AFAIRLINGTONBULLETIN



FAIRLINGTON FCA

www.fca-fairlington.org

JUNE 2012

Volume 38, Number 6

Old oak succumbs to stress, disease

FCA monthly meeting

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



Green Home & Garden tour

Sunday, June 3, 1 – 5 pm Arlington

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, June 7, noon FCC

Republican primary, US Senate Democratic primary, US House (VA 8th district)

Tuesday, June 12, 6 am – 7 pm Polling places

MOMS Club

Wednesday, June 13, 4 pm

Real estate taxes due

Friday, June 15

Fair Golds program/social meeting

Thursday, June 21, noon FCC

Book Group

Tuesday, June 26, 7:30 pm North Fairlington CC

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





Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

The Forestry Maintenance Crew from Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation, Parks and Natural Resources Division removed a dead willow oak from the southern perimeter of the grounds at the Fairlington Community Center in May. The mature tree, 70 feet tall with a 32-inch trunk diameter, was severely infected with the Hypoxylon canker, a common and fatal fungal disease that kills trees, especially oaks, under stress. Thanks to DPR's Robert Capper and Jamie Bartalon for the information.

June 13 FCA meeting: The speaker at this month's meeting was not yet confirmed at press time. Please check the FCA Web site, www. fca-fairlington.org, closer to the date for updated information on the meeting presentation.





Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

7 pm special program: FCA hopes to have representatives from Arlington County staff to brief residents on topics of interest. Check the FCA Web site closer to the date for details.

Regular business meeting:

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

Sign up for updates

Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to sign up for neighborhood news delivered right to your inbox.

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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Assistant Editor: Christine Chirichella **Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews **Distribution Manager:** Noemi Rivera

— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Drop off location: Drop box in the Fairlington

Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides	s) 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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bob.laser@faa.gov

Farewell, Lenny, and thanks!



The tree stand on S. 32nd Street has benefited greatly over the last year from the invasive-weed pulling efforts of many volunteers—most notably, orga-

nizer and head cheerleader, Lenny Bankester. Lenny and his family are moving this month, and they will be missed. Together with all best wishes, we send thanks for all that Lenny Bankester has contributed to Fairlington's landscape. If you are interested in helping continue the work at the tree stand, contact Ed Hilz, treasurer@fca-fairlington.org.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you have a great time at Fairlington Day 2012? I hope so! We had a lovely turnout for three packed hours of activities for young and not-so-young alike at the Fairlington Community Center on Saturday, May 12. I do hope you got to see your neighbors and made some new friends in the bargain. (And check out the photos on page 12.)

Believe it or not, the planning is already underway for Fairlington Day 2014! We at the FCA want to know what you liked, didn't like, and would change for the next biennial event. Two years might seem like a long time to plan and organize, but it's never too early to start! E-mail me now, while your thoughts about the event are still fresh.

This summer, the FCA will return to its regularly-scheduled programming, with meetings the second Wednesday in June and July. As always, we're keeping an eye on local development matters, and we're planning to connect residents with some local political leaders. Draft your list of concerns and suggestions now!

The FCA is also ramping up its contribution to the annual Fourth of July parade, sponsored by the Fairlington Villages Condominium Association. We're very excited to be taking part once again in this annual holiday celebration, and we hope you'll join your neighbors for all the fun on Wednesday, July 4.

After operating at 89% strength for the last five months, the FCA Board is back to 100%. Michelle Woolley is the newest member of the ninemember board. She's a lawyer, recently married, and the co-owner of Tango the Beagle. Come to the next FCA meeting and welcome Michelle aboard in person!

As always, the FCA is here at your service. E-mail me at president@fca-Fairlington.org with your ideas and concerns! I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Rosiland Jordan, President Fairlington Citizens Association president@fca-fairlington.org





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\$393,000	4851 28th St S #A	\$383,000
\$429,900	4443 34th St S	\$429,900
\$399,900	2747 Buchanan St S	\$400,000
\$394,900	2859 Buchanan St S #2382	\$396,000
\$425,000	4826 27th Rd S #2471	\$425,000
\$410,000	4316 36th St S	\$416,000

*Source: MRIS 2012

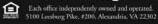
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Vote in June 12 primaries— pick one

The county Web site's Election Information page describes upcoming elections and lists candidates for offices. The page is updated "as more ballot information becomes available, such as candidates and issue information." Go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search voter or elections.

Excerpted from the Web site: A primary election is held to assist the two major political parties (Democratic and Republican) in selecting their nominees for offices on the General Election Ballot. In Virginia, primaries for offices elected in November are normally held on the second Tuesday in June. In 2012 we will have a Republican Primary for U.S. Senate and a Democratic Primary for U.S. House of Representatives, 8th District, on Tuesday, June 12.

Following are the candidates for the June 12 primaries, in the order and format they will appear on the ballot. Although all eligible voters may vote on June 12, you must choose which party's ballot you wish to vote; you cannot vote in both primaries. Polls are open from 6 am to 7 pm.

Republican Primary	Democratic Primary
United States Senate	U.S. House of Representatives, 8th District
Jamie L. Radtke George F. Allen R. G. "Bob" Marshall E. W. Jackson	James P. "Jim" Moran, Jr. Bruce B. Shuttleworth

Arlington taxpayer alert!

Bills for the first installment of county real estate taxes were mailed the first week in May. First installment payments are due on Friday, June 15, 2012. (The second installment is due October 5.) There are a number of payment options to choose from, including online, in person, and through the mail. To see a full list of all payment options, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/treas.

If you are concerned that you may not be able to pay your taxes on time, contact the Treasurer's Office for information about the Taxpayer Assistance Program. For questions or more information, call the Treasurer's Office at 703-228-4000 or send an e-mail to treasurer@ arlingtonva.us.

Better bus stops





Improvements are now in place for two busy Fairlington bus stops. The newly constructed enhancements, on S. Buchanan St. at S. 30th (left) and on S. Wakefield at S. 36th (right), feature concrete landing slabs and benches.

Neighborhood Conservation Plan due for an update

The Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan is a document generated by the FCA to facilitate our neighborhood's interaction with Arlington County government and obtain funds for capital improvements. Based on community input, the FSNC plan helps inform county staff about topics of interest and issues of concern for the neighbors. The original FSNC plan was developed in 1987, and the most recent formal input stems from responses to a 2004 questionnaire/survey. An update to the 1987 plan is now underway, and the FCA expects to present the 2012 FSNC Plan Update to the county before the end of the year.

Much has changed in the local area in the quarter century since the first FSNC plan was written. For example, in 2004 the 1987 FSNC area was expanded to include the seven condominium associations bordering Arlington Mill Drive and Walter Reed Drive (Arlington, Courtbridge I and II, Heatherlea, and Windgate I, II, and III). In addition, more recent residential development in the Village at Shirlington has added more new residents to the FSNC area in one new condominium building and two apartment buildings. Interestingly, some things don't change—25 years ago, neighbors pegged traffic and transportation issues as a top concern. It's the same top concern today, based not only on formal survey data but also on much informal comment in recent years.

Continued on page 22



SUMMER

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Rain gardens grow in North Fairlington

Through the StormwaterWise Landscapes Program, Arlington County has awarded the Fairlington Villages condo association \$1,000 to help offset the cost of installing a rain garden on the property. The Villages was selected in a recent county-wide call for homeowners to submit proposals for small landscaping projects that treat storm water runoff. (This year, 111 home-owners and HOAs submitted proposals; 40 were selected for the cost-sharing award.) The funding for projects like the Villages' rain garden comes from a pilot program co-sponsored

by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and the county's Department of Environmental Services.

Encouraging the building of rain gardens on private property is part of the county's larger effort to reduce the volume of storm water that crosses roof shingles, tarmac, concrete, and other impervious surfaces, enters directly, untreated and unfiltered, into a storm drain, goes to Arlington's streams, and empties eventually into the Chesapeake Bay. A rain garden serves to slow down the



"Before" photo: A tennis court was removed from the Abingdon Street site, where a rain garden and other amenities will be installed this summer." After" photos, to come. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

runoff's escape and allow it to soak into the ground, where it can be absorbed and filtered of pollutants.

North Fairlington's newest rain garden will be located at 3052 S. Abingdon Street (behind the building), but it's not the first of its kind in the neighborhood. Mark Johnson, the Villages'operations manager, has worked with the Building and Grounds Committee and the condo's landscape contractor to identify appropriate locations and designs for the installation of three other rain gardens, one in each of the last three years. "We have to consider

the runoff from the roofs of 440 buildings," says Johnson, a Master Gardener whose background in landscape design has proved useful as the property manager in North Fairlington. For the Abingdon Street rain garden site, the condo board agreed to remove the tennis court, which turns out to be a beneficial trade—removing an impervious surface while also increasing water-absorbing green space. Johnson says they are considering several amenities for the area, like native plantings and the addition of a few benches: "We want it to have a park like feel."

What's a watershed retrofit?

A "watershed retrofit" is the addition of a stormwater treatment "facility"—not a building, but some amendment to the landscaping—that is designed to help slow down and filter stormwater runoff before it flows into drains and local streams. Recently, as the Department of Environmental Services has studied the county's watersheds and assessed retrofit possibilities, some retrofit locations were identified in Fairlington. Creating watershed retrofits is important in areas like Arlington, where much of the county was developed before stormwater treatment requirements were put in place and where urbanization means lots of rooftops, pavings, and sidewalks—they constitute significant amounts of impervious surfaces where water cannot soak into the ground.

A "green street" is an example of a watershed retrofit. Also called a bioretention area, this facility is similar in purpose to a rain garden, but with more complex engineering—it features a natural bowl for ponding and holding water and below-grade layers for filtering pollutants. Simply put, a bioretention area treats stormwater as a resource that replenishes the groundwater supply by transforming a small area of the street or median into a landscaped space that captures runoff and allows water to soak into the ground. Green street features, like plants and soil, are chosen to help filter and break down pollutants in the runoff. In addition, they can absorb carbon, calm traffic, and improve air quality, neighborhood aesthetics, and pedestrian and bicycle safety, according to the DES Web site—go online to arlingtonva.us and search green street.

In early May, a Watershed Planning Workshop for Four Mile Run's Upper and Middle Mainstem ["stem" not "stream"] was held at the Fairlington Community Center, and a list of potential retrofit locations in Fairlington was presented by DES staff. The list can be viewed online at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/sustainability/page84144.aspx. The sites

Continued on page 22

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Environment-friendly events in June

Green Home and Garden Tour, Sunday, June 3, 1 – 5 pm

Sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and Arlington County DES, this 10th annual tour offers inspiration and ideas for going green at home, in a mix of new green homes, green renovations, and watershed-friendly gardens. See homes featuring energy efficient technologies, solar elements, water saving technologies, native plants, wildlife habitats, and rain gardens and rain barrels. The booklet for the self-guided tour, with locations, can be found online, at www.arlingtonen-vironment.org. Requested is a \$5 per person donation online or at the first place you visit.

Gardening symposium: Working with nature for sustainable, beautiful gardens, Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10

The two-day workshop is designed to show homeowners, property managers, civic and homeowners associations, and members of the landscaping/nursery trade how they and the environment can benefit from sustainable gardening practices. Day 1, held at the Fair-

Farmers market on Columbia Pike



This year's warmer than usual spring means that the Columbia Pike Farmers Market is back in full swing, even this early in the summer, with strawberries, asparagus, green beans, squash, and some tomatoes:

Columbia Pike Farmers Market

Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm Columbia Pike and S. Walter Reed Drive, in front of the Rite Aid store

In addition to other regular sellers, the Pike market welcomes this year a new vendor, Maple Avenue Market Farm of Great Falls, VA, which grows organic-equivalent produce.

lington Community Center, 9 am to 3 pm, features two keynote speakers. In the morning Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, will discuss how native plants can beautify our gardens and serve as central food sources for insects, birds, and butterflies. In the afternoon, Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the U.S. Botanic Garden, will describe the Landscape for Life $^{\rm TM}$ program, an eco-friendly approach to gardening that provides a host of health and environmental benefits. On Day 2, 1 to 4 pm, participants will tour demonstration gardens in Arlington and Alexandria to see elements of the Landscape for Life program in action. Registration fee is \$50 and includes a box lunch. To register, call 703-228-6414.

Solstice celebration and cleanup, Thursday, June 21, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Join ACE volunteers at Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive, to celebrate the start of summer and long daylight hours. There will be several service project options including cleanups and invasive plant removal. Refreshments will be available. Registration required; call 703-228-6406.

Get free gardening advice from VCE Master Gardeners

Virginia Cooperative Extension's Master Gardeners are available to answer gardening questions—how to grow great tomatoes, which tree is best for your patio corner, or what's that strange insect—at weekly plant clinics held in the following locations:

Arlington County Farmers Market, intersection of N. 14th Street and Courthouse Road, Saturdays, 8 to 11 am, through September 29, and Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Thursdays, 6:45 to 8:45 pm, through November 15.

In addition, you can contact the VCE/MG help desk, 703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com, which is staffed from 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, year round. Home gardeners also can visit the VCE office at the FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St., 9 am to 5 pm (or go online to www. ext.vt.edu).

When visiting, bring fresh samples of problem plants, weeds, or insects with you to ensure the accurate identification of diseases or pests. Carry samples in plastic bags or other clear containers. Please don't bring live insects. All clinics and the help desk are free of charge.



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The sun smiled on Fairlington Day

Many thanks to the FCA for arranging Fairlington Day's picture-perfect weather! Bright sunshine, warm temperatures, and just the hint of a breeze were most welcome. Joining the just-right atmospherics was the DJ's continual backbeat, as large crowds of moms and dads, families and friends, criss-crossed the community center's athletic field, dodging kick balls along the way. Fairlingtonians set a leisurely pace throughout the three sunny hours, as they ambled around the grounds of the FCC, moving up to the building to grab a hot dog and

some cookies, sit for face-painting, and visit the vendor tables, and then heading down to the perimeter to pet the animals, ride the ponies (Blondie and Cocoa), and join the constant, but a swift-moving line for the moon bounces. The stroller brigade was out in force, enjoying the many activities designed to engage a child's attention. Congressman Jim Moran, reportedly accompanied by his grandchildren, walked the area and chatted with constituents. And always a hit—Engine 107, manned by "A" shift firefighters, sparkled in the parking lot.























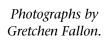








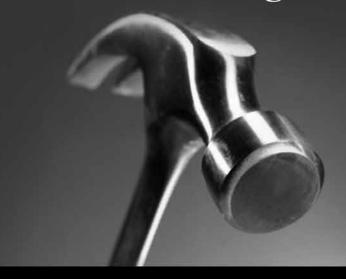








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FACOMMUNITY Center news

Classes and workshops

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

Breathing plus workshop

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

Cardio sculpt

Join this high-energy, total-body workout in an hour. Start with a cardio workout with your favorite old-school aerobics, then sculpt your muscles with weighted body bars and dumbbells. The class ends with mat work focusing on abs, glutes, and back strengthening. A final stretch concludes the class. June 25, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, 22 sessions, \$187. Instructor, Erica. Ages 13 to adult. 440345A

Pilates, level 1

Experience new levels of core strength and flexibility. Utilize exercises and techniques that strengthen the midsection and back, lengthen the spine and relieve back pain. June 27, 7:30 – 8:30 pm, 7 sessions, \$104. Instructor, Johlfs. Ages 16 to adult. 440860C

Garden mosaics

Jazz up your garden with colorful mosaic garden features! This hands-

on workshop includes techniques and materials used to install mosaics that will withstand moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and all forms of winter weather. Bring design ideas, sketches, color scheme, glass shards, sea glass, pebbles and flat marble nuggets to class. Instructor will have cutting equipment and tools available for use along with various other installation materials and glass and tiles pieces. June 28, 7 – 9 pm, 4 sessions, \$105. Instructor, Coler. Ages 17 to adult. 440100A

SEW easy!

How to select a pattern and material will be discussed on the first day of this basic sewing class so that we can all start sewing by the second class. This class is hands on and projects can vary from very inexpensive to very costly. Sewing machines provided. A supply list will be emailed to participants before the start of the class. June 27, 7 – 9 pm, 5 sessions, \$113. Instructor, Randall. Ages 16 to adult. 440111A

Still life drawing

Students will focus on still life to learn or practice various fundamental drawing techniques in pencil, ink and charcoal. We'll explore working realistically as well as more abstractly, and students will learn about a variety of still life artists. Some classes, the still life will be set up by the instructor. Other classes, students may create their own arrangement of objects to draw. No prior drawing experience needed. Materials list will be emailed to you before the start of class. June 25, 7 - 9 pm, 8 sessions, \$133. Instructor, Kallem. Ages 16 to adult. 440143A

FCC hours and contact Info

Monday through Friday, 8 am – 9 pm Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm Sunday, closed.

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

FCC programs

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

Senior center events

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

Pat Shannon & Kristin Usaitis

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900 Stafford St N #2632 Arlington, VA 22203 \$725,000

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Your gardening to-do list, shortened

"Low-maintenance" landscaping is for everybody. Who would vote against it? But there's no such thing as "no maintenance"—every garden needs attention. Below, the "how to" and "how much" in common categories.

Watering. If a garden sits beneath a leafy canopy, you're lucky. Plants rooted in shady soil retain moisture in their root balls better and longer than those in full sun. Sun-tolerant plants (lilac, crape myrtle, coreopsis, purple coneflower, euonymus, salvia, juniper) require less watering to thrive, since they love the sun and can be drought-resistant. But in our summers, they still need some water. Consider when the temperature or heat index hits or exceeds 100. This can spell death for plants that are devoid of water.

Pruning. It can be minimized if you have plants with restricted growth habits. If your garden is filled with ground cover or perennials such as astilbe, juniper 'Blue Star,' crimson pygmy barberry, skimmia, bearberry, salvia, lorapetalum, azalea "Gumpo," or sweet box, there are few if any branches/leaders to prune. However, if you have wisteria, be prepared to tie it to a trellis or regularly snip off its wandering leaders. Wisteria grows in the wild, and I've seen it run up underneath a 100-foot oak tree canopy. Timing is also important. Prune an azalea in late fall and you sacrifice next April's flowers. Prune the old leaders of a hydrangea and your shrub will be devoid of flowers come summer. Hydrangea flowers on "old" wood, so be careful when you start hacking away, even though some branches may extend beyond the circular shape of this shrub. If you have a butterfly bush, prune it to the ground (okay, leave six inches) in late February. If you forget to do so, your buddleia will become leggy and unsightly.

Dividing. It allows existing plants to be healthier and more attractive. Liriope ages at the root ball, becoming thick and dry. Foliage will become yellow or brown. Dig one up with a shovel and slice the root ball with a utility knife. Pry apart the "new" root balls with your thumbs and re-plant each. You'll notice the divisions yield greener plants with very loose foliage. The same can be done with miscanthus grass. Dividing the plant eliminates having old, brown blades mixed with new, green ones.

Weeding. It's best done by hand. Chemicals work temporarily, but then new weeds manifest. And after an herbicide has killed a weed, it still has to be removed. If you spray a weed killer on your driveway or stone patio to kill weeds, they can be harder to extract (as opposed to when they are living). An old screw driver or putty knife will reach the roots of those "hard to get" intruders.

Transplanting. It's a good thing to consider when a plant is underperforming. Like people who just need a change, plants can benefit from re-potting—it can even extend the



Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.

life of a suffering specimen. Sometimes a new location provides an invigorating change in soil pH, sun/shade availability, rainwater, erosion, and the effects of wind, and the move will revive the plant. And if it doesn't, you've still had a good, old-fashioned work-out in the fresh air.

Aerating. It isn't just for lawns. If the root ball of a small tree or shrub has "sunken" over time, use a spade fork around the ball's circumference to both aerate the soil and lift the root ball. If the ball can't be lifted, it can be nudged on the sides to allow air pockets to form and prevent a compacted ball. Doing this easily allows oxygen and water to reach the roots (through which a plant gets nourishment). I did this with a Dogwood that had been planted way too low in the ground. I first dug out a lot of clay around the ball and then jabbed a spade fork all around the root zone to loosen the compacted soil.

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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Have pet, will travel

As we head into the summer months, many Fairlingtonians are busy planning vacations. Pet owners are faced with a tough decision—take your pets or leave them behind. Let's take a look at some of the options available for traveling (or not) with your pets.

Travel options

By car...

- Keep your pet safe by using a carrier, car seat, or harness that straps your pet in.
- Bring plenty of food and keep water on hand at all times.
- Stop for frequent breaks.
- Keep your pet protected from the glaring sun while in the car.
- Don't leave your pet in your vehicle while you eat or shop, as hot summer temps can be deadly.

Photograph from ehow.com.

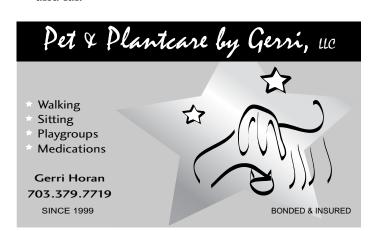
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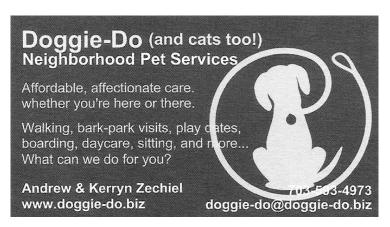
- Check with your carrier in advance to find out travel options, rules, and regulations.
- Purchase the right size carrier for your pet.
- Look into climate-controlled options including dedicated pet airlines: pets riding in the cargo area under the plane are subject to extreme temperatures.
- Bring food and water, but consult your vet about feeding recommendations, and research beforehand what to do about potty breaks if your travel is long and far.

And finally, here's an idea I had never before considered. A friend takes her pet along on vacation, but arranges for boarding nearby. She gets the best of both worlds—plenty of free time, but daily visits with her pet. I thought this was a great compromise.

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

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant Editor





Pet care options

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 Web sites can help you locate pet-friendly routes, destinations, and hotels.

> Although I love my dogs, I need a break from reality while on vaca-

tion, and that includes a break

from them (sorry, guys). Some

pets do well staying home with

a pet sitter coming in; others do

your pet's personality when making this decision, then do your

research and get references and recommendations from friends

to ensure that the pet sitter or boarding facility you pick will be

the right one for your pet.

well being boarded. Consider



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ABING School news



Fairlington Dental's continuing support for Abingdon's science program



Courageous and curious Abingdon students, with second grade teacher Ms. Weaver, offer a friendly welcome to this massive banana snake.

Fairlington Dental has again generously donated the funding to support Abingdon's science enrichment program, Raging Reptile Day. On May 4, all students had the opportunity for a truly "hands-on" learning experience, and many were thrilled to touch and hold reptiles brought to Abingdon by Sean the Reptile Man. Accompanied by several unique snakes and reptiles, Reptile Man taught about their habitats, diets, ecosystems, and adaptations for survival (a focus of Virginia SOL's). Students' respect for nature was heightened as they learned about the varying impact that all organisms have on the balance of ecosystems. Anne Sywilok, Abingdon Science Lab teacher, organizes this annual Abingdon event and says her students look forward to it all year. "Being able to actually see these animals up close and personal makes learning so much more concrete for the students" she says. The entire Abingdon family

greatly appreciates Fairlington Dental's continued support in helping educate our children in a fun and exciting way.

USDA supports Abingdon's outdoor classroom

Abingdon's Outdoor Classroom has continued to grow over the years with support from the community. Under the direction of Science Lab teacher Anne Sywilok, students have been growing fresh healthy food and donating it to the Arlington Food Assistance Center since 2009. To date, 583 pounds of fresh produce has gone to AFAC. The Food and Nutrition Service of USDA is offering their support to work in the garden with Abingdon students, while also donating fertilizer, plants, manure, and other necessary supplies. As students work in the gardens, they learn by actually seeing the parts of a flower, watching flowers turning into fruit, and tasting really fresh spinach. Science at Abingdon is enriching, fun, and tasty!

Abingdon students showcased at APS art exhibit

Fifteen Abingdon students from grades three, four and five have artwork on display at the Arlington Public Schools 2012 Elementary School Art Exhibit. Ms. Megonigal, Abingdon Art teacher, integrates math with art, to help students produce brilliant artistic pieces. For example, the third grade used specific geometric shapes, while manipulating paper designs, to construct mosaic tile designs, in the histori-



Hannah Lewis, Abingdon third grader and Fairlington resident, stands in front of her artwork and the art of her fellow Abingdon students. Photographs by Carrie Lewis and Dana Andy.

cal style of Greece and Rome. The fourth grade employed their knowledge of the Virginia Colonial period by creating tin-relief portraits. The fifth grade produced optical illusion art by using intricate skills such as vanishing points, perimeter edges, central focal points, and expanding triangular measurement. Ms. Megonigal gets rave reviews for Abingdon artwork and adds, "I get numerous e-mails from exhibit patrons with a strong desire to purchase Abingdon projects."

The APS Elementary Visual Arts Faculty and the Arts Education Office are holding this exhibit from April 24 through June 7, located at the Arlington Education Center, first floor gallery, 1426 N. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA. Gallery hours are daily between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm and evenings during public meetings.

Continued, next page.



Kindergarten teacher Lynn Robinson and Sam Moser, third grade teacher, enjoy the recent Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week luncheon in May. The staff also was treated to a catered breakfast, fun daily treats in their mailboxes, and raffle prizes donated by parents and local businesses. The PTA thanks all local businesses that provided support and/or prizes during the week: Fairlington Dental, Best Buns Bakery in Shirlington, Chicken Out in Bradlee, Marti Mefford Photography, and Bath & Body Works in Landmark.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

Neighborhood, continued from page 5

The 1987 plan document is being revised and updated under the direction of Ed Hilz, the FCA's treasurer and FSNC Area representative. Currently, a draft of the 2012 FSNC Plan Update can be viewed on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org (under Issues), and neighbors and FSNC area residents are welcome to comment on the plan at the regularly scheduled FCA meeting on Wednesday, June 13. In addition, all neighbors can send comments by e-mail to Ed Hilz, treasurer@fca-fairlington.org, or Rosiland Jordan, president@fca-fairlington.org, before June 13.

Watershed, continued from page 7

were evaluated and ranked according to the amount of stormwater runoff that they can collect and their capacity to remove pollutants from the runoff. The sites were also evaluated for utility conflicts and impact on significant trees. The county's study of watersheds is a long-range project; once information gathering and field-truthing is complete, green street projects will be selected for installation, though it may be many months if not years before work begins in Fairlington. If you have a site you'd like to suggest for a green street project, send an e-mail to des@arlingtonva.us.



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neighborhood news

Great American Bake Sale— Thanks! and save the date

The Great American Bake Sale, all-cookies edition, was a great success in May at Fairlington Day, raising money to add to funds we will contribute from July 4th sales to the non-profit Share Our Strength, which is dedicated to ending childhood hunger in America. Mark your calendars for the 10th anniversary Great American Bake Sale, on Wednesday, July 4th, 2012. Our community has proudly contributed over \$9,000 to this worthwhile organization over the past 9 summers.

Deliver donated home-baked treats, muffins, cookies, brownies, cakes (please no frosting or fillings, which melt in the heat), to the tables by the tennis courts at the North Fairlington Community Center before the parade, between 9 and 10 am. To mark the 10th anniversary, this year we will hold a pie tasting contest, to award the "Best Pie in Fairlington" Blue Ribbon. Enter your pie before the parade. Slices of all pies will be sold at the bake sale. To volunteer, call Cathy, 571-480-9260.

Card players welcome

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

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group for those 55 and older in and around Fairlington, meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursday of the month (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We welcome guests and/or new members over 55. This month, we will meet on Thursday, June 7, for a business meeting and on Thursday, June 21, for a program/social meeting.

Book Group

In Nadine Gordimer's novel *The Pickup*, a love affair between a wealthy South African woman and an Arab illegal immigrant challenges their notions of race, class, and citizenship. All Fairlingtonians are invited to join the discussion of this Nobel Prize-winning author's book on Tuesday, June 26, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, June 13 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership,contact Nicole Hobbs (Membership VP) at nehobbs@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids, but don't know who to call, should consider joining the Co-op. The

neighborhood news

Continued

Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

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

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



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See photos www.homealone.petfinder.

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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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Alta Vista/Arl.—Penthouse Condo. 2BR/3.5BA w/stunning views. \$725,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Templeton of Alex.—Pristine 1BR w/great views. Updated kit. & BA. \$195,000 Call Barbara Kirkland



The Arlington/ Arl.—Rare 3BR/2BA w/ main Ivl. Mstr. BR, LL family rm., + HDWDs. Fenced patio, great location. \$339,900 Call office for details.



Fairlington/Arl.—Perfect 1BR w/ spacious kit., sep. DR, large LR & Mstr BR. Mins. to shops & restaurants. \$229,000 Call Pat Rehill



River Place/Arl.—1BR w/gorgeous city views. Gas cooking, Co-op fee includes all util., Prk. space inc. \$170,000 Call Marian Stifle

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