

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JULY 2015

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www.fca-fairlington.org

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Congressman Don Beyer will visit Fairlington

Fairlington residents can hear remarks from and ask questions of their locally elected federal representative on Wednesday, July 8, at 7 pm, at the FCA meeting at the Fairlington Community Center.

Congressman Don Beyer, elected last November to fill the seat vacated by long-time Congressman Jim Moran, is serving his first term as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District. The 8th encompasses the heart of Northern Virginia, including Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County, and is described by Beyer as "one of the most educated districts in the country." Previously, the Congressman served as the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998, and he was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein from 2009 to 2013. Together with his extensive, decades-long reputation for public service, Beyer is sometimes better-known locally as the owner of car dealerships in Northern Virginia.

In a letter to constituents, Congressman Beyer said: "As I work to address the needs of Virginia's 8th District and of the country, I will focus especially on climate change, women's economic empowerment, and growing the middle class economy."

Recently Beyer joined a regional delegation to condemn H.R. 2577, the funding bill for the Department of Transportation under consideration in the House, which would cut Metro funding by \$50 million. In an announcement released by the House of Representatives, Beyer said: "Now is not the time to back out of our commitment to the national capital metro system. For the safety of all the thousands of tourists, commuters, and federal employees that ride it every day, Metro has to improve."

—Gretchen Fallon



Photo courtesy of the House of Representatives.

Coming up ...

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

July 8 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: Congressman Don Beyer, representing Virginia's 8th District, will discuss issues of interest to Fairlington constituents and take questions.

Regular board business:

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

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Find the latest AFB online at the FCA website the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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	811
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	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm
Ramparts Restaurant
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Abingdon listening session

Monday, July 13, 7 pm
NFCC, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, July 23, 6:30 pm
La Caraqueña
300 W. Broad St., Falls Church

Book Group

Tuesday, July 28, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Summer in Fairlington

Throughout Fairlington, pools opened and parties kicked off the summer fun season.



Photos by Guy Land.

Contributing writers this month:

Rebecca Carpenter, Christine Chirichella,
Jennifer Davies, Robert Dietz, Lisa Schwanger,
Bill Sullivan.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer days bring welcome vacations, pool parties, and courtyard cookouts. FCA is helping ensure that summer is an active time in Fairlington.

- **Fourth of July parade.** Few things bring North and South Fairlington together like this annual event, jointly sponsored by Fairlington Villages and FCA. If you are in town over the Fourth, join several hundred of your neighbors at the fire station around 10 am for the block-long "march" to the North Fairlington Community Center. The parade features decorated kids, bikes, and dogs (yes, all are decorated). Then enjoy refreshments in the parking lot or pick up some goodies and support a worthy cause at the No Kid Hungry Bake Sale.
- **Congressman Don Beyer.** FCA takes seriously its responsibility to be the voice of the community in dealing with elected officials. We try to give our residents an opportunity to interact with local, state, and federal officials. We are pleased that our new Congressman, former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, will join us July 8. Come welcome him to Fairlington and share your thoughts about pending federal issues.
- **Abingdon School project.** Now that the school board has approved the schematic design for the new Abingdon Elementary, our focus turns to pragmatic questions about construction activities. We will be working with school and county staff during July and August to craft some proposals to help minimize adverse impacts on Fairlington during the construction period. We invite you to share your concerns at a listening session at the North Fairlington Community Center on July 13.
- **Fairlington Farmers Market.** The market is fulfilling our vision of providing convenient access to healthy, locally grown food. It has also quickly become a great way to visit with neighbors from North and South Fairlington. The market is open every Sunday from 9 am to 1 pm behind the Fairlington Community Center. As crops mature, vendors introduce new products every week.

We are also beginning to scope out several activities for the fall, but we will need help to make them happen. These include a *history and architecture tour* that will enrich our understanding of Fairlington's history and possibly a *home improvement workshop and expo* to offer ideas for enhancing the interior of your unit.

So there's lots going on in Fairlington. Join us. And enjoy your summer!

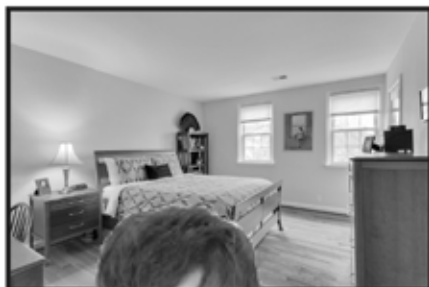
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Chief Animal Control Officer offers insight into local laws

At the June 10 FCA meeting, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's (AWLA) Chief Animal Control Officer, Alice Burton, spoke about local laws and policies surrounding pet ownership. Friendly and personable, Burton addressed residents' concerns and questions, and brought giveaways and copies of Virginia and Arlington County code pertaining to animals.

Burton has been with the AWLA since 2002. In 2009 she received the Metropolitan Council of Government's award for Outstanding Animal Control Officer/Humane Officer of the Year, and in 2014 she was Virginia Animal Control Officer of the Year. During her tenure at AWLA, the league's adoption rate has moved close to 96 percent; for this reason, many now consider AWLA a no-kill shelter. "We're very proud of this statistic," Burton noted, adding that "we do not euthanize for space, only for severe health or behavioral problems."

Also during this time, Burton has seen animal control duties change from being just a "dog catcher" to an educator of the public. "We spend only about two percent of our time actually catching dogs," she noted. The rest of the time she and her staff of deputies investigate all animal cruelty and dangerous dog cases in the county, run the league's TNR (trap-neuter-release) program for feral cats, offer low cost spaying and neu-



Alice Burton demonstrates the folding water bowl for Christine Chirichella. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

tering, collect donated pet food for needy families, patrol the county's dog parks, talk to school children about animal behavior and wildlife, and educate or ticket residents for off-leash dog violations.

AWLA can issue leash-law tickets on county-owned streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way; but, because Fairlington is private property, they cannot ticket residents whose dogs are off-leash on condo grounds. Despite this limitation, Burton indicated that she can and will stop and talk to residents when she sees an off-

leash situation on private grounds. She noted that on the way to the meeting she passed the dog exercise area in the Mews, adjacent to the bridge over I-395, because she saw a woman with her dog running off-leash. Burton stopped and explained to the owner that this is not allowed—as the sign indicates, all dogs must be on leash. Even though the grassy space is called an "exercise area," it is not a county-owned, fenced, off-leash dog exercise area.

One of the reasons that AWLA was asked to speak was a recent incident in South Fairlington where a dog was killed by an off-leash dog. Burton discussed the incident, stating that the case had just gone to court, and the owner was charged with a Class 1 Misdemeanor. The attacking dog, which had been deemed a "dangerous dog" by law, was slated to be designated a "vicious dog," which means it would be euthanized. The owner, who no longer lives in the area, surrendered the dog for euthanasia. A designated dangerous dog must be put on file with a Virginia registry, be spayed/neutered, be muzzled when off its property, and be enclosed and secured with signage indicating danger. In addition, the owner must carry hefty insurance. A dog cannot be deemed dangerous just because of its breed. There are only seven dangerous dogs in Arlington.

What happens if your leashed dog bites an off-leash dog that approaches? Which dog is at fault? Burton indicated that, in most cases, the off-leash dog is at fault and the owner of the dog on leash will not be ticketed or fined in this situation.

Volunteer at AWLA

At the June FCA meeting, AWLA Human Resources Manager Claudia West said the shelter is always looking for volunteers, and offers a "get to know the shelter" introductory tour for anyone interested in learning more about volunteering. West indicated that volunteers are "put where they are needed the most." The next available tour dates will be posted online when they are available under the AWLA website's "Volunteer" tab, and anyone interested will be able to sign up for the tour. West also noted that they currently have open positions. Employment opportunities can be found under the "About Us" tab in the "Careers" section. Learn more at www.awla.org.

—Christine Chirichella

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A Fairlington Fourth!



It's time to don your red-white-and-blue finery for Fairlington's Fourth of July celebration! Come join your neighbors for the parade up S. Abingdon St. and the after-party in the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot. March in the parade—it's really a leisurely stroll—or cheer from the sidewalks. We all look forward to seeing residents' colorful get-ups—top hats, tutus, and tiaras—and the inventive decorative displays on bikes, trikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons. And dogs! You'll be taking part in one of Fairlington's most popular and well-attended neighborhood events.

Assemble at the Fairlington firehouse at 9:45 am, with anticipated step-off for the parade at 10. Led as ever by the colonial-costumed fife and drum corps, hundreds of Fairlington residents parade up S. Abingdon, cheered on by flag-waving residents who line the street and then join the marchers at *après*-parade festivities. Anticipated crowd-pleasers include the flashing lights and sirens of AFD's shiny red Engine 107 (if not on a duty call) and ACPD police cars (who provide traffic control).

While mingling with neighbors after the parade, you can stop by the FCA table to buy your Fairlington T-shirt or grab a free cool drink, hot dog, or ice cream (while supplies last). Don't miss the sweet treats on sale at the annual Bake Sale for No Kid Hungry (*box, right*). Co-sponsored by Fairlington Villages and the FCA, the July 4th parade is one of the neighborhood's most cherished traditions.

Bake sale to end child hunger



The annual Bake Sale for No Kid Hungry. Photo by Janis Johnston.

Before the parade on July 4, between 9 and 10 am, take your home-baked donations of muffins, cookies, brownies, and bars (no frosting or fillings, please) to the bake sale table, in the parking lot of the Fairlington Villages Community Center. The 13th annual Bake Sale for No Kid Hungry, presented

nationwide by nonprofit Share Our Strength, is sponsored locally by Fairlington Commons. After the parade, indulge your sweet tooth or support the cause to end childhood hunger through the raffle for donated gifts from nearby stores and restaurants.

For more information, go online to NoKidHungry.org. For questions, or to volunteer to help set up or sell, send email to event coordinator Cathy Malin, cmalin10@verizon.net.



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Changes in Shirlington

Some Fairlington residents have expressed curiosity and even concern about the number of familiar Shirlington restaurants and retailers that have closed recently. However, Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT or Federal), the owner of the Village at Shirlington since 1995, confirmed that new businesses are set to open in the coming months. And the real estate investment trust is also seeking additional businesses that will retain the unique character of Shirlington, according to a Federal spokesman.



Over the last six months the following businesses have closed: Aladdin's Eatery, Bloomers, Bonsai Grill, Cake-Love, Johnny Rockets, and Periwinkle. The Bungalow closed on June 10. And The Curious Grape shut down in March, after moving from its long-time location on Campbell Ave. to a new spot (not owned by Federal) on S. Quincy St. Despite these changes, Federal reported that the retail vacancy rate for Shirlington as of early June was 8 percent, lower than the average for Arlington County (about 20 percent).

New businesses are coming. The Curious Grape was replaced by Osteria da Nino, an Italian restaurant and bar. Federal also confirmed two new openings in the coming months: Palette 22, an art-themed restaurant serving small plates, should open during the winter in the space previously occupied by Extra Virgin; and Hula Girl Bar and Grill, a Hawaiian-themed restaurant, will expand from a popular food truck and open in late fall in the location previously occupied by Aladdin's.

The Shirlington movie theater, AMC Loews Shirlington 7, also is due for an upgrade. According to the Federal representative, renovation is scheduled to begin in July and will last three to four months. The improvements will include larger leather seats, a revamped concession area, and possibly alcohol sales if licenses can be approved.

Free performances at Signature Open House in Shirlington

Signature Theatre holds its annual Open House on Sunday, August 2, from noon to 8:30 pm. There will be performances every 15 minutes, master classes, family cabarets, voice competition finals, and games and crafts on the plaza—and it's all free! 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington.

Local blog posts and neighborhood social media comments speculate that the recent closings in Shirlington are due to higher rents and, perhaps, to lower foot traffic in the area, which forced some established businesses to cease operations—with the suggestion that more closings would occur. However, Federal said that no additional changes are expected in the near-term and that the spate of recent change was due to the natural real estate economic cycle.

—Robert Dietz

Listening session to hear Abingdon concerns

FCA and the Fairlington Villages condo association will host a listening session to hear the concerns of Fairlington residents about potential impacts of construction at Abingdon Elementary School. The meeting will begin at 7 pm, Monday, July 13, at the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St.

Over the next two years Abingdon will see the addition of new classrooms, the relocation of the gym and cafeteria, renovation of key aspects of the existing building, and new parking and traffic configurations. Construction-related impacts can include things like neighborhood traffic and parking issues, noise, adverse effects on adjacent buildings, and landscaping improvements.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) will be seeking a use permit for the new facility in September, and the county board will consider imposing a variety of construction-related conditions when it considers the permit request. During July and August FCA will work with APS and county staff to craft conditions that will help protect Fairlington residents from some of the adverse impacts of the construction and renovation work.

The listening session is open to all Fairlington residents. The school board has already approved the schematic design for the school, so the larger questions about the preservation of green space and the general location and design of the building additions have already been approved. The July 13 session will focus on practical issues that can affect the community during the construction work. Construction is expected to begin next spring.

—Guy Land



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Sinkhole under repair in the Green

On May 22, an impressive sinkhole opened up the pavement on S. 32nd St. near Utah Park at the intersection of S. 32nd and S. Utah St. County crews, from the Department of Environmental Services/Water, Sewer, and Streets Bureau (DES/WSS), responded that day and were able to patch the affected road surface to ensure immediate safety; they returned the following week to install steel plates over the opening for a more durable patch.



Trenching operations underway on S. 32nd St. Photos by Gretchen Fallon.

The underlying situation involved a collapsed 21-inch storm sewer pipe, which was assessed using CCTV (closed circuit television) technology—a TV camera was deployed throughout the line to determine its overall structural integrity and to locate specific problem areas. The video assessment found that a larger permanent repair would be required because the non-collapsed portion of the pipe segment was

already showing multiple fractures. The block-long sewer pipe replacement project, as proposed on June 1, was scheduled to require most of the month to complete. Approximately 275 feet of storm sewer pipe, which is about 70 years old, will be removed and replaced and upgraded to new 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe.

Multiple signs, barriers, orange traffic cones, and safety fencing marked the project area, and a detour was established through a Fairlington Green parking lot adjacent to the pool across 32nd St. from Utah Park. WSS project construction manager Alex Portillo pointed out the county's concern to keep traffic disruption and inconvenience to a minimum for neighbors, while also ensuring the safety of residents and construction crews. The work was scheduled to progress at the rate of installing two new 8-foot-long pipe segments a day, for about 20 work days, in a 20-foot-deep trench. Rainy weather, which can destabilize the ground, could halt or delay the project's progress due to safety concerns for the work crew.

Throughout the project, WSS will coordinate with arborists from the county's Department of Parks and Recreation, who will make periodic inspections of the surrounding area to evaluate the trenching operation's impact on nearby trees—primarily their overhead branches as well as roots. "I love trees," said Portillo, echoing the sentiment of Fairlington residents, "so we're doing everything we can to avoid any damage to them."

Residents with questions or concerns can contact construction manager Alex Portillo at 703-228-7822 or aporti@arlingtonva.us.

—Gretchen Fallon

Update: Improvements planned for Walter Reed intersection

Arlington County's planned improvement project for S. Walter Reed Dr., in the two-block long segment between Arlington Mill Dr. and S. Four Mile Run Dr., has been modified to better reflect concerns expressed by nearby neighbors and stakeholders.

Over the last eight months, the county has conducted outreach efforts and gathered feedback by presenting the project plans to neighborhood groups. One such presentation occurred at the FCA meeting in March, when Valerie Mosley, Capital Projects Manager with the Transportation Division, outlined the proposed changes.

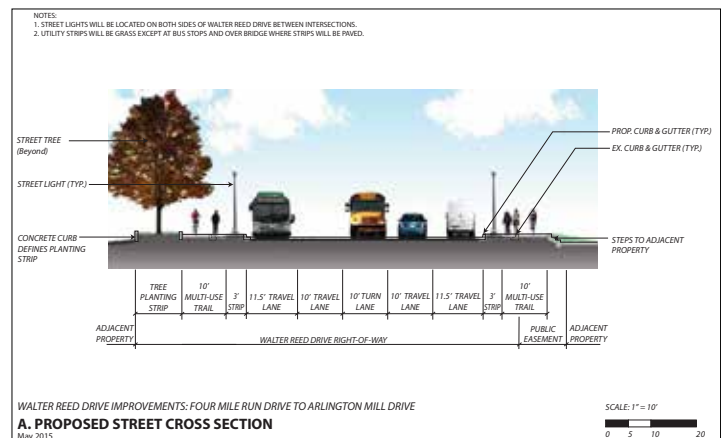


Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

The two specific concerns raised by Fairlington residents at the March meeting echoed "the two most frequently recurring comments" the county received overall, Mosely said later. Specifically, Fairlington residents questioned 1) the need for the plan to retain the right-turn

Continued on page 25

A Summer Celebration *:: at Shirlington ::*



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When Suzy went missing, Fairlington joined the search

The heartwarming story of Suzy, the lost-and-found Fairlington turtle, began with a photo posted on Fairlington's Facebook page (Fairlington Appreciation Society or FAS) in May. A concerned neighbor queried: "Happened upon this turtle on S. 29th St. out walking. By any chance, is this anybody's little pet?"

Earlier in the day, it seems, another neighbor had encountered the turtle trying to cross S. Abingdon St. and had carried it across—no doubt fearing an auto versus reptile mishap. Then another neighbor joined the thread to clarify that this was, indeed, someone's pet, and that the owners had been out looking for her for days.

After that, much of Fairlington was riveted, repeatedly refreshing the page to check for news of the wayward turtle. Then came the welcome update—Suzy had been reunited with her family. Fairlingtonians on FB posted expressions of genuine relief.

Suzy's owner, Mark Libby, completed the thread by offering "thanks to everyone who helped get our Suzy home." As he later explained, Suzy is more accurately described as a 13-year-old Russian box tortoise; acquired six years ago, Suzy had spent all her life safe and warm indoors, except for sunny hours basking on the family's North Fairlington patio—she had done it for years without incident. Until the day "she figured out how to dig."

On May 20, Suzy's natural instincts suddenly kicked in; she dug under the patio fence and escaped into the sunny grass near the tennis court between S. Woodrow and S. Abingdon. The Libbys, Mark, Danusia, and son Andrew, immediately began the search for Suzy with help from several neighbors, who peered into drainpipes with flashlights and sent their dogs sniffing under shrubs. No Suzy.

The Libbys feared that Suzy would be curious enough to get into trouble with animals or traffic, but too slow and trusting to protect herself from danger. Mark filed a lost pet report with the Animal Welfare League of Arlington (apparently the first lost-tortoise report the League had



Photo by Mark Libby.

received in a long time), while Andrew put up posters all over the neighborhood.

On May 24, as the family were losing hope, eagle-eyed neighbor Rachel Aronson caught sight of Suzy and posted the all-important message and photo on the FAS page. Although Suzy had wandered beyond the range of the Libbys' posters, other neighbors recognized the Facebook picture and, within minutes, put the families in touch.

Four days after she wandered off, Suzy was reunited with the Libbys, who were overjoyed to see her, and Mark added that Suzy's basking arrangements now had been improved with extra layers of security. Impressed by the power of social media, the Libbys are even more grateful for the strength of Fairlington's community spirit. Mark Libby concluded: "Thanks again, Fairlington, for all your neighborly help!"

—Gretchen Fallon

Join the Fairlington Appreciation Society on Facebook

Residents who comment on Fairlington's community Facebook page, Fairlington Appreciation Society (FAS), can help find lost pets, as the saga of Suzy shows. They also recommend plumbers, remodeling contractors, and other household service providers, and they provide updated event information and weather and traffic alerts.

It's easy to join the community page: Type Fairlington Appreciation Society into the Facebook search box and then click the Join tab. Give the FAS site administrators a few days to verify that you're a real person (not a bot or a troll)—this is an effort to keep FAS free of outside advertising and inappropriate content. If you're waiting for more than a few days to gain access to the FAS page, send an email to vp@fca-fairlington.org.

—Gretchen Fallon

The remodeled Fairlington kitchen

In contractor parlance, the homeowner wants to “take out the wall and flip the fridge.” It is a popular renovation for Clarendon-model kitchens in Fairlington, and several exciting examples were on display this spring at the Home and Garden Tour sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society.

By removing the wall between the dining room and kitchen, installing an island work surface, and repositioning the refrigerator 90 degrees, the new space seems larger, wider, and even taller than the original. Yet within this basic formula for reconfiguring the kitchen space, variety abounds. (*Check with your condo association about the need for variances.*)

Beach vibe



Memories of a beach house. Contractor, Silva Construction Group. Photo by Kendra Best.

A resident of Fairlington Villages, Cindy Kunz knew she wanted her whole-house renovation to have a unifying color palette, of gray, beige, and aqua, and the tranquil feel of a beach house on a rainy day. The kitchen’s soft gray walls, with one painted a slightly darker gray, reflect the natural light in shifting patterns throughout the day.

An imaginative surfacing choice for the backsplash and the island surround is the painted beadboard, in dove gray, which adds texture and lends a vintage feel to the space. The island is made even more inviting by the table-top extension on the dining room side and the retro-look, industrial metal counter stools in a splash of aqua—it’s the place where guests congregate. Above the warm quartz island countertop, the glass bell pendants throw a clear light that is softened by their smoked glass filament bulbs (also called factory or Edison bulbs).

The eye is drawn upward to the unusual ceiling coffer with exposed architectural beams—they are faux beams, rescued from leftover bookshelf boards that date to Kunz’s grad school days and were re-purposed to become a fond design detail.

Classic black and white



Classic black and white color scheme. Contractor, DeLong Home Improvement. Photo by Kendra Best.

Lena Mikulak, a homeowner in the Glen, had attended every home tour since moving to Fairlington, and knew she wanted the open and airy look of a remodeled kitchen, plus the simplicity of clean lines and minimal decorative detail. Thus she chose a classic black-and-white color scheme.

Even so, there are subtle touches that create visual impact. The black counter tops do not immediately “read” as granite, although they are, because Mikulak chose honed granite (as distinct from polished granite). It’s a more muted choice that provides a softer, more natural-looking surface finish that still reveals the distinct grain of stone. The white subway tiles used as the backsplash have a beveled edge, so that each tile announces its individual shape and thereby provides texture and creates visual interest.

Mikulak appreciates being able to walk around the entire island, which has pull-out drawers and electrical outlets on either side—she can enjoy Netflix on the laptop while chopping vegetables. Pendant lights over the island match the dining room chandelier, and four recessed lights in the kitchen ceiling complete the lighting. The cabinetry surrounding the repositioned refrigerator includes a pantry. A pull-out cabinet to the left of the sink holds a trash can and a recycling bin.



Imagination at work. Contractor, GMG Services. Photos by Kendra Best.

Innovative changes

Theresa Esterlund's remodeled kitchen in the Glen has a clean, finished look with many subtle, unexpected touches that add texture, interest, and innovation. The upper and lower cabinets look different—wood grain below and shiny cream above—but they're all surfaced in thermofoil. It's a heat-bonded laminate finishing material that creates a very smooth surface, comes in a range of colors and textures, provides high resistance to moisture (though not to heat), and is very durable, designed to keep its good looks for a long time.

The backsplash is composed of tiles that are ceramic or natural stone, with the occasional chrome tile added randomly. Pendant lights over the island are artist-made unglazed ceramic with perforations that give off soft patterns of light. The roller shades allow light in while providing privacy, and they are made from a mesh material into which are woven tiny bits of sequins—they shimmer very softly in the light.

Interesting innovations include the placement of the oven in the island and switching the positions of the sink and the cooktop, for an improved work flow among appliances. The island sports electrical outlets on either

side, and the appliance wall has outlets that are horizontally positioned. Near the basement steps there's an electrical plate with two regular, socket outlets and two USB ports.

Clean and simple



Simple, sleek, and sophisticated. Contractor, DeLong Home Improvement. Photo by Kendra Best.

Matt Vaeth's remodeled kitchen in Fairlington Villages now provides the clean-lined and efficient space that was not achieved in an earlier renovation by a previous owner. Vaeth removed a half-wall peninsula, installed the island, moved the refrigerator to a custom-built pantry alcove, and repositioned other appliances. He now enjoys added space to walk around in and a much improved work flow pattern.

A sophisticated gray for the cabinets was Vaeth's first choice, and all other choices were designed to coordinate with that rich but subtle color, to include brushed-nickel hardware and stainless steel appliances. To sustain the visual flow, the dishwasher is covered in a matching cabinet-panel front. The walls are a very light gray (called "Mount Rainier") that sometimes appears to be tinted with blue as the light shifts. The simple subway tile backsplash creates visual interest with a dark grout accent. In the quartz stone countertops, Vaeth found what he was looking for—something that was as close as possible to looking like marble without actually being marble. A surprise comes in the unpainted back door, which repeats the warmth of the hardwood floor.

—Gretchen Fallon

Coming next month: What you need to know about attic renovations in Fairlington—it's not simple.



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Changes coming to the Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup

In the Fall of 2014, Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) informed the three cooperative playgroups at the Fairlington, Madison, and Lee Community Centers that significant changes to the programs' operations would be required, and that the changes, unspecified at that time, would be implemented in the Fall of 2015.

In March 2015, DPR clarified what the proposed changes would entail for the long-standing Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup program: a county employee as program administrator; no access to the playroom space outside program hours; standard county fees charged for use of the space; and, as a result of these changes, a steep increase in fees for the playgroup. DPR staff said their decision was based on an internal review, which found that current playgroup operations did not comply with state licensing requirements. Therefore they would install direct supervisory oversight on the program and deny the program's free and exclusive use of public space.

The proposed changes generated significant opposition from Fairlington parents who participate in the program. For nearly 40 years, the Fairlington playgroup (founded by a Fairlington resident), in cooperation with Arlington County, has offered a structured program "giving toddlers the opportunity to socialize in a safe and familiar space," said playgroup member Andrea Liptak. Because administration is handled through an all-volunteer board, and playroom supervision is supplied by volunteer members, playgroup fees are kept affordable, with most fees merely covering supplies.

Liptak described the Fairlington program's current operation: For two hours each weekday morning, the one- to three-year-olds "play, participate in a planned activity, and have a snack—all under the supervision of parents or caregivers scheduled to volunteer that day." And families enjoy the flexibility to use the playroom for drop-in times. "Ask any of the thousands of families who have been part the Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup over the years," said Liptak, "and they will tell you that it is truly a special part of our community."

Fairlington playgroup families believed DPR's proposed changes were both abrupt and drastic, and they viewed the changes as an attempt by the county to fix problems



Photo courtesy of Fairlington Cooperative Playgroup.

where none exist, according to Liptak. And, once the impact of the changes was made clear in March, they were quick to organize a response in hopes of protecting the Fairlington playgroup, which they describe as a venerable community institution.

The playgroup board sent letters to Arlington County Board members and met with them to explain the Fairlington program's operation. They set up meetings with DPR staff in order to discuss ways of moderating the proposed changes. As a group, they attended the county budget meeting in order to have their objections entered into the record.

When DPR's call for change remained firm, they organized a working group to meet

with DPR to explore options and seek compromise.

DPR has maintained its position that the changes are required for the county to meet its legal obligations involving the use of public space. But playgroup members have successfully lobbied for more time for Fairlington playgroup families to seek alternative arrangements for their children, if they so choose. Because of the concerted effort of these families, the program changes will not take effect in Fairlington until the summer of 2016.

—Gretchen Fallon

Preschool plans growth

The STEM preschool, located on S. Abingdon St., plans to expand by leasing additional space in the commercial buildings next to the fire station.

According to preschool executive director Portia Moore, demand for the school's services has grown significantly since its January opening. "For fall 2015, we have a waiting list, and some parents are not happy about that," Moore said. But now Moore has the opportunity to lease space "right downstairs from our existing facility." That would enable the school to accommodate ten more students.

Last fall FCA requested that Moore give Fairlington families a priority, and almost all current students live in Fairlington. At the FCA meeting in June, Moore presented her plans for expansion, and the board agreed to support her permit application to the county.

—Guy Land

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Fairlington Farmers Market



The market is open Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm, on the Fairlington Community Center plaza. Photo by Lisa Schwanger.

Pleitez has long-awaited summer vegetables

Dad, Mom, siblings, aunts, and uncles—that's the Pleitez family, the Fairlington Farmers Market vendor who maintains a family-owned-and-operated farm business on 44 acres in Montross, Virginia. Everyone in the family knows the business of farming, including the kids. Like a pro, the family's 11-year-old son can answer questions and supply all the information you need.

With over 15 years of farming experience, Pleitez uses integrated pest management (IPM) methods to supply safe and healthy fresh fruits and vegetables to markets in both Virginia and Maryland. Experience has taught the growers to cut pesticide and fungicide use in order to offer the best produce with the least amount of spraying. When successfully employed, IPM methods prevent and manage pest problems without harming land, water, or, ultimately, farm customers. Pesticides may occasionally be an option, but when non-chemical methods are used first, pesticides are often not needed.



Pleitez Produce, one of several vegetable growers at FFM. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.



Firefighters enjoy sharing donuts from Mama's. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Even with FFM's early season opening in April, Pleitez was able to supply greens, radishes, onions, sunchokes, carrots, and squash, as well as herbs, seedlings, and even a few bouquets of flowers. As the peak summer season kicked in, Pleitez provided some vegetables just a bit earlier than others, including vine-ripened, heirloom, and cherry tomatoes and strawberries. That's because Pleitez uses five greenhouses to help extend their season. In July, Pleitez customers can find the much-anticipated ears of corn, as well as watermelon, cantaloupe, berries, peppers, okra, and much more!

—Lisa Schwanger

Special thanks to market sponsors and supporters, who have donated money, services, and resources to support the market's 2015 season.

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Be prepared for the storm season



FCA board member Mark Jones happened to witness a large branch come crashing down from an old tree on the slope of the wild woodland area on S. 32nd Road. It was a sunny morning—but the first clear day after several days of rain and thunderstorms the first week in June. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

A tree branch can fall at any time during or after a storm, and it almost surely will happen sometime during the Atlantic coast hurricane season, which began June 1 and runs through November 30. Fallen tree branches can cause power outages in Fairlington—if the branch falls on overhead electric lines in Alexandria that feed the underground electric-line routes in Fairlington or damages the supply from the Falls Church substation.

High winds and lashing rain can be destructive—remember the after-effects of the micro-burst storm in August 2010 and the violent derecho in June 2012. If memories are long enough, you may recall Hurricane Isabel in September 2003, when many households went without electricity for four or five days. Get storm-weather ready, now, with these online resources for storm preparedness and weather event information:

www.Hurricanes.gov, critical hurricane advisories and marine forecasts
www.Weather.gov, the latest forecasts
www.Ready.gov, preparedness information
www.nhc.noaa.gov, National Hurricane Center at NOAA
www.redcross.org, preparedness information
www.fema.gov, safety and preparedness information

—Gretchen Fallon

The Fairlington Farmer: July harvest

In July, our garden is bursting with veggies—the pay-off for months of sowing and preparation. Here are a few things we can do now to help our gardens thrive:

- **Harvest!** Tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and more. Most summer crops will keep producing for the next couple months, so pick veggies now, at the peak of ripeness—this will make space on the vines and channel the plant's energy into producing more fruit. Some plants will need support as they grow, so use trellises and gently tie up the stems and vines.

- **Eat!** When you eat produce right after you've picked it, not only is it at its most juicy and flavorful, but also it contains the maximum nutritional benefit. And because it's so fresh, now's the time to eat produce raw—think tomato/basil/mozzarella with a drizzle of olive oil and balsamic vinegar, or a crisp salad of cucumbers and tri-color peppers. And you can never go wrong with a classic basil pesto. (See the Sprout Kitchen Gardens website for recipes.)



Raspberries ripen on a trellis. Photo by Rebecca Carpenter.

- **Water!** Now, in the hottest days of the year, our plants need more moisture to sustain them through long days of sun. Water deeply first thing in the morning, being sure to water the soil, not the plants! This will help prevent the growth of fungus and leaf-burn.
- **Protect!** Wildlife will do their best to beat you to the harvest. So check your plants regularly for signs of pilfering (insects will chew holes in the leaves, and squirrels are notorious for taking one bite out of a tomato and leaving the rest to spoil). There are natural ways to deter the critters: Bird netting wrapped around plants will keep away the larger critters, and horticultural oil or insecticidal soap will deter insects. You can also make your own natural spray with dish soap, garlic, or pepper (check online for exact recipes—RodalesOrganicLife.com is a trusted source for all-natural gardening).

—Rebecca Carpenter, Master Gardener
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Neighbors,



We would like to thank the many members of our community who came out to support our daughter Ellie and Abingdon Elementary School during the Fairlington 5K and Silent Auction in April.

As many of you know, in 2011 Ellie was diagnosed with a very rare brain and spinal cord disease. When doctors first told us about Ellie's condition, we spent many days asking, "Why us?" But the tremendous outpouring of support from the Fairlington community now has us asking, "How did we get so lucky?"

With the money raised from the race, we are well on our way to jump-starting research at Johns Hopkins University that aims to cure Ellie's disease (LBSL). We are learning that the wheels of genetic research turn slowly, but for Ellie they are turning, which is more than we could have dreamed of four years ago when doctors told us there was no cure and no hope.

We would like to specifically thank Joe Reed, Abing-

don's P.E. teacher and a Fairlington resident, who came up with the idea for the race as a way to bring our community and our school together. The event would not have been possible without the partnership of the FCA, the Abingdon Parent Teacher Association, and the dozens of local businesses who donated their goods, services, and money. We would also like to thank the many teachers, staff, and parents at Abingdon Elementary who generously gave their time to help organize both the race and the silent auction. And to all of you who came out to these events—Thank you!

Ellie is a special kid and Fairlington is a special place. We are truly grateful.

Beth and Mike McGinn
Founders of "A Cure for Ellie"
www.acureforellie.org

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. AFB reserves the right to edit for length or clarity, and AFB may decline to print letters deemed inappropriate for a community newsletter.



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CHARLES COKER, CPA

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What should you do if you encounter an off-leash dog? "Reach out to your HOA," Burton said. The condo associations/property managers are responsible for setting and enforcing any penalties for this type of behavior. Throughout the years, Burton has reached out to Fairlington's property managers to help them understand that the AWLA is limited as far as the law goes regarding private property.

If you encounter an off-leash dog that is aggressive, Burton recommends that you do not run—stand with your hands at your side and remain motionless. If the dog does actually attack you, drop to the ground and bend your knees up toward your upper body, and put your arms around the back of your neck. You can also use something that you are carrying to shield yourself though do not strike out as that may make the situation worse. The most important thing is to keep calm and remember that the dog truly can sense your fear. As odd as it may sound, you could even try some basic commands as many dogs respond to things like sit and stay. Animal control will visit an aggressive dog's owner, provided the owner's place of residence is known. You can also call the police non-emergency number, and they will come out if they are able.

If you are bitten by a dog, or if your dog bites a person or another dog, it is extremely important that all involved parties exchange information. Call the AWLA (703-931-9241), 911, or the police non-emergency number (703-558-2222). The AWLA will put the biting dog under quarantine for 10 days. This quarantine is usually done at home, seldom at the shelter.

Animal control officers will respond to calls about sick/injured wild animals or those that are imminent threats. They will check for rabies only when a human or companion animal has been bitten. AWLA's website offers great tips for keeping wildlife away at www.awla.org.

Burton also addressed the issue of barking dogs left outside. AWLA can't enforce noise ordinances related to barking—this is done by the code enforcement team during business hours (703-228-3232) and, at night, by police at the non-emergency number. The league can investigate, and call for enforcement, only when barking signals neglect, such as when an animal is left outside in extreme temperatures or without shelter or water. Burton noted that cases of neglect have increased in recent years, mostly because there are more pets and the public is more aware of neglect issues due to programs like Animal Planet's *Animal Cops*.

—Christine Chirichella

slip lane from Arlington Mill onto Walter Reed and 2) the safety of the plan to install elevated (raised-surface) bicycle lanes on either side of Walter Reed.

Due to neighbors' comments, Arlington County engineering staff revisited their analysis of the intersection and reconfirmed the need for retaining the slip lane "due to the consistent volumes of large, heavy vehicles using the right turn lane during all peak periods," said Mosely. Because of their size, the county's fleet of large vehicles that routinely make that turn cannot safely execute a 90-degree turn (i.e., without a slip lane) onto Walter Reed; in fact, a large vehicle's turning radius would cause it to cross Walter Reed's center line in making such a turn. The safety of pedestrians would be guarded with improved technology, signage, and crosswalk markings.

However, the previously proposed arrangement of separate pavement-strips for an elevated bike lane and a sidewalk has been reconsidered and modified to "better accommodate all users and provide a buffer between the bicycle/pedestrian facilities and the automobile travel lanes," said Mosley. Primarily, the new design removes the separate, elevated bike lane and lower-level sidewalk and replaces them with a single 10-foot-wide, two-directional multi-use trail, for the combined use of bikes and pedestrians, on both sides of Walter Reed. The trail will be separated from the street surface by a standard curb and a 3-foot-wide utility-buffer strip with grass and street-tree plantings.

For more information about the project's plan, go online to <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects> and search South Walter Reed Drive improvements.

—Gretchen Fallon



Pocket garden on S. 32nd Rd.:

Bulletin gardening columnist Bill Sullivan stopped at the corner of 32nd Road S. and S. Stafford St. to put leftover plants to work in the landscaped corner of the woodland area that runs along 32nd.

Sullivan refurbishes the garden every now and then; currently it contains roses, peonies, nandina, lirioppe, hosta, leucouthoe, gladiolus, a butterfly bush, and a dwarf Crape Myrtle. *Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In June, our single outing was to Chez Andrée for delightful French cuisine.

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616. Back by popular demand, this is a local favorite that we visit frequently. On Mondays, they offer 1/2 price burgers with the purchase of any beverage. The rest of the menu is also available.

Thursday, July 23, 6:30 pm, La Caraqueña, Stratford Motor Lodge, 300 W. Broad St., Falls Church, 703-533-0076. One of *Washingtonian's* 25 best Cheap Eats for 2015, this Venezuelan restaurant's décor conjures up South Beach in Miami. Special praise is offered for the soups, arepas (griddled corn cakes with various fillings), and pabellón (pulled beef with rice, black beans, plantains, and avocado).

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.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in July to discuss *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story* by Abraham Verghese.

"Nestled in the Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee, the town of Johnson City saw its first AIDS patient in August 1985. Working in Johnson City was Abraham Verghese, a young Indian doctor specializing in infectious diseases who became, by necessity, the local AIDS expert. Out of his experience comes a startling, ultimately uplifting portrait of the American heartland."
—from the book cover.

My Own Country was Verghese's first book; he is perhaps better known for his *New York Times* bestseller, *Cutting for Stone*.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! If you're into nonfiction or memoirs, join us in July, no strings attached. We are meeting on Tuesday, July 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Babysitting Coop

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Coop. For more than 30 years Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators, Danielle Bloom and Tiffany Bittenbender, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Ansley joins FCA board

The FCA Board has selected Jonathan Ansley to fill a vacancy on the FCA board created by the resignation of director Doug Penn, who is moving out of Fairlington. Ansley will serve until the December annual meeting, when all director and officer slots will be up for election. An Arbor resident for two years, Ansley has attended several FCA meetings and was a volunteer with May's home and garden tour.

Five residents expressed interest in filling the vacancy, prompting two rounds of balloting by the board. The other candidates were Margaret Shannon, Charlie Roe, Katherine Hansen, and Julie Pryor. The board appreciates the willingness of these Fairlingtonians to serve in a leadership role and looks forward to engaging them in other FCA activities.

—Guy Land



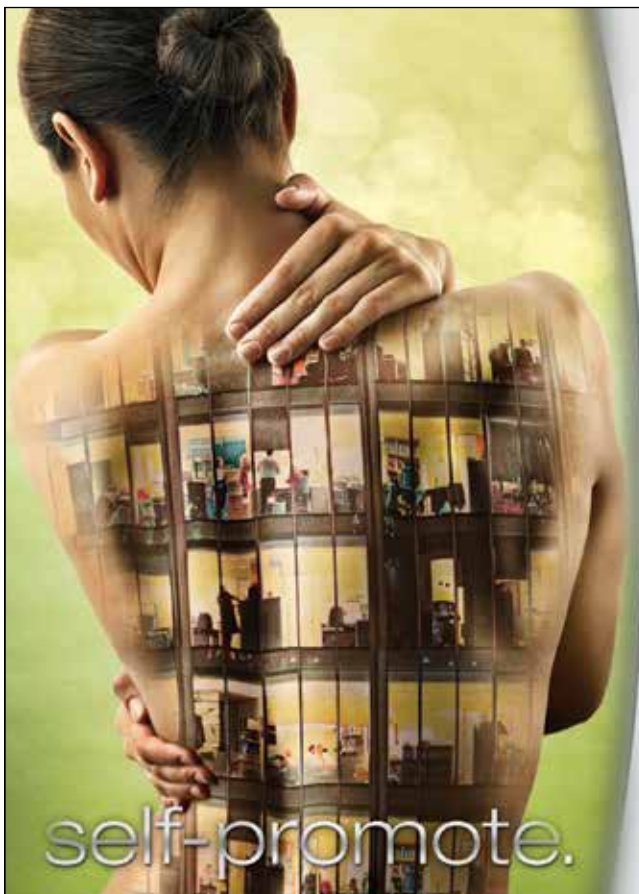
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Navigating the nursery aisles—a walking tour and tutorial

Homeowners can feel lost when confronted by the radiating aisles of greenery at a nursery. Greenstreet Gardens, the plant nursery closest to Fairlington, offers an instructive experience for getting one's bearings, since it's relatively small and accessible. For Fairlingtonians going to the nursery for the first time, let me provide an escort to the layout, varieties, and customary groupings of plants.

Immediately visible on the right are annual flowers. Tables overflow with varieties of the small flowering plants with a one-year lifespan. Annuals arrive at the nursery in late April and will live until the second frost (usually early December). You can buy annuals in flats (a rectangular plastic container about the size of a table placemat) or in individual plastic pots—it depends on how many plants you need. If you have a shady site, look for vinca or impatiens. If the spot is sunny, look for the garden workhorses—petunia, marigold, begonia, zinnia, ageratum, or aster.

To the left of Greenstreet's entrance are the herbs—tables full of thyme, basil, chili peppers, lavender, rosemary, chive, parsley, and sage. There are even variations within each type: Some are more mature and, thus, costlier than other plants. Rub your fingers on the leaves to inhale the aromatic fragrance.

Adjacent to the herb display are perennials, also on tables. Sun-loving perennials are on the table tops, while shade-loving perennials are placed beneath the tables. Since



Knockout roses. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

perennials will live for two years or more, think about what flower color you prefer, and consider how big you want the plant to be—read the plastic tab for growth information. For a sunny garden, check out salvia (purple or white flower), which is in the sage family—the leaves are aromatic and clustered at the bottom of the plant. Other sun-lovers are red hot poker (orange and yellow on the same cone-like blossom), dianthus (pink flower with bluish foliage), columbine (different colors on the same, grasshopper-like flower), and yarrow (yellow). For shade, look down below to find bleeding heart (actual heart-shaped flowers in pink or white), coral bells (broad leaves in purple, olive, apricot and different shades of green), and hosta (variegated leaves in white and yellow).

When it's time to look for a shrub, walk deeper into the lot to find

numerous types. If you want a smallish shrub (also called ground cover), look for dwarf nandina (reddish-tinged leaves), dwarf English boxwood, fetterbush (maroon foliage), blue Star or blue rug juniper (yes, bluish foliage), and variegated Euonymus. Other types of ground cover come in flats that are beneath the perennials tables. Here you will find periwinkle (glossy green oval leaves), pachysandra (lime green foliage and up to six inches tall), and ajuga (shiny, purplish leaves).

For flowering shrubs, move toward the back fence to find "Knockout" roses: They're popular since they bloom from spring into December, and the branches are filled with blossoms. Or look for azalea "Encore," which blooms (pink or red) intermittently from spring into December.

Toward the back are the trees, of varying maturity (and price), and everything from dogwood and redbud to crape myrtle and even edible apple trees. For this larger and more expensive purchase, read the label carefully or ask a nursery employee for assistance to learn a tree's growth habit.

The nursery aisles sport vines, usually on trellises, including the familiar and popular wisteria (pendulous lavender blooms), honeysuckle (orange and yellow blooms resembling small pipe cleaners), Carolina jessamine (yellow, bugle-like blooms), and clematis (lavender, violet or white pinwheel-like flowers).

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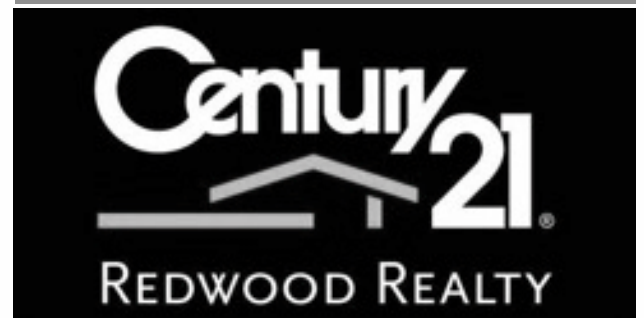


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Abingdon wraps up the school year with celebrations and good-byes

June is always a busy month for schools, and Abingdon is no exception. We celebrated student achievement at Awards Ceremony, enjoyed a wonderful student concert at Wakefield High School, and bid adieu to some wonderful staff members.

Students say "Arghhh" at pirate-themed Math and Science Night



Photos by Abingdon PTA.

On June 2, for Math and Science Night, the multipurpose room was transformed into pirate-themed stations on the "high seas," as students were asked to measure, estimate, calculate, and hypothesize. Some of the favorite spots included "Jump Ship," which challenged students to estimate how many jumps they could perform in a minute, "Quick Math Bowling," and "Math Bingo." Fortunately, no one had to walk the plank, and Principal Uyeda was there to hand out pirate treasure to all those who successfully completed the stations.

Abingdon's music program puts on a wonderful show at Wakefield

On June 8, students, staff, and parents were treated to an Abingdon concert in Wakefield's new auditorium (Abingdon can no longer accommodate everyone). Music teachers Mr. Green (vocal) and Ms. Gomez (strings) led students in some amazing performances, including first-grade singers, fourth- and fifth-grade strings, and the Abingdon Glee Club. All Abingdon students start instruments in third grade and strings in fourth, and it is a highlight of the school's Project GIFT program.

We've got spirit, yes we do!



Abingdon students and staff enjoyed spirit week June 8 to 12. Each day, people were encouraged to dress up a particular way from backwards day, to tacky clothes day, to crazy hair and mustache day. Spirit Week coincided with the school's second food drive campaign, "Hunger Never Takes a Vacation," in support of the Arlington Food Assistance Center.

The Book Bus will be back this summer!



Abingdon's popular, and somewhat famous mobile library—it was featured on WJLA TV last year—will be making the rounds again this summer. To encourage summer reading, the Book Bus allows students to continuously check out books from the school library. The Book Bus will be rolling through Fairlington and stopping at the school parking lot 5 to 5:30 pm on Tuesday evenings, July 14, 21, and 28, and August 4 and 11.

Abingdon says goodbye to teachers and staff

With mixed emotions we said goodbye and good luck to several staff members who retired this year. Collectively, they had contributed over 100 years of service to educating and supporting our students. We say thank you for all your service to our school community. You will be missed: Denise Taylor, First Grade Teacher; Janet Stockman, Guidance Counselor; James Hoke, Special Education; and Gonzalo Solano, Registrar.

—Abingdon PTA



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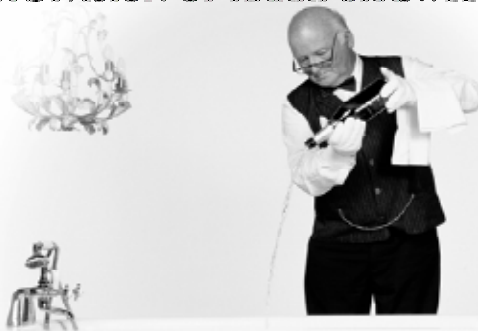
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