AFAIRLINGTONBULLETIN



JULY 2014

Volume 40, Number 7

FCA CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

www.fca-fairlington.org



FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, July 9, 7 pm FCC 3308 S. Stafford St.

July 4th Parade

Friday, July 4, 9:45 am Fairlington Firehouse 3116 S. Abingdon St.

Fairlington Diners

Tuesday, July 8, 6:30 pm Blue Sea Seafood 4251 Campbell Ave., Suite 101 Arlington

MOMS Club

Wednesday, July 16, 4:30 pm FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, July 21, 6:30 pm Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub 2800 S. Randolph St. Arlington

Book Group

Tuesday, July 22, 7:30 pm FCC

See Neighborhood News on page 15 and related articles for details about calendar events

July 4th parade tradition continues

Come celebrate Independence Day with your Fairlington neighbors at the annual July 4th Parade! Decorate your strollers, wagons, bikes, scooters, kids, dogs, cats—even yourselves—in red, white, and blue and meet up with your neighbors at the Fairlington firehouse, 3116 S. Abingdon St., at 9:45 am.

Led by the perennial fife and drum corps, the parade begins at 10 am and marches along S. Abingdon St., concluding at the Fairlington



Parade participants get into the spirit of the day at the 2013 July 4th parade. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Villages Community Center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St. If marching is not your style, join in the multitude of spectators cheering along the sidelines. After the parade, take part in the community-wide after party that includes free cold drinks, ice cream, and hot dogs. Curious children can climb aboard Engine 107 after it finishes bringing up the end of the parade.

Each year, hundreds of area residents take part in what has become a Fairlington tradition, co-sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the FCA. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. For more information about helping out with this popular event, please email activities@fairlingtonvillages.com.

Bake sale for charity

Don't miss out on the 13th annual July 4th bake sale for No Kid Hungry, presented nationwide by the nonprofit Share Our Strength. Sponsored by Fairlington Commons and Great Harvest Bread Company, this fun and tasty bake sale and raffle always adds to the patriotic activities of the morning.

Parade goers can purchase home-baked treats after the parade, along with raffle tickets that offer prizes donated by local restaurants, stores, and supermarkets. If you would like to donate baked goods for the sale, please deliver your treats (no fillings or frosting in the summer heat) to the tables in the North Fairlington Community Center parking lot before the parade begins.

Over the past 13 summers, these grassroots efforts have raised more than \$12,000 to help eliminate childhood hunger in America. For more information about the bake sale and raffle, email Cathy at cmalin10@verizon.net.

—Janis Johnston

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 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

July 9 preliminary agenda:

Regular Board business:

- Approval of June minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee repots
- Unfinished business
- New business
 - Abingdon School CIP
 - Election of board member
 - Fairlington Farmers Market
 - 2013 audit report
 - Mid-year budget review

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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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	811	
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485	
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545	
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511	
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental		
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Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm

Helicopter Noise Complaints Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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Join the July 4th festivities!

Don't miss the Independence Day festivities starting at 9:45 am at the Fairlington firehouse. Be a part of the parade, cheer along the spectator route, bring something to sell for the charity bake sale, and join with hundreds of neighbors for the after party at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plans for the renovation and expansion of Abingdon School took a major step forward last month when the Arlington School Board approved both projects as part of this year's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP forms the basis for the school bond issue that county voters will consider in November. The matter now moves to the Arlington County Board, which will vote on the overall bond package July 19.

One issue that hasn't been formally resolved is the relative weighting of school projects versus non-school projects in the bond issue. Arlington has a rule of thumb that the county's total debt ratio must be below 10 percent. The school board's package, when combined with other capital projects the county is considering for the bond issue, puts that debt ratio perilously close to the 10 percent threshold in the out years.

School board members and county board members have been talking informally about a compromise that can keep county infrastructure projects on track while fully funding the school portion. The need to fund the work at Abingdon has been a key element of those conversations.

The CIP plan approved by the school board calls for both a major renovation of Abingdon and an expansion to accommodate 136 more students. Work would be completed in time for the beginning of school in 2017.

The school board's action reflects the position the FCA Board adopted in May. That resolution called on the school board to make both the renovation and the expansion a priority in this year's CIP. The FCA Board is expected to consider a similar resolution addressed to the county board in July.

The school board's support for Abingdon reflects the diligent and thoughtful work of an energetic cadre of Abingdon parents, led by North Fairlington residents Jennifer Davies and Traci Gravelle, with support from the Abingdon PTA, co-chaired by Fairlingtonians Dan Branch and Dana Andy. Particular thanks also go to Noah Simon, the school board's liaison to Abingdon. His advice and advocacy were critical. But all school board members listened carefully to the arguments advanced by Abingdon's supporters.

FCA is pleased to join the conversation about the future of Abingdon. The school is an important part of our community. And we are your voice in major decisions that directly affect Fairlington. FCA will continue to be a strong advocate for meeting Abingdon's needs.

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

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Metrobus route changes discussed at June FCA meeting



Left to right: FCA President Guy Land; Al Himes, WMATA Assistant Planning Manager; Fred Simms, WMATA Bus Operations Specialist; FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz; and Crystal House, Transit Community Analyst with the Department of Environmental Services for Arlington County. Photo by Christine M. Chirichella.

On Wednesday, June 11, representatives from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) Office of Bus Planning addressed a full crowd at the FCA meeting to present proposed changes to Routes 22 and 25 in South Fairlington.

The new plan would provide more frequent, evenly-spaced buses during rush hour and Saturday service on a single-routing pattern that combines the current 22A, 25A, 25C, and 25E while continuing to service all major points along all three routes. Essentially, Routes 22 and 25 would be combined into a single, more efficient Route 22 schedule. Under this schedule, only six buses would run per hour, versus the current seven or eight, but the even spacing would help avoid gaps or overlaps in service, as well as alleviate scheduling issues when there are major traffic incidents that make it hard to keep things on track.

WMATA is early in the planning process, which may take up to a year to complete. Al Himes, Assistant Planning Manager with WMATA says that at this stage his office is "reaching out to the community early so it can create the best plan." Himes cited the reason for the change is to shuffle resources to improve Routes 22 and 25, which were found to be underperforming routes. Riders were frequently confused about what bus was due at what time and the bus schedules often overlapped, resulting in two buses showing up back to back, which created long gaps in service thereafter.

WMATA will continue to gather comments and feedback through the end of July. Its final recommendations go before public hearings later this fall. Himes encouraged comments—positive and negative—at the public hearings, after which an official proposal will be submitted

to the Arlington County Board. If the plan is accepted by the board as proposed, it would be implemented in March or June of 2015.

To take part in the Arlington Transit Transportation Development Plan (TDP) Update Survey and express your opinions about Metrobus and Arlington Transit (ART) services, visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/ARTTDP. To provide your feedback and comments on the proposed bus changes for service in Fairlington, email metrobusplanning@wmata.com. Learn more about Arlington's bus routes at www.wmata.com/bus/.

—Christine M. Chirichella

DASH bus offers new crosstown route for Alexandria

A new AT9 DASH bus route is now serving riders in Alexandria between Mark Center and Potomac Yard. Alexandria DASH representative Raymond Mui, Transit Planning & Scheduling Manager, addressed the June 11 FCA meeting and announced that a new route, which began service as of June 28, runs from Mark Center through Southern Towers and Northern Virginia Community College, before heading down Leesburg Pike to the Bradlee Shopping Center. The route will continue through Parkfairfax and stop at the Shirlington Transit Center before ending at Potomac Yard along Route 1. Ultimately, the AT9 will connect with the rapid transit system being built along Route 1 near the shopping center.

AT9 will run every 30 minutes, Monday through Friday, from 6:37 am to 9:50 pm. On Saturday, the bus will run every 60 minutes between Bradlee and Potomac Yard only, from 6:52 am to 9:52 pm.

In addition to announcing the new AT9 service, Mui updated the community on extended hours for the King Street Trolley, also run by DASH. Due to its rapid growth in popularity, effective June 29, the trolley will begin running at 10 am, seven days a week—an hour and a half earlier than the current schedule. Thursday through Saturday, the trolley will run until midnight, extended from the current 10:15 pm end time.

As of July 1, DASH tokens will no longer be accepted. However, DASH will continue to accept the Metrobus full fare token, DASH passes, and SmarTrip cards. For more information about getting around on DASH, visit www.dashbus.com.

—Christine M. Chirichella



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FCA Committee to study expanding neighbor-to-neighbor volunteer services

Have you ever asked a neighbor to give you a ride to a medical appointment or pick up something for you at the grocery story? Do you sometimes need a hand getting boxes from the attic or moving a piece of heavy furniture? More and more Fairlington residents are answering yes, as our population becomes more diverse in age and needs.

Survey data from the late 1970s showed Fairlington to be comprised largely of people in their 30s, with few children or seniors. More recent data, however, reveal a community of many families with small children and a growing cohort of residents over age 55. As that population has grown, so have calls for the FCA to help the community respond to the changing needs of residents. FCA has made this task a priority for 2014 and has chartered a Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies to research and develop recommendations on how residents can support each other as our community continues to change.

While much of the committee's work will focus on ways to help Fairlington's seniors stay in their homes as they age, the goal is to provide neighborly assistance to those who seek it from those who choose to offer it, regardless of age. Long-time older residents, for example, might offer newer younger residents information about oddities in remodeling a Fairlington unit, or might pass along tools they no longer use. Younger residents might use those tools to help an older person, or offer computer assistance to those who didn't grow up with a smart phone or the Internet. Opportunities abound for support across generations.

The committee has begun research by creating work groups to gather information on

- How other neighbor-to-neighbor volunteer services are organized.
- What services are already available from local governments and private organizations in Arlington and Alexandria.
- What services Fairlington residents might want to request or volunteer to provide.

The FCA board has approved conducting a survey—both online and paper copy—later this year. Look for future announcements about the survey and a community forum to discuss the results of the survey and the committee's research. The committee hopes to make recommendations to the FCA Board in early 2015.

If you would like to become active in this important

effort, the committee welcomes you. Check the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org, for a listing of the committee's next scheduled meeting.

—Carol Rosen

Fairlington awaits county's decision on farmers market

As reported in the June issue of the *Bulletin*, Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is conducting an evaluation of the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) to determine whether it is an appropriate site for a farmers market. As of press time, Arlington County anticipated releasing its recommendation report at the end of June. To view the report, go to www.parks.arlingtonva.us and look for the link to the report.

If the county decides favorably toward using the facility for a farmers market, DPR will then proceed with an Intent to Bid process, which opens the search for a potential market manager. The final approval for a farmers market at the FCC rests with the county board upon the recommendation of the DPR.

Free live music every Thursday in Shirlington

The sound of jazz, pop, rock, swing—and even a steel drum band—can be heard this summer at a series of free concerts held each Thursday night in Shirlington. The Shirlala Music Festival is sponsored by The Village at Shirlington and runs now through August 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the plaza in front of the Signature Theatre and the Shirlington branch library.

Bring a picnic dinner or pick up something at one of the area restaurants. The concerts are free to the public and wine samples will be sold for \$5 each with proceeds going to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). AFAC will also have food collection bins available at each concert to collect donations of nonperishable food items each week.

For more information and a list of performances, visit villageatshirlington.com/events/upcoming-events/music-festival.

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Construction progressing on the new Lifestyle Safeway

As anyone who has recently driven near Bradlee Center can see, construction of the new Safeway on King Street is coming along. The store is currently due to open in the beginning of December, reports Patricia Escher, Principal Planner for the City of Alexandria. The old Safeway closed in July 2013, and planning documents submitted to Alexandria predicted it would take 18 months to demolish the old store and build the new one. An unusually harsh winter may have temporarily slowed construction, but the store is still on track to open within that 18-month timeframe.



Current construction shows real progress on this two-story Safeway building. Photo by Janis Johnston.

The new store is a Lifestyle Safeway, which means it will have numerous new features. It will be much larger than the old, expanding from 41,000 to 61,000 square feet. This additional space not only provides room for a greater selection of food and larger floral, bakery, meat, produce, beer and wine, deli, and seafood departments, but also for a café, Starbucks, and Bergmann's dry cleaners. Shoppers can look forward to more prepared foods in the deli department, as well as a wider selection of organic produce, gourmet cheese, and freshly baked desserts. The beer and wine department will also have a wine steward.

The grocery store will be on the second floor of the building and will have an outside terrace and a ground-level plaza with seating so that shoppers can enjoy a meal from the café or a Starbucks coffee on a nice day. Since the grocery store is located on the second floor, there will be elevators, escalators, and a cart escalator. The cart escalator allows customers to put their carts on a conveyor for transportation between floors while

the customer rides a separate escalator next to their cart.

As part of the approved site development plan, Safeway will pay to install a new traffic signal on the service road at the King and S. Taylor Streets intersection. Escher reports that while Safeway is not required to have the signal installed at a specific point in the



The architectural drawing shows a plaza planned for the front of the new Lifestyle Safeway.

construction process, the signal should be installed "right around the store's opening, or surely right after." A traffic study done in preparation for construction predicted an approximate 30 percent increase in visitors, but noted that new customers will only account for one to three percent of traffic at the intersections in the area.

Most of the parking will be under the store at ground level. In combination with minimal surface parking, there will be about 30 more spaces than were in the old parking lot. The 228 parking spaces provided are less than what is required by the local zoning ordinance, but are consistent with the amount of spaces provided at similar area stores. The store will also have bicycle parking.



The store also features a Starbucks coffee bar. Images courtesy the City of Alexandria Department of Urban Planning.

Aside from the grocery store, the site will have a 3000 square foot building for additional retail space, which is slated to include a barber shop. The landscaping will also be significantly improved over the old site, including innovative bio retention gardens to filter run-off next to the small retail building and on the Braddock Road side of the grocery store.

-Michelle Woolley



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Featured Kitchen →

Our latest kitchen, with a twist! This island kitchen in a Dominion model features white upper cabinets and espresso lower cabinets and does it look sharp! The trendy look is complimented by marble backsplash tiles with an accent border. New hardwood flooring blends perfectly with that in the adjacent dining room. The refrigerator and pantry are far right. Check out the color photos on our website to see more interesting elements of this great kitchen!

For your new kitchen in 2014 call us now!





Featured Bathroom & Storage

The bathroom is lovely, but please note the storage in the hallway, for books, baskets, soaps, and more. This is in a Clarendon, but will work in most any townhouse model.

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Letter to the Editor

My family has lived in Fairlington for almost 11 years. One of the things I love most about our neighborhood is that it is *clean and green*, making it a pleasant place for all who walk along its streets, especially now in late spring and early summer.

Lately, however, it hasn't seemed very clean or green, particularly on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. I am one of those people that actually looks forward to recycling day: all those plastic bottles, newspapers, cereal boxes, and yogurt cups that will not make it into landfills—hooray! I am quite sure that many other Fairlington residents feel the same way, but recently I've noticed that our efforts have been thwarted by either ignorance or just plain laziness.

I believe there are three types of people. Those that recycle because they want to; those that do not recycle because they do not want to; and those that don't know what to do because they are either new to the neighborhood, new to the recycling process, or try to do the right thing but follow the "monkey-see-monkey-do" mentality, picking up bad habits along the way.

My advice for the latter group: educate yourself on your community's recycling rules. Each neighborhood may use different vendors and may have slightly different procedures, so it is important to understand what those rules are, including what is acceptable for recycling, how different items should be sorted, and when and where to put those items out at the recycling bins.

At the end of the day, whatever we recycle does *not* end up in a landfill. It's good for the environment, economically sound (our condo fees pay for the service, so we might as well use it!), and easy... if we take the time to do it right.

Sincerely, Alexandra Guiterman Fairlington Glen Resident

Editors note: Please contact your condo association/property management office to learn your rules. The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writer 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.

School board endorses Abingdon improvements

By a 4-1 vote, the Arlington School Board has approved a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that includes the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School by 2017. The combined projects are expected to cost \$28.75 million.

The school board's action responds to projected increases in Abingdon's enrollment as well as the need for major renovations of the existing building. Classroom trailers ("relocatables") were installed last year to accommodate an influx of students, and the county projects that by 2015 Abingdon will be the second most over-crowded school in Arlington. The expansion plan adopted by the school board would accommodate an additional 136 students.

Built roughly 50 years ago, Abingdon has had no major renovation work in recent years and has sporadically experienced leaking roofs and mold, problems which the school has addressed promptly.

During debate on the CIP, school board member Noah Simon commented that "the long wait for Abingdon is coming to a close." Unlike some other components of the CIP, which drew vocal community opposition, the Abingdon proposal has enjoyed strong support from Fairlington. The FCA board unanimously approved a resolution in May encouraging the school board to advance the construction and renovation schedule to address the health, safety, and capacity issues at Abingdon by making the renovation and expansion priorities in the 2014 CIP. The school board's action does this.

The CIP would be funded through a bond issue that Arlington county voters will consider in November. In approving the CIP, the school board noted the importance of identifying the funding needed in the 2014 bond issue to begin work on the most critical school infrastructure needs. It promised continued community engagement and further collaboration with the county board to make a final determination on the school CIP projects that would be included in the bond issue. Abingdon parents have been meeting with county board members to brief them on Abingdon's needs and to encourage them to support the school board's CIP request for Abingdon. The county board will vote on the overall bond package July 19.

To find out more about the school board's vote on CIP, go to www.arlington.k12.va.us and look for "More Seats for Students."

—Guy Land

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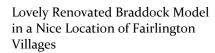


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ABING School news



Abingdon Book Bus returns in July



Left to right, Abingdon librarian Meghan Fatouros, reading specialist Mary Lou Rubé, Abingdon principal Joanne Uyeda, and literacy coach Erin Watson at the 59th Annual International Reading Conference in May.

It's that time of year again! The Abingdon Read and Roll Book Bus is loaded with books and ready to go. For the third year in a row, volunteers from the Abingdon staff and community are riding the Book Bus through Abingdon neighborhoods, stopping to let students come aboard to check out books. This year, the bus will run on Tuesday evenings from July 8 through

Corner of S. 10th St. and S. Columbus St.

August 5. If it rains, the bus will run on Thursday. Abingdon Elementary is the first stop on the route, making its arrival at 5 pm. The bus then continues to the Barcroft Community Center overflow parking lot, next to the corner of S. Frederick St. and S. 12th St.; the Wildwood Park Apartments; and finally to the corner of S. 10th St. and S. Columbus St. See the box below for the

day evenings from July 8 through bus St. See the box below for the

Bus stops

Abingdon Elementary School 5–5:30 pm

Barcroft Community Center (overflow parking lot) 5:40–6 pm

Corner of S. Frederick St. and S. 12th St. 6:10–6:30 pm

(bus stop #417)

Wildwood Park Apartments, 5550 Columbia Pike (at the corner of S. Jefferson St. and Columbia Pike)

complete schedule of times and locations.

The mission of the Abingdon Read and Roll Book Bus is to put books into the hands of Abingdon students during the summer when access to books is not as easy as during the school year. Research shows that students who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progression and return to school reading below grade level. But reading just six to 10 books during the summer is enough to maintain their current reading level. By providing students access to books during the summer and giving them choices when checking out their books, Abingdon hopes to eliminate the problem of summer reading loss faced by many schools.

This May, Abingdon staff presented a session on Abingdon's Read and Roll Book Bus project at the 59th Annual International Reading Conference in New Orleans. The convention is an invaluable opportunity for professional learning and networking for early childhood, primary, and secondary teachers from around the country.



Students line up at the book bus last summer to find that special book for their summer reading. Photo by Abingdon staff.

7:10-7:30 pm

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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neighborhood news

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in July to discuss *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. We'll discuss a novel about the effects of WWII on France. Here's a summary of the plot:

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a 10 year-old girl, is brutally arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup. As she leaves their apartment, she locks her younger brother in a cupboard, thinking that she will be back within a few hours.

Paris, May 2002: On Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, a journalist begins an article about this black day. Through her investigation, she discovers family secrets that connect her to Sarah. She is compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, and questions her own place in France, her marriage, and her life.

Tatiana de Rosnay offers us a brilliantly subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful episode.

The Book Group will meet Tuesday, July 22, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. in South Fairlington.

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 Diners

The Fairlington Diners group gathers 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 June, we enjoyed the excellent food at Busboys and Poets when we discovered that Blue Sea was temporarily closed. Here's what's planned for July:

Tuesday, July 8, 6:30 pm, Blue Sea Seafood, 4251 Campbell Ave., Suite 101, Arlington, 703-888-1892. This is a new restaurant in Shirlington that several of us want to try, which is scheduled to re-open on June 16th. Check out the menu online, www.blueseaseafood.com.

Monday, July 21, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703-379-0122, www. samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits.

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

To request an application or for more information, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, July 16, at 4:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www. fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Sharing our world with critters

During my daily landscaping, I encounter critters—whether it's birds searching for worms, small mammals, amphibians, or reptiles. Here's a sampling of what's in my gardens or crossing my path:

Toad: After not seeing one for 10 years, I found three in a week. I found one brown toad carrying what looked to be its young—a small, lime-green toad—on its back in the grass out in Wheaton. When I researched the toad, I learned it wasn't the amphibian's baby after all (let your imagination wander). Regardless, I picked up the larger toad and carried the pair to the woods for privacy sake. Their skin is pebbly but their underbelly is pillow-soft.



Friendly toads. Photo by Bill Sullivan.

Field mouse: I've seen just two in the last five years, and both were found by my hound dog. Its body is three inches long and its strand-like tail is just as long. Most pictures of a mouse reveal critters with a brown coat but the one I found (in Del Ray) had black and gray fur mixed into a charcoal.



Barred Owl.

Barred owl: I've seen only one and it literally knocked me to the ground with its swoosh. I had walked under a dogwood tree when a flapping noise dropped me. I looked up and saw an owl, which perched on a nearby maple tree limb. Then the owl spun around and stared me down. Ominous with its dark eyes and downturned yellow nose, it is bad luck (mala suerte) in the Latin community. I understand why. It's the size of a small dog (maybe 18 inches long, and is fat).

Red fox: Sitting in my van at a stoplight on Fort Hunt Rd., one trotted past me in the crosswalk, turned right and headed down the sidewalk as if it was "Joe Q Pedestrian." Its tail was thick and stiff and its fur was apricot, not red.

Salamander: Slimy and brown, this amphibian has four short legs (or paws). Only four to five inches long, its tail is curved and the body is a half inch thick with yellow spots. Its head is oval-shaped and its eyeballs protrude. This reptile craves moisture and can be found under rocks. It resembles a miniature lizard.

Garter snake: Although I have rarely seen them, at one home in Fairfax I found seven in an afternoon. In one Fairlington patio, I found a mother with five babies under thick mulch. Like any reptile, it prefers a cool, moist setting. Be careful when you move the stones on a wall, as reptiles like to nest or hide in the crevasses. A garter snake's bite (if it manifests) is mildly venomous but non-fatal to humans. Usually, it is black or brown with one or two yellow stripes (thus the 'garter' reference) down its spine.



Box turtle.

Box turtle: I've seen just two in the last 15 years. One was on the G.W. Parkway near the Belle Haven Golf Course. I moved my van onto the shoulder, stopped traffic and rescued the turtle. Its domed shell is brown with mustard-colored markings, and resembles the helmet of a German soldier in the TV show, "Hogan's Heroes." The turtle's front legs are grooved and bent backward.

—Bill Sullivan www.sullivanslandscaping.net

Pregnancy is hard enough.

Going through it with a boss who is unsympathetic — or even downright hostile — only makes it more difficult.

And when that disapproval turns into discrimination, it can hurt your job, your future and your children's future.

But fighting back isn't easy either. Federal and state laws protect pregnant women from discrimination, but they are filled with loopholes and exemptions that are all too often abused. Your employer will have lawyers who know how to work the system.

Now you will too. Respected trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor Tom Spiggle has shared valuable advice from his years of experience in employment law in a new book:

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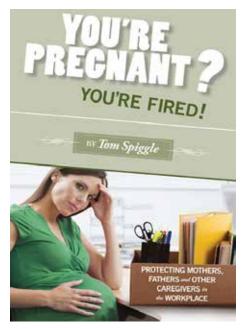
Readers will learn about the federal laws that protect expecting parents and caregivers, including:

- The Family and Medical Leave Act
- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act
- The Pregnancy Discrimination Act

More importantly, you'll learn how you can best use these laws to get help. Tom helps the reader understand when these laws apply — and when they don't. He covers when you can use the law to maximum effect without filing a lawsuit and when you need to head to the courthouse.

Keep watching www.yourepregnantyourefired.com for a free download. In the meantime, you can also visit www.spigglelaw.com for additional no-cost resources. And, if you ever find yourself in the Fairlington office park, please stop by for a visit. We stay well stocked with coffee and chocolate!

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Many Fairlingtonians are getting ready to take their hard-earned vacations. Pet owners are faced with a tough decision—take your pet or leave it behind? If you choose to take your pet with you, here are some tips to help you prepare.

- Make sure your pet has a current ID tag with your cell phone number, so you will be reachable 24/7 in case your pet gets separated from you. Also make sure your pet's rabies tag is current.
- If you are driving, keep your pet safe by using a carrier, car seat, or harness that straps your pet in. This is now required by law in some states, so check before you go. Stop for frequent potty breaks.
- Bring plenty of food and keep water on hand at all times. Be sure to pack all of your pet's medications.
- Keep your pet protected from the sun while in the car.
- Don't leave your pet in your vehicle while you eat or shop, as the hot summer temperatures can be deadly.
- If flying or taking the train, find out in advance if you need to purchase a ticket for your pet, what type of pet carrier you need, what paperwork and vaccine records you need, and what other rules and regulations apply.
 Find out, as well, what to do about potty breaks.
- If flying, look into climate-controlled options including dedicated pet airlines; pets riding in the cargo area under the plane are subject to extreme temperatures.
- As a precaution, know the location of emergency vets along your route if you are driving or near where you are staying.
- Bring a copy of your pet's veterinary records. Should an emergency occur, you will be prepared with the

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These days, traveling with your pet is easier than ever before. Many hotels are pet-friendly, with some even providing "daycare" options to entertain your pet while you enjoy the sites. Many books and websites can help you locate pet-friendly routes, destinations, and hotels.

If you don't want to leave your pet at home but want some flexibility on your vacation, consider bringing your pet with you, but arranging for boarding nearby. You get the best of both worlds—plenty of free time, but daily visits with your pet.

Whatever you decide about your vacation, have a fun, safe, and pet-filled summer!

—Christine M. Chirichella

Keep up with news in your community and neighborhood

Find out what's happening in Arlington County every day by subscribing to ARLnow.com. Sign up for the free daily feed and you'll receive a digest of news items sent out at 4 pm each day covering local business developments, the latest crime reports, and human interest stories. Just go to www.ARLnow.com and click on email subscriptions.

Arlington County has an emergency alert system that instantly notifies you during an emergency or alerts you about impending road closings or weather. In the case of an emergency, the updates provide instructions on where to go, what to do or what not to do, whom to contact, and other important information. To receive emergency alerts via text or email, go to www.arlingtonalert.com to sign up.

While reading the *All Fairlington Bulletin* each month is a great way of finding out about neighborhood news, you can also get more up-to-the minute information about what's going on in the Fairlington neighborhood on Facebook. Join the Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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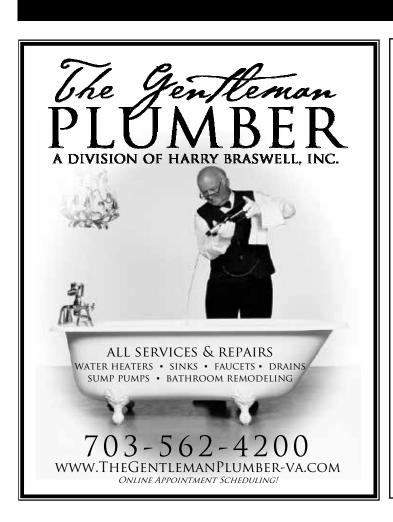
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FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. We are family owned and operated. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Your neighbor is our best reference. Call for a no obligation estimate and detailed explanation of our services. 703-820-8635. Educator, civil servant, and military rates apply.

HOUSE CLEANING. My housekeeper is looking for houses or apartments to clean. Cleaning since 2000. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, move in/out. Good references in the area. 703-313-0454.

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.

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 703-501-9007.

CLAU'S CLEANING SERVICE. Professional and honest team. Reasonable rates. Guaranteed, reliable and friendly. Regular or occasional service. We provide our own supplies. Call for free estimates 703-350-8069.

Pet Services

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.

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

Miscellaneous

APARTMENT FOR RENT. Furnished one bedroom apartment in North Fairlington. All amenities included with piano and bike. Easy access to Shirlington shops, bus line, theatre, Harris Teeter. Available June 10. Contact Kelly.hb@verizon.net.

A color version of this newsletter is available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.





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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. The FCC is closed Sunday.

Open 8 am - 9 pm M - F, and 8 am - 5 pm Saturday.

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:			
Name:	Phone (h):		
Address:	Phone (w):		
City, State, Zip:	E-mail:		
Category (see newsletter for options):			
Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly):			

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May **TOP PRODUCERS**



Pat Shannon Top Listing Agent



Kristin Usaitis Top Producer



Arl/The Arlington—2BR condo w/fresh paint throughout, new carpet, lots of closet space, plus balcony. In great location. \$305,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Arlington — 3BR Rambler w/ remodeled kitchen & bath, & more. \$474,900 Call Rob Allen



Alexandria — Charming 4BR/2BA. Huge eat-in kitchen & 2 car garage. \$550,000 Call Pat Shannon



Alexandria/ Kingstowne - 3 level 2BR/2.5BA TH. 2 fireplaces, new carpet, skylight, cathedral ceilings, LL walkout, deck, & storage. \$334,900 Call Kay Yancey



Arl/Columbia Court—Stunning & remodeled 2 level 2BR/2.5BA TH. HDWDs on upper level, & fireplace. \$435,000 Call Pat Shannon



Alex/Seminary Walk—2BR condo w/fresh paint, new carpet, SS appliances & Granite c-tops. \$260,000 Call Jet Thompson

SERVING FAIRLINGTON

