect's goal is to secure historic landmark designation and continuing maintenance for the stones.

Locally, the Fairlington Historical Society's designated steward of SW4, Patty Clark, spearheaded the current effort to coordinate with Powers for the restoration. Restoration is more challenging than removing trash and weeds—it consisted largely of the hours-long labor of scraping the iron railings and then priming and painting them. Patty Clark managed to ruin a shirt in the process, and Guy Land returned home covered in paint-chip confetti. But no worries—both Fairlingtonians were glad to take part in this hands-on history lesson. It was an experience that also “underscores Fairlington’s rich history,” said Land. “From boundary stones dating to the nation’s early years, to Battery Garesché from the Civil War (at Abingdon and S. 30th Road), to the very construction of Fairlington during World War II, our community reflects in microcosm the broad sweep of American history. That’s pretty amazing!” *See More about the stones, page 24.*



WHO WE ARE -

DeLong Home Improvement (DHI) is a licensed and insured General Contracting firm, specializing in kitchen, bathroom and basement remodeling projects, and EPA certified to work in homes built before 1978, per federal law. We serve Northern Virginia with a focus on Fairlington, where we're original homeowners and where we've completed nearly 400 remodeling projects throughout all the neighborhoods. DHI is a family business providing free estimates, personal service and superior results. We work closely with you to help fulfill your vision for your home, and are proud to say that most of our work is repeat business from happy clients, and referrals to their family and friends.

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- Tile Installations
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FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Mark your calendar for the Arlington County Fair.

Now in its 36th year, the Arlington County Fair returns to Thomas Jefferson Community Center and park grounds (3501 Second Street South) August 8 through 12. Event highlights include midway amusement rides, racing piglets, lots of food options from a variety of vendors, performances from the Harlem Wizards, free activities for kids, and much more. Go online to www.arlingtoncountyfair.us for details.

Classes and workshops

There are dozens of classes this summer for tots, children, teens, and adults. Get complete descriptions online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of Enjoy Arlington. For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr or call 703-228-4747.

Meditation plus workshop

For those who think of meditation only as a calming and relaxing exercise, think again. This class will teach you how to calm your mind and body as well as change your thinking, reduce your response to stress, focus and heighten your awareness, and breathe more efficiently. Each class combines instruction, exercises, and discussion. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a pillow, blanket, and lunch if you like. This class is not affiliated with any religion or spiritual practice. Beginner and practicing meditators welcome. Instructor is certified to teach Integrative Meditation. July 7, 9 am – 2:30 pm, 1 session, \$70. Instructor, Interdonato. Ages 14 to adult. 440813A

Breathing plus workshop

Did you know that many of us breathe with only a part of our lung capacity? Learn to relax and energize your body by changing how you breathe. Reduce stress just by breathing differently. Find out how some illness can be alleviated by breathing differently. Wear comfortable clothing. Saturday, July 14, 10 am – noon, 1 session, \$13. Instructor, Interdonato. Ages 14 to adult. 440800A

Basic beading

Learn the fundamentals of beaded jewelry design using bead crimps, beading wire, leather cord, coil ends, head and eye pins, jump and split rings, basic loops, wrapped loops, and use of a bead board to make necklaces, a bracelet, and earrings. Supply fee of \$30 to \$40 to be paid to instructor. Additional beads and kits available for sale as well. Good eye-hand coordination is helpful. This is a make-and-take workshop. Saturday, July 14, 10 am – 1 pm, 1 session, \$42. Instructor, Lee. Ages 15 to adult. 440150A

Senior center events

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

Master Gardeners plant clinic

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

Open play in the gym

13 and older, Saturday, 3 to 5 pm.

13 and younger, whenever no other scheduled programming is ongoing. Check the FCC bulletin board or call the day-of to confirm availability.

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

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

FCC programs

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

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Mid-summer color in the garden



Butterfly bush nods beside a day lily. Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.

July is the hottest month of the year, beating August by about one degree. Last year, it was the hottest July on record. Still, July can be picturesque in the garden. You may not want to stand over a hot grill, but you sure can admire lots of colorful perennials, shrubs, and trees in mid-summer. Below are specimens you may want to consider—all prefer sun and tolerate our hot Julys.

Coneflower resembles a daisy, especially the white-flowering cultivar. The purple coneflower (it's actually pink) is more striking. Daisy-like flower petals radiate off long (two foot) stems. Its foliage is bushy and basal. Plant these in drifts (groupings) either for a stand-alone effect or at the back of the garden at the patio fence. The eyes of this flower are rubbery and you will see goldfinches sit and peck at them for minutes. This is a deciduous perennial that has a vertical habit.

Oak leaf hydrangea offers white, eight-inch-long blooms from late May into September. Toward the end of its show, the blooms turn a faint pink. Hydrangeas prefer some shade, so plant one in the corner where the fences meet or under a tree canopy. The leaves are monsters—12 inches long by 5 inches wide and they resemble a giant oak leaf, totally unlike the fat, serrated, lobe-less leaf of the big leaf hydrangea. The oak leaf hydrangea gets big and its branches reach out 10 feet long, so give this plant space.

Crape myrtle's blooms begin in mid-June and last until early October. They have the same shape as the hydrangea but the flower petals are smaller and more concentrated. Plus, the crape myrtle flowers in white, red, lavender, and many shades of pink. The tree ranges in height from 8 to 30 feet. For a Fairlington patio, buy a dwarf, which will reach no higher than 8 to 10

feet. Popular dwarfs are the "Zuni," "Hopi," and "Tonto." Better yet, buy a crape myrtle shrub, which is two feet wide and only one foot tall. They are deciduous, like the tree, but give good summer color.

Coreopsis has bushy, needled foliage (like an asparagus fern) with tiny flowers in either yellow or mustard. They bloom in the summer and give a soft feel to the garden with delicate foliage. You may want to group them or plant them in a row along the edge of your patio. Since the blooms are small (the size of a quarter), the more plantings, the more showy. Coreopsis is an evergreen sun-lover.

Magnolia "Little Gem" has wide, white, fragrant blooms all summer. They are surrounded by leathery, football-shaped evergreen leaves. Little Gem reaches only 14 feet tall and 8 feet wide, so it is considered a dwarf tree. You can purchase one 6 – 8 feet tall and keep it pruned to fit your garden space. Plant one in the full sun and allow it space to mature.

Buddleia is commonly known as the butterfly bush. It blooms all summer and loves the sun. Its bloom resembles the lilac and comes in purple, lavender, pink, or white. The flowers have an earthy smell and attract monarchs and swallowtails. Prune it back to the ground (8 inches tall) in late February or it will become leggy and gangly.

— Bill Sullivan,
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Animal Talk

Have pet, will travel, part 2

I was recently discussing the June *Animal Talk* column about traveling with pets with Andi Dies, at-large board member in Fairlington Villages. She brought up two additional, excellent points about traveling with pets that I share here, as an addendum of sorts.

1. Check that your pet's ID tags list your cell phone number. This seems like a logical tip, but I confess that until recently I had listed just my home phone (yes, I am one of the few who still has a land line). Listing a cell number makes the most sense, since you will be reachable no matter whether you are home or on the road.

2. When traveling with your pet, be sure to take along a copy of its veterinary records. Should an emergency occur, you will be prepared with the latest information on your pet's health and recent vaccines, which can

speed up service at the vet and more quickly resolve questions about whether your pet is up to date on important coverage.

A final point is an update about securing your pet inside your vehicle. New Jersey recently passed a controversial statute, which stipulates that having unrestrained pets in vehicles is an act of animal cruelty. Drivers who don't secure their pets will be subject to fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 and as much as six months jail time for each offense, as part of the national "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Of course, the New Jersey law is not national law, but I wanted to increase awareness that some states are putting measures like this in place. If you are traveling by car this summer, you may want to investigate a pet restraint. Be safe out there!

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant editor

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Book Bus rolls this summer



The Abingdon reading team: Mary Lou Rube, Erin Watson, Carla Reissman, Susanna Smith, and Meghan Fatourus. Photograph by Dana Andy.

A brainchild of the Abingdon Literacy Team, the Abingdon Book Bus will begin making rounds through south Arlington this summer, starting on July 9 at 5 pm and stopping in neighborhoods served by Abingdon. "The importance of keeping kids reading during the summer was what drove this idea," said reading specialist Mary Lou Rube. "Research shows that when kids do not read during the summer, they can lose up to three months of their reading ability." The reading loss can add up, so that by the time a child is in middle school, he/she could be up to two years behind in reading. Reading specialist Susanna Smith credits Abingdon principal Joanne Uyeda, who "really took this idea and ran," she said. "She contacted APS Transportation and explained the idea. They loved it and are fully on board, lending us a bus and a driver once a week during the summer school session."

Sheryl Leeds, the Arlington County Title I supervisor committed early to the project with encouragement and financial support. Abingdon Literacy Coach Erin Watson, Title I

Teacher Carla Reissman, and Librarian Meghan Fatourus collaborated to stock the Book Bus with a variety of titles for all ages. Local businesses, such as Bookworm Central, Caring Hands Animal Hospital, BB&T Bank, Reading Connection, O'Brien Associates of Richmond, VA, and the Shirlington Library donated books and supplies to the bus. One of the students' favorite authors, Jerry Pollata, also donated books, and scanners and additional titles were donated by book vendor Booksources. According to librarian Fatourus, "Abingdon parents also have rallied behind the project, coming in to help process the many book donations." Literacy coach Watson expressed the team's appreciation: "We are deeply gratified by the level of encouragement and generosity expressed by all of our donors, and are confident Abingdon students will continue to enjoy books and growing as readers throughout the summer."

Learning in the Outdoor Lab



Fifth grader Anne Felipe enjoys fishing at the Outdoor Lab. Photograph by Dana Andy.

Abingdon fifth graders recently visited the Outdoor Lab in Fauquier County for an overnight field trip. Students learned to pitch tents, par-

ticipated in a hands-on activity about rocks, learned about marine life in the stream study, and explored the animal kingdom in the Animal Lab. In the evening, there was an exciting night hike with several experiments about night vision. In their free time, students could relax, hike, fish, or paddle around the pond using a boat, canoe, or kayak. Another highlight was roasting hot dogs and s'mores over the campfire.

"I love the Outdoor Lab because you can explore, have a lot of fun, learn a lot, and still be at school," said Nathan Snare, Fairlington resident and recently promoted fifth grader. Nathan will attend Thomas Jefferson Middle School in the fall. "I loved boating on the pond because I got wet," said Anne Felipe, Fairlington resident and recently promoted fifth grader. "I'd never been boating before, so that was a new experience for me." She will attend Gunston Middle School in the fall.

The Arlington Outdoor Education Association, Inc. owns and operates the Phoebe Hall Knipling Outdoor Laboratory, which is staffed by full-time employees of the Arlington Public Schools. Its primary purpose is to provide a facility and support a school program designed to give Arlington's urban school children an opportunity to learn science, outdoor skills, arts, and humanities in a natural setting. The Outdoor Lab contains over 210 acres of forests, fields, and hills. It has a spring-fed stream, a pond, nature hiking trails, and plant and animal identification areas. All APS third and fifth grade classes visit the Outdoor Lab. For more information, go online to www.outdoorlab.org.

Continued, next page.



Former fourth graders Harry Westfall, Clifford Martin, and Isaiah Mefford enjoyed the aquatics program at Wakefield HS. Photograph by Dana Andy.

Summer school: Abingdon will host Summer School daily from July 9 to August 9 from 8 to 11 am. More than 530 students from Abingdon, Drew, Patrick Henry, and Oakridge Schools will be in the building for pre-Kindergarten and math/English language arts skill-building programs. Fairlington residents should be prepared for extra buses and drop-off/pick-up traffic during the morning hours.

—Dana Andy and Dan Branch, PTA co-presidents

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neighborhood news

Card players welcome

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

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group for those 55 and older in and around Fairlington, meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursday of the month (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We welcome guests and/or new members over 55. This month, we are on summer schedule and will hold one meeting on Thursday, July 19.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is on hiatus until September. If you have suggestions for our activities next year, please send e-mail to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Book Group

What do Mary Cassatt, James Fenimore Cooper, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., Samuel F. B. Morse, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Charles Sumner have in common? They all spent time in Paris that affected their work. And our history. In *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*, David McCullough tells their stories and those of other nineteenth-century Americans who sojourned in the City of Light. Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, July 24, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

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

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids, but don't know who to call, should consider joining the Co-op. 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. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

The Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and can use them to pay for sittings. Sittings may be requested during the day, evenings or weekends. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made. The Co-op holds quarterly social events where children play together, parents converse, and a few business items are discussed.

For an application or more information, contact the FBC via Google Groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/fairlington-babysitting> or by e-mail at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

More about the stones

On SW4 clean-up day, reporter Rebecca Sheir from local NPR radio station WAMU 88.5 FM stopped by to observe the work and interview ASCE's Stephen Powers. The podcast can be found online at http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection; search the archive for boundary stones or May 25, 2012. For more information about the stones, go online to www.boundarystones.org and to www.asce-ncs.org >special projects >boundary stones.



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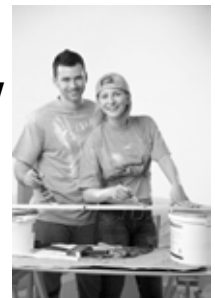
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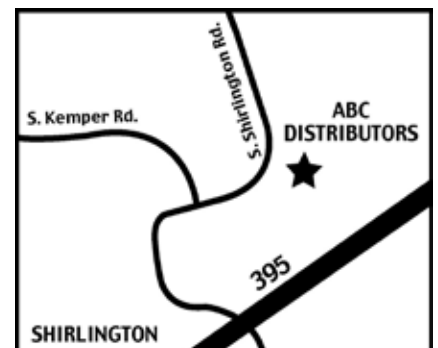
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COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will help resolve problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767 - jandgonline.com.

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CHILD CARE. Professional in-home daycare. FT/PT. CPR and first aid certified. Excellent references. Worked with children for 25 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603 or 703-566-7448. www.patkids.com

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SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING will make over your patio with new plantings, pruning, and fresh mulching. Visit: www.sullivanlandscaping.net to learn more. Contact Bill for a free consultation via email billsullivan41@gmail.com or cell 571-213-9567.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

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FAIRLINGTON BATHROOM. "I searched for over a year for a bathroom contractor. Finally, my neighbor showed me her bathroom built by Fairlington Maintenance Service. I also found out for myself that they performed high quality work at a reasonable price. I am so happy with my new bathroom." Peggy Gregory - 3456 S. Stafford Street.

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Mini-ads

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ELECTRICIAN. Contact Volta Electric for all of your Fairlington home electrical needs. From fan installations, recessed lighting, and full home remodels, to troubleshooting a pesky outlet - we are your one stop shop! We are a veteran owned company, family run and Fairlington residents! Master Electrician with over 10 years of experience, fully licensed and insured. Free estimates always! Call Mason, 703-310-9773 or email voltasystems@gmail.com

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

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.

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE. Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steams cleaned. Call us for free estimates (703) 569-7799.

HOUSE CLEANING. My housekeeper is looking for houses/apartments to clean. Cleaning since 1986. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, move in/out. Insured. 703-313-0454. Eulalia.

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

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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.

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CATS/KITTENS FOR ADOPTION. See photos www.homealone.petfinder.com

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NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (July 10th for August 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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:

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 tained & spa-
 cious 1914
 3BR/2.5BA row
 home w/
 HDWDs & lovely
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\$360,000 Call
 Jet Thompson



Fairlington/Arl. —Sunny end Bar-
 croft w/renovated Kit, & updated
 BAs. \$362,000 Call Rebecca Ward



Kenwood Towers/Alex. — 3BR ren-
 ovated TH in move-in condition.
 \$389,000 Call Joanne Ritchick



Fairlington/Arl.
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 endon TH.
 3BR/2BA, new
 paint, white kit.
 w/SS. Fin. 4th lvl.
 w/2 dormer
 windows, & up-
 dated LL BA.
 \$455,000 Call
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 story loft. 2BR/2BA, 18 ft. ceilings
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