

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



JUNE 2013

Volume 39, Number 6

www.fca-fairlington.org

Inside scoop from emergency responders



Photo, Arlington County.

After a big weather event, like the memorable *derecho* last summer, power outages can be the biggest challenge for county residents, says Jack Brown, director of Arlington's Office of Emergency Management. But the county is fortunate to have a "great partner" in Dominion Virginia Power. "We work together," he says. Whatever the emergency, he adds, "we *do* have to prioritize a response," which usually means that police and fire stations will return to

ordinary functioning first, followed by such critical care sites as hospitals and high-rise assisted living facilities. Restoring the power supply to everyone in the aftermath of a storm is something the county works around the clock to achieve in close coordination with Dominion engineers.

You can learn more about the county's emergency responders and the operations of the OEM, generally, and the work of Dominion in this neighborhood, specifically, at the FCA meeting on June 12. FCA will host Mr. Brown, accompanied by a team from the police and fire departments, as well as an engineering team from Dominion. The meeting will provide a great opportunity to hear from first-responder professionals and get answers to questions about emergency response on the streets of Fairlington.

Of particular interest here: "Why were my lights off for four days, when my across-the-street neighbor had his back on in 12 hours?" And, for Fairlingtonian residents of Alexandria—"Who do I call?" (The short answer is, 911; dispatch is computerized and automatic.)

In addition to explaining how institutions and agencies work together in a practiced, team-work structured, public safety response, Mr. Brown will discuss how individuals—the homeowner, resident, business, family—can do their part in any emergency situation. "That's the personal piece," and possibly the most important one in an emergency response mix. From more than 30 years as a firefighter, Mr. Brown knows the importance of the advice given by ready.gov, the American Red Cross, and emergency management experts nation-wide: "Be prepared to take care of yourself for three days." At OEM, says Brown, "We're ready. We've trained and drilled. We're prepared for the storms and weather events we *know* will occur." But the county cannot respond to every resident's needs in the hours, or even days, after an event. Therefore, it's "just as important" for every resident to do the smart, responsible thing. "Get ready. Do it now."

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Green home & garden tour

Sunday, June 2, 1 – 5 pm
Arlington

Fairlington Diners

Monday, June 3, 6:30 pm
Chez Andre
Alexandria

Street sweeping

Tuesday, June 11
Fairlington

MOMS Club

Wednesday, June 12, 4:30 pm
FCC

Real estate tax due

Monday, June 17
Arlington

Tree Canopy Fund deadline

Friday, June 21

Book Group

Tuesday, June 25, 7:30 pm
FV community center

See Neighborhood News on page 27 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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.

June 12 agenda:

A finalized agenda for the monthly meeting will be posted on the FCA Web site the Sunday before the Wednesday meeting.

Speaker: A team of Arlington County first responders, headed by Office of Emergency Management director Jack Brown, will explain how OEM operates and answer questions. Representatives from Dominion Virginia Power will also answer questions.

Regular business meeting:

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of May minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Gretchen Fallon

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:

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

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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
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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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Fairlington in photos on

Facebook: View photo galleries of the tree walk (*above*, Carol Dabbs, Bill Sullivan, Guy Land), the yard sale, last year's Santa ride, and many more community events and meetings. Go online to Facebook and like the "Fairlington Appreciation Society" page.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Enthusiastic participation by Fairlingtonians in several events this spring suggests that many of you have an appetite for activities devoted to gardening, trees, indigenous plants, and birds and wildlife—all with a special Fairlington focus. FCA is exploring ways to satisfy your desire for these offerings.

Fairlington possesses an amazingly rich set of assets to address these topics. At least a dozen Master Gardeners, and possibly even more Master Naturalists, live here. Several residents participate in the Arlington Tree Stewards program. The county's environmental landscape staff can help us with educational activities, while the resources of the Virginia Cooperative Extension are housed in the Fairlington Community Center. And, of course, the various condos have active and engaged volunteer committees on grounds and trees.

FCA's role is to facilitate gathering and sharing the expertise that already exists here, helping make it more widely available, and better connecting the people who share these interests. FCA can act as convener, information disseminator, conversation organizer, and community-wide sponsor. And in doing so, we can enhance the value of living in Fairlington for many of you.

The popularity of FCA's April tree walk and Fairlington Villages' recent Master Naturalist seminar indicates we're tapping into a rich vein of interest. Our challenge is to craft a menu of choices that will engage, educate, and reward you.

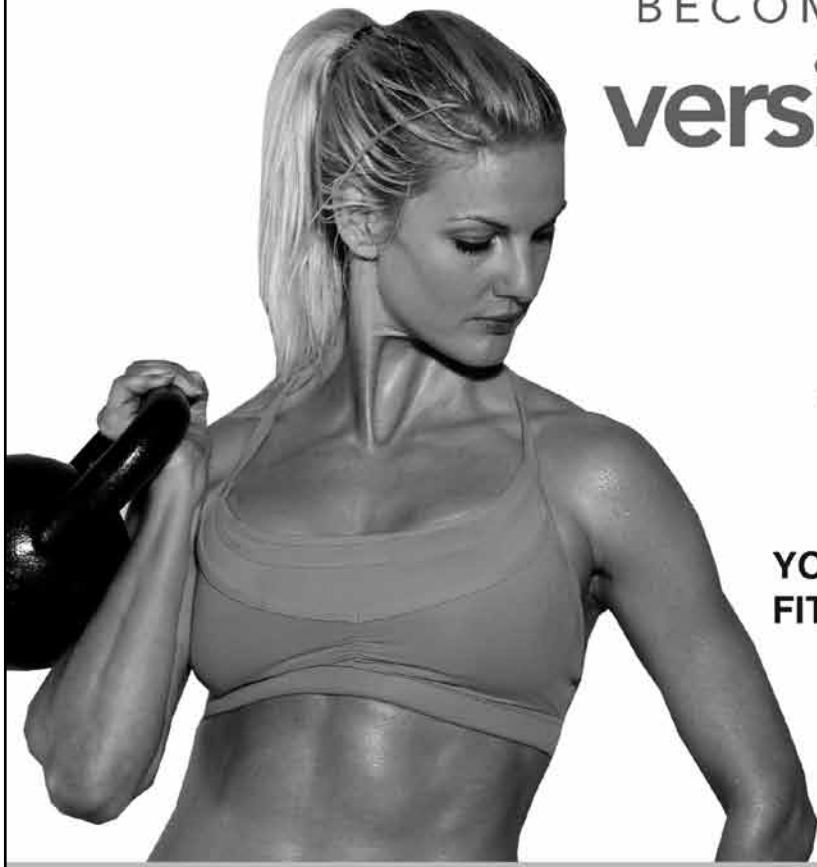
We can respond to this interest with a variety of potential events:

- a walking lecture that identifies Fairlington's "notable" trees
- a seminar on gardening in small spaces
- a walk that focuses on native plants and associated wildlife
- collaboration among the condo grounds committees and their grounds contractors
- a "plant clinic" where Fairlington's "experts" visit patio gardens to assess problems
- an "outdoor lab" to spark the interest of Abingdon Elementary's young scientists
- a mapping tour of Fairlington's rain gardens.

These could be part of a larger vision for having FCA sponsor events outside of our regular monthly meetings that target specific topics of interest to a number of our residents. That's a way FCA can add value to your Fairlington experience.

If you have ideas about how we can better address your passion for gardening, landscaping, or wildlife, or if you're willing to help us craft a strong lineup of offerings in these areas, please let me know. We need your thoughts—and your help.

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



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Libby Garvey discusses budget, opposition to streetcar



Libby Garvey (center) talks with FCA board member Carrie Street (at left) and Carol Dabbs, FCA secretary. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.



FCA president Guy Land with Jacob Gelbaum, FCA board member.

At the FCA meeting in May, a welcoming crowd of neighbors greeted Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey—she has lived in Fairlington since the 1970s condo conversion. Despite the rainy weather, a sizeable crowd listened closely to Garvey's review of the FY 2014 county budget and an explanation of her opposition to the county's streetcar project.

Arlington is now a \$1 billion a year enterprise said Garvey, as she explained the board's guidance to the county manager, Barbara Donnellan, as she developed the FY 2014 budget to meet a projected \$50 million budget shortfall. At the same time, the board's desire was to continue support for public safety, schools, and affordable housing. Ultimately, property assessments increased generally, county-wide, so that the shortfall was less than projected; the board restored funding for some of the manager's proposed service reductions; and they raised the real estate property tax by 3.5 cents (per \$100 of assessed value). Budget deliberations were not so difficult this year as in the past, said Garvey, nor as challenging they will probably be in upcoming years.

In the future, Garvey said, she would like to see the board act in keeping with the community's spending priorities, as explicitly expressed in a rankings system. All programs and services compete for taxpayer dollars, she explained, citing such disparate examples as Artisphere (an arts facility that requires a county subsidy of almost \$2 million a year) and funding for a therapeutic summer day camp for disabled adults. "They're all good and worthy," said Garvey of the services the county provides, "but we can't just keep raising taxes to cover

rising costs." Instead, the taxpayers must determine that some programs are more good-and-worthy than others. When future budget short-falls arise, she said, the community "must make choices."

The Columbia Pike streetcar project is one of the county's approved spending proposals that Garvey has publicly declined to support. The streetcar has been touted by supporters as a transit option improvement that would move more people, reduce traffic congestion, and act as a spur to growth and redevelopment. Opponents of the streetcar—some bloggers have dubbed it the "trolley folly"—criticize its impracticality and extravagant cost. Garvey, having spent the last several months researching and focusing on the issue, agrees. And, indeed, her slide show presentation at the May meeting provided a cogent discussion of the ways in which the streetcar project would fall short of lofty goals while requiring eye-popping expenditures.

This spring, Garvey wrote an op-ed published in *The Washington Post* (April 19, 2013) outlining her views; the Web site, sensibletransit.org, explains the streetcar opponents' position and provides a link to the Post piece. The pro-streetcar position can be found in several places on the county Web site, arlingtonva.us, particularly at <http://sites.arlingtonva.us/streetcar>.

Arlington alerts: You can sign up for electronic emergency notifications and updates (via e-mail, cell, text, or pager) at www.arlingtonalert.com. It's a free county service, but your service provider may charge fees for receiving wireless device messages.

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Uphill climb for CaBi



The bridge location (above, at left) will be moved across the street. The FCC location being installed in May (right). Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

Most Fairlingtonians were pleased to hear of CaBi (Capital Bike Share) coming to the neighborhood, as reported in last month's *Bulletin*. And, at the end of April, the first station appeared on the southeast corner of the bridge at the intersection with 36th St. S. (where 34th S. becomes Abingdon).

Within days, though, the white signboard (to be filled with a map) was tagged. Neighbors reacted swiftly, too, registering dismay at the location—on Fairlington's Facebook page, it was called “poorly placed” and just plain “weird”; pedestrians, who described the zebra crosswalk there as already dangerous because of turning cars, objected to an additional sight-line obstruction that could only make the crossing more risky; and, ominously, one poster prophesied that in short order CaBi would be wiped out by a car making a fast right turn from the bridge onto 36th. Runners, who routinely favor the south side of the bridge over the north, also seemed to view CaBi as an obstacle—going around it, they were seen going outboard, into the open space of the street, rather than be funneled inboard onto the sidewalk.

Some Facebook posters also objected to the second CaBi location at the Fairlington Community Center—on the grass near the left-most entrance as you face the building. One Stafford St. neighbor called that location an eyesore. (Others opined that CaBi, generally, was an eyesore and not in keeping with the community's look.)

In light of safety concerns raised about the bridge location, FCA board member Michelle Woolley contacted CaBi's program manager Paul DeMaio—he had made a presentation about CaBi's expansion plans at the FCA meeting in October 2012. DeMaio agreed in early May to visit the bridge with traffic engineers and transit staff to re-evaluate its location; ultimately CaBi agreed to move the bridge station across the street, to the corner directly

opposite its current location. (The work would be completed probably by the end of May. Moving the station further toward the north Fairlington end of the bridge conflicted with the program's protocol, which is to space the stations apart in relatively equal increments—another CaBi station is planned for the nearby intersection of 31st St. S. and S. Woodrow.)

Of the FCC location, which was under construction in early May, DeMaio said that it was selected in consultation with the county's Department of Parks and Recreation, to interfere least with the center's pedestrian and car traffic and to have the least impact on street parking. DeMaio said CaBi does its best to understand a neighborhood's priorities and to find “the least obtrusive location” for its stations.

What's CaBi for? CaBi is a transit option, not unlike taking the bus, driving a car, or walking from one place to another. The stations are spaced so that a CaBi commuter can get from point A to point B in about 30 minutes or less: Take a bike at this station, bike to your destination, and dock the bike in that station.

CaBi is not really designed as a recreational rent-a-bike company (although residents can use it that way, of course, if they're willing to pay the fees). The fee schedule, after purchase of a membership option, encourages short-term, point to point use: The first 30 minutes is always free; progressive fees apply as the bike's “out of dock” time grows. CaBi offers four membership choices: a 24-hour membership costs \$7; three days costs \$15; one month costs \$25; and a one-year membership for \$75 is the most economical option. For more information, go online to BikeArlington.com > Capital BikeShare.

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Should Fairlington request changes to Quaker Lane parking restrictions?

At the FCA meeting in January this year, county staff responsible for parking management along Arlington streets met with Fairlington residents to discuss a loss of parking spaces in the neighborhood. Of particular interest was the county's street repaving project, completed late last year, along S. Stafford Street. At the time of paving improvements, the streets, curbs, and street markings and signage were brought into compliance with state and federal regulations—which resulted in fewer S. Stafford parking spots (even though additional spaces were added along other streets). It is expected that the county's seasonal repaving projects (scheduled this year for some streets in north Fairlington) may further impact Fairlington streets, with possible net losses of on-street parking in the neighborhood.

In response to the reduced on-street parking along S. Stafford, some residents suggested at the January meeting that the county re-evaluate the overnight parking restrictions on Quaker Lane.

The current overnight restrictions (No Parking 1 to 3 am, along the west or southbound side of Quaker, adjacent to Fairlington) were put in place about 10 years ago, at the request of FCA with extensive participation from Fairlington residents. At that time, parking of large vehicles (commercial trucks, boats, etc.) was prohibited "within or along any public street," but the code allowed parking for up to 10 days for large vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds. The overnight restrictions were intended to close this loophole, because the curb along Quaker had become a de facto, 10-day parking lot or warehouse space for commercial trucks, trailers, and boats.



The curb on Quaker. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

The Arlington County Civic Federation, also concerned about commercial vehicle parking on county streets, worked with the county to change the then-current parking code. Eventually, the code was amended to completely ban the parking of commercial vehicles or boats for any duration (except for deliveries and emergencies). Camping trailers and similar vehicles are permitted to park in residential areas for up to 5 days.

In light of the newer county code, county parking management staff is open to discussing a re-evaluation of the overnight restriction on Quaker Lane parking, perhaps lifting or adjusting it. However, since the restriction was put in place at Fairlington's request, county staff first wanted to hear the community's preferences and suggestions for changes, and the FCA board agreed to sponsor that discussion among Fairlington residents. Since the county code has been amended to more effectively restrict commercial vehicle parking, there are benefits to adjusting the current overnight restrictions on Quaker. But FCA wants to hear all perspectives on a proposed change, including any concerns of residents whose homes border Quaker.

FCA will launch an online survey in early June to gauge community reaction to Quaker parking changes (follow the link at fca-fairlington.org). Later this summer, FCA will host a forum on the topic at a regular monthly meeting. Only then, after gathering residents' input, will FCA consider what kind of recommendation to make to the county, if any at all, on adjusting the Quaker Lane parking restrictions.

—Kent Duffy, FCA vice president

July 4th preparations for parade and bake sale



Plan now to join neighbors for Fairlington's very popular July 4th parade, and the after-party in the parking lot of the Fairlington Villages community center. A great way to get involved is to volunteer to help the event organizers, FV condo association's Activities Committee. Send e-mail to activities@fairlingtonvillages.com.

And the yearly bake sale continues: That morning between 9 and 10 am, take your home-baked donations of muffins, cookies, and cakes to the "No Kid Hungry" bake sale table in the parking lot. The 11th annual 4th of July bake sale (formerly known as the Great American bake sale) is sponsored by non-profit Share Our Strength. For more information, go online to Bake.NoKidHungry.org. For questions, or to volunteer to help set up or sell, call event organizer Cathy Malin, 571-480-9260.



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Fairlington trees on parade



Bill Sullivan, above, at right. Right, pollarded crape myrtle and, below, catalpa tree. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

It was sunny, warm, and not-yet-steamy in late April—perfect weather for Fairlington’s first FCA-sponsored tree walk. The event drew about two dozen tree-peeping, landscape-loving Fairlingtonians, who followed *Bulletin* gardening columnist Bill Sullivan on a leisurely traise about the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center and down to Utah Park, with stops along the way on S. Stafford St., 32nd Rd. S., 32nd St. S., and S. Utah St. (Watch for news of other garden- and landscape-centered events in coming months; see President’s Message, page 3.)

Sullivan dispensed a wealth of detailed knowledge about Fairlington’s tree canopy, leavened by a landscaper’s eye for a plant’s utility, scale, and texture. In route between the stately deodar cedar and rare dawn redwood on S. Stafford and the catalpas on S. Utah, Sullivan stopped in front and side yards to discuss shrubs, perennials, and the effective use of ground covers like periwinkle

Associations can apply for trees, get help choosing the right one

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment is accepting registrations and proposals from neighborhood groups and homeowner and condo associations to apply for the Tree Canopy Fund program. The fund gives grants to community groups to plant and maintain free large trees on private property. Proposals are due Friday, June 21, and each group must register online before submitting a proposal.

Once registered, associations can receive assistance from Tree Stewards with questions about which tree is the best choice for the group’s property. (So far, only five neighborhoods have registered—Ashton, Bluemont, Penrose, Rock Spring, and Waycroft.) For more information, go online to arlingtonenvironment.org/community-action/trees.



(vinca), pachysandra, and the widely-planted liriop. One lesson learned—most liriop in Fairlington could stand to be divided: Dig up the stiff, thick clump, chop the mass into quarters, and space and replant the sections.

More highlights: In the traffic circle near the community center, the three Kwanzan cherry trees attract attention every spring, with their fluffy, pink double blooms. But more interesting is the evergreen that rises amid the cherries’ horizontal spread—*cryptomeria japonica* stands out because it’s unexpected, a specimen tree you do not often find here. In Fairlington, filled with pin oaks and willow oaks, the *cryptomeria* is a welcome surprise.



If you visit the catalpa tree on S. Utah at 32nd Rd., you can pick up some of the tree’s distinctive dried, brown fruit pods—they can be as long as 20 inches. And here’s how to tell the difference between a white pine and a black pine: The white pine’s fascicle (the bundle or cluster of needles growing together as a “leaf”) has 5 needles; the black pine’s fascicle has 2 needles.

And in case you were wondering: It does not actually harm a crape myrtle to radically prune it by just whacking off the top—a practice called “pollarding,” typically applied, because it is efficient, to crape myrtles in the public right of way. However, the thick, bushy tree that results from this treatment contrasts with the airy, natural shape of a tree that is more selectively hand-pruned.

Tree map made easy: To view Arlington County’s virtual tree map, as described in last month’s *Bulletin*, there’s an easier way to get there, rather than typing in the long string of letters and symbols that form the mapping app’s URL. Instead, go online to <http://gis.arlingtonva.us/gallery> and click on the Champion and Significant Tree map link. From this page, you can also access other interesting maps, like those for land use and property lines.

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— Fairlington at 70 —

Talk of the town

The *All Fairlington Bulletin* that residents read now has been around, in one format or another, for 70 years. When Fairlington was still an apartment complex filled with people “directly connected with the war effort” during World War II, the community’s first newspaper in 1943 was the *Fairlington Neighbor* (from *Fairlington at 50* by Catherine Fellows, 60th anniversary edition, 2003). When Fairmac Corporation bought the entire community from Defense Homes in 1946, the neighborhood built on its original small-town feeling and became even better organized, owing particularly to the energetic efforts of rental manager Walter Hodges—he fostered a community spirit by “providing funds for arts and craft shows, Fourth of July parades...community



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

cookouts, and a newspaper called *The Fairlingtonian*.”

At the time of the condo conversion in the 1970s, the neighborhood formed a civic association, combining north and south sections. The association’s monthly newsletter, the *All-Fairlington Bulletin* (the hyphen has since been dropped), was first published in January 1977 and distributed to all households. At that time, there was no advertising. In the 1990s, as local businesses recognized Fairlington’s 3,449 households

as a market to be tapped, the *Bulletin* began selling advertising space, and it is now self-supporting. Even as print costs rise for all publications, the *Bulletin* still hits doorsteps in hard copy every month. Now, in addition, neighbors can find the digital edition on the FCA Web site.

Fairlington homes on parade: FHS Home and Garden Tour in May



Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

“A stunning use of space!” That’s one of the more common appraisals of the ten remodeled Fairlington homes and gardens on display last month during the Fairlington Historical Society’s popular Home & Garden Tour. More than 400 tour-goers, undeterred by drizzly weather, ambled along Fairlington sidewalks, brochures in hand, and clustered at tour homes’ doorsteps. Many

commented that they were inspired by the renovations on view and by the creativity that could be found behind our common brick exteriors.

The FHS board thanked committee co-chairs Kate Denzel and Jackie Maguire, the homeowners who graciously opened their homes to neighbors, and the many tour-day volunteers who managed fundraising, logistics, and guiding. Despite the exertions involved in organizing the complex event, there was expectant talk about the next tour, in May 2015.



ACE green H & G tour, June 2: Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment will host their annual tour of environmentally-friendly homes and gardens, June 2, 1 – 5 pm. Go online to arlingtonenvironment.org for details.



JUNE
13th
20th
27th

JULY
11th
18th
25th

Jeff Carmella Band (Rock)

MARS 4-tet (Jazz)

King Teddy (Swing)

Dan Haas Trio (Pop Rock)

Lloyd Dobler Effect (80s & 90s Covers)

The Shack Band (Rock & Funk)

AUGUST
1st
8th
15th
22nd

Ewabo (Steel Tropical Drums)

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Patios, balconies, container gardens can be wildlife way stations



Leigh Pickering, Audubon at Home coordinator. Photo, Guy Land.

At a well attended meeting at the Fairlington Villages community center in April, residents learned ways to support and encourage wildlife—even in so small a space as a Fairlington patio or balcony. The slide show by Leigh Pickering, a Master Naturalist and coordinator of the Audubon at Home program, first summarized the damage being done to the state's natural bio-diversity: In short, wildlife habitat is being re-developed, polluted with chemicals, or paved over. That damages the soil, trees, and waterways, which inevitably impacts the survival of birds, insect pollinators, and mammals. Amid many causes for despair, Pickering's message was essentially hopeful—it is possible for individual residents and gardeners to make a difference.

"We can become backyard conservationists," said Pickering.

ing, offering these examples of good stewardship that are beneficial to birds and other creatures:

- Eliminate or reduce pesticide and fertilizer use
- Remove invasive exotic plants
- Conserve water and protect water quality
- Plant native species and save existing trees
- Support birds and other wildlife on site
- Conserve and build soil

In this way, Pickering said, our patios and balconies can become small-scale backyard way stations. Just one take-away from the naturalist's extensive advice: You can make a difference by going native. First, go chemical-free in garden containers and beds. Second, instead of exotics that rely on fertilizer and pesticides to thrive, plant native species—Pickering recommends mountain mint and wild geranium, which are pollinator magnets. She also notes something to be proud of—Virginia currently has the most species of native plants in the country.

For more information, go online to the Web site of Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, armn.org, and read Pickering's article on backyard conservation techniques and the Audubon at Home program.

Dogs snacking on cicadas

Dog owners may be wondering if it's safe for their pet to snack on cicadas, since billions of periodical cicadas (17-year, Brood II) are now emerging from the ground across the mid-Atlantic region. Actually, the sheer number of bugs in some places will make it impossible to prevent a dog from eating a few. Not to worry, say the veterinary experts from the Humane Society. While cicadas might be a nuisance to humans, they're no danger to us or our pets: They don't sting, bite, or carry disease, and they can be eaten without problems. Indeed, the bugs are a good source of protein, and they're even eaten by humans in some parts of the world.

However, a word of caution: Dog owners may want to closely monitor their pets when they're outside to ensure dogs don't binge on cicadas. Overindulgence could lead to vomiting and digestive or intestinal distress. If a dog eats too many cicadas, it may experience choking or have difficulty digesting the overload of the bugs' rigid skins, wings, and body parts.



A surprising visitor to Fairlington, on 36th St. S., in late April. Photo, Steve Andrews.

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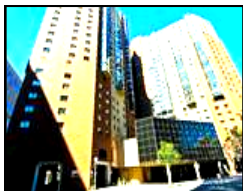
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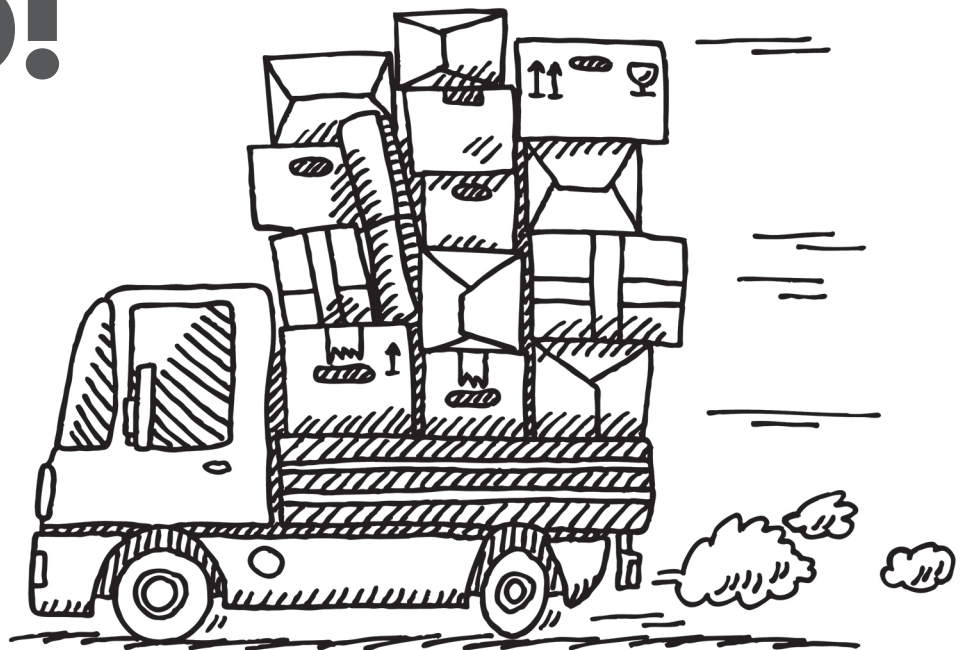
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Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan wins County Board approval

When FCA president Guy Land presented the 10-minute slide show summary of the Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan to the Arlington County Board in April, he was met with a universally positive response. Board members commended the presentation, and they deemed the underlying 80-page document, written by *Bulletin* editor Gretchen Fallon, an “excellent” report. The board unanimously approved the plan.



Photo, Guy Land.

In addition, board members demonstrated their interest in the plan, and their familiarity with it, by asking questions that referenced specific paragraphs of the document. Mr. Zimmerman, for example, asked about the jurisdictional boundary line that landed some hundreds of Fairlingtonians in the City of Alexandria (in a parcel abutting King Street in north Fairlington). Mr. Land explained that the anomaly derived from a mutually-agreed-upon 1930s land swap between Arlington and Alexandria.

Mr. Fisette commented on the enduring value of Fairlington’s mid-20th-century garden-apartment-style construction, placed in an extensive parkland setting, and he asked about the state of the urban forest in

Foil crime with locked doors: This spring, a Fairlington neighbor went out for a walk and let the storm door slam behind him. The main door was open, and the storm door was unlocked. Thirty minutes later, he returned to find that someone had brazenly entered the house and stolen a laptop.

A word to the wise from Arlington County police: Lock your door, even if you’re just taking the dog out for a quick stroll around the courtyard. Third District commander Captain Butler adds: “You should always lock the doors in your house even when you are home. For some reason, folks think they are safe if they are in their house, doors unlocked; and they don’t lock the doors until they go to bed.”

Fairlington. A desire to preserve and enhance Fairlington’s tree canopy had been one of the items highlighted by Mr. Land as a neighborhood priority, and he reflected the residents’ gratitude for the county’s speedy replacement of public right-of-way street trees damaged in the snow events of the winter of 2009-10 and the microburst storm of August 2010. The loss of trees on private property (within the

condo association-owned interior grounds of Fairlington) was being renewed through the county’s Tree Canopy Fund and the tree distribution program every fall. In addition, some Fairlington landscape contractors, through their condo-association management companies, worked cooperatively with the county to maintain nearby trees, shrubbery, and plantings in the public right of way.

Ms. Hynes commended the comprehensiveness of the plan, and inquired about representation for apartment and condo buildings that lie outside Fairlington, but which have been included by the county in the plan area’s footprint. FCA treasurer Ed Hilz explained that, even though these neighbors were not part of the FCA, they had been included in the FCA’s 2004 survey of neighborhood residents, and that currently representation for those residents’ lay within the authority of their buildings’ property managers.

Ms. Garvey, as a long-time resident of Fairlington, commended the plan’s attention to Fairlington’s singular geography—another of the items highlighted by Mr. Land—that found it nearly surrounded by Alexandria. As a result, she acknowledged the ongoing need for coordination and cooperation between the city and the county, particularly as Fairlington residents were impacted by nearby developments affecting traffic.

For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and select County Board. You can watch a video of board meetings by following the links. The FSNC plan was presented and approved at the meeting on April 20, 2013.

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Bradlee Giant will close June 6, Fresh Market to come



As reported in West Alexandria Patch, company officials at Giant Foods announced this month's closing of the Bradlee Giant grocery store. Giant's last day in the Bradlee location, at 3680 King Street, is scheduled for June 6, as confirmed by Giant Foods corporate consumer affairs. The store will be replaced by a new Fresh Market store, as reported in a press release on the Fresh Market Web site.

Giant said that closing the Bradlee store was strictly a business decision, based on the store's performance. Fresh Market, a specialty grocery retailer, said that opening in the Bradlee location was part of its current expansion in northern Virginia; when the Bradlee store opens, probably in 2014, it will be the 12th Fresh Market in Virginia.

Fresh Market's Web site describes its stores as "European-style." A company spokesman said they "provide a unique grocery shopping experience in a warm and inviting atmosphere, featuring high-quality perishables, distinctive foods, and superior customer service. Our stores have an old-world feel and are more intimate than a typical supermarket or big box store."

More grocery news: Whole Foods says it plans to open a 37,000 square foot store in Pentagon City, on the ground floor of a planned 700-unit apartment building. Pending county permits and approvals, the developers say, the store would open in 2017.

Street sweeping, June 11

The county's regularly scheduled spring street sweeping is underway. Our area has already had two sweeper passes, one in April and one in May. The third and final street sweeping of Fairlington streets is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, between 7:30 am and 3 pm. The Department of Environmental Services requests that you make every effort to remove your vehicle from the street on that day.

For more information, and to confirm the scheduled date or view a map of affected streets, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and search street sweeping.

FCC will get facelift



Beginning this month, the front of the Fairlington Community Center will undergo restoration work, courtesy of the Department of Environmental Services. Crews will repair damaged brickwork, cracked mortar joints, and cracked concrete assemblies around doors and windows. This will be followed by power washing and application of a sealer. The project is expected to take three months to complete.

Most building entrances will remain open, outfitted with overhead protection from dust and debris. All programs will continue as scheduled.

Taxes: The first installment of Arlington County real estate property taxes is due June 17, 2013.

Smart electric meters coming soon

New "smart" electric meters are coming to all Dominion Virginia Power customers inside the Beltway, including Arlington. The high-tech metering system will not only transmit usage data directly to Dominion's computers, but also it will send power outage alerts—the system lets the utility know, without a phone call from you, when your power goes out and when it is restored. Installation of the new meters began last month in Alexandria and the work will proceed, moving south to north, over the next year or so. Customers will receive a notification letter about the meter upgrade about two to four weeks before installation. For more information, go online to www.dom.com/smartmeter and click FAQs for details.

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FAIRLINGTON *community center news*

Classes and workshops

Class and registration: All levels of fitness classes, poetry, digital photography, arts and crafts, and more—there is something for everyone among Arlington’s summer classes. Look for the summer issue of *Enjoy Arlington* at FCC or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/prcr to find more class listings. For registration or questions, call 703-228-4747.

Garden mosaics: Jazz up your garden with colorful mosaic garden features. This hands-on workshop will include techniques and materials used to install mosaics that withstand moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and all forms of winter weather. Bring design ideas, sketches, color scheme, and materials such as glass shards, sea glass, pebbles, and flat marble nuggets. Ages 17 – adult. Thursday, July 11, 7 – 9 pm, 4 sessions, \$121. Inst: Tremblay. 440114A

Muscle conditioning/sculpting: Get a great workout and sculpt all major muscle groups. The class focuses on squats, lunges, and resistance work with weighted body bars and dumbbells. Sculpt shoulders, biceps, triceps, and lats, and then move to the floor for isolated abdominal, glutes, and back work. A final stretch completes the class. Ages 13 – adult. Mon./Wed., June 24, 7:35 – 8:20 pm, 20 sessions, \$193. Inst: Erica. 440347A

Yogalates: A combination of yoga stretching and flexibility, strengthening of core muscles, and slimming of Pilates in a flowing and fun way. This class enhances one’s posture and makes you look taller and leaner. Bring a mat; no previous

experience is required. Adults. Tuesday, June 25, 7 – 8 pm, 9 sessions, \$114. Inst: Yogavita.org. 440916A

Ballet barre: Barre work is very therapeutic for the knees, ankles, and hips and is wonderful for improving posture. Enjoy a rare immersion into accessible grace and a wonderful strengthener to facilitate healthy aging. Ages 13 – adult. Tuesday, June 25, 8 – 8:45 pm. 10 sessions, \$94. Inst: MacLear. 440203A

Do-it-yourself fashion accessories: Make accessories such as an envelope clutch, hair accessories (fascinator/clip/headband) statement necklace, and more. Ages 13 – adult. Tuesday, June 25, 7 – 9 pm, 4 sessions, \$127. Inst: Peters. 440112A

Poetry workshop: An opportunity to share your passion for language, whether you’ve dabbled in poetry before or are completely new to the page. Participants will learn about different styles and forms of poetry and have at least two polished poems by workshop’s end. The format will help poets make and shape their own poems through serious yet compassionate critiques of work (as well as lively class discussions). Some nominal outside reading may be required. Ages 15 – adult. Tuesday, June 25, 7 – 9 pm, 5 sessions, \$119. 440158A

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.

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.

Get a complete description of classes online, www.arlingtonva.us > DPR or call 703-228-4747.

FCC programs

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



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Blue chip bets for the garden

We're surrounded by blue—the sky, suede shoes, Wedgewood pottery, and the navy of a midshipman's pea coat. But in the garden? You'll more easily find pink, red, yellow, lavender, and purple. Blue is popular in many art forms, but it's not so common in flowers.

Recently, however, I found many blue-flowered plants at a nursery. Aside from the 'Nikko Blue' hydrangea and Virginia bluebells, they're not easily found unless you examine the "smaller" specimens on the perennials table at a garden center.

So, if blue's for you, here are flowers to plant in your garden. Search each name online to find out if it's fragrant, evergreen, how large it gets, what the leaves look like, and whether the specimen needs sun or shade.



Ageratum: A pale blue, puff-like flower that appears from late spring until the first frost in December. It's low-growing and each flower is the size of a dime. The leaves are basal (beneath the flower) and textured with an undulating surface.



Ajuga: This blue flower appears in April above basal foliage that is textured, shiny, and paddle-

shaped in both olive and purple. It's ideal for plantings among rocks in an "outcropping" habit.

Lithodora: The flower (it also comes in white) is five-petaled and tiny, with faint white centers. Some flowers appear in a vivid "electric" blue that looks almost like fresh paint. The herbaceous stems are clumped and limp—perfect for trailing over the top of a stone wall.



Lobelia: A tubular flower (that also comes in maroon) which has a vivid shade as well. Each flower has five lobes, the upper two being erect and the bottom three limp. The flower has a shape that attracts hummingbirds.



Forget me not: This flower is smaller than a dime and its color is a baby blue as well as

pink. It has five lobes and a yellow "eye." The spring bloomer thrives in sun or shade.



Balloon or bellflower:

This flower is star-shaped with faint white centers that seem to leak into

each petal. The terminal lobes are pointed. It is nicknamed "balloon" due to the shape of the bud, which looks like an inflated balloon. It also resembles the top of an open parachute.

Brunnera: It resembles forget me not in flower size and color. The flower blooms in April and May. The leaves are heart-shaped and frosted, thus depicting a network of green veins. The basal-leaved specimen prefers shade.



Pincushion

flower: The flower head, which looks like a multitude of pins stuck into a cushion, grows

on long, grayish-green stems. It is best planted in clusters, around a pond or in a rock garden. It prefers full sun and attracts butterflies.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net



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Principal Uyeda, Susanna Smith, Erin Watson, and Mary Lou Rube presenting in Austin at the International Reading Association Convention. Photos, Dan Branch.

Read and Roll Book Bus returns this summer

Abingdon's *Read and Roll Book Bus*, an innovation developed by the Abingdon Literacy Team, is returning by popular demand. The bus will begin its weekly route on Tuesday, July 9, and continue each Tuesday until August 6. The bus route will be posted in next month's *All Fairlington Bulletin*.

The team's brainstorm bus has received local and national acclaim for the fun and creative approach to inspiring kids to read during summer break. "The importance of keeping kids reading during the summer is the driving force behind this idea," says reading specialist Mary Lou Rube. "Research shows that when kids do not read during the summer, they can lose up to three months of their reading ability."

In April the Abingdon Literacy Team was invited to speak at the annual International Reading Association Convention in Austin, Texas. Ms. Rube was joined by co-presenters Susanna Smith, Erin Watson, and Principal Joanne Uyeda. They shared how they successfully provi-

sioned the Abingdon Book Bus with 2,000 books, inspired students to keep reading all summer, and did it with a limited budget. Conference attendee, Principal Carla Carollo of Arabi Elementary School in Louisiana, said: "Your session was the most inspiring I attended at the International Reading Association Convention. My colleagues and I were discussing a similar concept the night before, but had no clue where to start. I appreciate that you were willing to share every detail in your PowerPoint presentation."

As the bus prepares to roll out in July, the Literacy Team could use your help. If you are willing to volunteer, please send e-mail to the *Read and Roll Book Bus* volunteer coordinator, Jackie Firster at jacqueline.firster@apsva.us. Please include your name, summer e-mail address, cell phone number, and the day(s) that they would be interested in volunteering this year. The choice of Tuesdays includes: July 9, July 16, July 23, July 30, and August 6. (The following Thursday serves as a rain date.)

Abingdon's soaring popularity requires added space

Abingdon Elementary School has become a very popular choice for many Fairlington residents. In addition to Fairlington residents, parents from bordering neighborhoods, as well as some from north Arlington, are enrolling at Abingdon. Many families indicate the school's multiple intelligences curriculum as their reason for coming to Abingdon. Additionally, the multitude of positive experiences shared by current Abingdon parents is creating a sharp increase in Kindergarten enrollment.



Science teacher Anne Sywilok, affectionately known as the Queen of Science, with students at Science Night in May. After 31 years at Abingdon (35 with APS), Ms. Sywilok is retiring this year. She will be greatly missed.

This growth is requiring more space to be created at the school. APS officials considered various options for Abingdon, and they finally decided to add space by installing re-locatable pods (trailers) in the large area behind the gymnasium. Below, an explanation of the process and a timeline for the project:

How many pods will be installed? Where? When? There will be one four-classroom pod installed. The pod will be placed at the rear of the school (east side) on the blacktop. It is scheduled to arrive June 4 or 5.

How long will the work take? What's included? The pod will be set within a couple of days and ready for a mid-August occupation. The pod needs electrical supply, water and sewage installed, as well as low voltage links with school for computers, phones, alarms, and PA system. When this is completed, skirting will be installed to close the underside.

Will it have bathrooms? Yes, there will be boys and girls "gang" bathrooms and an adult bathroom.

Continued, page 27



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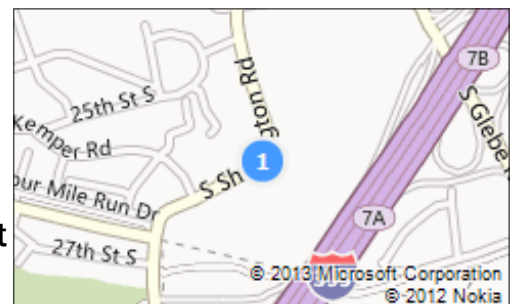
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neighborhood news

Book Group

Hannah Musgrave escapes: First from her privileged life to 1960s radical activism, then from U.S. law to a new life in soon-to-be-tumultuous Liberia. But can Hannah escape from herself? Read Russell Banks's novel, *The Darling*, and share your answer on Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. Once again, we'll vary a little from our usual schedule this month to avoid scheduling problems. We'll hold one dinner this month.

Monday, June 3, 6:30 pm, Chez Andre, 10 E. Glebe Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305, 703-836-1404, www.chezandree.com/specials.php. We can enjoy their Monday night special—two entrees and a bottle of wine for \$29.95. They have a parking lot.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members and their children of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parent's Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and groups such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are wonderful for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, June 12, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club,

the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

How to join? Fairlington residents (north or south) can send e-mail to the coordinators at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com for more information or to request an application.

School, continued from page 25

How is the heating and air conditioning controlled? Each classroom has individual HVAC units and thermostats. There is also a water cooled foundation in the corridor.

Will trees be affected? Yes, five Bradford pear trees will be removed. This has been discussed with the Urban Forestry Commission, which has agreed the plan is fair and reasonable. The trees removed will be replaced with at least double the number lost.

For questions or concerns, contact Jim Meikle, Director of Maintenance for Arlington County Public Schools, at 703-228-6617.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president



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

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NANNY SHARE. We are looking to share our wonderful and loving existing nanny in Fairlington. She will be available mid July. If interested, please e-mail to DANNASABINA@AOL.COM or call 571-480-3392.

Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Now in its 21st year, Sullivan's Landscaping will tend to your patio in a variety of ways: a new planting design, removal of existing shrubs, weeding, mulching, pruning and hardscapes as well. If you'd like a new flagstone or brick patio over the existing concrete patio, email or call Bill Sullivan at billsullivan41@gmail.com or (cell) 571-213-9567.

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SENIOR CRAFTSMEN, INC. Biff Henley, bonded and insured. 703-403-5354. Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net.

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

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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.

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